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DCDS connection

January/February 2025
Volume 18, Issue 1

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

DALLAS COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY

Mission Statement

Serving the professional needs of our members

Healthcare Member Benefit Program

Now Available!

Texas Dental Association members and their team have access to a Healthcare Member Benefits Program.

- TDA members have access to a Healthcare Member Benefits Program that utilizes a national PPO network and is available in all 50 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.
- An active TDA member in good standing that is actively at work will have the opportunity to participate in this Member Benefits Program by becoming an Associate Member of Local 426.
- By becoming an Associate Member, you will have access to benefits that include medical and prescription benefits, supplemental benefits like accident, hospital indemnity, specified disease and life insurance.

Highlights of benefits to Associate Members:

- Nine Plan Options Available
- ACA compliant health benefits available
- Preventative Service covered at 100% available
- Coverage cannot be denied (no pre-existing limitations)
- 4 tier rates (nationwide)
- Concierge access and support

Members can enroll on the first day of any month with open enrollment needing to be completed no later than 30 days in advance. Plan designs are flexible to help you select the benefits that meet your expectation.

See page 13 for frequently asked questions.

Amalgamated Local 426
Health and Welfare Fund

Powered By capcare

For additional information, and to take advantage of this new opportunity, contact a dedicated Program Member Benefit Representative:

Email: capcareenrollment@concordmgt.com

Phone: 833-287-4765

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The Write Stuff

Celeste Latham, DDS, President

Start 2025 with Wellness and Connection at DCDS!



Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. As we embark on 2025, I want to reiterate my commitment to promoting wellness within our DCDS member community. Whatever wellness means to you, my hope is that our new program, the DCDS Wellness Collective, will meet your needs!

Wellness encompasses many aspects — among them are physical health, mental health and social engagement. We're excited to promote physical activity with some fun and engaging fitness classes on Saturdays. Our SoulCycle event in October was a blast, and you won't want to miss out on the activities we have planned. Look out for sign-up opportunities to join your colleagues as we try something new. Pilates and barre classes are just a couple of challenges on the schedule! Additionally, I'll be leading a biweekly two-mile walk with members on Sunday mornings. More details coming soon!

To promote your mental and social wellness, we're launching the DCDS Book Club on January 22. Join us as we discuss The Energy Bus by Jon Gordan, facilitated by Dr. Michael Plunk. This inspiring book provides a roadmap for overcoming challenges and fueling your life with positive energy. It's an activity you won't want to miss!

Beyond our Wellness Collective events, our General Membership meetings are a fantastic way to engage with colleagues and meet new people. I always leave these meetings feeling uplifted and invigorated. Bring a friend or colleague to share that sense of community! I recently invited a UTD pre-dental student to one of our General Membership meetings, and she was thoroughly impressed with our vibrant membership.

Make a New Year's resolution to take part in some—or all—of the many opportunities we're offering at the Dallas County Dental Society this year. Together let's make 2025 a year of connection, growth and wellness!





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

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Member Publication AADEJ American Association of Dental Editors & Journalists

Impressions

Editorial by Simmi Patel, Editor

Elevating Oral Health Through Outreach



Being active in an organization takes some time commitment, but there is evidence to suggest that it benefits one's wellness. Dentistry is one of the most challenging professions when it comes to mental and physical health. Physically, our backs and necks take a toll, while mentally, we often don't feel like talking to anyone at the end of the day. It takes unlimited patience and active listening skills to handle our staff and patients. But who is there to listen to us? Other dentists.

DCDS has a lineup of social get-togethers in which we can participate. Thanks to DCDS committee leaders, we have a book club to join, a walking club, and other activities such as the International Speed Gaming and Potluck event at the end of January. I must admit that I did not go to the SoulCycle event—thanks to watching Amy Schumer in the movie I Feel Pretty.

However, I believe there are many benefits to spending time with other people from the same profession.

When I go home, I am usually asked, "What should we have for dinner?" But while I am with my colleagues, they ask me how things are going. I can tell them anything because chances are they can relate to my problems and successes. My friends in the dental society also have the best advice for dealing with situations and follow up to find out how things turned out.

When I first graduated from dental school, I used to be intimidated by going to general membership meetings in Houston. Once I started making friends, I became more comfortable and started opening up. I noticed some changes within myself as well. I started venturing to places I would never have gone before, such as my first baseball game at Minute Maid Park watching the Houston Astros play the Texas Rangers (I'm still not sure which team I support!)

"Participating in organized dentistry not only protects our profession but also gives us a sense of belonging, promotes collaboration, and improves morale."

My colleagues had the lowdown on which courses to attend when I told them I was weak in a particular discipline. They would even talk me through procedures so I could be better prepared. As a new dentist, I appreciated the advice and hoped I could repay the favor to anyone who asked for help.

Participating in organized dentistry not only protects our profession but also gives us a sense of belonging, promotes collaboration, improves retention and recruitment of members, increases our listening skills and morale, and allows us to take on big projects like the Southwest Dental Conference. I always look forward to attending our general membership meetings in person because I know I will be greeted by smiling faces.

Sometimes, it is the little things in life that make a big difference in our overall well-being. It is easy to feel down, especially in the winter, but attending social events helps ease the isolation the cold weather brings. I encourage all of you to join us for the upcoming events that our dental society has organized. Check them out at dcds.org/events!







DCDS event photos L-R:

DCDS Members and guests gathered for High Tea.

Making their way through a line of delicious potluck dishes at Speed Gaming and International Potluck.

Catching up as families decorate gingerbread houses.

From The Hub

by Jane D. Evans, Executive Director

Updates



2024 Highlights

DCDS closed out the year with a special event for members and their children, titled "Gumdrops & Giggles." It was truly heartwarming to have the children at the DCDS Executive Office and to see the excitement in their eyes as they built their Gingerbread Houses. The DCDS Team thoroughly enjoyed preparing for the event, including creating a festive balloon arch for the children to walk through. We plan to make this an annual tradition, so if you missed this year's event, be sure to look for details next fall.



TDA Healthcare Benefits Program

The much-anticipated Healthcare Benefits Program was launched through TDA Financial Services. This new plan is designed for members, their families, and their teams. You can learn more about the program in this edition of DCDS Connection. It's yet another valuable benefit for our members.

Corporate Transparency Act

On December 1, 2024, a Texas federal judge struck down the Corporate Transparency Act, issuing a nationwide preliminary injunction that blocks enforcement of the law. Enacted in 2021 to combat money laundering, the Act required qualifying businesses to disclose their beneficial ownership information to a database maintained by the US Department of the Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network. For more information on the Corporate Transparency Act, click here.

DCDS Dental Assisting School

REMINDER!! DCDS Dental Assisting School has launched refresher courses for dental assistants looking to enhance their skills. Any dental assistant is welcome to enroll. Visit the DCDS Dental Assisting Website for upcoming course details.

2025 Southwest Dental Conference

The 2024 Southwest Dental Conference was a great success, and the Executive Office Team is already preparing the 2025 Registration Brochure. Registration is expected to go live by March 1, 2025. We are excited to present a program featuring many new speakers, as well as some returning favorites that you have requested.

It Pays to "Say"

Thank you to everyone who contributed their thoughts and wishes through our surveys this fall! The Southwest Conference Attendee Survey winner was Hillary Holland with the prize of either a complimentary night at the Hilton Anatole Dallas OR a $200.00 credit toward dentist and/or staff registration for the 2025 SWDC*. The SWDC Exhibitor Survey winner, Lone Star Handpiece, recieves $500 credit towards their booth space in 2025. And the name pulled for the $100 DCDS Event Survey prize was Dr. Carmen Smith.

***

As we step into 2025, I wish each of you a fantastic year ahead. Please remember that the DCDS Team is always just a phone call or email away, ready to assist you in any way we can.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Mark Your Calendar

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

TEXAS MISSION of MERCY

New Dentists

News and perspective from dentists under 10 years of practice



by Stephanie Bowers, DDS, MS

Unreasonable Hospitality

Unreasonable hospitality is the practice of going above and beyond the expected norms of service to create extraordinary, memorable experiences for others. It's not just about meeting someone's needs or being polite; it's about exceeding expectations in a way that feels deeply personal and generous, often leaving a lasting emotional impact.

On a recommendation by my always-inspiring boss, I recently read Unreasonable Hospitality by restaurateur Will Guidara. While his experience is primarily in the restaurant/service industry, the book is extremely moving and has an abundance of parallels to practicing dentistry.

> **Patients won't remember how expensive or how painful their treatment was—they will remember how you made them feel: cared for.**

Dentistry is not a service industry. Patients trust us with their health; they are not just paying for a service. It is much more difficult to give people a positive and memorable experience after we have just stuck a needle in their mouth than it is to make people feel enchanted leaving a restaurant! We often deliver difficult news, we often can't deliver instant results, patients frequently come in with a negative opinion from previous traumatic experiences, and often dental treatment involves some degree of discomfort.

Despite these arduous obstacles, we can still change the way we practice to exceed patients' expectations and deliver a remarkably unexpected experience.

In a world of increasing material and labor costs, it is becoming markedly difficult to make dental treatment affordable. The book suggests a 95/5 rule. This implies running a tight budget 95% of the time, so that the other 5% you can splurge on something that makes a meaningful impact on your patients or your team. This could be throwing a party to show appreciation for your staff, providing beverages for patients in the waiting room, or providing a few patients that are going through financial hardship with small discounts.

A monetary amount that is relatively small to your practice might make the difference in a patient being able to afford their rent that month and still take care of their dental treatment. It doesn't have to be about expensive gestures; it's about the thoughtfulness of them that shows you care. Adding a little extra time to your consults, even if that means one less consult per day, to be able to answer questions thoroughly, whether the concerns are about post-operative pain or how much their insurance will cover, can completely transform patients' perceptions of the dentist.

Other gestures might be making personal post-op calls, giving patients a phone number for emergencies, or giving them a goodie bag with gauze, ice packs, even a nice note. Creativity is key! As Guidara presented in his book, "No one ever changed the game by being reasonable. You need to be unreasonable to see a world that doesn't yet exist."

A significant part of this concept involves building the right team. This has become increasingly difficult in dentistry over the past few years, as it is not only difficult to find staff but also to find people that are genuinely passionate about patient care.

We have a responsibility as the leaders of a practice to invest in the personal and professional growth of the staff so that in turn, they can take really good care of the patients. While training employees and giving them new responsibilities takes up significant time in the beginning, it yields substantial benefits in the long run.

If you train your team to be detail-oriented and think carefully about even the smallest of tasks, you create a world where intention is the standard. While some details may seem so minor that no one will ever notice, over time patients will notice intention. When you learn to manage all the details that are in your control, the team is much better equipped when situations arise that are out of your control.

All this to say, you should never try to replace high-quality work with great hospitality. Having strong foundational knowledge and competency in the procedures you do is non-negotiable in providing exceptional care for patients.

It is being able to bring empathy and creativity to go the extra mile in making each patient feel valued that will really set your practice apart. If you continue to strive for this higher level of care with your dental team, eventually patients won't remember how expensive or how painful their treatment was—they will remember how you made them feel: cared for.

I'll end with one of my favorite quotes from the book: "We have an opportunity, a responsibility, to make magic in a world that needs more of it."

DCDS Member's Message Board

Upcoming Events



January 5 – DCDS Walking Meet-up Begins (weekly on Sundays)

January 22 – DCDS Book Club Kick Off

January 30 – Speed Gaming and International Potluck

February 7 – Give Kids a Smile

February 18 – General Membership Meeting:
Managing Prosthetic Complications

March 7 – Nutrition & Wellness for Optimal Performance & Brain Health Workshop

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

In Memoriam:
click name for obituary

Dr. Daniel McNew

Dr. David Bennett Campbell

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

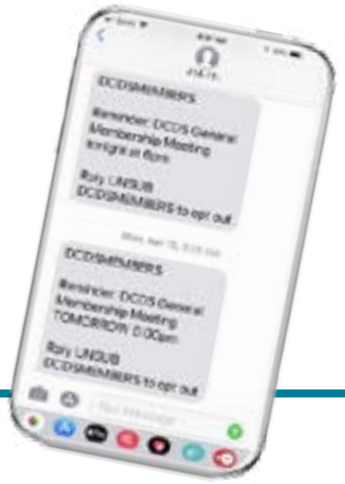
DCDS members receive ALL membership benefits offered by Texas Dental Association, including free entry to TDA TEXAS Meeting.

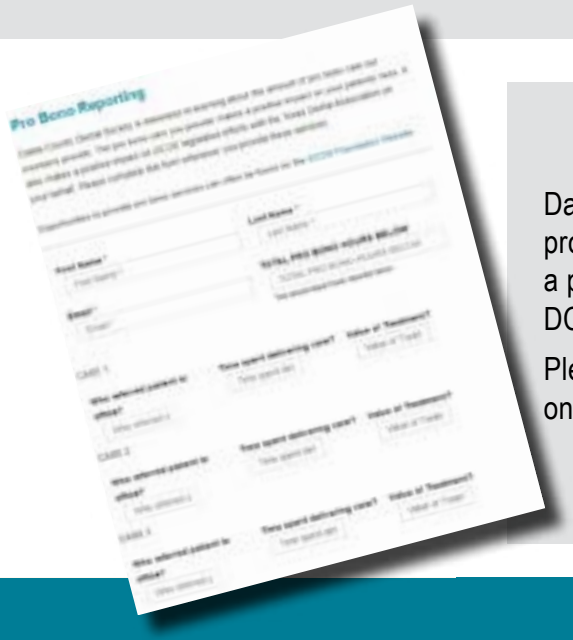
DCDS members receive ALL membership benefits offered by American Dental Association, including photo directory and public referrals through Find-a-Dentist.

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

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Find Your Power Track!

by Bill Gerlach, DDS

Developing your most fulfilling practice



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 TWO:

You can Google the word, and you will find hundreds of opinions. I defer to Navy SEALs and American heroes, Jocko Willink and Leif Babin, in their New York Times best-selling book, Extreme Ownership:

"Leadership is not what you preach. Leadership is what you **tolerate**."*

When a dental practice struggles—performance, staff retention, financial issues, etc. — dentists often believe they should either increase their marketing dollars or increase their skill set by taking more CE. While both are important, the most powerful tool to propel a dental practice forward is often overlooked: leadership. Leadership is the single most underutilized component of success, perhaps because of its ambiguous nature. Let's break it down.

There are four key components to leading your practice effectively (note that these principles apply to all businesses, regardless of industry):

1) Set high expectations
2) Encourage frequently
3) Verify results (hint: this key aspect offers wonderful coaching opportunities, and is the 'tolerate' aspect of the above quote)
4) Decide (and don't look back!)

Set High Expectations. The Jim Collins classic, Good to Great, has numerous key takeaways, one of which states "'good' is the enemy of 'great'". If your goal is to build a great practice, you won't get there by settling for "good." A great practice demands a great vision, great people, great products, great service, and great techniques. 'Good' is adequate, 'great' is soaring, and great does not happen if you tolerate good. As a principal within your office, you should set the vision, you should set the example, and you should set the expectations. People perform optimally when they are challenged to improve AND are rewarded when they perform. This is what Liz Wiseman calls a Multiplier in her book of that name. Aim for great, surround yourself with great, become great!

Encourage Frequently. Encouragement is more than simply being a cheer coach. It begins with listening and learning about what joys and concerns your team is experiencing. You can insert advice or motivation, but either way, your team members will have felt heard, appreciated, and respected. Chances are they will then perform better and have increased joy in doing so.

Verify Results: If you believe "my way or the highway" and "if you want something done right, do it yourself", it's time to reconsider. Throw those two phrases into the proverbial trash bin. People accomplish jobs as well as they can and with their own abilities, experiences, and approaches. If the results are what you seek, then celebrate success! However, if results are less than what you seek, then listen and learn how they approached the problem. Understand how they implemented their plan. Everyone accomplishes tasks slightly differently, but the goal of achieving excellent results should be expected. Conversely, if a person underperforms and you do not address their result, then you just tolerated that inferior result. Leadership is about creating accountability, not micromanaging - but addressing underperformance when necessary is key to fostering excellence.

Decide (and don't look back!) As you grow the team, as they are given increased responsibilities; and as they are given increased influence with their ideas, decisions will happen in a manner consistent with your vision. You will find that your team becomes self-accountable and self-motivating. Decisions will occur easily and organically. However, should a principal be required to make a tough decision, then decide with commitment and tenacity. Your team will understand how difficult certain decisions can be, and they will both respect your ability to make it and do their best to fulfill it.

> **'Good' is adequate, 'great' is soaring, and great does not happen if you tolerate good.**

By aligning your team with your vision and leadership, you will find the team pulling on the same end of the rope as you. Fulfillment is achieved when a workplace is not only enjoyable but also highly productive and profitable. Consider adopting the acronym THINK: Is it True, Helpful, Inspiring, Necessary, and Kind? By becoming an effective leader, you are growing those with whom you work. By doing so, you are raising the expectations, you encourage the process, and you verify the results. In turn, the practice culture becomes driven by the team, and your team will help you achieve your Power Track!

Your incredible results will not occur overnight, but rather incrementally. Over time, you'll find yourself—and your team—**tolerating** nothing less than greatness!

** Leif Babin's father, Dr. Brian Babin, is a Texas dentist from Woodville. He serves in the U.S. House of Representatives.*

On Your Behalf

The Texas 89th Legislature will convene on January 14, 2025 for the 140-day biennial lawmaking session. DCDS members are invited to join the DCDS Legislative Committee to advocate for our profession and patients on TDA Legislative Day, which is Wednesday, February 19. Topics to be discussed will include:

Increasing Medicaid Dental Funding: A Vital Investment for Texans

TDA calls on the Texas Legislature to allocate $250 million annually in General Revenue (GR) to restore Medicaid dental fees to 2007 levels, adjusted for inflation. This funding is critical to ensuring that dentists remain in the Medicaid program and patients receive quality care. As a secondary priority, TDA proposes targeted increases for 30 Medicaid dental codes, requiring $30–$35 million in GR annually.

Dental Insurance Reform: Protecting Patients and Dentists

TDA advocates for legislation to limit bundling and downcoding by state-regulated dental insurance plans. These practices lower payments to dentists and raise out-of-pocket patient costs, making dental care less affordable. Reform is necessary to protect access to care.

DELRP Funding: Addressing Dentist Shortages in Rural and Underserved Areas

TDA urges the legislature to reinstate General Revenue funding for the Dental Education Loan Repayment Program (DELRP), offering up to $200,000 in loan repayment assistance over four years for 400 dentists to practice in rural and underserved areas of Texas. With only 367 dentists needed to eliminate Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (DHPSAs) statewide, restoring DELRP funding can help address this critical issue.

Improving Oral Health Access: Strengthening Public Health Programs

TDA asks the legislature to restore General Revenue funding for the Oral Health Improvement Program (OHIP) within the Texas Department of State Health Services. TDA also supports legislation requiring OHIP leadership by a Texas-licensed dentist to ensure effective and professional oversight.

Supporting the TSBDE: Ensuring Public Health and Safety

TDA supports adequate funding for the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners (TSBDE). Sufficient resources are essential for the TSBDE to safeguard public health and maintain high standards in dental care.

Investing in Dental Education: Building Texas' Oral Health Workforce

TDA supports funding for the three legacy dental schools, requesting at least $6 million per biennium for each school to enhance clinic operations. TDA also advocates for increased funding to lower tuition costs for dental students, enabling graduates to enter the workforce with less financial burden.

Protecting Texans: Expanding Botox Administration for Enhanced Patient Care

TDA backs legislation allowing Texas-licensed dentists to administer neuromodulators like Botox for aesthetic purposes. With their extensive expertise in facial anatomy and injection safety, dentists are uniquely qualified to perform these procedures, ensuring patient safety and quality outcomes.

Preserving Quality Dental Care: Preventing Scope of Practice Overreach

TDA is dedicated to addressing barriers to oral health care for Texans. Comprehensive care provided by a dentist licensed exclusively by the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners is essential for optimal oral health. TDA remains committed to ensuring dental care is solely delivered by highly trained and qualified dentists, protecting patients from potential risks posed by less experienced providers.

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A full summary of these points will be available from TDA prior to Legislation Day. To join in on discussions with legislators, email Dr. Jonathan Vogel, DCDS Legislative Chairman, at jonvogeldds@gmail.com.



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. For details, visit the DCDS website at dcds.org/events or email angela@dcds.org.

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

Friday, February 7, 2025	9:00 am to 11:30 am	$40 per DCDS Member/Staff	$65 per Non-Member/Staff
Tuesday, March 18, 2025	9:00 am to 11:30 am	$40 per DCDS Member/Staff	$65 per Non-Member/Staff
Tuesday, April 22, 2025	9:00 am to 11:30 am	$40 per DCDS Member/Staff	$65 per Non-Member/Staff
Friday, May 9, 2025	9:00 am to 11:30 am	$40 per DCDS Member/Staff	$65 per Non-Member/Staff
Tuesday, June 17, 2025	9:00 am to 11:30 am	$40 per DCDS Member/Staff	$65 per Non-Member/Staff
Tuesday, July 22, 2025	9:00 am to 11:30 am	$40 per DCDS Member/Staff	$65 per Non-Member/Staff
Friday, August 1, 2025	9:00 am to 11:30 am	$40 per DCDS Member/Staff	$65 per Non-Member/Staff

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

Wednesday, April 2, 2025	4:00 pm to 8:00 pm	$125 per Participant
Monday, May 19, 2025	8:00 am to 12:00 pm	$125 per Participant
Wednesday, July 2, 2025	4:00 pm to 8:00 pm	$125 per Participant
Wednesday, October 1, 2025	4:00 pm to 8:00 pm	$125 per Participant
Tuesday, December 16, 2025	4:00 pm to 8:00 pm	$125 per Participant

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

Monday, March 10, 2025	8:00 am to 12:00 pm	$75 per Participant
Monday, June 9, 2025	12:00 pm to 4:00 pm	$75 per Participant
Monday, September 15, 2025	8:00 am to 12:00 pm	$75 per Participant
Monday, December 8, 2025	12:00 pm to 4:00 pm	$75 per Participant

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

Monday, February 10, 2025	8:00am – 12:00 pm	$75 per Participant
Monday, July 7, 2025	12:00 pm to 4:00 pm	$75 per Participant
Monday, October 13, 2025	8:00am – 12:00 pm	$75 per Participant

DCDS Dental Assisting School

REGISTER AT DCDS.ORG/EVENTS

Dallas County Dental Society is an ADA CERP Recognized Provider.

ADA CERP is a service of the American Dental Association to assist dental professionals in identifying quality providers of continuing dental education. ADA CERP does not approve or endorse individual courses or instructors, nor does it imply acceptance of credit hours by boards of dentistry. Dallas County Dental Society designates one (1) credit per hour for CE activities, unless otherwise noted. Concerns or complaints about a CE provider may be directed to the provider or to ADA CERP at www.ada.org/goto/cerp.

ADA C·E·R·P® | Continuing Education Recognition Program

Healthcare Member Benefit Program

Frequently Asked Questions

1.What is the Member Benefit Program?

The Member Benefit Program is an invitation only program available to approved Associations, PEOs and other dually authorized membership organizations. The Program offers membership related benefits that include life insurance, accident, and health benefits as well as prescription benefits.

2.Who is eligible to participate in the Member Benefit Program?

Individual Members and or Employer Members that are active members of an approved Affiliated Association, PEO, or such other dually authorized Membership Organization.

3.Is the Member Benefit Program a small group or individual insurance plan?

No. The Member Benefit Program is NOT a small group or individual insurance plan. The Member Benefit Program is an opportunity for Associate Memberships to be offered to qualified individual members and/or employees and thus, if they choose to join will have access to the member benefits program provided to an eligible employer or member through an employer or member's Affiliated Association membership.

4.What is an Associate Member Program?

Associate Member programs came into existence in the 1980's as unions needed a way to give the apprentices working in union shops the ability to receive benefits. As such, unions adopted these programs with the hope that the apprentices would at some point become full union members. These programs afforded these associate members the opportunity to participate in various union programs and benefits including health care coverage, dental and vision insurance, life insurance, disability,accident 401K programs and others depending on the overall benefits of each individual union.

5.What Union is providing the option to participate in the Associate Membership opportunity?

Amalgamated Local 426 is the Sponsoring Union for CapCare Affiliated Associations. Local 426 accesses the Health & Welfare Funds of Local 298 and Local 22. Local 426 is the Union that is providing the Associate membership opportunity to the association affiliated members. Local 298 has been in existence since 1951 with headquarters in Valley Stream, NY. Local 22, was founded in 1930 and is in New York,NY. This Plan option is a Taft Hartley Health and Welfare Benefit Plan.

6.Who becomes an Associate Member? The Employer or the Employee?

The Employee becomes the Associate Member. The Member Benefits Program is not an employer sponsored plan, to gain access to the benefits offered, an employee/member (participant) must become an Associate Member of the Member Benefit Program Sponsor, Amalgamated Local 426 to be eligible for benefits.

7.What network of Providers does the enrolled Member Participants have access to?

The Plan Administrator has entered into an agreement with one or more networks of hospitals and physicians, called "PPO Networks." These PPO networks offer participants healthcare services at discounted rates. In Network Services for PPO providers are paid at 100% of the fee schedule contracted by Blue Cross Blue Shield with their participating providers.

8.What is the eligibility criteria for an employee/independent contractor member to enroll in the Member Benefit Program?

An employee/independent contractor member is eligible to participate if they are actively employed/working for an employer and or member that is a member of an Affiliated Association. The Employer must also pay the contributions on the employee/members' behalf. If enrolling as an Independent contractor, you must provide a copy of your 1099 and or Independent Contractor agreement.

9.What are the eligibility criteria for a sole proprietor to enroll in the Member Benefit Program?

Sole Proprietor must provide documentation showing legal formation and/or tax records and validate that they are actively working for that entity.

Amalgamated Local 426
Health and Welfare Fund

Powered By capcare

For additional information, and to take advantage of this new opportunity, contact a dedicated Program Member Benefit Representative:

Email: capcareenrollment@concordmgt.com

Phone: 833-287-4765

Diversity + Inclusivity

by Alicia Spence, DDS

A Recipe for Student Support



The return to in-person classes at Texas A&M College of Dentistry was both celebratory and anxiety-inducing for many students after pandemic restrictions were lifted. Students who had spent months in the solitude of their downtown Dallas apartments could struggle with wax-ups and gossip about Tiger King episodes with their friends from the comfort of their lab seats once again. Professors gladly signed out of Zoom sessions and onto lecture hall screens in preparation for lively in-class discussions. The main clinic again hummed with the activity of dental students and their grateful patients.

While there was palpable joy in being back together, there were also unforeseen setbacks. Many students were struggling financially after taking on more responsibility with family members and aging parents. The rising cost of groceries and living expenses added an extra burden for students who had already taken out loans and met maximums for financial aid.

As the stress of daily living rose, so did the anxiety of our dental students. In my eleventh year of teaching at the dental school, I can confidently say that I have never seen students that stressed. Encouraging and mentoring students throughout their dental school journey brought me into academia, but I had never referred so many students for counseling and mental health assistance as I did during that time. After conferring with Dr. Janna Burnett, Pre-Clinical Director and Associate Professor in Comprehensive Dentistry, we decided change was needed. The students needed more resources and a means to build resilience, while our faculty needed training to help students in crisis. We created a plan for a new mental health committee and began recruiting other faculty. Dentists, by nature, are servants at heart, and it was easy to build a committee of caring faculty and have that committee approved by the school's administration. Help from Dr. Martha Alvarez in Pediatric Dentistry and from BCD alumnus and pediatric dentist Dr. Erik Harrington gave the effort the emotional and financial support it needed to get off the ground.

We began hosting monthly events called Wellness Wednesdays, which offered free lunch, a guest lecture on topics related to health and wellness, and a stress-relieving activity. Since the beginning, our events have drawn crowds of 75-100 students each time, and they range from yoga sessions to healthy cooking classes to kazoo singalongs. Yes, you read that correctly and they are hilarious! Our wonderful faculty have shared their talents for the benefit of our students. Dr. Lara Coseo, Assistant Professor in Comprehensive Dentistry, led a "Cocoa and Crochet" session in December of 2023 with an impressive turnout. It was so successful that less than a year later, the students formed an official crochet club at the College of Dentistry. Dr. Amp Miller, Professor and beloved teacher of many, provided a session of "Dad Jokes" complete with root beer and pretzels. Professor Lisa Mallonee, Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, provided a session on how nutrition affects mental health, and students had the chance to make their own trail mix. Our school librarians provided information on the calming effects of reading. What started as a small idea to help our students has evolved into a school-wide effort to provide them with the resources they need to be successful both in dental school and in the real world. They are learning how to manage their stress. They are also hearing from their school community that it is more than okay to talk about mental health issues and where to find help.

One of the most meaningful sessions was led by Dr. Erik Harrington. His compelling story of his own struggles during his pediatric dentistry residency resonates with many. He is committed to helping students find the help that they need. True to his word, he also hosted a fundraising dinner to add to his endowment at the school. The funds have helped our committee continue Wellness Wednesdays and host study breaks before final exams.

As a committee, we also recognized that students had unmet basic needs. We created a pocket pantry on campus where students could get ingredients for meals, snacks, and hygiene products. Students can request items and leave feedback on anonymous forms inside the pantry. Along with physical needs, we also knew we needed to address their mental health needs.

With the support of Dr. Lacy, Associate Dean for Student Affairs, our school hired a full-time counselor. Our in-house counselor meets with students during school hours, eliminating the need for students to travel or miss class to seek help. Her schedule has remained full since she joined us in August.

While we can't eliminate the inherent stress of being a student or healthcare provider, we can help our students think about their mental health in a preventive way. We can provide basic assistance and additional resources so that they can focus on their academic success. We can also show them that they are part of a supportive community that cares for them as a whole person. Our hope is that this will help them as they venture into the real world, and that they will, in turn, recognize those staff members, patients, or fellow dentists who might be struggling, too.

If you or someone you know is having a mental health crisis, call or text 988. Additional resources for dentists can be found at www.tda.org/member-center/mental-health-resources.





Top: Yoga at a Wellness Wednesday. Bottom: Wellness committee members (L-R): Dr. Alicia Spence, Dr. Lara Coseo, Dr. Amp Miller, and Dr. Janna Burnett



DCDS Wellness Collective: Walking Meet-up

Begins January 5, 2025 10:30 AM

Time to ditch your scrubs and throw on some walking gear! Your wealth and brain health can be directly correlated to your health, so we want to always carve out time for both. Whether you're looking to network, stay active, or simply enjoy a stroll with peers, this is the perfect opportunity.

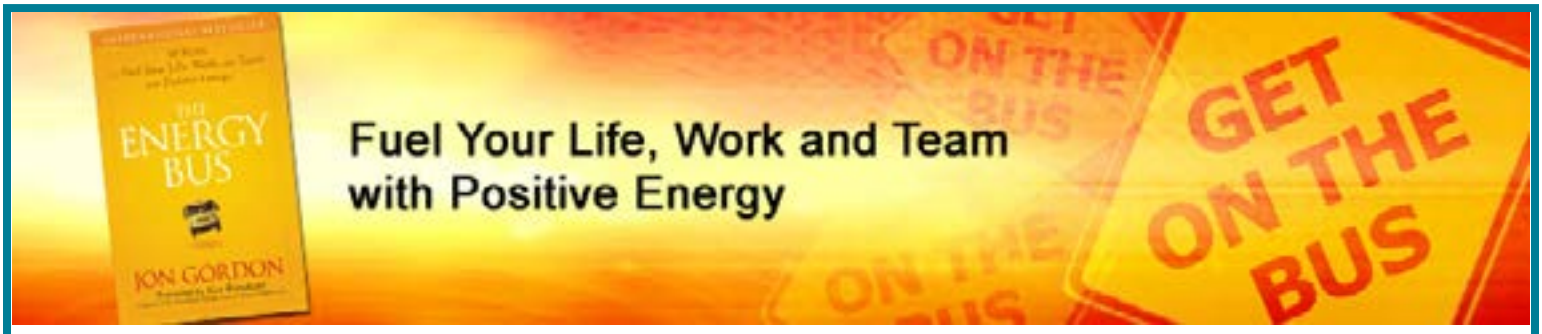
TIME: Every other Sunday (weather permitting) - Walk begins promptly at 10:30 AM

MEETING LOCATION: Windhaven Meadows Park (5400 Windhaven Pkwy., Plano, TX 75093)

WALKING GOAL: 2 miles

For more information on this meet-up and to be connected to the walking lead, please email kisha@dcds.org.

Hosted by the DCDS Membership Committee.



JOIN OUR BOOK CLUB!

Are you ready to embark on a journey of personal and professional growth? The first book—"The Energy Bus" by Jon Gordon—is a powerful read that will energize your life, work, and leadership. Led by Dr. Michael Plunk at the DCDS Executive Office, this club will offer insightful discussions and a supportive community to help you get the most out of each book.

Food will be provided. Please note any dietary restrictions or food allergies within your RSVP email.

DCDS Book Club Kick Off

January 22, 2025 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Email Kisha@dcds.org to join in the discussion!



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.

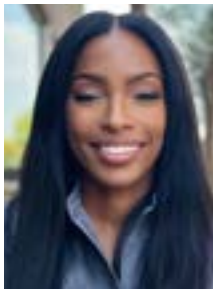
www.dcds.org/events

AND INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK!

General Membership Meeting - February 2025

Managing Prosthetic Complications

GABRIELLE JACKSON, DDS, MS



Dr. Jackson, originally from Chicago, completed her undergraduate biology degree at Bradley University in Illinois. She earned her DDS at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill-where she also completed her three-year post-graduate residency program earning her Master's in Oral Biology and Prosthodontics.

Dr. Jackson began her career serving patients in an implant center, then transitioned into private practice and is currently practicing at Dallas Prosthodontics. She is especially skilled in full-mouth rehabilitations, implant-supported prosthetics and cosmetic dentistry.

This presentation discusses common implant-related prosthetic complications and strategies to prevent and best manage complications should they arise. Diagnostic and treatment planning failures contribute to complications but there are also patient factors at play. This lecture highlights problems of poor technical decision-making and execution in addition to common component failures. Clinical cases with prosthetic failures are presented to illustrate different scenarios and situations that can occur when planning and placing implant-supported prostheses.

Audience: Dentists
AGD Code: 610
CE Hours: 2 technical and/or scientific
CE Verification provided
Conflict of Interest: None reported
Sponsored by First Citizens Bank.

First Citizens Bank forever first

Learning Objectives:

- Discuss a variety of complications with prosthetic procedures
- Understand common diagnosis failures that commonly lead to complications
- Identify potential risk factors to consider and pitfalls to avoid when treatment planning
- Review different techniques to manage complications
- Learn effective communication to manage patient expectations while treating complications

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. REGISTER TODAY AT WWW.DCDS.ORG/EVENTS

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 February 11, 2025. A 20% administrative fee will be assessed for all cancellation requests on or prior to this date. Since this is a limited attendance course, "no shows" will forfeit the full course fee. No refunds will be granted after February 11, 2025.

DALLAS COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 18

6:00 PM IN-PERSON • 6:30 PM VIRTUAL • REGISTER TODAY AT DCDS.ORG/EVENTS

DALLAS COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY • DALLAS, TEXAS 75244 • 972-386-5741 • INFO@DCDS.ORG

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Concerns or complaints about a CE provider may be directed to the provider or to ADA CERP at www.ada.org/goto/cerp.

ADA CERP® | Continuing Education Recognition Program

Nutrition & Wellness for Optimal Performance & Brain Health

MERIDAN ZERNER, MS, RDN, CSSD, LD, CHWC



Meridan Zerner is an award-winning Registered Dietitian Nutritionist with 30+ years of experience in the field of health and wellness. The last 22 years have been spent at Cooper Clinic, where she not only works with patients, but shares her passion for nutrition through media segments and lectures across the country. Meridan received her Bachelor of Science from Syracuse University and Master of Nutritional Science with an emphasis in health promotion from the University of Oklahoma. A Certified Specialist in Sports Dietetics (CSSD), she shares her expertise in weight management and exercise, sports nutrition, preventive and cardiovascular health, and nutrition through the life cycle. Meridan is a Certified Health and Wellness Coach and uses behavioral change skills to help support long-term lifestyle changes in her patients. Her wellness philosophy is to do the best you can with what you have, where you are.

AGD Subject Code: 150
CE Hours: 2.5 Technical and/or Scientific
CE Verification provided
Conflict of Interest: None

Hosted by the DCDS Membership Development Committee

Sponsored by the ADA Council on Membership

Personal and professional development go hand-in-hand. This workshop explores the connection between the brain, nutrition and/or health and performance. During this workshop participants will understand how proper nutrition and holistic health enhances energy levels, creativity, mental clarity, focus, decision making skills and overall performance. These workshop ideas focus on enhancing the personal and professional lives of dentists through practical, actionable strategies.

ONLINE REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR THIS IN PERSON EVENT BY MARCH 3, 2025.

Register online at www.dcds.org/events for this 9:00-11:30 a.m. event.

ADA Member Dentists	FREE	Dental Students	FREE
Non-Member Dentists	FREE	TAMUCOD Faculty	FREE

March 7

REGISTER TODAY AT WWW.DCDS.ORG/EVENTS

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Texas A&M University College of Dentistry

By Kristen Tribe

Hong named department head of public health sciences

Dr. Liang Hong joined Texas A&M College of Dentistry Aug. 1 as the new department head of public health sciences. He was also recently selected as a Faculty Fellow of the Texas A&M Institute for Healthcare Access.

Hong previously served as professor and director in the Division of Community Dentistry at the University of Tennessee HSC College of Dentistry, and professor in UTHSC College of Graduate Health Sciences and UTHSC College of Medicine, Department of Preventive Medicine. He maintained general dentistry practice and treated a variety of the patients, including oncology patients at the Special Care Clinic.

Hong said he was excited about the move to the A&M dental school because it provided him the opportunity to reach an even larger population.

"This dental school, the location – the Dallas area and the state of Texas – provides huge opportunities to pursue my professional goal of improving the oral health and access to dental care of the public," he said. "Oral health indicators in Texas are behind the national average and the objectives of Healthy People 2030. There's a lot of work to be done here."

Hong earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery at the West China University of Medical Sciences College of Dentistry. He attended the University of Iowa College of Dentistry and earned a graduate certificate and Master of Science degree in Dental Public Health, a Ph.D. in Oral Science with focus on oral epidemiology and a graduate certificate in Operative Dentistry.

Hong earned his second DDS at UTHSC College of Dentistry. He is board certified and a diplomate in the American Board of Dental Public Health, and board eligible in the American Board of Operative Dentistry. He has certificates in Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Care, and Clinical Research Training for Principal Investigators. He was faculty at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry.

Hong was inspired to pursue public health dentistry when, in training, he saw many patients in pain, suffering with swelling, infections due to tooth decay or periodontal diseases. These people were sometimes unable to go to work, which set off a chain of hardship for their families, leading Hong to realize the missing element in these situations was preventive dentistry and public health interventions at population levels.

"I decided I should do something in public health dentistry," he said. "Rather than focus my energies on individual patients, I should work on a broader scale to address the needs of an entire population."

Dr. Lily Garcia, dean, said Hong has the professional demeanor and experience to advance the departmental staff and faculty through a deliberate focus on dental public health curriculum for the predoctoral and dental hygiene students.

"He has quickly learned the vital role that the faculty contribute to A&M Dentistry clinical outreach," she said.

Over the course of his career, Hong has published more than 40 peer-reviewed manuscripts and more than 40 abstracts, along with research reports and a book chapter. He gives presentations and lectures in national and international conferences and meetings and currently serves in the Scientific Review Group for Musculoskeletal, Oral and Skin Sciences (MOSS) IRG, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, and the Review Panel for the National Science Foundation (NSF) SBIR/STTR Pharmaceutical Manufacture and Medical Devices (Dental Treatment and Therapeutics). He also chairs the Council of Scientific Information, American Association of Public Health Dentistry.

Hong has been awarded two patents with an additional patent licensing, serves as a journal reviewer for 20 well-recognized scientific journals, and has mentored numerous dental students, graduate students and residents, postdoctoral and visiting scholars. Hong also has numerous grants, including NIH-NIDCR grants.



Dr. Liang Hong

"Dr. Hong will continue his research enterprise based on a strong history of success in scholarly publications," Garcia said. "He is quick to learn of challenges and has a vision to help advance students, staff and faculty and together align department goals that reflect the mission of A&M Dentistry."

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.

Call for Dental Volunteers!

On Friday, February 7, 2025, thousands of dentists across the country will take time from their practices to help underserved children get the oral health care they need. Give Kids A Smile® is an annual volunteer program that provides free educational, preventive and restorative services to children from low-income families.

Give Kids A Smile!®

ADA American Dental Association®

Friday, February 7, 2025

2:45 pm - 5:00 pm

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

Dentists are especially needed to provide screenings and apply fluoride varnish. All materials are donated, so all we ask is your time and skills!

Sign up at https://www.dcdsfoundation.org/volunteer-form-gkas

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



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 and Dr. Preston Colver

A Year in Review

Happy New Year, 2025!

Over the past year, the Dallas County Dental Society and our supporters have worked tirelessly to promote and enhance oral health in our community. DCDS Foundation served a record 3,240 children and adults in 2024 through impactful programs like Give Kids a Smile, Tooth Talk, Senior Smiles, Dental Tree Program and community health fairs.

Funded through an grant from the International College of Dentistry, the Dental Tree Program in November provided services to over 1900 people through:

- Four Tooth Talks at Title I elementary schools,
- Three Senior Smiles through Meals on Wheels events,
- Additional oral health bag distribution at the Vickery Meadow Food Pantry, and
- Treatments in six offices/clinics totalling over $30,700 in donated dental services to underserved patients. A special thank you to Drs. Michael Rainwater, William Phillips, Mary Swift, Chi Trieu, Max Finn, David Lee and their teams for providing this care.

In early 2024, we hosted the Dental Charity Summit for the fifth year. This gathering fostered collaboration among leaders of community health organizations to share strategies, solutions, and challenges, strengthening our collective impact.

As we enter 2025, the DCDS Foundation is eager to continue our mission of service and professional camaraderie. We invite YOU to join us in enhancing oral health across Dallas County. Mark your calendars now for these events:

- Give Kids a Smile: February 7, 2025
- Third Annual Dental Tree Program: November 5-7, 2025
- Texas Mission of Mercy: Returning to Dallas in Spring 2026

We encourage you to check your schedule and volunteer at one of these events. It's also never too early to start identifying deserving patients in your practice who could benefit from donated care.

Together, let's make 2025 a year of service, compassion, and impact. We look forward to working alongside you!

Join Us for GKAS 2025!

Mark your calendars for February 7, 2025, as the Dallas County Dental Society proudly hosts the annual Give Kids A Smile (GKAS) event! This impactful day brings together dental professionals, students, and community members to deliver essential dental screenings, fluoride varnish applications, and oral hygiene education to underserved children in Dallas County schools.

The 2024 GKAS event was a resounding success thanks to our incredible team of 67 volunteers. Together, we visited eight Dallas ISD schools and collaborated with Texas A&M College of Dentistry Pediatric Dentistry residents to reach hundreds of students. Alongside providing vital dental care, our volunteers empowered children with the knowledge to build lifelong healthy habits.

This year, we're determined to make an even greater impact – but we need your help! Whether you're a dentist, dental hygienist, assistant, student, or simply a passionate community member, your time and expertise can make a lasting difference.

Join us in spreading smiles and improving oral health across Dallas County. Together, we can ensure every child has the opportunity to shine with a healthy, confident smile. To learn more about volunteering or partnering with us, please email info@dcdsfoundation.org or visit dcdsfoundation.org.

Let's make GKAS 2025 the best yet!











Photos above are from various Dental Tree Program events.



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

A Glimpse of Giggles and Gumdrops

Last month's Giggles and Gumdrops family gingerbread building event was a festive celebration that brought families together for an afternoon of creativity laughter, and holiday cheer. Attendees of all ages enjoyed building and decorating gingerbread masterpieces, letting their imaginations run wild as sugary decorations turned into colorful works of art. The Grinch played in the background, adding to the fun atmosphere; while friends and colleagues mingled, sharing stories and laughter. The event was the perfect way to kick off the holiday season, creating sweet memories to cherish!












General Membership Meeting - April 2025

A Practical Approach to Oral Cancer and OPMD's

PARAS PATEL, DDS



Dr. Paras Patel is a board certified oral and maxillofacial pathologist who obtained his dental degree from Howard University College of Dentistry in 2011. After graduation, he practiced general dentistry for a few years in the Lubbock area with the Community Health Center of Lubbock, as their staff dentist on the mobile dental unit. In 2014, he began his residency in oral and maxillofacial pathology at TAMU (Baylor) School of Dentistry. Upon completion of his residency, he took a position at the college of dentistry as a full-time faculty member. After 5 years in academia, Dr. Patel transitioned into private practice and helped establish the Center for Oral Pathology, where he continues his clinical practice. He also had the opportunity to continue his practice of surgical pathology in conjunction with ProPath and helped establish the division of oral and maxillofacial pathology, where he currently serves as director. Dr. Patel stays active in clinical research involving oral potentially malignant disorders/ precancerous lesions and oral cancer and is the current US laboratory director for Proteocyte AI.

As oral cancer has received more publicity over recent decades, partly due to the evidence of Human Papillomavirus infection and its relationship to oropharyngeal cancer, the oral healthcare provider should feel comfortable about educating and discussing these topics with their patients. Our discussion will provide a brief overview of the statistics and predicted rates of both oral and orophayngeal cancer. We will go into brief detail about what populations are at risk as well as discuss the risk factors that contribute to the development of oral cancer. Additionally and most importantly, we will identify the clinical characteristics of oral potentially malignant disorders and malignant lesions.

Audience: Dentists
AGD Code: 610/670
CE Hours: 2 technical and/or scientific
CE Verification provided
Conflict of Interest: Proteocyte AI

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the basic concepts that contribute to the development of oral cancer
- Identify individuals at high risk for the development of oral potentially malignant isorders and oral cancers
- Identify oral potentially malignant disorders and lesions suspicious for oral cancer

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. REGISTER TODAY AT WWW.DCDS.ORG/EVENTS

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 8, 2025. 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 8, 2025.

DALLAS COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY

APRIL 15

6:00 PM IN-PERSON • 6:30 PM VIRTUAL • REGISTER TODAY AT DCDS.ORG/EVENTS

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16TH ANNUAL DCDS SHRED-A-THON

Friday, April 25, 2025

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 or 972-386-5741.

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

ACTION SHRED
OF TEXAS

Certified Shredding Promotion for Dallas County Dental Society Members

- ✓ Members only preferred pricing
- ✓ Facility-based destruction for paper, hard drives and proprietary items
- ✓ Certificate of Destruction provide for all services

$25 flat fee per container.
Minimum charge per service of $75.

Contact 214-352-0113, option #2 for details about preferred member rates

Your Trusted Source for
Document • Media • Product Destruction
Secured> Destroyed> Certified



A Glimpse of DCDS at SoulCycle

Working out is always more fun with friends! Stay tuned at dcds.org/events for more workout opportunities to come with our new program, the DCDS Wellness Collective!











Active Shooter Training

In November, the DCDS Executive Office welcomed Officer Hernandez from the Dallas Police Department's Neighborhood Patrol unit to provide information on active shooter situations. Hosted by the DCDS Retired Dentist Committee, this impactful presentation focused on how to respond to active shooter situations, equipping attendees with critical thinking skills that could one day save lives. The 1.5 hour session began with Officer Hernandez defining the reality of active shooter scenarios—situations where every second counts. He outlined practical strategies for responding under extreme stress, offering information on tools to protect ourselves and others. Attendees, including dentists and staff from both DCDS and North Texas Dental Society, listened intently as he shared real-life examples and actionable advice tailored to both professional and personal settings. Attendees left empowered, with a deeper understanding of situational awareness and the importance of quick, decisive actions during a crisis. This presentation was not only a valuable learning opportunity, but a testament to our commitment to the well-being of our members and their teams.



Resource: www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/active_shooter_booklet.pdf

DENTAL OFFICE NETWORK

Your Transition is closer than you think!

Is your practice ready?

PRACTICE SOLD!
"Thanks for all you do for dentistry. Your expertise is unmatched, tenacity is better than Super Glue, and your love for dentistry is legendary!"
— Dr. T. Bob Davis

Go with a Guide that knows the territory!

Hoping one day to get top dollar for your practice?
Considering adding a dentist to your practice?
Wondering how to coordinate the real estate and practice sale?

"Seek advice now... while your practice is at its peak!"

DALLAS OFFICE 214.893.0410
Serving the Central U.S.
Info@OfficeNetworkUSA.com
#1 TRANSITION AUTHORITY

Texas "Dentist of the Year" GP practice for sale!

North Dallas state-of-the-art, FFS, 1200 Active Pts., 1300 sq. ft. with room to expand. 3 furnished ops., EagleSoft, Reasonable rent $3407, Long-term staff. This one won't last long!

Email: info@OfficeNetworkUSA.com

Reference Code: UDF1

Are You Using the Right Tools ...In Your Marketing Efforts?

on-hold media group

Proudly Serving DCDS Members Since 2008



On-Hold Messaging Will:
- Present a cordial, professional image
- Reduce caller hang-ups
- Shorten perceived hold times
- Educate & inform patients
- Reinforce other marketing efforts
- Introduce new providers & staff
- Encourage online check-in & referrals

Our SHUFFLE system lets you to quickly & easily:
- Manage your content on a near real-time basis
- Select the precise messages your callers need
- Submit new Custom Script Requests
- Match the background music to the season
- Generate a new weekly production sequence

and so much more...

For a live, online virtual tour of our SHUFFLE Content Management System, please contact us today!

Ask us about the special program for DCDS Members

(866) 758-1300
www.OnHoldWizard.com
info@onholdwizard.com

HOPEFUL smiles

We want to express our heartfelt gratitude for the unwavering support you've provided to our agency and clients throughout this past year. We are incredibly thankful for your dedication and generosity. Your support has made a profound difference in the lives of those we serve, and we are truly grateful.

Mission

Our workshops are designed to equip our clients with tools to enhance their self-image and boost their self-esteem, ultimately helping them find inner happiness. Hopeful Smiles™ is a unique program tailored for women striving for self-sufficiency, whose smiles have been marred by neglect, illness, poverty, and/or violence. Many of the women we assist carry the visible scars of their past experiences on their faces. Through Hopeful Smiles™, we want to restore not just their physical smiles, but also their confidence and sense of self-worth, allowing them to radiate joy outwardly once again.

Some of the new smiles of 2023 thanks to each of you!







If you are willing to donate chair time to support a deserving woman, please reach out to me at Joanna@attitudesandattire.org or call 214.746.4216.

Connect with us

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!



TDA Financial Services Insurance Program is pleased to announce its partnership with a

NEW Healthcare Member Benefit Program

that provides our members with **comprehensive plan options** that meet both **budget and benefit needs**.

Available to dental-practice employers with employees, 1099 contractors, and sole proprietors

Have access to enhanced programs, plans, tools:

- **National PPO Network**
- **4 Tier Rates Nationwide**—No age rating, no census needed and no medical underwriting
- **Coverage cannot be denied.** (No pre-existing limitations)
- In-network coverage in all 50 states, plus DC and Puerto Rico
- ACA Compliant health benefits available
- Concierge access and support

Members can enroll THE FIRST DAY OF ANY MONTH with open enrollment.

Enrollment needs to be completed no later than 30 days in advance.

For program information and pricing contact:

833-287-4765 **capcareenrollment@concordmgt.com**

TDA FINANCIAL SERVICES INSURANCE PROGRAM

capcare

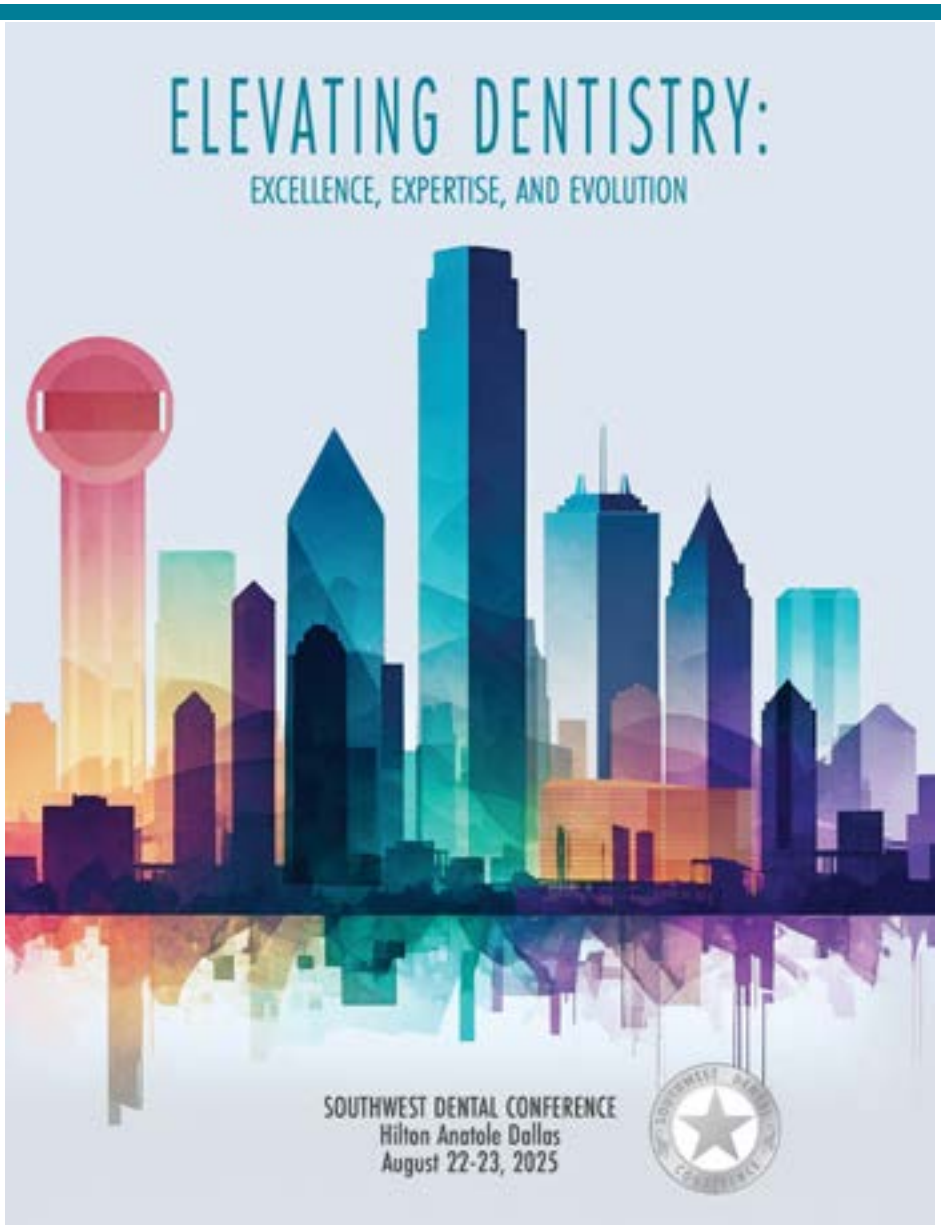
ADA / TDA / DCDS recently changed communication platforms. During this time, it appears that members may have inadvertantly had a change of opting out of our communications. DCDS has re-instated email communications with all DCDS members. If you are CHOOSING to opt out of any ADA / TDA / DCDS email communications, 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!

DCDS
13633 Omega Road
Dallas, TX 75244
Phone: 972-386-5741
Fax: 972-233-8636
www.dcds.org
info@dcds.org

Follow DCDS and SWDC on social media!



As we celebrate 98 years of the Southwest Dental Conference, we honor the past while looking forward to the future. We hope this year's event inspires you, challenges you, and equips you with the tools and knowledge to elevate your practice to new heights.

I hope you will join us at this milestone event. Your participation is what makes this Conference a true celebration of our dental community. We are confident that you will leave with new knowledge, new connections, and renewed inspiration to continue elevating your practice. Cheers to 2025 and the Southwest Dental Conference!

Happy New Year! On behalf of the entire Southwest Dental Conference team, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to the 98th edition of this time-honored event. As we gather in celebration of nearly a century of dental excellence, we are excited to share in the tradition of knowledge, collaboration, and innovation that has defined this Conference for generations.

We are embracing our theme, "Elevated Dentistry: Excellence, Expertise, and Evolution," which reflects the ever-growing advancements and dynamic nature of our profession. No matter your role on the dental team, this Conference provides an unparalleled opportunity to learn from the best, connect with peers, and explore the latest innovations shaping the future of dentistry.

We are proud to feature a lineup of outstanding speakers and presenters who will guide us through the latest advancements and techniques. Be sure to attend the following sessions, which represent some of the most sought-after topics in modern dentistry:

- Dr. Bob Margeas will lead a hands-on workshop on treating Class IV fractures with composite resins.
- Dr. Rob Ritter will present on digital dentistry and case acceptance.
- Dr. Melissa Seibert will conduct a minimally invasive onlays and overlays hands-on workshop.
- Dr. Briana Burris will present on neuromodulators and the applications of autologous platelet-rich fibrin.

In addition to these exceptional sessions, we are excited to highlight our Exhibit Hall, a high-energy environment where you can explore the newest dental technologies and innovations. Whether you're looking for new equipment, digital solutions, or educational resources, the Exhibit Hall offers a dynamic space to explore cutting-edge products and services that will help you stay at the forefront of the dental field.



Gabby Dizon, DDS
2025 Southwest Dental Conference Chairman