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DCDS connection

July/August 2026
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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

In This Issue

The Write Stuff 2
Impressions 3
From the Hub 4
New Dentists 5
Members Message Board 6
Facility Rental 7
Diversity/Inclusion 16
TAMUCOD 19
DCDS Foundation 21
Classified Advertising 23

2026 Annual Installation

Dentist of the Year: Dr. Gayle Glenn

Few honors carry the weight and meaning of the Dallas County Dental Society's Dentist of the Year Award. As the Society's highest recognition, the award celebrates a member whose career reflects excellence in patient care, professional achievement, community service and an unwavering commitment to continuing education.

At the 2026 DCDS Installation Ceremony and Dinner in May, that honor was presented to Dr. Gayle Glenn, a leader whose impact on orthodontics and professional leadership has shaped dentistry at the local, state and national levels for decades.

For nearly 40 years, Dr. Glenn built a respected orthodontic practice in Dallas while simultaneously dedicating herself to leadership, education and mentorship. A graduate of Texas Tech University and The University of Texas Dental School at San Antonio, she completed her orthodontic specialty training at Baylor College of Dentistry and quickly became a trailblazer within organized orthodontics.

Over the course of her career, she has held leadership positions at every level of the profession. She served as President of both the Texas Association of Orthodontists and the Southwestern Society of Orthodontists.

Most notably, she became the first woman ever elected President of the American Association of Orthodontists. That achievement alone would define many careers.

Yet she continued to give back through teaching, mentorship and national leadership. Students and residents at Texas A&M College of Dentistry know her as an outstanding educator and mentor, while peers across the country recognize her as a thoughtful and respected voice for the profession.

Her contributions have not only advanced orthodontics and organized dentistry, but have also helped shape a more inclusive and forward-looking profession for those who follow behind her. Her passion and quiet determination shine through in the example she has set for others — particularly for women in dentistry.

Her long list of honors reflects both excellence and impact, including the Lucy Hobbs Taylor Award, the Martin Dewey Memorial Award and recognition in the Congressional Record of the United States House of Representatives.

Dr. Glenn previously received the DCDS Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018. Even after a remarkable career of service and leadership, she continues to give back to the profession through teaching, mentorship and leadership in organized dentistry. Fittingly, she will continue her service to DCDS as the 2026–2028 Secretary/Treasurer.

Dr. Glenn demonstrates what it means to lead with excellence, humility and purpose — making her a truly deserving recipient of the 2026 DCDS Dentist of the Year Award.



Dr. Gayle Glenn accepting the 2026 DCDS Dentist of the Year Award from Dr. Drew Vanderbrook. See more photos from the evening on page 14.

The Write Stuff

Gabrielle Dizon, DDS, DCDS President

DCDS Presidential Address



I am both honored and humbled to be recognized as the incoming President of our organization, the Dallas County Dental Society. I recently received the greatest blessing of my life—aside, of course, from being named your President—the arrival of my son, Griffin.

Entering this new season of motherhood and leadership has caused me to reflect deeply on my "why" for choosing this profession and has strengthened my gratitude for all that dentistry has afforded me.

Deciding to pursue dentistry is one of my core memories. I remember sitting at the kitchen table with my grandmother during my junior year of high school when she asked me the big question: "What do you want to be when you grow up?" I confidently answered that I wanted to become a physician.

While she was thrilled that I hoped to follow in her footsteps by pursuing a career in healthcare, she also spoke honestly about the challenges she faced balancing life as a working mother with the demands of her profession. Her words stayed with me, and I began to reconsider what path might best align with the future I envisioned for myself.

Then, during the summer between my junior and senior year, a family friend told me that our family dentist was looking for an intern and thought I would be a perfect fit. After spending just one week in her practice, I knew I had found my future in dentistry.

Working alongside my mentor, I saw firsthand how she successfully built and managed a thriving practice alongside her husband while raising three sons. I admired not only her clinical skill and leadership, but also her ability to be fully present for her family. She showed me that, as a woman in dentistry, it truly was possible to have both a fulfilling career and a meaningful home life.

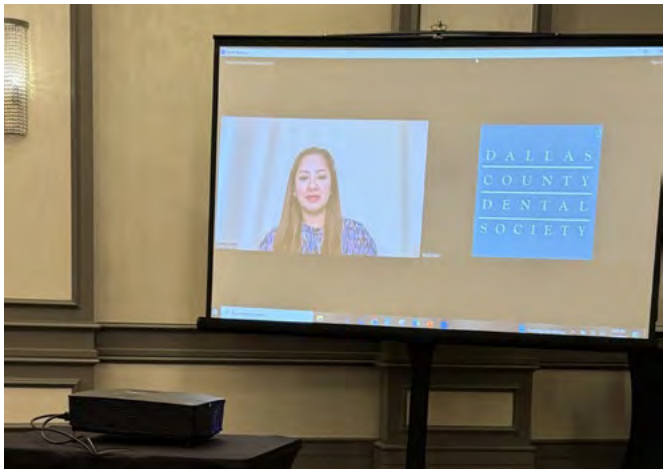
Fast forward to today, and I am reminded daily of how grateful I am to have chosen this profession. For me, the most rewarding aspect of dentistry is the opportunity to help people in a tangible way while offering compassion, comfort, and care during vulnerable moments in their lives.

I feel incredibly blessed to have achieved my own version of the American Dream through practice ownership while building a family alongside it. We are fortunate to belong to a profession that uniquely blends artistry, science, entrepreneurship, and hands-on skill.

But dentistry is more than just a profession—it is a community built on service, integrity, mentorship, and lifelong learning. This society represents all of those values, and I am deeply grateful to the leaders who have dedicated their time and energy to strengthening both our profession and one another.

I want to sincerely thank our outgoing leadership—led by Dr. Andrew Read-Fuller and DCDS staff—for their hard work, commitment, and the strong foundation they have built for us to continue moving forward. I also want to thank all of you for your confidence, support, and shared dedication to organized dentistry.

As I step into this role, I look forward to working alongside each of you to continue fostering connection, professional growth, advocacy, and service within our dental community.



Following the birth of her son, Dr. Gabrielle Dizon was inducted as the 2026-2027 DCDS President via Zoom during the DCDS Installation Ceremony.



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Member Publication
AADEJ
American Association of Dental Editors & Journalists

Impressions

Editorial by Simmi Patel, DDS, Editor

Remembering Our Faculty



As I watched our fourth-year dental students walk across the stage at graduation, I found myself reflecting on those who shaped me into a better dentist and a better person. I recall faculty members such as Dr. Rodney Phoenix, who taught me prosthodontics; Dr. Ronald King, who strengthened my oral surgery skills; and Dr. Ernie Luce, whom I followed on early morning rounds in hospital dentistry. I also remember my general dentistry group leaders, Dr. Jason Bigby and Dr. Haynes (whose first name escapes me after all these years).

I often wonder whether these individuals were ever formally recognized for the impact they had—not only on me, but on countless other students. Too often, those who excel clinically and uphold rigorous professional standards go under-acknowledged in academic settings. Yet their influence endures. Twenty-five years later, I still carry the lessons they imparted and strive to emulate their professionalism, dedication, and skill in my own career.

Although I make every effort to attend courses taught by such faculty, when possible, I now face the reality that dental education has changed significantly. Today's students often have fewer patient interactions than we did, and the curriculum has evolved in ways that have left certain important topics less emphasized. As a result, many graduates may encounter challenges when transitioning into private practice.

Recognizing these limitations has prompted me to adapt my approach to teaching. I vividly recall standing in the hospital clinic with Dr. Luce, imagining the day I might need to suture an upper lip after a traumatic injury. Recently, that moment arrived when a patient fell in a parking lot and required precisely that procedure. As I worked, I found myself recalling Dr. Luce's guidance.

Similarly, when I needed to design a removable partial denture before preparing guide planes and rest seats, I revisited the notes I had carefully preserved from Dr. Phoenix, tucked inside the textbook he authored.

As a dental student, I could not have predicted the path my career would take. Today, I work in public health and teach students in community clinics. I consider myself fortunate to have benefited from the mentorship of such exceptional faculty, and I hope they understand the lasting impact they have had on my professional and personal development.

In turn, I strive to offer that same support to my own students—many of whom are now colleagues—reminding them that they can always reach out to me for guidance or simply for a listening ear. The world can be challenging, and our profession is no exception. It is my hope that dental faculty everywhere recognize how deeply they are appreciated—for their commitment, their sacrifices, and the professionalism they model for future generations.

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



From The Hub

by Jane D. Evans, Executive Director

The Value of Dental Association Membership



I know what you're thinking: here we go again—another article about membership, advocacy, and organized dentistry. Yet this remains one of the most important topics when it comes to investing in your profession and securing its future.

In today's evolving healthcare environment, dentists face increasing challenges, including ongoing regulatory changes, insurance pressures, technological advancements, and workforce issues. Membership in a professional dental association provides valuable resources to help navigate these challenges while supporting both personal and professional success.

Voice

One of the most significant benefits of association membership is advocacy. Dental associations represent the interests of dentists before legislators, regulatory agencies, and other key decision-makers. Whether addressing reimbursement issues, scope-of-practice concerns, workforce development, or public health initiatives, associations ensure that the profession has a unified voice. Individual dentists may have limited ability to influence policy on their own, but together, members can help shape the future of dentistry and create an environment that supports quality patient care.

Connections

Dentistry can sometimes feel isolating, especially for those in solo practice. Association membership creates opportunities to connect with colleagues who understand the challenges dentists face every day. Networking events, component meetings, study clubs, and volunteer activities foster relationships that can lead to collaboration, referrals, mentorship, and lifelong friendships. These connections often become invaluable sources of advice, support, and professional growth throughout a dentist's career.

Resources

Professional associations provide tools and resources designed to help practices operate efficiently and effectively. These benefits can help dentists save time, reduce costs, and focus more attention on delivering exceptional patient care. Members often gain access to expert guidance, regulatory updates, legal and compliance resources, practice management tools, continuing education opportunities, and member-exclusive discounts on products and services.

Investment

Membership is more than a professional obligation—it is an investment in the future of dentistry. Strong associations help develop future leaders, support dental students and new practitioners, advocate for the profession, and maintain high standards of patient care. Every member contributes to the collective strength of the profession. By maintaining membership and actively participating, dentists help ensure that dentistry continues to thrive for future generations.

Value

The value of dental association membership extends far beyond dues and benefits. It provides advocacy, education, professional connections, resources, and opportunities to shape the future of oral healthcare. In a profession built on service, expertise, and trust, association membership remains one of the most effective ways to strengthen both individual careers and the dental profession as a whole. In addition, the DCDS Executive Office team is available to assist members daily with questions, concerns, and professional resources.

Thank you for your ongoing support of organized dentistry. **If you know a colleague who is not currently a member, please encourage them to join. Beginning July 1, 2026, non-members can join ADA/TDA/DCDS at half dues for the remainder of the membership year.** If you know a non-member please encourage them to join.



Membership is more than a title—it's a seat at the table. The DCDS members shown at left brought our voice to the 2026 TDA House of Delegates, where collaboration and advocacy move dentistry forward.

New Dentists

News and perspective from dentists under 10 years of practice



by Madeline Lynn-Sidhu, DDS

It's Complicated: The Truth About Working for Family

"Hey Goose, come here for a second."

Those words echoed down the hallway on an otherwise ordinary afternoon. Dr. Lynn was finishing a limited exam and wanted a second opinion — from me, his daughter. I absolutely love my childhood nickname. But in that moment, the gut-wrenching feeling of having to prove myself all over again settled into my stomach. I called it out immediately: "Okay Dr. Lynn, if we're using nicknames, I have some for you too." He laughed, the patient laughed, and from that day forward he made it "Dr. Goose." He broke the habit within a few weeks.

> **"If you're considering a similar path, here's what I'd offer: have the hard conversation early.**

That moment was just one of many unexpected curve balls I encountered when I joined my father's multi-generational private practice. I have patients who remember when I was born. I have patients who volunteered in my Sunday school class, siblings of my old teachers, and my parents' closest friends. Suddenly I was making major dental decisions for people who watched me grow up, and it was jarring for everyone involved. The clinical confidence required for these decisions could not be faked.

But here's what I didn't expect: the blind trust that came with it. Patients would pull me aside and say, "You have no idea how proud your dad is of you. He talked about your accomplishments all through dental school." His confidence in me, spoken openly to his patients long before I ever walked through the door, became the foundation I stood on.

Before I joined, multiple seasoned dentists — some of them generational themselves — warned me against it. Their own family practice situations hadn't worked out, and they didn't want to see that happen to me. So my dad and I sat down and had the hard conversation: no matter what happened inside the clinic, our father-daughter relationship came first. If it wasn't working a year later, I would walk away without grudges and without damage. That conversation changed everything.

What I found on the other side of that hard talk was a built-in mentor unlike anything most new associates will ever have. Yes, we disagree — about implant distances, tissue heights, treatment philosophies. He pulls out textbooks with sticky notes flagging the relevant pages. I pull up research articles from Open Evidence. The generational divide between us is real, but so is the mutual respect. He has 45 years of clinical experience that puts evidence-based research in context. I bring the latest literature straight from dental school. We're both better clinicians for it.

I've also been folded into the business side faster than most associates ever are. I'm included in every major decision, helping shape a new vision for where the practice is going. It's overwhelming at times, but invaluable.

If you're considering a similar path, here's what I'd offer: have the hard conversation early. Establish clinical autonomy clearly and kindly. Set a "no dentistry at the dinner table" rule — and then laugh when you both break it anyway, because you're tooth nerds and you can't help it. Find a peer group outside the practice so you have a sounding board that isn't also your family. I found this in CE course mentors that I text constantly for opinions on cases or just life advice as a female in dentistry. And extend a lot of grace, because they're figuring it out too.

2026 marks a century of dental care for my family in Dallas. My great-grandfather graduated from dental school in 1926 and started his practice here. Last week, I walked into a limited exam for a patient with pain on a lower right tooth. We took X-rays, and I noted two gold crowns on #30 and #31 — beautiful margins, nothing remarkable, maybe a slightly high bite. I adjusted it and sent him on his way. As he stood up, he smiled and said, "Well, considering that crown was cast by your great-grandfather and put in by your grandfather, if it lasts me any longer I'll be the luckiest patient in the world."

I didn't have words.

Not many dentists get to treat a patient still wearing a restoration made and placed by their great-grandfather and grandfather. But I do. That is a legacy I don't dare take for granted, and a continuity of care that most dentists will never get to experience.

Last week, my dad called me Dr. Goose for the first time in months. When it happens now — on a rare occasion, when patients aren't around — I find myself smiling instead of cringing. Because at the end of the day, he is still my dad. And it is such a joy that we get to share this incredible profession with each other.

DCDS Member's Message Board

Upcoming Events

June 30 – Licensing Expo 2026 for Dental Graduates

July 13 – SWDC Pre-registration Deadline for SWDC

July 19 – SWDC Group Rate Deadline for Hilton Anatole Hotel

July 29 – New Dentist Happy Hour

August 21-22 – Southwest Dental Conference

September 15 – General Membership Meeting

September 24 – Career Connections: Speed Mentorship Match Night

November 17 – General Membership Meeting

Register at www.dcds.org/events



Welcome New Members!

General Practice

Jackson Blackburn Jr

Sheila Blazek Alan Lee II Stanley Samuel

Margaret Shaw

Daniel Vo

Emily Whittington

Pediatric Dentist

Takanobu Fujita

In Memoriam:

click name for obituary, if available

Dr. Don Maggard

HALF YEAR

A 50% discount of dues is eligible for new members who join mid-year or during the fourth quarter of the year, provided they have not paid dues in a previous year. Encourage your colleagues to join!

FULL POWER



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

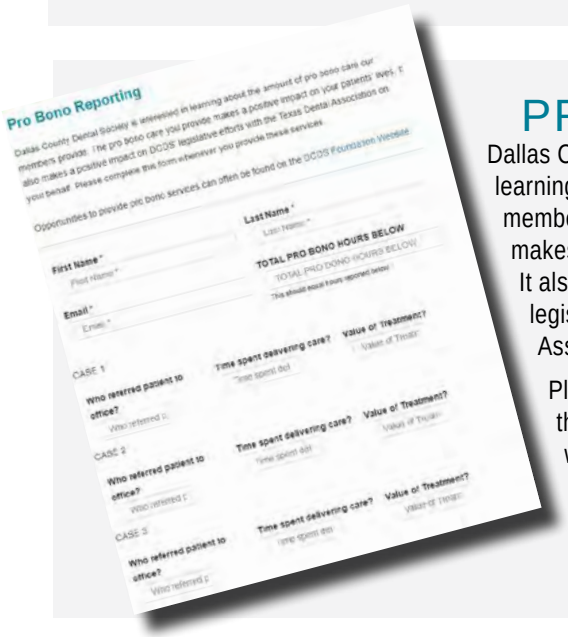
Being a member of the associations that work to protect your profession is important to the success of a practice...pass along the benefits to your peers!

- Complimentary registration to DCDS's annual Southwest Dental Conference
- Free and discounted continuing education opportunities through seminars, and General Membership Meetings
- Free classified ads: positions available/sought, rental/sales of offices/practices/equipment
- License renewal reminders and important professional updates
- Confidential free notary public services for members
- Complimentary school excuse forms for dentists treating school-age patients
- Member mailing labels available for purchase for practice outreach and communications
- DCDS Connection — the bimonthly member newsletter featuring dental news, association updates, and member advertising opportunities at reduced rates
- Networking opportunities with colleagues through DCDS events, meetings, and professional gatherings

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.

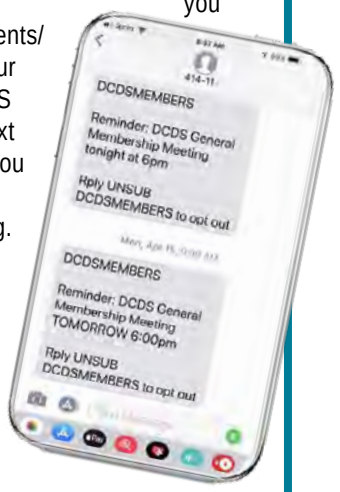
Please help legislative efforts by completing this short Pro Bono Form on our website whenever you provide these services:

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!

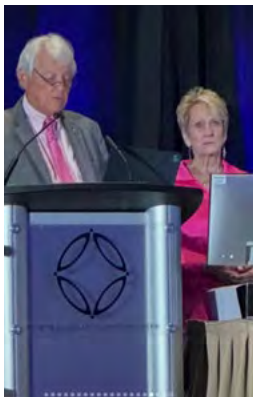


The Dallas County Dental Society was proudly represented at the 2026 Texas Dental Association House of Delegates with 18 DCDS representatives participating in organized dentistry and advocacy for the profession. We're especially proud to celebrate two outstanding recognitions:

Dr. Jon Vogel was honored with the 2026 Rising Star of the Lone Star Award — recognizing a dentist within their first 10 years of practice who demonstrates exceptional leadership, excellence, and promise in the profession, as selected by their peers.

Jane Evans received the TDA President's Award for her dedication and service to organized dentistry.

Congratulations to these remarkable leaders for representing DCDS and the future of dentistry so well!.



Milestones Reached as Continuous Members

2026 Dallas County Dental Society 60 Year Members

John W. Ham
Neill P. Clayton
Martin J. Kahn
Marvin F. Ogle
David J. Hageman
Jon S. Ousley

2026 Dallas County Dental Society 50 Year Members

Terry B. Adams
Jack L. Long
William F. Wallace
Edward P. Allen
Kathleen Pace
Dennis L. Westmoreland
Carroll D. Brown, Jr.
Robert M. Spence II
William F. Cherry II
Daniel B. Strader

2026 Dallas County Dental Society Good Fellows (25 Year Members)

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

Steven D. Bender
Richard V. Lyschik
Mai C. Tran
Karla H. Bishop
Rita F. Ne
Pedro F. Franco
Jacqueline S. Brady
Carina L. Schwartz-Dabney
Shalaka Nesarikar
Linda L. Cheng
Komson Sudhivoraseth
Stanley T. Ngo
Douglas J. Dingwerth
Rachel H. Thieberg
Peter D. Tran
Harvey P. Kessler
Hien M. To

2026 Dallas County Dental Society Life Members

James D. Bates
Ko Yu W. Lin
Jeff M. Roy
Howard F. Cooke
Mark D. Margolin
Amy P. Schorn
Melissa V. Garcia-Rozas
Garry C. Phillips
Vanitha Gowda Ardila
William R. Phillips III

2026 Installation of Officers

Dinner and Award Ceremony



Dr. Gayle Glenn
Dentist of the Year



Past DCDS Presidents in Attendance



Dr. Alicia Spence
Texas A&M School of Dentistry
Faculty Member Award



Dr. Tom McDougal
Lifetime Achievement Award



Jane Evans
President's Award














TRASH



2026 SOUTHWEST DENTAL CONFERENCE PROGRAMS

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

CRS #	TITLE	CLINICIAN	TIME	EARLY BIRD	AFTER JULY 14
	SPECIAL EVENTS				
F01	CE Express: See Registration Brochure for a list of clinicians/topics		8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	$85	$95
	Smiles & Snacks: A Dental Networking Break in the Exhibit Hall		11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	FREE	FREE
F02	Hygiene CE Express: See Registration Brochure for a list of clinicians/topic		12:30-4:30 p.m.	$85	$95
	WORKSHOPS				
F03	Oral Surgery for the General Practitioner Workshop	Edwab	8:00-11:00 a.m.	$385	$395
F04	Equipment Maintenance and Repair Workshop	Midwest Dental	9:00-11:00 a.m.	$75	$85
F05	Take a Bite Out of the Sleep Apnea Problem in Your Practice Workshop	Elliott	12:30-3:30 p.m.	$235	$245
F06	Equipment Maintenance and Repair Workshop (repeat)	Midwest Dental	1:00-3:00 p.m.	$75	$85
F07	Oral Surgery for the General Practitioner Workshop (repeat)	Edwab	1:00-4:00 p.m.	$385	$395
F08	Anatomically Centered Endodontics Workshop	Safi	1:00-4:00 p.m.	$235	$245
F09	Oral Regeneration Can Be a Sticky Situation and L-PRF Can Help! Workshop	Geisinger	1:30-4:30 p.m.	$260	$270
F10	The Art and Science of Provisional Restorations Workshop	McDonald	1:30-4:30 p.m.	$235	$245
	MORNING LECTURES				
F11	Bambi vs Godzilla	Christopher	8:00-11:00 a.m.	$55	$65
F12	Sleep Apnea: Time to Wake Up! Introduction to Screening Patients in Your Practice	Elliott	8:00-11:00 a.m.	$55	$65
F13	Materials and Techniques to Improve Your Conservative, Adhesive Dentistry	Lawson	8:00-11:00 a.m.	$55	$65
F14	Autoimmune and Inflammatory Conditions of the Oral Cavity	P. Patel	8:00-11:00 a.m.	$55	$65
F15	Anatomically Centered Endodontics	Safi	8:00-11:00 a.m.	$55	$65
F16	Dimensions of Wellness: The Fusion of Physical, Emotional and Social Wellbeing	Zerner	8:00-11:00 a.m.	$55	$65
F17	State of the Art and Science in Dental Implants with Focus on Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Complications	Aghaloo	8:30-11:30 a.m.	$55	$65
F18	Current Dental Insurance Landscape: Think Like the Insurers to Maximize Success	Dougan	8:30-11:30 a.m.	$55	$65
F19	Oral Regeneration Can Be a Sticky Situation and L-PRF Can Help!	Geisinger	8:30-11:30 a.m.	$55	$65
F20	The Art and Science of Provisional Restorations	McDonald	8:30-11:30 a.m.	$55	$65
F21	My Jaw Hurts! What Do I Do? An Overview of Tempromandibular Disorders, Diagnosis and Management	S. Patel	8:30-11:30 a.m.	$55	$65
F22	The Mental Dental Connection: The Secret to Being a Better Clinician and Leader	Austin	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	$55	$65
F23	From Exposure Reports to Eyewash Stations: Ensuring OSHA Compliance in Your Practice	Gregory	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	$55	$65

SWDC REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

2026 SOUTHWEST DENTAL CONFERENCE PROGRAMS

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

CRS #	TITLE	CLINICIAN	TIME	EARLY BIRD	AFTER JULY 14
	AFTERNOON LECTURES				
F24	Survivorship, Screening and HPV: Improving Outcomes for the Head and Neck Cancer Community	Day	12:30-2:00 p.m.	$30	$40
F25	Why Are Women So Strange and Men So Weird?	Christopher	1:00-4:00 p.m.	$55	$65
F26	Age, Bites, Court and Decomp: The ABC's of Forensic Dentistry	Collier	1:00-4:00 p.m.	$55	$65
F27	Open Wide for Opportunity - The Drill on Generative AI in Business	Kamp	1:00-4:00 p.m.	$55	$65
F28	Materials and Techniques to Improve Posterior Composites	Lawson	1:00-4:00 p.m.	$55	$65
F29	Challenging Cases in Oral Pathology	P. Patel	1:00-4:00 p.m.	$55	$65
F30	Avoiding Disasters: Emergency Management in the Dental Office	Read-Fuller	1:00-4:00 p.m.	$55	$65
F31	The Thoughtful 30: 30 Day Wellness Reset	Zerner	1:00-4:00 p.m.	$55	$65
F32	Updates in Alveolar Ridge Augmentation vs Graftless Solutions for Full Arch Rehabilitation	Aghaloo	1:30-4:30 p.m.	$55	$65
F33	Secrets of Smoother Claims Processing: Top Ten Reasons Claims are Denied	Dougan	1:30-4:30 p.m.	$55	$65
F34	Top 10 Pharmacotherapeutics for Orofacial Pain Disorders	S. Patel	1:30-4:30 p.m.	$55	$65
F35	The True Value of Digital Dentistry: A Four Step Revolution for Your Practice	Austin	2:00-5:00 p.m.	$55	$65
F36	What You Can't See Could Hurt You: Unseen Risks in Dental Care	Gregory	2:00-5:00 p.m.	$55	$65
F37	Oral Manifestations of Cutaneous Disease	Savory	2:30-4:00 p.m.	$30	$40

SMILES & SNACKS:

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 22					
CRS #	**TITLE**	**CLINICIAN**	**TIME**	**EARLY BIRD**	**AFTER JULY 14**
	SPECIAL EVENTS				
S01	ICD BREAKFAST		7:00-9:00 a.m.	$50	$60
S02	Hygiene CE Express: See Registration Brochure for a list of clinicians/topic		8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	$85	$95
	WORKSHOPS				
S03	Veneer Prep "BLUEPRINT": From Prep to Provisionals Workshop	Bruce	1:00-4:00 p.m.	$260	$270
S04	Difficult Denture Patients: Real-World Solutions Workshop	Folse	1:00-4:00 p.m.	$260	$270
S05	Hall Technique and Atraumatic Glass Ionomer Strip Crowns Workshop	MacLean	1:00-4:00 p.m.	$260	$270
S06	Mastering Digital Impressions: A Simple Guide to Scanning Teeth and Implants Workshop	Ng	1:00-4:00 p.m.	$235	$245
S07	Extraction to Regeneration: Multimodal Approaches for Alveolar Ridge and Soft Tissue Reconstruction Workshop	"Sanovich Young"	1:00-4:00 p.m.	$385	$395
S08	Photography Tips for the Clinician Workshop	Polido	1:30-4:30 p.m.	$205	$215
	MORNING LECTURES				
S09	Orthodontic Set-Up for Surgical Cases	Simon	8:00 -9:30 a.m.	$30	$40
S10	Transforming Obesity Care: From Weight Loss to Health Gains	Almandoz	8:00-11:00 a.m.	$55	$65
S11	Treatment Planning "SIMPLIFIED": Three Easy Steps to Success	Bruce	8:00-11:00 a.m.	$55	$65
S12	Collaboration with Medicine: What It Looks Like in a Busy Practice	Donley	8:00-11:00 a.m.	$55	$65
S13	Difficult Denture Patients: Real-World Solutions	Folse	8:00-11:00 a.m.	$55	$65
S14	What's New in Molar Incisor Hypomineralization Management	MacLean	8:00-11:00 a.m.	$55	$65
S15	Beyond the Mold: 3D Printing and Digital Impressions for Today's Dentist	Ng	8:00-11:00 a.m.	$55	$65
S16	From Extraction to Regeneration: Multimodal Approaches for Alveolar Ridge and Soft Tissue Reconstruction	"Sanovich Young"	8:00-11:00 a.m.	$55	$65
S17	Prescribing Controlled Substances: Drugs, Monitoring and Standards of Care	Plemons	8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	$75	$85
S18	The Balance of Occlusion and Esthetics	Fling	8:30-11:30 a.m.	$55	$65
S19	Managing Prosthetic Implant Complications	Jackson	8:30-11:30 a.m.	$55	$65
S20	Extraction, Implant and Graft, When To Do What?	Polido	8:30-11:30 a.m.	$55	$65
S21	Minimally Invasive Orthognathic and When to Combine TMJ Surgery	Arango	10:00-11:30 a.m.	$30	$40

SWDC REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22					
CRS #	TITLE	CLINICIAN	TIME	EARLY BIRD	AFTER JULY 14
	AFTERNOON LECTURES				
S22	Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T-Cell Therapy: History, Present and Future Directions	Anderson	12:00-1:30 p.m.	$30	$40
S23	A Simplified Approach to Orthognathic Treatment Planning and Caring for the Cleft Patient	Wong	12:30-2:00 p.m.	$30	$40
S24	Reducing Periodontal Inflammation Through Nutrition: Macro-nutritional Recommendations That Can Make a Difference	Donley	1:00-4:00 p.m.	$55	$65
S25	Treating Severe Dental Wear	Fling	1:30-4:30 p.m.	$55	$65
S26	Precision Oncology	Chan	2:00-3:30 p.m.	$30	$40
S27	Cut to the Chase: Spotting and Setting Up Surgical Cases	Velicu	2:30-4:00 p.m.	$30	$40

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The International College of Dentists invites all ICD members for breakfast during the 2026 Southwest Dental Conference.

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$50.00 per ICD Member

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If you are not registering for the conference, but would like to attend our annual breakfast meeting, please make your check out to ICD-TX and mail to the ICD-TX Section Secretary/Treasurer:

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Diversity + Inclusivity

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

Why Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Matter in Dentistry



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are more than workplace initiatives—they are essential bedrocks of high-quality patient care. Dental offices serve patients and employ individuals from a wide range of cultural, racial, socioeconomic, religious, and linguistic backgrounds. Creating an inclusive environment helps patients and employee team members feel respected, understood, and comfortable seeking care, while also fostering a positive workplace culture for your employees.

Small, intentional changes in your office can significantly improve your patient experiences, strengthen team relationships, and support elevated office performance and patient treatment outcomes and experiences.

Dental teams should receive periodic training on cultural awareness, unconscious bias, and effective communication with diverse populations and cultures. Training can help staff better understand how cultural beliefs, traditions, and experiences may influence patients' attitudes toward oral health and treatment decisions. Consistent education helps ensure that every patient receives respectful and equitable care.

Language and how we communicate with patients and our employees plays a critical role in patient and team member trust and comfort. Encourage team members to avoid assumptions about a person's background, finances, family structure, gender identity, or health beliefs. Respectful communication helps patients and employees feel valued and heard.

Furthermore, language/communication barriers can significantly affect patient understanding and treatment compliance. Providing patient materials (including intake and treatment forms and educational brochures) in commonly spoken languages within your office's community can improve communication, patient satisfaction and treatment endpoints of therapy. Implementing small changes can help patients feel respected from their first interaction with your office to their last.

In relation to your office employees, a diverse workforce brings differing perspectives, ideas and skill sets and can strengthen team and patient relationships. Dental practices should strive for equitable hiring practices and provide opportunities for advancement to all employees within the practice.

Some ideas for implementation may include the following: using inclusive job descriptions, expanding job recruitment efforts to diverse communities/outlets, standardizing interview processes therefore eliminating bias and unconscious bias and evaluating promotion practices for fairness

The bottom line is that an inclusive workplace helps attract and retain talented team members.

Creating a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive dental office is an investment in both patient care and workplace excellence. Through thoughtful communication, accessible services, equitable policies, and ongoing education, dental practices can build environments where every patient and team member feels respected, valued, and supported. Even small changes can make a meaningful difference in fostering trust, improving patient experiences, and strengthening your office relationships.

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Texas A&M University College of Dentistry

McDonald and Graham named TAMUCOD's 2026 Teachers of the Year

Dr. Stephen McDonald, clinical associate professor in the Department of Comprehensive Dentistry at Texas A&M University College of Dentistry, and Chelsi Graham, clinical assistant professor in the dental hygiene program, were named 2026 Teachers of the Year by students. McDonald was named Dental Teacher of the Year, while Graham earned Dental Hygiene Teacher of the Year.

McDonald is a two-time recipient of the Dental Teacher of the Year Award, last receiving the honor in 2018.

A 1980 alumnus of what was then Baylor College of Dentistry, McDonald soon joined a busy dental practice as an associate. Within a year, McDonald opened his own dental office, where he practiced for almost 20 years and built a thriving restorative dentistry practice.

McDonald joined A&M Dentistry as a part-time instructor in 2000 and became a full-time clinical assistant professor in 2012. Since that time, he's served as director for preclinical courses, as well as a group leader and instructor in the clinic. In addition, McDonald has been an active member of the Dallas County Dental Society, a Fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry, and a visiting faculty member at The L.D. Pankey Institute.



Left: Chelsi Graham, clinical assistant professor in the dental hygiene program, in a 2025 photo.



Below: David Qin, now a rising fourth-year dental student, and Dr. Stephen McDonald, clinical associate professor in comprehensive dentistry, in a 2024 photo.

"What I enjoy most about teaching is supporting students as they transition from students to professionals and finally into competent, skilled dentists," he said. "Throughout my career, I sought out mentors to help me grow and develop my skill set. I don't believe that we ever reach a point when there is nothing else to learn."

He impresses on students that patients are much more than mouths full of teeth. Patients often arrive feeling concerned, fearful and in pain.

"Our job is more than just examining and diagnosing," McDonald said. "We should first strive to learn more about our patients as people. Find out what is important to them and their most pressing concerns."

Being a skilled dentist doesn't start with strong hand skills, according to McDonald. It begins with strong listening skills.

"How we treat patients reflects how we show up in the world," he said. "Your patients won't be able to tell if your dentistry is good or not, but they will know how you made them feel and whether you care."

Graham is passionate about shaping the next generation of dental hygienists. She earned her bachelor's in dental hygiene from Tyler Junior College and recently completed her master's in educational psychology at Texas A&M University, which she said strengthened her commitment to student learning, faculty development and evidence-based education.

Graham joined A&M Dentistry in January 2023. With more than a decade of clinical experience, Graham said she brings authenticity and real-world perspective into the learning environment, helping students connect what they learn to the patients they serve.

"Teaching is not just about clinical skills; it is about helping students grow into confident, capable professionals who believe in themselves," she said. "I find the greatest joy in watching that moment when things begin to click, when a student gains confidence, trusts their judgment and starts to see themselves as a clinician. Being part of that transformation is what continues to inspire me every day."

She aims to create a supportive and encouraging environment while also challenging students to think critically, communicate effectively, and take ownership of their learning. Graham said the most meaningful learning happens when students feel both supported and pushed to grow, and she strives to strike that balance in every clinical interaction.

Her commitment to teaching extends beyond the clinic through her involvement in leadership and professional service. She serves as president of Dental Hygiene Educators of Texas and has served as a Dallas Dental Hygiene Society delegate on the state level for the past three years. She also served as student oral research presentation chair for the 2025 and 2026 Texas Dental Hygienists' Association Annual Session events, helping support student research and encouraging engagement within the profession.

Graham also contributes to advancing dental hygiene through research, such as serving as a co-investigator on a randomized clinical trial focused on the prevention of radiation tooth decay by using silver diamine fluoride. The findings were presented recently at the International Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research in San Diego, California.

Graham said at the heart of her work is a genuine love for teaching and a deep commitment to students. She considers it a privilege to be part of her students' journeys and is honored to contribute to a profession that inspires her passion.

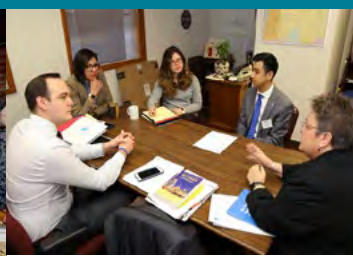
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Texas A&M University College of Dentistry (formerly Baylor College of Dentistry) in Dallas is a part of Texas A&M University and Texas A&M Health. Founded in 1905, the College of Dentistry is a nationally recognized center for oral health sciences education, research, specialized patient care and continuing dental education. Learn more at dentistry.tamu.edu and follow @TAMUdental.

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DCDS Member Reflections

Dr. Stephanie Bowers, Member since 2020

I got involved to stay connected and engaged in advocating for our profession, because dentistry can be isolating once we leave school. I continue to be inspired by fellow members and the work the society does, and I truly believe that being an active member helps support high standards of dental care and education in our community.

Dr. Carmen Smith, Member since 1998

I am a member because it's important to ensure that future generations continue to have enjoyable and prosperous careers in dentistry.

Dr. Chi Trieu, Member since 1998

DCDS and the tripartite have been an integral part of my professional life. The camaraderie, friendships, and mentorship I have experienced over the years have profoundly shaped the dentist I am today. I am deeply proud to be a member and remain committed to continued membership in the years ahead. Our profession needs a strong, unified voice in an increasingly complex world.

Dr. Drew Vanderbrook, Member since 2009

What I value most about my DCDS membership are the relationships I've built—trusted colleagues, incredible mentors, and lifelong friends. Those connections have shaped the way I practice and the way I serve my patients.

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DALLAS COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY

Your DCDS Foundation at Work!

by Dr. Preston Colven, DCDS Foundation President

One Room, One Mission: Inside the 2026 Charity Dental Summit

The Dallas County Dental Society Foundation's 7th Annual Charity Dental Summit, held on March 31, 2026, brought together an inspiring cross-section of nonprofit leaders, clinicians and community advocates focused on one shared goal: expanding access to dental care across Dallas County.

What stood out most wasn't just the challenges discussed—it was the momentum.

Across organizations, there's clear evidence that collaboration is working. Several groups reported major strides, including expanded facilities, increased provider participation and more efficient care delivery models. From multi-provider clinics operating in accessible locations to orthodontic programs serving dozens of patients at a time, the collective impact is growing.

New initiatives show that momentum is building. Texas A&M University College of Dentistry is giving dental students earlier and broader clinical exposure—not just in Dallas-Fort Worth, but in rural and underserved communities. They are adapting with strong models like Texas Mission of Mercy, incorporating prescreening and delivering care directly in trusted community spaces. Another organization reported a noticeable expansion in youth-focused programming, ensuring early intervention and long-term impact.



Dr. Bill Gerlach led the discussions during the Charity Dental Summit, which included representatives from 12 organizations.

The conversation didn't shy away from real challenges. Access to specialty care remains one of the most pressing gaps, with cost and provider availability continuing to limit treatment options. Transportation barriers, housing instability among patients and the ongoing need for sustainable funding—especially for administrative and staffing support—are affecting nearly every organization in the room. Even as clinics grow, so do logistical hurdles like facility build-outs, vendor partnerships and space constraints.

Volunteer engagement is another key concern. While student involvement is strong, some groups are struggling to secure clinical volunteers outside of traditional hours, highlighting the need for more flexible and diverse participation from the dental community.

The most powerful takeaway from this year's Charity Dental Summit was the willingness to help one another. Organizations actively offered solutions—whether through patient referrals, discounted specialty care, legislative advocacy or sharing vendor resources. There is a clear commitment to strengthening programs by building stronger continuity of care and deeper community connections.

The Summit reinforced what makes this network so effective: no one should be working in isolation. Each organization brings a unique strength, and together they are building a more coordinated, compassionate system of care.

As these partnerships continue to evolve, we look forward to more connection, more collaboration and an unwavering focus on meeting patients where they are.

DCDS Foundation Awards First D3 Volunteerism Scholarship

At the Texas A&M College of Dentistry's Community Outreach Award Ceremony on May 12, the Dallas County Dental Society Foundation proudly presented the inaugural D3 Volunteerism Scholarship to Alexander Feldman, recognizing his exceptional commitment to community service, leadership and academic excellence.

Created to honor the College's third-year dental students who demonstrate outstanding volunteerism and dedication to outreach, the new annual scholarship includes a $1,500 award and reflects the Foundation's ongoing commitment to supporting future leaders in dentistry.

The Dallas County Dental Society Foundation congratulates Alexander as the first recipient of the D3 Volunteerism Scholarship and looks forward to seeing the lasting impact of his service-driven career in dentistry.



(L-R) Dr. Liang Hong, Dr. Jacqueline Plemons, Alexander Feldman, Dr. Lily Garcia and Dr. Hoda Abdellatif, following the presentation of the award.

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

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The Alliance of TDA

By Nancy Cartwright, President of The Alliance of DCDS and The Alliance of the TDA.

Celebrating 96 Years of Service

This year, the Alliance of the Texas Dental Association (TDA) proudly celebrates 96 years of service—nearly a century of supporting the dental community and advancing oral health through compassion and generosity. The mission of the Alliance of the TDA is to provide support to the spouses of Texas Dental Association members through education, fellowship and service, and to foster the positive image of organized dentistry in partnership with the TDA. This is done through local districts, like the Alliance of Dallas County Dental Society.

A cornerstone of the Alliance's mission is caring for its own. Contributions from dental families, including from many DCDS Members, support the Silver Lining Fund, which provides financial assistance to dentists or their family members facing times of need. Through a confidential recommendation and approval process, these funds are distributed directly to those who need support most—offering a meaningful safety net within the dental community.

Honoring the legacy of those who have passed is another important focus. Memorial contributions are directed into the Alliance's Memorial Scholarship Fund, which in turn supports dental students across Texas. Each year, scholarships to each of the four dental schools in our State are awarded at the Texas Dental Association Annual Session, ensuring that the memory of loved ones continues to make a lasting impact on the future of the profession.

The Alliance of the TDA also champions community-based care through Dental Health Projects. Local districts submit initiatives aimed at improving oral health in their communities, and funding provided by the Alliance of the TDA helps bring these important projects to life. Each fall, the Alliance selects a charitable organization to receive both financial support and hands-on involvement through dental health initiatives. Past efforts have reached a wide range of communities—from organizations addressing human trafficking in Austin to schools for children with autism in Waco, to programs supporting individuals experiencing homelessness in Abilene and San Antonio.

As the Alliance celebrates nearly a century of impact, its mission remains clear: to support the dental profession, uplift communities and ensure that compassion remains at the heart of care. Your support makes this work possible—please consider contributing to your local Alliance of DCDS to help us continue this shared commitment to service. Tax-deductible donations can be sent to Alliance of DCDS, P.O. Box 25544, Dallas, TX 75225.

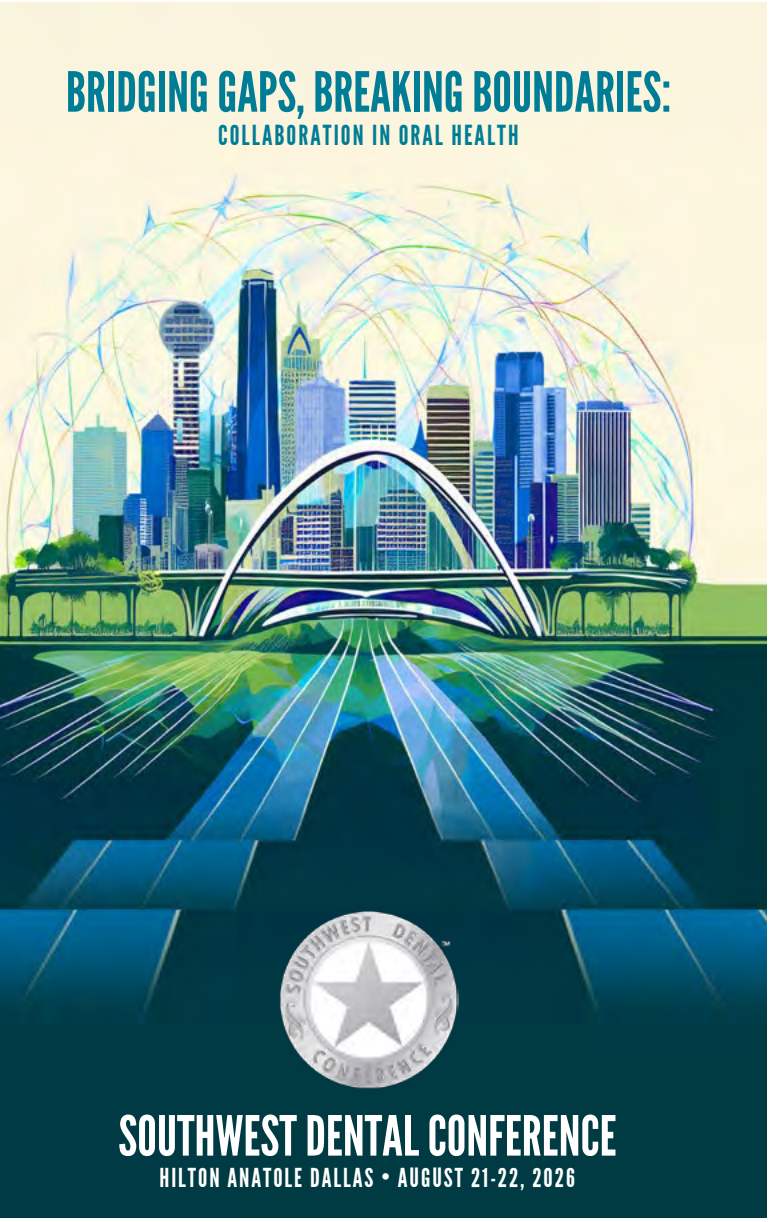




Above: Alliance of the TDA supporting TDA Dentists at TDA Legislative Day in Austin. Below: Giving support to our Texas Dental Schools with baked goodies.

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Follow DCDS and SWDC on social media!



As we make the final push toward the 99th Southwest Dental Conference this August, I want to personally encourage our Dallas County Dental Society members to take full advantage of one of the most valuable benefits of membership, complimentary SWDC registration through July 13.

This year's meeting has been carefully designed to reflect the rapidly evolving landscape of dentistry while staying grounded in the collaboration and community that continue to define our profession. Across two days, attendees will have access to exceptional education in restorative dentistry, implants, oral surgery, esthetics, digital workflows, regenerative therapies, artificial intelligence, wellness and practice leadership. Just as importantly, the Conference creates an opportunity to reconnect with colleagues, exchange ideas and learn together as an entire dental team.

From internationally recognized educators such as Dr. Waldemar Polido, Dr. Tara Aghaloo, Dr. Mia Geisinger, Dr. Nathaniel Lawson, Dr. Jonathan Ng and Dr. Joshua Austin, to the outstanding interdisciplinary collaboration with physicians and researchers from UT Southwestern Medical Center, the breadth of this year's program reflects the future of oral healthcare; integrated, innovative and team-driven.

The Southwest Dental Conference has always been more than a lecture series. It is a gathering of professionals committed to advancing dentistry together. The conversations in the hallways, the relationships built between sessions and the shared experience of learning alongside colleagues often become just as impactful as the education itself.

For DCDS members, complimentary registration ends July 13 and course fees will increase. I strongly encourage you to talk with your staff on their CE needs, as the Conference holds content for all dental roles. Whether you attend to strengthen your clinical skills, bring your team together, explore new technologies, or simply reconnect with the dental community, I am confident this year's Conference will be meaningful, practical, and inspiring.

I look forward to welcoming you to the Hilton Anatole in August for what promises to be another exceptional Southwest Dental Conference.



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

DCDS Members register free now; increases to $50 after July 13th