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DCDS connection

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A tradition of integrity and care since 1908

Mission Statement

Serving the professional needs of our members

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Champions for Children

By Preston Colven, DDS

Give Kids a Smile – Dallas Volunteers Needed!



The Dallas County Dental Society Foundation will host its annual Give Kids a Smile community outreach event on February 6, 2026, across eight DISD campuses in partnership with the Dallas Parks and Recreation Afterschool Program, which serves underserved lower income communities throughout the city. We are seeking dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, dental students, and other interested volunteers to support this important initiative.



Dentists will provide dental screenings and fluoride varnish applications, while other volunteers will provide oral hygiene instruction, and oral health education. All supplies are provided. Give Kids a Smile – Dallas has been tremendously successful in previous years, and we are looking for a repeat this year.



Nationally, the Give Kids A Smile program brings together dental professionals and community partners to deliver vital oral health services—including education, screenings, preventive care, and treatment—to children from financially challenged families. With nearly one in four children under age five already experiencing cavities, and more than 10 million children lacking access to dental care, this program plays a critical role in the ADA's Action for Dental Health, striving to eliminate dental disease in America by reaching those with the greatest need.

This year marks the seventh consecutive year that the DCDS Foundation has participated in this nationwide effort, sponsored by Henry Schein and Colgate.

Click here to sign up to volunteer, or email info@dcdsfoundation.org for more information.

The Write Stuff

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

10-Minute Resolution, Year-Long Benefits



The New Year is always a time for renewed commitment. Many of us like to reset and make new resolutions—and sometimes we are more successful than others. But one resolution that is easy to keep is to renew your membership in Dallas County Dental Society.

These days, we are more conscientious than ever that we commit our time and money to organizations that truly matter to us. However, remaining a member of DCDS, and the tripartite, is a no-brainer.

While it is impossible to list every reason to be a member, here are some highlights. You've heard the benefits of the American Dental Association before: national advocacy, life and disability insurance and other tangible benefits, and access to excellent continuing education offerings.

The Texas Dental Association membership is equally vital. Advocacy is also a key mission: almost every major law or rule dictating how we practice as dentists is regulated at the state level, and the TDA has been instrumental in protecting our ability to treat patients safely and effectively. TDA also offers unique educational opportunities including through the Dental Concierge app and the TDA Meeting held annually in San Antonio. Finally, TDA offers great discounts on medical insurance for you and your office staff.

DCDS membership offers arguably the best benefits of all. First, DCDS host the Southwest Dental Conference, which brings hundreds of dentists together to learn from the premier experts nationally in all areas of dentistry. Regular events help provide training for you and your staff, or fun activities to do with your family. But the most important benefit of DCDS is undoubtedly the sense of community it creates. In no other organization can you get the chance to meet with your colleagues and neighbors, build your professional network, and gain mentorship from dentists with decades of experience.

I have a challenge for those of you reading this saying to yourselves "I know all this and I don't need any convincing": Pick up your phone, open your email, and reach out to a friend and colleague who is considering not renewing their membership, or perhaps dropped out in the past few years. Remind them of the benefits, and encourage them to maintain their membership. Only with the support of dedicated dentists such as yourselves can we continue to grow our amazing organization.

New Years resolutions are usually not easy; whether you are improving your diet, training for a race, or organizing your house, you need to work at it every day to reach your goal. The good news about renewing your DCDS membership? You can do it in 10 minutes and forget about it...at least until next year.





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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, DDS, Editor

Maintaining Ethical Standards in Community Dental Outreach



Community outreach programs play a vital role in improving access to dental care for underserved populations. However, these events often present unique challenges that can compromise patient safety and professional integrity. As dental professionals, it is our responsibility to uphold ethical principles and maintain the standard of care, regardless of the setting.

Why Dentists Hesitate to Volunteer

Many dentists are reluctant to participate in outreach events or leave early due to concerns about disorganization and ethical lapses. Common issues include inadequate equipment, poor infection control, and insufficient documentation. These shortcomings not only create frustration but also expose practitioners to legal and professional risks.

Case Example: Vital Signs and Pediatric Care

At a recent outreach event, I supervised a treatment area where 14 students were providing care for school-aged children. After triage and radiographs, I discovered that vital signs—blood pressure and pulse—were missing. When questioned, a student suggested skipping these checks because "kids don't have hypertension." This misconception is dangerous. Pediatric hypertension is a recognized condition, and Texas State Board rules require vital signs before treatment. I refused to supervise procedures without proper recordings, and despite a delayed start, we treated over 100 children safely and effectively. Adhering to these standards allowed me to sleep well that night, knowing patient safety was not compromised.

Common Ethical Challenges

1. Infection Control Lapses
   Outreach events often lack robust infection control protocols. Without proper oversight, these lapses can lead to disease transmission and liability for volunteers.
2. Inadequate Record-keeping
   Documentation is frequently overlooked. Comprehensive records, such as SOAP notes, are essential for continuity of care and legal compliance.
3. Diagnostic Limitations
   Some organizers expect treatment without radiographs, which is unacceptable. Performing procedures without proper diagnostics compromises care quality and violates professional standards.

Recommendations for Event Organizers

- Develop Standardized Protocols:
  Implement infection control guidelines and ensure all volunteers receive training and supervision.

> **Many dentists are reluctant to participate in outreach events or leave early due to concerns about disorganization and ethical lapses.**

- Provide Essential Equipment:
  Blood pressure cuffs, stethoscopes, and radiographic tools must be available at every event.
- Prepare Documentation Templates:
  Use premade SOAP note forms to facilitate accurate record-keeping.
- Conduct Pre-Event Orientation:
  Brief volunteers on ethical and legal requirements, including state board regulations.

Call to Action

Community outreach should never equate to substandard care. As dental professionals, we must advocate for safe, ethical practices and refuse to compromise on quality. By working collaboratively with organizers and insisting on proper protocols, we can ensure these programs truly benefit the communities they aim to serve.

Retired DCDS members and their spouses gathered for a festive afternoon of fellowship, food, and holiday cheer at our Retired Dentists Holiday Luncheon on December 9 at Cappuccino Italian Bistro in Richardson.

Thank you to Chairman Dr. Mike Jones and the Retired Dentists Committee for hosting and to everyone who joined us in celebrating the season together. We are grateful for the many years of service and leadership our retired members have given to DCDS and the Dallas County community.





From The Hub

by Jane D. Evans, Executive Director

Fellowship – Community of interest, activity, feeling or experience!



As I sat in the November General Membership meeting listening to Dr. Glen Hall, TDA President, I found myself reflecting on the idea of fellowship. He asked everyone in attendance which part of organized dentistry mattered most to them—advocacy, education or fellowship. Many responded that fellowship was the most meaningful.

When he mentioned fellowship, my mind immediately went back to the previous weekend, when about 25 members of our Texas Mission of Mercy (TMOM) family traveled to Amarillo to celebrate Dr. Richard Smith. Dr. Smith has been part of TMOM since the very first event in East Texas. That is where the fellowship began—and where the TMOM family truly took shape.

I had volunteered at several TMOM events before, and it was during a TDA Annual Session that Dr. Smith asked if I would be interested in serving on a committee with the TDA Smiles Foundation. I said yes immediately, and it didn't take long to recognize the deep sense of fellowship that had grown among everyone involved.

Those who volunteer at TMOM are a special group. They give their time because they have a heart for serving people who otherwise would not be able to receive dental care. The smiles returned by patients make every moment spent at a TMOM event worthwhile.

I'd like to personally invite you to volunteer for the upcoming Dallas TMOM event, scheduled for April 10–11, 2026. The fellowship and warm-hearted feeling you will experience at these events are truly priceless!

Clear your calendar now and stay tuned. We'll make sure to communicate registration dates in advance so you have plenty of time to sign up.









New Dentists

Advice for New Graduating Dentists

Your degree is only the beginning—what you learn in your first years of practice shapes the dentist you become.

The transition from school to practice brings an entirely new set of challenges and opportunities. Whether you're associating in a private practice, joining a group, or opening you own office, the following advice can help set you up for long-term success.

1. Focus on People, Not Just Procedures

You already know how to do dentistry, the science and clinical skills are the foundation you've built for years, but trust and connection are what truly separate a good dentist from a great one. Make eye contact, sit at the patient's level, listen actively, and treat each appointment as a relationship-building opportunity. Patients rarely remember your dentistry, but they always remember how you made them feel.

2. Continue Learning—Your Degree Is Just the Beginning

Dental school gives you the fundamentals, but the real world will refine your skills. Invest in high-quality continuing education early. Hands-on workshops in areas like endodontics, pediatrics, and implantology can dramatically boost your efficiency and confidence. Mentorship is also invaluable, seek out dentists who inspire you and don't be afraid to ask questions. Dental societies are great for this!

3. Master Your Speed, but Don't Rush It

New grads often worry about how long procedures take. Speed will come naturally as your hands develop rhythm and muscle memory. Focus first on accuracy, comfort, and communication. Efficiency is a skill that grows with experience; don't let the clock shake your confidence.

4. Learn the Business Side of Dentistry

Running, or contributing to a practice requires more than clinical skill. Take time to understand scheduling, insurance, case presentation, overhead, and staff dynamics. Even if you don't own a practice yet, developing business awareness will make you a stronger associate and a better future leader.

5. Treat Your Dental Team With Respect and Appreciation

Your assistants, hygienists, and front office staff play a massive role in creating smooth appointments and positive patient experiences. A supportive and thankful attitude strengthens teamwork and makes the practice environment enjoyable for everyone, including you.

6. Communicate Clearly and Confidently

Patients want to understand what's happening in their mouths, but they don't need a lecture. Keep explanations simple, visual, and empathetic. Confident communication also reduces anxiety, improves case acceptance, and helps patients feel safe in your care. Always ask them if they have any other questions, or if there is anything else they'd like help with.

7. Take Care of Your Body and Mind

Dentistry is physically demanding, neck strain, hand fatigue, and stress can build quickly. Develop good habits now:

- Prioritize ergonomics (Chair, position, ergo loupes)
- Stretch throughout the day (Great, free online resources available)
- Exercise regularly
- Set boundaries to prevent burnout

Healthy dentists deliver healthier care.

8. Remember Why You Chose This Profession

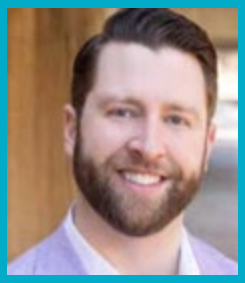
It is easy to get consumed by schedules, insurance frustrations, or difficult cases. Pause often to remember the joy of helping someone smile, relieving pain, calming a nervous child, or transforming a patient's confidence. Your work truly changes lives.

*****

Final Thoughts

The first few years out of dental school are full of learning curves, but also full of growth, discovery, and rewarding experiences. Approach each day with humility, curiosity, and compassion, and you'll build a career that's both successful and deeply fulfilling.

News and perspective from dentists under 10 years of practice



by Collin Burns, DDS

DCDS Member's Message Board

Upcoming Events



January 15 – Beyond the Basics: Building a Culture of OSHA Compliance

February 6 – Give Kids a Smile - Dallas

February 17 – General Membership Meeting: Oral Pathology Essentials for the Dental Clinician

February 25 – DCDS Book Club: The Anatomy of Peace

April 10-11 – Texas Mission of Mercy - Dallas

April 17 – Shred-a-thon

April 21 – General Membership Meeting: Trauma, Triumph and Tough Choices: Pushing the Envelope in the Implant Era

Register at www.dcds.org/events

Welcome New Members!

General Practice

Sulekha Abdi
Tarek Adra
Garrett Folks
Olga Amaya-Gomez
Karen Cao
William Christensen
Kathryn Collier
Jaime Cervantes
Amanda Dilliha
Emma Dixon
Daryan Fisher
Sydney R Gautreau
Patricia Gonzalez
Sterling Green
Abigail Hafner
Aya Hamao-Sakamoto
Amanda Hassell
Rahim Hussain
Jazmin Jones
Ami Joshi
Ireh Kim
Nikitha Lanka
May Lin
Michael Nguyen
Elizabeth Phillips
Rohitha Polasani
Stanton Pruitt
Alma Delia Renteria
Jeschell Rivera Cordero
Blake Samper
Brandi Seawood
Maniderpal Singh
Laurentiu Tanase
Matthew Tiberino
Nesrin Tulimat
Tamara Vujanovic
Ashley Zhang

Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics

Lateefah Washington

In Memoriam:
click name for obituary, if available

Dr. John Goad

Dr. Murray London



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

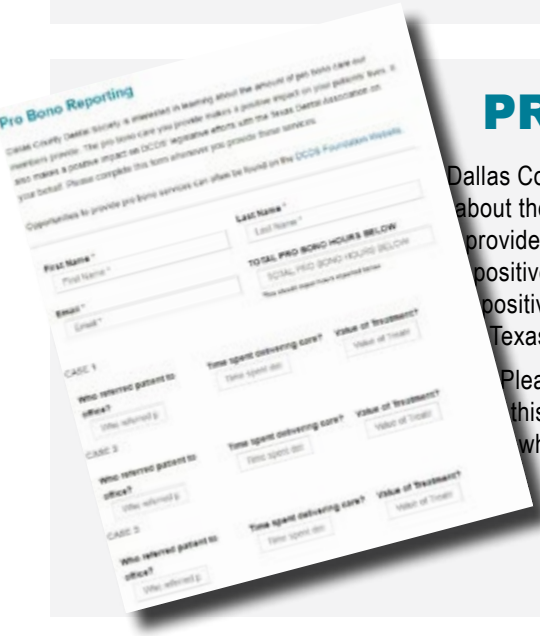
Being a member of the associations that work to protect your profession is important to the success of a practice...pass along the benefits to your peers!

- 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
- 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



PRO BONO HOURS

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

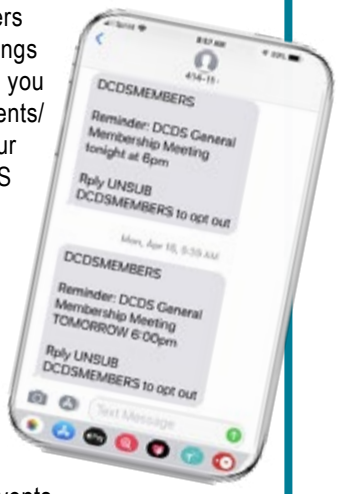
Please help our legislative efforts by completing this short Pro Bono Form on our website whenever you provide these services:

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

TEXT MESSAGE REMINDERS:

Text DCDSMEMBERS to (833) 258-7645.

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



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.



Applause, Applause!



Congratulations to **Dr. T. Bob Davis**, who was presented with the AGD's 2025 Humanitarian Award, for his nearly 50 years of tireless volunteer service. Since 1977, Dr. Davis has led more than 2,500 volunteers on student dental mission trips across Latin America, providing essential care and establishing lasting clinics in underserved communities. His humanitarian spirit extends locally through volunteer work serving foster youth and individuals experiencing homelessness. A past Texas AGD president and accomplished musician, Dr. Davis exemplifies compassion, service, and leadership in both dentistry and life.



Dr. Lily T. García, Dean of Texas A&M University College of Dentistry, received the American College of Prosthodontists Education Foundation (ACPEF) Founders Society Award at the ACP Annual Session in New Orleans October 24. The Founders Society Award is presented to individuals who have "significantly impacted the ACPEF's growth and shown an extraordinary commitment to advancing the prosthodontics specialty. It honors those who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, vision, and service to the Foundation and the prosthodontics community." Congratulations to Dr. García for upholding the highest standards of dental excellence!



Dr. Brad Crump has answered the call to serve on a national stage as secretary-treasurer of the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP). In addition to his many years of leadership at DCDS, for 25 years he has shared his expertise with Texas A&M College of dentistry students. Now he brings that same dedication to nearly 7,500 periodontists nationwide. From educating the public on the "silent enemy" of gum disease to guiding the strategic vision of the AAP, Dr. Crump exemplifies what it means to lead with character and excellence. By stepping up to guide his profession, he is helping build a healthier future for patients everywhere. Congratulations, Dr. Crump!

Knowledge Sharing

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

by Gabrielle Jackson, DDS



Overcoming Operational and Workforce Challenges in Today's Dentistry Market

The landscape of dentistry is evolving faster than ever and not just clinically. Behind the scenes, practices across the country are facing a new kind of pressure: staffing shortages, rising overhead, and the growing pains of digital transformation. The modern dental office isn't just about great dentistry anymore; it's about building resilient systems and teams that can thrive in an unpredictable market and everchanging world.

by DCDS Staff



Why Dental Associations are Still Valuable in the Age of AI

With artificial intelligence transforming nearly every industry, some dentists may wonder: Will AI eventually make dental associations obsolete? The short answer is no. In fact, national, state and local dental associations are more important than ever — and AI will likely make them (and you!) stronger, not weaker.

by Andrea Sauerwein, DDS



Trust Begins with a Tap: The Role of Google Reviews in Patient Decisions

Google reviews have become an imperative compass to our day to day lives. When we are in an unfamiliar city and need a recommendation for a delicious dinner, what do we check first? Your engine light comes on and you need a good mechanic, what is the first place you consult? Google Reviews.

by Noah Cruz, DDS



Caught in the Middle: The Current Dental Insurance Problems

Dental care is an essential part of overall health, yet the U.S. dental system is fraught with friction among its three main stakeholders: insurance companies, patients, and dentists. While each plays a crucial role in maintaining oral health access, their goals and expectations often clash—leading to confusion, frustration, and unmet needs.

A Glimpse of Giggles and Gumdrops

Our Gumdrops and Giggles Family Holiday Tree Decorating event brought together a joyful group of DCDS members, kids and grandkids for an afternoon filled with creativity and connection. Families gathered to decorate their mini holiday trees, each one turning out uniquely festive and full of personality. Between sweet treats, warm conversations, and holiday music playing in the background, the room was full of laughter and seasonal spirit. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make this event such a heartwarming way to kick off the holiday season. And a special thank-you to the Membership Development Committee for creating a space where our DCDS community could slow down, celebrate, and make memories together.

















Beyond the Basics: Building a Culture of OSHA Compliance in Your Dental Practice

JOSHUA MATHENEY, CEO, SMART TRAINING



Joshua Matheney grew up in an entrepreneurial family, watching his father build multiple businesses from the ground up. That spirit of initiative took root early, leading Joshua and his brothers to start a landscaping company that thrived for over 25 years. As an Eagle Scout and Wood Badge recipient, Joshua developed a deep appreciation for servant leadership, team development, and resilience. Today, he leads a small but dynamic business that specializes in OSHA and HIPAA compliance for dental practices—an environment that demands quick adaptation and constant innovation. Joshua brings a grounded, real-world perspective on leadership, forged through hands-on experience and a lifelong commitment to growth.

This fast-paced, engaging session helps dentists see OSHA compliance in a new light—beyond the annual training requirement. Through real inspection examples, practical demonstrations, and interactive discussion, attendees will learn what inspectors really look for and how to close the most common compliance gaps found in dental offices. The course introduces the Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) as a powerful tool to identify risks before they become incidents, and explores how creating a true "culture of safety" can improve staff morale, patient confidence, and overall efficiency.

AGD Subject Code: 148
CE Hours: 2 Technical and/or Scientific
CE Verification provided
Conflict of Interest: None

Sponsored by
SMART Training

SMART TRAINING

Learning Objectives:

- Recognize the most frequently cited OSHA violations in dental settings and how to avoid them
- Understand what a Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) is and how to use it to identify and reduce risks in your practice
- Review real inspection questions that dental offices often struggle to answer, and learn how to prepare for them
- Discover strategies for building a compliance culture that engages your team and sustains long-term safety habits
- Learn how documentation, written programs and leadership involvement impact inspection outcomes.

ONLINE REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR THIS IN PERSON EVENT BY JANUARY 8, 2025.

Register online at www.dcds.org/events for this 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. event.

DCDS Member/Staff	$35	Dental Students	$35
ADA Member Dentists	$45	Non-Member Dentists	$75

Cancellation Policy: The cancellation/refund deadline is January 8, 2026. A 20% administrative fee will be assessed for all cancellation requests on or prior to this date. Since this is a limited attendance course, "no shows" will forfeit the full course fee. No refunds will be granted after January 8, 2026.

DALLAS COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY

JANUARY 15

REGISTER TODAY AT WWW.DCDS.ORG/EVENTS

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

Dallas County Dental Society
is an ADA CERP recognized provider.

ADA CERP is a service of the American Dental Association to assist dental professionals in identifying quality providers of continuing dental education. ADA CERP does not approve or endorse individual courses or instructors, nor does it imply acceptance of credit hours by boards of dentistry. Dallas County Dental Society designates one (1) credit per hour for CE activities, unless otherwise noted.

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

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

General Membership Meeting - February

Oral Pathology Essentials for the Dental Clinician

LETICIA FERREIRA CABIDO, DDS, MS



Dr. Cabido earned her dental degree from the Universidade Federal da Bahia in Brazil in 2007 and completed her residency in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology (OMP) and a Master's in Biomedical Sciences at Texas A&M Health Science Center in 2011, the same year she became a diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology and received the prestigious Shafer Award. She began her academic career at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, later joining the University of the Pacific Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry, where she published extensively and earned multiple teaching awards. Dr. Cabido is now a Clinical Associate Professor at Texas A&M University College of Dentistry and Director of the TAMU Oral Pathology Services Laboratory, where she trains OMP residents, provides diagnostic services statewide, and contributes nationally through leadership roles with AAOMP, CODA, and as a member of the Editorial Board of Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine, Oral Pathology, Oral Radiology.

This course offers an up-to-date overview of common oral mucosal diseases and lesions encountered in dental practice. It covers etiology, clinical presentation, diagnostic strategies and treatment modalities, with an emphasis on the latest evidence-based literature. Topics include leukoplakia, frictional keratosis, lichen planus, candidiasis, recurrent aphthous stomatitis, herpes simplex infections and common oral gumors. The course concludes with an interactive discussion focused on differential diagnosis and the clinical features of various pathologic conditions affecting the oral cavity, equippin dental clinicians with essential tools for accurate recognition, diagnosis and management.

Audience: Dentists
AGD Code: 730
CE Hours: 2 technical and/or scientific
CE Verification provided
Conflict of Interest: None reported

Sponsored by McLerran & Associates

McLERRAN + ASSOCIATES

Learning Objectives:

- Recognize the key clinical characteristics of common oral mucosal lesions.
- Establish a systematic approach to diagnosing oral mucosal lesions.
- Discuss current literature on the etiology and management of common oral mucosal lesions.
- Identify appropriate treatment options and/or referral strategies based on evidence-based guidelines.

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 10, 2026. 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 10, 2026.

DALLAS COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 17

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

2026-2027 DCDS Nomination Slate

Elections will take place at the February 17, 2026 General Membership Meeting. Check your USPS mail in early January for mail-in absentee ballot to use if you cannot attend the meeting.

POSITION	TERM	
Board of Directors – Director (2 positions to fill)	3 Years	Gabby Jackson
	3 Years	Jennifer Raad
Program Chairman (1 position to fill)	1 Year	Bob Hunsucker
Southwest Dental Conference Vice Chair-elect (1 position to fill)	1 Year	Mitra Bolouri
Alternate Delegate to the Texas Dental Association (3 positions to fill)	1 Year	Noah Cruz
	1 Year	Thomas Schlieve
	1 Year	Drew Vanderbrook
Constitution & Bylaws Committee (1 position to fill)	3 years	Jodi Danna
Financial Advisory Committee (1 position to till)	5 Years	Celeste Latham
Judicial Committee (1 position to fill)	5 Years	Brad Crump
Nominating Committee (4 positions to fill)	2 Years	Brad Crump
	2 Years	Jodi Danna
	2 Years	Carmen Smith
	2 Years	Drew Vanderbrook
Peer Review Committee (5 positions to fill)	3 Years	Zhou Chen
	3 Years	Jodi Danna
	3 Years	Shad Hattaway
	3 Years	Rupesh Singla
	3 Years	Carmen Smith
	3 Years	Mary Swift
	3 Years	Sarah Tevis
President-elect	1 Year	To be nominated from the floor

Diversity + Inclusivity

by Brad Crump, DDS, MS
Diversity and Inclusivity Committee Chair

What is board diversity in organizational governance?



In its simplest sense, board diversity means having many board members that are different from one another.

The goal of board diversity is to make the board less homogeneous so that people can evaluate information, decisions and future needs of the organization they serve from diverse perspectives. Diversity can come in many forms such as age, ethnicity, gender, skills, experience, competencies, philosophies, education, race, sexual orientation and religion, to name a few.

Over the past two decades, dental organizational boards have become increasingly more diverse as membership and stakeholders have made it clear that they expect diversity in their organization's boardrooms. Many organizations, including several in the tripartite, are making tremendous progress towards having their boards be as diverse as possible, therefore reflecting their membership demographics.

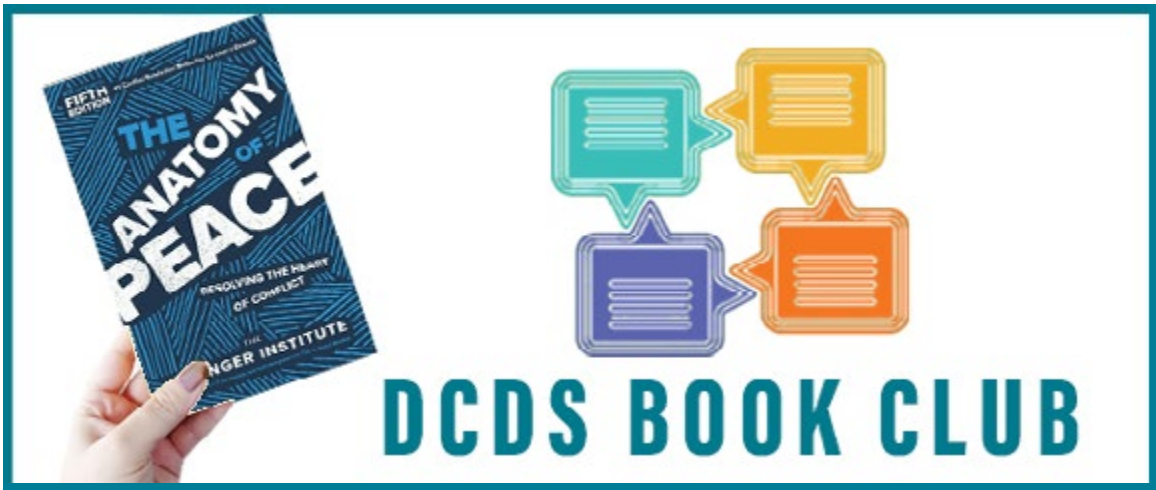
While board diversity is increasing, it is demonstrated that more diverse boards become high functioning boards over time. The term high functioning means that the board is not only engaging in good governance/oversight practices but also focuses on inclusion practices, such as encouraging open, honest discussions in the boardroom to help drive robust conversations around oversight and governance. Many organizations may walk the walk in appointing members who bring different insights, skills, and backgrounds to the board, but to be effective, they must also listen and act upon what these new board members contribute.

Creating a diverse and inclusive culture is as important for organizations today as anticipating organizational disruptors like cyber risk and the future of talent and transformative issues such as environmental, social, and governance. An effective diverse board is critical to providing oversight on these evolving topics and guiding the organization to act on inclusion.

When boards actively show they care about diversity, equity, and inclusion in multiple ways, including making a demonstrated commitment to increasing board diversity, they are more likely to create an environment where diverse voices and opinions are heard by all and subsequently acted upon. This type of environment will elevate the board's performance and productivity to new heights.

***

If you would like to get involved and help shape the future of organized dentistry, now is a great time to take the next step. DCDS and the DCDS Foundation are currently accepting volunteer sign-ups through the Committee Interest Form. Service on these committees and boards to strengthen our profession and our community will begin in June 2026.



February 25
6:00 - 7:30 pm
DCDS Executive Office

Conflict is inevitable—but how you respond makes all the difference. Join the DCDS Book Club as we explore The Anatomy of Peace.

Led by Dr. Marry Hong, you'll gain practical tools you can apply immediately to create healthier relationships—professionally and personally.

Food will be provided. Please note any dietary restrictions or food allergies within your RSVP email to Kisha@dcds.org.

Want to get more involved in our Society when the new fiscal year begins in June? Complete this form (also available online) and send it in!

Committee Interest Form

Name: _____

Email: _____

Below I have checked at least one area in which I would like to volunteer my time to serve as an elected, appointed or ad-hoc committee member. I understand all positions are one year unless otherwise noted. Also, I recommend Dr. _____ for the _____ Committee.

PEER/MEMBERSHIP FOCUSED AREAS

__ **Constitution and Bylaws**: Maintain the Constitution and Bylaws; approve wording of amendments. (three-year term)

__ **DCDS Connection Editor**: Supervise editing of the Society's bimonthly publication. (two-year term)

__ **Diversity and Inclusion**: Promote training and events to bring awareness of diversity and inclusion.

__ **Judicial**: Review and mediate judicial complaints. (five-year term)

__ **Media**: Focus on social media content needs, including website blogs.

__ **Membership Development**: Conduct recruitment/retention efforts.

__ **New Dentist** (out of school 10 years or less): Advocate for new dentists in all areas.

__ **Parliamentarian**: Interpret rules of procedure in DCDS Bylaws and the American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure.

__ **Retirement**: Focus on needs and programs specifically designed for dentists in or near retirement.

LEGISLATIVE/GOVERNANCE AREAS

__ **ADA Delegate/Alternate Delegate**: Attend all meetings of the TDA delegation to the ADA House of Delegates. (three-year/two-year term)

__ **Legislative Action**: Be informed on legislative matters relating to dentistry and assist in a grassroots legislative strategy that promotes dental issues. (five-year term)

__ **Strategic Planning**: Collaborate to progress the vision, mission and goals of the Society.

__ **TDA Delegate/Alternate Delegate**: Attend all meetings of the DCDS delegation to the TDA House of Delegates. (three-year/one-year term)

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

__ **Foundation Board**: Direct the Foundation's mission to improve access to care, education and research in Dallas County.

__ **Foundation Volunteer:** Participate in community dental education programs.

__ **Peer Review**: Mediate disputes between doctors and patients or third parties. (three-year term; requires 4-hour training class provided by TDA)

DCDS LEADERSHIP

__ **Director**: Serve as a liaison between the Board and membership. (three-year term)

__ **Program Chair**: Schedule continuing education programs for general membership meetings.

__ **Secretary / Treasurer**: Keep minutes of all meetings, prepare annual budget and give a financial report at the Board of Directors meetings. (two-year term)

__ I will work **where needed**.

EDUCATIONAL

__ **Southwest Dental Conference**: Help to execute the various aspects of the Society's annual Conference.

PLEASE FAX FORM TO 972-233-8636 OR EMAIL FORM TO INFO@DCDS.ORG
Dallas County Dental Society • 13633 Omega Road • Dallas, Texas 75244

General Membership Meeting - April

Trauma, Triumph and Tough Choices: Pushing the Envelope in the Implant Era

RAJIV PATEL, BDS, DDS



Dr. Rajiv Patel has been a practicing endodontist in Dallas for over 18 years. He graduated from the University of Southern California where he obtained his DDS and Certificate in Endodontics. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics and has practiced clinical dentistry for over 30 years. Dr. Patel has published clinical papers and textbook chapters on endodontic topics and is the founding member of several study clubs. He is also a fellow and founding member of the International Academy of Endodontics, and is the immediate past president. Dr. Patel maintains a private practice, Endodontic Excellence, in Flower Mound and Argyle. He has a passion for teaching and teaches a hands-on endodontic course "Endodontic Success for the General Dentist". Dr. Patel's goal is to raise global standards for endodontic care by disseminating endodontic education.

The implant era has revolutionized treatment paradigms, creating complex decision-making scenarios between tooth preservation and extraction. With both endodontic treatment and dental implants achieving exceptional survival rates, clinicians face challenging choices requiring systematic diagnostic approaches. Dental trauma management exemplifies these tough decisions, demanding coordinated multidisciplinary strategies, particularly in growing patients. Through case-based analysis of lateral luxation, crown-root fractures, intrusion and avulsion, this presentation explores pushing therapeutic boundaries while maintaining conservative principles. Success requires understanding when to triumph through preservation versus strategic extraction. Systematic checklists prevent errors in these high-stakes decisions, ensuring optimal outcomes in an era where multiple viable treatment options create both opportunities and dilemmas.

Audience: Dentists
AGD Code: 070
CE Hours: 2 technical and/or scientific
CE Verification provided
Conflict of Interest: None reported

Sponsored by Omni Practice Group

Learning Objectives:

- Develop systematic diagnostic frameworks for evaluationg tooth preservation versus implant placement in complex cases
- Gain knowledge of evidence-based trauma management for lateral luxation, crown-root fractures, intrusion and avulsion scenarios
- Learn how to coordinate multidisciplinary care teams for optimal patient outcomes through collaborative treatment approaches
- Identify when to push therapeutic limits versus when conservative approaches are indicated for long-term success
- Establish systematic protocols and checklists to minimize errors and enhance consistency in compex treatment planning

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 14, 2026. 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 14, 2026.

DALLAS COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY

APRIL 21

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

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

Texas A&M University College of Dentistry

García receives double honors for her commitment to dentistry

Dr. Lily T. García, dean of Texas A&M University College of Dentistry in Dallas, received two awards this fall in recognition of her contributions and dedication to dentistry, both as an educator and as a practitioner.

The first honor came October 3 during the Boots & Burs 120th-anniversary celebration of the dental college. García was named the 2025 Texas A&M University College of Dentistry Distinguished Alumnus. It's the highest award bestowed on an alumnus by the Texas A&M University College of Dentistry Alumni Association, and honors alumni who have contributed service to the college and/or the dental profession.

García, who earned her dental degree in 1984 from what was then Baylor College of Dentistry, became A&M Dentistry's 17th dean in October 2022. She was already a respected national leader in dental education, having served as dean and professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Dental Medicine, and, before that, as associate dean for education at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry.

A&M Dentistry offers 10 dental specialties and educates nearly one-third of all dentists in Texas. With that in mind, García recruited top faculty, including new heads of public health sciences, biomedical sciences, comprehensive dentistry, and endodontics, over the past year or so.

Recruiting top talent at all levels is vital to attracting the best students. A&M Dentistry boasts 587 students, including those in dental, dental hygiene, graduate science programs and dental specialties.

Accolades for García continued October 24 when she received the American College of Prosthodontists Education Foundation's 2025 Founders Society Award at the 55th Annual Session of the ACP in New Orleans, Louisiana. The award is given to individuals who have made a significant impact on ACPEF's growth and development and shown an extraordinary commitment to advancing the prosthodontics specialty. It honors those who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, vision and service to the foundation and the prosthodontics community.

"I am deeply honored by these recognitions, but the real privilege is serving our students, faculty and the communities who rely on us," García said. "These awards reflect the collective commitment of A&M Dentistry to excellence in education, research, clinical care and service."



García is a past president of the American College of Prosthodontists and a past chair of the ACP Education Foundation Board of Directors. She is a Diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontics, Fellow of the American College of Prosthodontists and holds Fellow status at several other dental organizations. Among García's numerous honors, she is the recipient of the 2004 ACP Educator of the Year Award.

Above right: Dr. Lily T. García, dean of Texas A&M University College of Dentistry, with Dr. Anthony Mendez, president of Texas A&M University College of Dentistry Alumni Association, at the Boots & Burs celebration. (Credit Steven Crow of Texas A&M University College of Dentistry)

Below: Dr. Lily T. García, dean of Texas A&M University College of Dentistry, with Dr. Joseph DiFazio, chair of the ACPEF Board.



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
College of 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 6, 2026, 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 6, 2026

2:45 pm - 5:00 pm

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

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.



Your DCDS Foundation at Work!

by Dr. Preston Colven, DCDS Foundation President

The Year in Review

As we move into 2026, the Dallas County Dental Society Foundation (DCDSF) is filled with gratitude, reflecting on an impactful 2025 made possible entirely by the support of our volunteers and the generosity of our community.

We proudly completed another successful Dental Tree Program, in partnership with Meals on Wheels, and had a successful fundraising drive during North Texas Giving Day. The spirit of giving extended to our November General Meeting, where a donation drive for UGM was held and our member dentists contributed much needed items for the United Gospel Mission.

Beyond these programs, 2025 marked significant growth as we successfully launched and funded new grant programs designed to support both future dental professionals and our dedicated community partners. This is in addition to our ongoing commitment to supporting an Oral Public Health graduate student at TAMU COD. Furthermore, through our participation in many community health fairs we were able to distribute a record 6,030 essential oral health kits to children and adults, bringing education and care directly to those who need it most.

Below: Photos from Dental Tree Program events.







This momentum now carries us into an exciting 2026. Mark your calendars for two monumental events happening soon:

- **Give Kids a Smile (GKAS)** returns on Friday, February 6, 2026, where we will serve children across 9 DISD schools. A call for volunteers was sent out in November and again in December. If you missed it, please sign up now at https://www.dcds.org/event-details/2026/02/06/default-calendar/give-kids-a-smile-dallas.
- **The Texas Mission of Mercy (TMOM)** event will take place on Friday, April 10, 2026, at Fair Park, preceded by crucial screening events. Our success is measured by your service, and we are always happy to welcome more volunteers for these events and our ongoing health fairs.

Join us in making 2026 our most impactful year yet! Sign up today at: https://www.dcdsfoundation.org/volunteer

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

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North Dallas FFS, 1200 Active Pts., Long term staff. 3 furnished ops., 1300 sq. ft. with room to expand. Generous Landlord upgrades accompany new Tenants! Reasonable rent $3500, EagleSoft, Contact us ASAP.

Email Info@OfficeNetworkUSA.com

Reference Code: EPU1

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Minimum charge per service of $75.

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

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Secured> Destroyed> Certified



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

NEED A FULLY EQUIPED DENTAL OFFICE PART TIME ?

Rent space in our beautiful, fully equipped, and completely digital dental office located in Richardson near 75 & Campbell Rd; available 1-3 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!

Dental Concierge
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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!

It is my honor to invite you and your entire dental team to join us for the 99th Southwest Dental Conference on August 21–22, 2026, at the Hilton Anatole. Each year, this Conference brings together dentists, hygienists, assistants, administrative professionals, and industry partners from across the region. It reminds us of the strength we gain when we learn, innovate, and collaborate together.

Our theme this year, "Bridging Gaps, Breaking Boundaries: Collaboration in Oral Health," speaks directly to the challenges and opportunities facing dentistry today. As clinical demands grow more complex and technology advances at an unprecedented pace, our ability to work across specialties and across roles becomes essential. I believe that the future of dentistry belongs to teams that communicate well, share knowledge, and elevate each other—and SWDC 2026 has been designed to foster exactly that.

We are fortunate to welcome an exceptional lineup of speakers whose expertise reflects the breadth and depth of modern dentistry. Dr. Tara Aghaloo will lead two sessions on implant complications and implant site preparation, offering insight into techniques, technologies, and decision-making strategies that define state-of-the-art surgical care.

Dr. Joshua Austin (@joshuaaustindds) returns with courses on mental health in dentistry and the true value of digital workflows, blending humor with practical strategies to strengthen our practices from the inside out.

Prosthodontist Dr. Jonathan Ng (@vancouverpros) is coming from Vancouver to advance our understanding of digital impressions, 3D printing, and digital excellence. ITI fellow and world-renowned implant surgeon Dr. Waldemar Polido (@prof.waldemarpolido) will lecture on implants in the esthetic zone along with practical photography to maximize you practice potential. Dr. Shaun Young (@thefaceguys) and Dr. Randy Sanovich (@dallassurgicalarts) will provide us with lectures and hands on experience in multimodal ridge reconstruction.

We are particularly excited to welcome a group of exciting and forward-thinking physicians, researchers, and thought-leaders from UT Southwestern Medical Center. The sessions are designed to be enlightening and engaging for the entire team. The endocrinology team will cover new and emerging obesity medications, nutrition science, sleep apnea, and bariatric surgery. The oncologists with expand our understanding of cancer, emerging technologies in cancer treatment, and the latest in CAR-T cell therapy where a patient's own cells are collected, modified to attack their cancer, and then infused back into the body. Dermatology will cover skin cancer, melanoma, sun protection and cosmetic dermatology—how to care for your skin!

As we prepare to celebrate the 99th year of this longstanding Conference, I hope you will join us in embracing the spirit of collaboration that has always defined our profession. Whether you come to expand your clinical skills, strengthen your team, explore new technologies, or reconnect with colleagues, I am confident you will leave inspired, energized, and better equipped to meet the needs of your patients and your practice.

I look forward to welcoming you in August and to experiencing another exceptional Southwest Dental Conference.



Thomas Schlieve DDS, MD, FACS
2026 Southwest Dental Conference Chairman

