www.dcds.org

DCDS connection

May/June 2026
Volume 19, Issue 3

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

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Updated Guidelines

By Mary Swift, DDS

On Dental Care and Total Joint Arthroplasty



The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) and the American Dental Association (ADA), along with several other organizations, have released updated guidelines regarding dental care and total joint arthroplasty (TJA)—and they have nothing to do with antibiotics.

The protocol recommending prophylactic antibiotics for TJA patients was removed in 2012. Yet, more than a decade later, some patients are still being instructed by their orthopedic providers to take large doses of antibiotics prior to routine dental cleanings. In the interest of appropriate antibiotic stewardship, I do not prescribe these medications. Instead, I refer patients back to their orthopedic surgeon for any antibiotic prescriptions and encourage them to research the topic themselves and ask informed questions about the necessity of prophylaxis.

The 2024 update focuses on timing, not antibiotics. These are guidelines—not a standard of care—which allows for clinical judgment. In brief:

1. Noninvasive or minimally invasive dental procedures may be performed up until the day before elective TJA.
2. Dental extractions and other oral surgery procedures should be completed at least three weeks prior to elective TJA.
3. Most dental procedures should be delayed, if possible, for three months following TJA.

As a result of these updates, my office has added a new question to our medical history intake forms asking whether patients have any planned joint replacement surgeries. Lack of awareness of these timing recommendations could expose providers to potential liability if complications arise following TJA. Patients may need to postpone oral surgery if joint replacement is imminent; and in some cases, orthopedic procedures may need to be delayed if appropriate dental care has not been completed.

The guidelines leave room for interpretation, particularly regarding what constitutes “most dental procedures” and how invasive versus noninvasive care is defined. Given these gray areas, clear documentation and inter-professional communication are essential. We must update not only our knowledge, but also the questions we ask our patients. When it comes to dental care and TJA, timing is everything.

Lack of awareness of these timing recommendations could expose providers to potential liability if complications arise following TJA.

Resources:

The full updated guideline titled Prevention of Total Hip and Knee Arthroplasty Periprosthetic Joint Infection in Patients Undergoing Dental Procedures is published through the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS). It includes the recommended timing for dental procedures before and after elective total joint arthroplasty.

The American Dental Association (ADA) acknowledges and discusses the AAOS/AAHKS guideline on antibiotic prophylaxis and dental procedure timing on its official website in the context of oral health topics.

The Write Stuff

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

Guided by Legacy, Focused on the Future



As I look back at my term as DCDS president, I cannot believe what a year of change it has been! The DCDS board has been hard at work, developing a plan to stimulate growth in our social media and improve outreach to a new generation of members. We are also exploring ways to increase CE offerings utilizing our headquarter building, grow our membership and attract new dentists, while continuing to build participation in legislative and advocacy activities. The board also made the difficult decision to close the dental assisting school in light of waning applications in the past couple of years.

Without a doubt, the most significant event of the year was Jane Evans' announcement in February that she plans to retire this year after 33 years of service to DCDS.

While most members of DCDS have met Jane at one event or another, many may not know that Jane joined DCDS in 1993 as an administrative coordinator and assisted the executive director at the time with membership and accounting. After being promoted to conference director in 1999 and assistant executive director in 2001, Jane became executive director of DCDS in 2003. During her time in this role, Jane has overseen many areas of growth and expansion of DCDS and the Southwest Dental Conference.

Jane has undoubtedly been devoted to her work for Dallas County Dental Society; she has planned and attended nearly every meeting DCDS has hosted locally, Texas Mission of Mercy event, as well as participating in numerous state and national conferences and committees.

But Jane's most important quality is her ability to connect with members. She has guided and mentored numerous dentists including myself, and I can remember the day she called me in 2019 to ask if I would consider joining the DCDS Board. I would not have become president of DCDS without Jane.

Jane's retirement creates mixed emotions. On one hand, I am happy for her that she is celebrating the end of a tremendous career, and now can spend more time with her husband and family. But, I am also sad to see her go, and I will miss seeing her at DCDS events.

As we move forward, I am as optimistic as ever that DCDS will continue to be a successful organization with devoted leadership. While changes are sure to occur with a new executive director, we must not forget the greatest lesson that Jane has taught us: that our members and our professional relationships come first, and the purpose of organized dentistry is for us to support one another. Surely that is Jane's greatest legacy.



Wednesday, May 6, 2026

12:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Blue Mesa, 14866 Montfort Rd, Addison, TX

The Retired Dentists Committee invites all retired DCDS members and their spouses to gather together at this luncheon. Registration is required so seats can be reserved. Seating is limited. To register, please email Ashley@dcds.org.



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Member Publication
AADEJ
American Association of Dental Editors & Journalists

Impressions

Editorial by Simmi Patel, DDS, Editor

Leading Beyond the Numbers



Have you ever wondered if other dentists face the same situations that you do? Do you dwell on what to do with all the data in front of you?

I recently completed the ADA Certified Clinical Director Program and highly recommend it for current or aspiring clinical directors and practice owners. The six-month program provides 35 continuing education credits and offers a well-structured blend of in-person and virtual learning.

The application process includes submission to the ADA along with a letter of recommendation. Upon acceptance, participants attend an initial in-person session at the ADA headquarters in Chicago, which includes a welcome reception and opportunities to network with peers.

I thoroughly enjoyed meeting my cohort and quickly realized we all are going through the same experiences together. I also stopped feeling guilty when I heard the other participants say that they did not know what all the numbers meant. The dentists in my group had great advice, and I felt relieved knowing that I could text them with questions that I had.

My cohort consisted of 50 participants, and the faculty brought diverse experience from private practice, DSOs, and other practice models. Following the initial session, coursework was delivered via Zoom twice monthly in the evenings from 6:00-7:30 pm CST, along with two self-paced e-learning modules per month. The assignments were practical and manageable. I looked forward to seeing my colleagues across the country on Thursday evenings. We would make each other laugh during our Zoom meetings.

> **“Leadership isn’t about having all the answers—it’s about knowing how to find them.**

Course topics included strategic planning, financial management, mentoring and quality management, leadership standards, and social intelligence. The program was highly interactive and well organized.

I now understand what my staff expects of me and how to take care of them. Thankfully, I don’t feel embarrassed about what to do with the numbers anymore—due to this class and a cohort of peers from across the country.

ENHANCE DENTAL CASES WITH FACIAL INJECTABLES FOR FUNCTIONAL & ESTHETIC RESULTS

DENTASPA SEMINARS

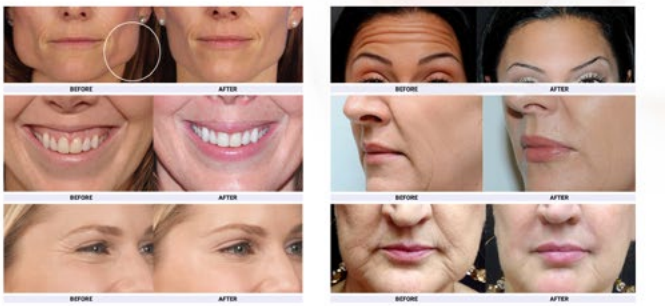
D1: Botulinum Toxin & Dermal Fillers + Dental Applications (TMD, Facial Pain, Gummy Smiles) 16 CE

(ADA CERP/AGD PACE Recognized)

Hands-On Training Exclusively for Dentists!

Offer Therapeutic Treatments for:
- TMD
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- Correcting Asymmetric Smiles
- Angular Cheilitis
- Bruxism
- Gummy Smiles
- Filling Interdental Papilla
- Perioral Volume Loss

Offer Cosmetic Treatments for:
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- Oral Commissures
- Frown Lines
- Forehead Lines
- Eyebrow Lift
- Crows Feet



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From The Hub

by Jane D. Evans, Executive Director

GIVING BACK!



There are moments in life that quietly reshape the way you see the world—and for me, volunteering with the Texas Mission of Mercy (TMOM) has been one of those moments. This past weekend marked my 45th TMOM event, and each time I left with a full heart, reminded of the profound impact of helping others.

From my very first day volunteering in 2004, I knew this experience would be unlike anything I had done before. The lines of patients seemed endless—families, elderly individuals, and children—all waiting patiently for care many had gone years without. Some arrived in visible pain; others came simply hoping for relief or reassurance. What struck me most was not just the need, but the resilience and gratitude they carried with them.

In a setting where resources are limited and time is precious, every small act feels significant. A routine cleaning, a simple extraction, even a few words of comfort—these become meaningful exchanges rather than everyday tasks. In that environment, dentistry isn't just about procedures; it's about restoring dignity, easing suffering and connecting with people on a human level.

I am continually inspired by volunteers who are not part of the dental profession. One gentleman, who travels from Georgetown, Texas, attends nearly every TMOM event across the state, as well as many prescreening events. That level of dedication is truly remarkable.

At each TMOM, there is a profound sense of teamwork. Volunteers from diverse backgrounds come together with a shared purpose, supporting one another through long hours and emotional moments. Despite the exhaustion, there is an energy that carries us forward—a collective understanding that what we are doing truly matters.

This past weekend's Dallas TMOM, held at Fair Park, was a powerful example of that shared commitment. I'm proud to share the impact of this two-day event, which speaks volumes about the dedication of everyone involved:

- 817 patients served
- 5,562 treatments provided
- Over $900,000 in donated care

I hope you will consider volunteering at one of the scheduled TMOM events this year.

San Antonio – May 29-30, 2026

San Angelo – July 17-18, 2026

Edinburgh – October 2-3, 2026 (100th TMOM)

Below: The 2026 Dallas TMOM, inside and outside. Special thanks to the four dental laboratories (Dental Plus, Griffin Dental, Digital Esthetic Solutions and Helm Dental) who provided removables for many of the TMOM patients. See pages 10-11 for more photos of our DCDS Members in action at TMOM-Dallas.







New Dentists

News and perspective from dentists under 10 years of practice



by Kelechi Ukaegbu, DDS, MS

Beyond the Cavity: A Dentist's Role in Whole Patient Care

As dentists, it's easy to fall into a rhythm. Fillings, crowns, scaling, repeat. The day moves quickly, and before you know it, you've treated several patients and barely looked up. But every so often, it's worth pausing and asking a simple question: Are we just treating teeth, or are we treating people?

Because the reality is, we are often seeing far more than caries and calculus.

Many patients see their physician once a year, if that. They see us twice. Sometimes more. That alone places us in a unique position within healthcare. We are not just providing episodic care; we are seeing patients consistently over time. We notice patterns, changes, and subtle shifts that might otherwise go unrecognized.

We are examining soft tissues, bone levels, saliva, mucosa, and facial structures at close range, under good lighting, on a regular basis. Few other clinicians have that level of access. This is not incidental. It is part of our role, whether we actively use it or not.

Not everything we see is "just dental," although it can be easy to default to that mindset. But there may be clues that should lead us to probe more deeply, excuse the pun: bleeding that doesn't quite match plaque levels, gingival inflammation that persists despite appropriate therapy, ulcers that linger longer than expected, tooth mobility that is increasing rapidly or does not align with the level of bone loss present, dry mouth in a patient who cannot clearly explain why. These are often the moments where we need to slow down and think a little more broadly. Individually, these findings can seem minor. Collectively, they can point to something more.

Periodontal disease is one of the clearest examples of how oral and systemic health intersect. We are all familiar with the link between diabetes and periodontal inflammation, but in day-to-day practice it is easy to treat the periodontal condition without addressing the underlying context. When a patient's disease severity does not align with their plaque levels or reported habits, that discrepancy matters. Sometimes the most important part of the appointment is not the debridement, but the conversation that follows: "Have you had your blood sugar checked recently?" "Are you under the care of a physician for this?" These questions are simple, but they can be clinically significant.

It is also worth remembering that the oral cavity often reflects broader health in ways that extend beyond periodontal disease. Mucosal changes, pigmentation, ulceration patterns, and salivary flow can all provide early indications of systemic processes. A patient presenting repeatedly with oral candidiasis may not just need anti-fungal treatment. A patient with unexplained mucosal changes may require further investigation.

Also, it is not always about physical findings alone. Even noticing that a patient seems stressed, or is going through a significant life event, can be pertinent to their care. These things affect immune response, oral hygiene habits, diet, and overall health in ways that show up in the mouth. We are not expected to have all the answers, but we are expected to recognize when something does not fit the usual pattern.

There can be a degree of hesitation here, particularly early in practice. No one wants to overstep or cause unnecessary concern. But this is not about diagnosing systemic disease or stepping outside our scope. It is about clinical awareness and responsibility. Our role is straightforward: notice changes, ask appropriate questions, document what we see, and refer when indicated. That alone will have a meaningful impact on patient outcomes.

Importantly, this does not require a significant increase in time in our schedules; it simply requires a shift in how we approach the exam. Instead of asking, "What do I need to do to this tooth?" we begin to ask, "What might this presentation be telling me about this patient?"

That shift changes the way we observe, the way we communicate, and ultimately the way we practice. It also strengthens patient trust. Patients feel when we are looking at them as a whole person rather than focusing solely on isolated procedures.

For newer dentists, there can be a tendency to focus heavily on technical execution and gaining speed. That is completely understandable, clinical skills take time and repetition to refine. However, developing this broader clinical awareness early can set you apart. It changes your consultations, improves your diagnostic thinking, and deepens your interactions with patients. It also reinforces the idea that dentistry is an integral part of overall healthcare, not separate from it.

Dentistry is often perceived as limited to teeth and gums. In reality, it offers a unique window into overall health. We are not just restoring structure or removing plaque. We are often the first clinicians to notice when something is not quite right.

Sometimes, that early observation, that brief conversation, or that timely referral is the most important thing we do all day.

DCDS Member's Message Board

Upcoming Events

May 6 – Retired Dentists Spring Luncheon

May 14 – Installation Dinner and Ceremony

August 21-22 – Southwest Dental Conference

September 15 – General Membership Meeting

Register at www.dcds.org/events



Welcome New Members!

General Practice

Nora Kweik
Ashley McGhee
Jonathan Mitzel
Sayyed Mohseni
Sushma Pakalapati
Luis Sanchez
Naresh Shetty
Jesse Simpson
Jiten Solanki
Wyatt Spresser

In Memoriam:

click name for obituary, if available

Dr. John E. Kidwell

Dr. Ronald Wideman

Dr. Gary L. Harris

Dental Concierge
Through TDA

Track Your CE: Upload courses you've taken, see what you've done.

Browse Courses: Easily find courses that meet your requirements.

Set Reminders: Send yourself reminders on courses that need to be completed.

Submit to TSBDE: Selected for a CE audit? No problem. Easily submit documentation to TSBDE.

CLICK HERE: YOUR LICENSE RENEWAL WILL GET MUCH EASIER!



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

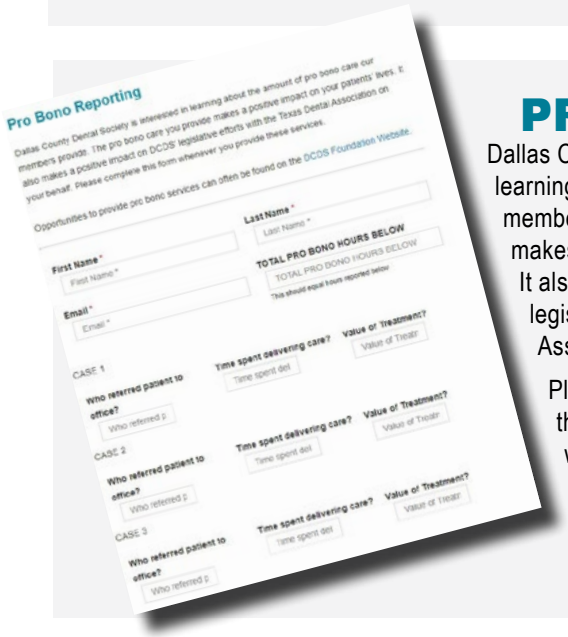
Being a member of the associations that work to protect your profession is important to the success of a practice...pass along the benefits to your peers!

- 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.

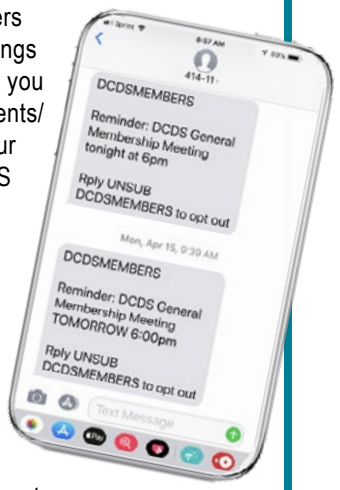
Please help legislative efforts by completing this short Pro Bono Form on our website whenever you provide these services:

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.



Installation Dinner and Ceremony

IN HONOR OF

Gabrielle C. Dizon, DDS

As incoming President and the
2026-2027 Board of Directors,
Officers and Committee Members
and in recognition of outgoing
Board and Committee Members

Dallas County Dental Society
requests your presence

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Hilton Dallas Park Cities
5954 Luther Lane | Dallas, TX 75225
Reception 6:30 P.M. | Dinner 7:00 P.M.
$50 Per Person | Business Attire

RSVP by May 7, 2026 at www.dcds.org/events

DCDS Members Power Texas Mission of Mercy (TMOM)

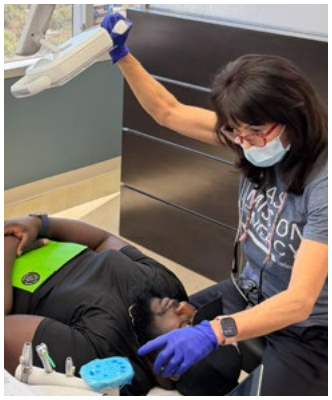
Dallas County Dental Society members played a key role in supporting the the 2026 TMOM in Dallas, joining hundreds of volunteers to deliver essential dental care to underserved patients.

From early planning through the final patient of the day, DCDS dentists worked together in planning, pre-screenings, x-rays, triage, prosths, treatment center, supplies and teaching students. Their efforts helped ensure a steady flow of care for individuals who often face significant barriers to treatment.

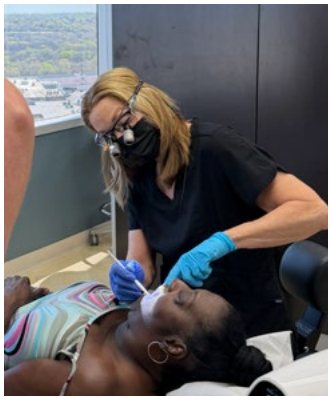
Despite the fast-paced environment, coordination was smooth and efficient, with volunteers collaborating across stations to maximize patient access and maintain quality care standards. The impact was immediate—patients received necessary treatment, often relieving long-standing pain and restoring function.

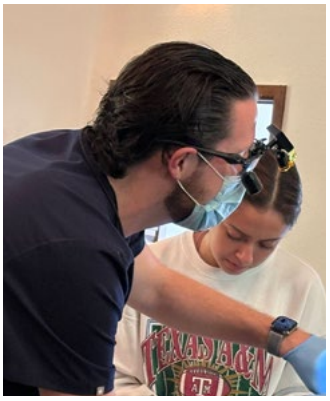
DCDS members described the experience as both professionally meaningful and operationally rewarding, underscoring the DCDS Foundation's ongoing commitment to expanding access to oral health care across Texas communities.







































817
patients served

5,562
treatments provided

$900,000+
in donated care

2026 TMOM Dallas Planning Team

Community Lead	Ms. Terra McClelland
Dental Lead	Dr. Wendy Steger
Hygiene Lead	Dr. Chris Miller
X-Ray Lead	Dr. Mitra Boluri
Prosthetics Lead	Dr. Michael Rainwater
Infection Control Lead	Ms. Lesa Perry
Pre-Screen Lead	Dr. Mary Swift
Dental Student Lead	Dr. Jon Williamson
Volunteer Lead	Ms. Jane Evans
Hospitality Lead	Ms. Kelley Tway
Marketing Lead	Ms. Rosemary Martinez
Patient Lead	Ms. Nancy Cartwright
Patient Distribution Lead	Ms. Jane Evans
Parking/Transportation	Mr. Stevie Shirley
Triage Lead	Dr. Kent Macaulay
Sterilization Lead	Mr. Jeff Hibbs

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:

FRIDAY • 11:30AM - 1:00PM• EXHIBIT HALL

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2026 SOUTHWEST DENTAL CONFERENCE PROGRAMS

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

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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INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF DENTISTS 2026 MEMBERS BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

7:00-9:00 A.M.

HILTON ANATOLE DALLAS

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

To register, enter Course Code S01 during your 2026 SWDC registration process. No CE credit is given for this event.

$50.00 per ICD Member

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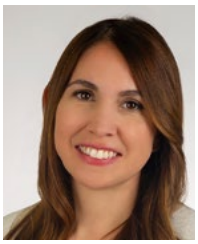
If you are not registering for the conference, but would like to attend our annual breakfast meeting, please make your check out to ICD-TX and mail to the ICD-TX Section Secretary/Treasurer:

Donna Miller, DDS
Creekwood Dental Arts
7911 Woodway Dr.
Waco, TX. 76712

Diversity + Inclusivity

by Alicia Spence, DDS, Diversity and Inclusivity Committee Member

Addressing Language Barriers in Clinical Care



For many of the patients visiting our community clinics, their throbbing toothache is just one of their concerns. Through the grogginess of another sleepless night, they worry about taking off work, finding transportation for themselves, securing childcare, their oral health and possible judgment for it, financial strain and the fear of not being able to communicate with their doctor. By the time we see them for an exam, they have only encountered half of barriers they are going to face.

For the staff members at the same clinics, the days are long. There is a never-ending line of patients needing emergency care. In between the phones ringing off the hook, instruments waiting for sterilization and patients needing another radiograph, the staff are pulled to help interpret. The strain on them is palpable.

To help ease the burden on patients and staff, our dental school clinics started using a live interpreting service. Dental students wheel in what is essentially an iPad on an IV pole, and after a few clicks, consents and a sign-in code, a live, unbiased translator appears. The translators are professional and can help with more than two hundred languages and ASL. Suddenly, our bilingual students and staff could focus on their tasks at hand, rather than running between chairs to help with a medical history or a consent form. Patients no longer had to bring a family member to help translate, which we know is problematic for accuracy and privacy concerns.

Since implementing LanguageLine, we see patient appointments running smoothly, with clear communication during essential conversations involving treatment plans and the consent process. We also see that the clinic setting is less hectic, as staff are no longer running from room to room serving as translators. From a qualitative perspective, benefits include increased patient communication and trust, decrease in anxiety for both patients and dental students, increased accuracy in medical history and in post operative instructions, increased empathy from our dental students and increased cultural awareness.



LanguageLine audio and visual interpreter equipment used by Texas A&M University College of Dentistry students.

> **While we can't eliminate every barrier that our patients face, we can offer a place where they can receive exceptional care from a provider who truly understands them.**

While we can't eliminate every barrier that our patients face, we can offer a place where they can receive exceptional care from a provider who truly understands them. Using a live translator is a necessary part of obtaining informed consent, building patient trust, providing equitable care, and ensuring positive treatment outcomes.





Future dentists, meet organized dentistry! Drs. Partha Mukherji, Drew Vanderbrook, Jacque Plemons, and Hoda Abdellatif (L-R) connected with Texas A&M University College of Dentistry D4 students on National Signing Day. Over lunch provided by the TDA, they shared insights, answered questions, and helped students take their next step into the profession. 100% of the 100 graduating students signed up for ADA membership!

Scenes from Shred-a-thon

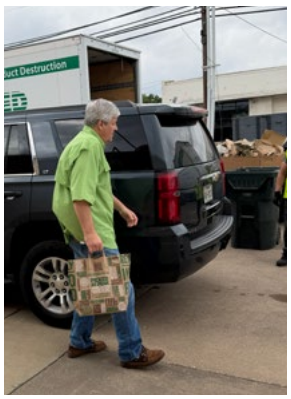
Clearing Clutter, Making Connections

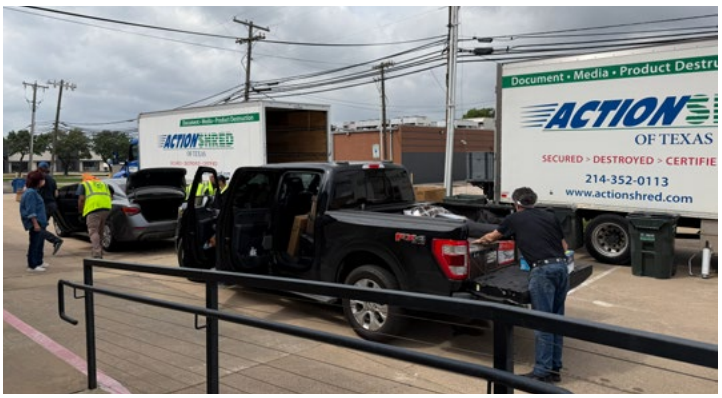
Even in a digital age, some things are still better handled the old-fashioned way—securely and together. The 17th Annual DCDS Shred-a-Thon brought members back to the DCDS Executive Office on April 17 for a quick, purposeful, and surprisingly social midday stop.

With a steady flow of cars pulling through the back lot, members dropped off boxes of documents and outdated electronics for safe disposal, taking advantage of on-site shredding and e-destruction services. From stacks of old files to retired office equipment, it was a chance to clear space, protect patient information, and contribute to environmentally responsible recycling.

Inside, DCDS Members gathered for lunch, conversation and a chance to connect with colleagues—proving that even a task like shredding can bring people together.

Seventeen years in, the Shred-a-Thon remains a simple but valued benefit: practical, efficient, and a good reminder that some traditions are worth holding onto.







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April 17 | Friday

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- Anatomic Considerations in Non- Anatomic Placement
- The Myth of Vertical Implant Placement

April 24–25 | Friday & Saturday

Lasers: From Science to Chairside Transform clinical knowledge into real- world applications

May 2 | Saturday

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TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
College of Dentistry

Texas A&M University College of Dentistry

Saying farewell to two longtime faculty members

Days after Texas A&M University College of Dentistry says goodbye and good luck to its latest class of graduates, it will do the same to two longtime, beloved faculty members. Drs. Amp W. Miller III and Ernestine Lacy, who have a combined 85 years of teaching and administrative experience at their alma mater, will retire May 31.

Miller earned his dental degree in 1973 from the college, which was then Baylor College of Dentistry, and has taught or served on the college administration ever since—most of that time while also working in private practice as a prosthodontist. He will officially retire on his 79th birthday.

"He's taught thousands of dental students, including me," said Dr. Lily T. García, A&M Dentistry's dean and a prosthodontist. "The dental college has served the North Texas community for 120 years, and Dr. Miller has been an important part of that for nearly half the time. His contributions to dentistry are immense."

Miller, now professor and director of comprehensive dentistry, spends most of his time instructing students in the simulation laboratory. However, as either a part-time or full-time instructor, he's taught a range of courses, from preclinical to graduate prosthodontics, and his academic career includes periods serving as interim assistant department head of comprehensive dentistry, interim chair and then chair of restorative dentistry, director of curriculum, and interim associate dean for clinical affairs.

"I became interested in teaching during college, and after dental school, I made friends with many of the faculty and enjoyed the 'teaching discussions' with them," Miller said.

He's scheduled to be honored May 19 by the Dallas County Commissioners Court.

Once retired, he and his wife, Barbara, associate professor emerita at A&M Dentistry, retired assistant dean of recruitment and admissions and an alumna, will finish renovations on their home and spend time with grandchildren in Virginia.

Miller will miss the students, and they will miss him. He won Teacher of the Year in 1992, 2005, 2011, 2018 and 2025.

"Students continue to have inquiring minds and need to develop knowledge and skills," he said.

Lacy, now professor and associate dean for student affairs, first considered pursuing a career in medicine before life led her to become a high school math and science teacher for 17 years. However, after undergoing extensive dental work, she decided to pursue dentistry and earned her DDS from Baylor in 1994 and later a certificate in advanced education in general dentistry.

She soon began instructing dental students in the clinic as an assistant professor in the restorative dentistry department. Lacy also worked with high school students who were training to become dental assistants.

"I haven't second-guessed it at all," she said. "I don't wish one time I had gone into medicine instead of dentistry. It was the professional calling for me."

Lacy said she likes being a contributor to someone else's well-being.

Her first administrative role was as director of academic programs. Lacy then assumed responsibility as director of student services before moving on to her current position. In addition, she's served as principal investigator of the Center of Excellence for many years, overseeing grant funding that supports A&M Dentistry's Bridge to Dentistry pipeline programs.

"Dr. Lacy's career really speaks to her deep commitment to student success, academic excellence, and expanding access to dentistry," Dean García said. "Her visionary leadership has created transformative opportunities for so many aspiring dental professionals."

Lacy plans to spend more time traveling with her husband, Glen, and visiting her mother in Alabama.

Miller and Lacy were inducted into A&M Dentistry's Hall of Fame in 2025.



Drs. Amp W. Miller III and Ernestine Lacy at Texas A&M University College of Dentistry in March 2026.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
College of Dentistry

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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GCHN24GEN

Your DCDS Foundation at Work!

by Dr. Preston Colven, DCDS Foundation President

The Vital Impact of Senior Smiles

As we move forward from high-energy events like the Texas Mission of Mercy, it is important to reflect on the quieter, equally profound work of the Senior Smiles program. While our surgical missions focus on immediate intervention, Senior Smiles allows us to engage in the vital work of preventative education for other vulnerable populations. These oral health presentations are about more than just clinical advice; they are about preserving the dignity and quality of life for a demographic that is often overlooked in public health.

During these sessions, we meet local seniors in their own community spaces to discuss the unique challenges of aging on oral health. We address the systemic links between oral health and overall wellness, emphasizing how periodontal health impacts the management of chronic conditions, like diabetes. We also provide practical guidance on managing medication-induced dry mouth and the continued necessity of oral cancer screenings, even for those without natural teeth. By meeting seniors where they are, we remove the barriers of anxiety and accessibility that often prevent them from seeking care.

Lending a hand to this program is a powerful reminder of why we chose this profession. It doesn't require a dental operatory or a full staff, only our expertise and an hour of our time. I encourage each of you to consider joining a Senior Smiles presentation. It is a rewarding way to ensure that the generation that built our community continues to live in comfort and health, with a smile they can be proud of.

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

The Dallas County Dental Society Foundation's 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.

At the same time, 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.

Still, 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 like the DCDS Foundation's Give Kids A Smile-Dallas by building stronger continuity of care and deeper community connections.

The Summit reinforced what makes this network so effective: no one is 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.



Left: Representatives from 15 organizations were invited to the 2026 Charity Dental Summit, led by Dr. Bill Gerlach, to collaborate on oral health care needs and solutions.

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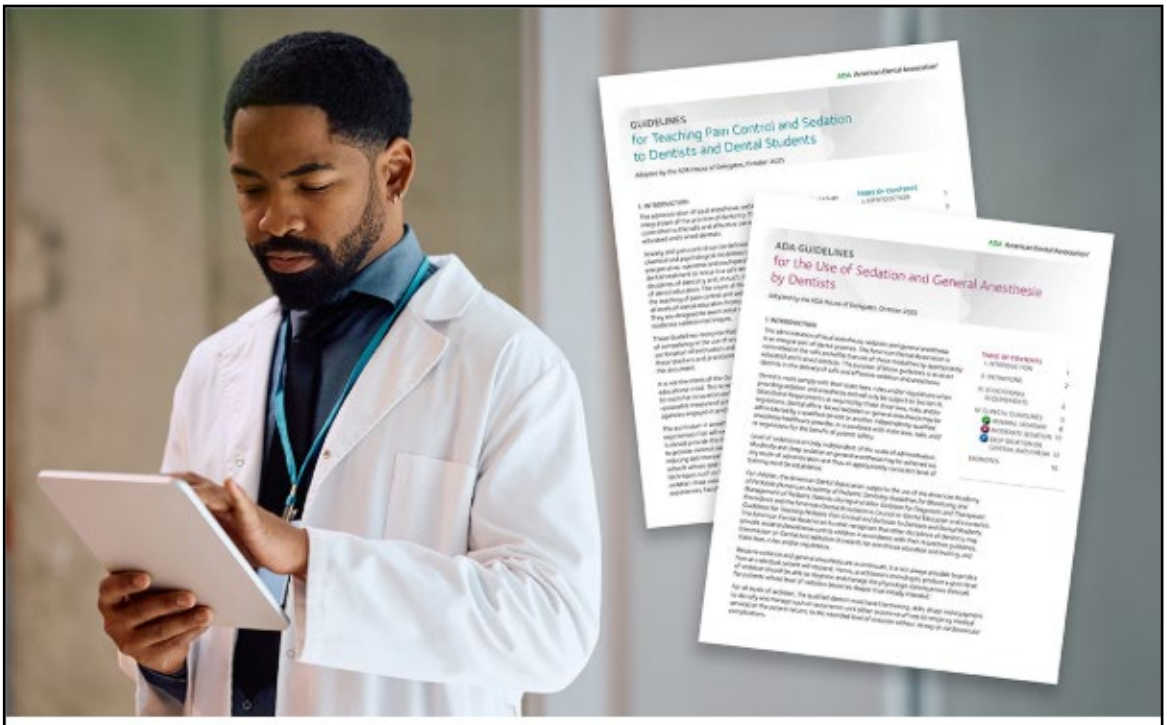
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Follow DCDS and SWDC on social media!

As we continue to build momentum toward the 99th Southwest Dental Conference, I would like to further highlight the depth and diversity of this year's speaker lineup.

Our 2026 program brings together an exceptional range of voices across clinical dentistry, interdisciplinary medicine, and practice leadership. In addition to our previously highlighted sessions, I would like to draw attention to several outstanding contributors whose expertise reflects the breadth of modern oral healthcare:

- Dr. Waldermar Polido @prof.waldemarpolido – teaching us how to take great clinical photos to drive patient compliance, referrals, and improve outcomes and in a second session, giving us the tips and tricks to take a tooth from extraction to implant restoration
- Dr. Nathaniel Lawson @drnatelawson @ dentinaltube – providing practical, material-driven approaches to adhesive dentistry and restorative optimization
- Dr. Mia Geisinger @miagdds – exploring cutting-edge regenerative techniques, including biologics such as L-PRF and their role in improving surgical outcomes
- Dr. Joshua Austin @joshuaaustindds – offering high yield and valuable insights on digital dentistry and the psychology of being a better clinician and leader
- Dr. Jonathan Ng @vancourverpros – addressing critical issues in digital impressions and expanding applications and approaches to achieve productivity and success
- Kellye Kamp @sourcekamp_ai_for_all – translating generative AI into actionable strategies for operational efficiency and practice growth

These speakers, alongside many others, reinforce that this year's program is not only comprehensive but intentionally designed to span clinical excellence, emerging technology, and real-world practice management.

Importantly, this diversity extends beyond dentistry. Our continued collaboration with UT Southwestern Medical Center introduces perspectives from oncology, endocrinology, dermatology, and immunotherapy. This underscores the increasingly integrated nature of patient care.

Equally vital is the structure of the meeting itself. The Southwest Dental Conference is designed for the entire dental team, recognizing that meaningful improvements in patient care occur when teams learn, align, and implement together.

However, what truly distinguishes this meeting cannot be fully outlined in a program.

The real value lies in the in-person experience. The exchange of ideas between colleagues, the ability to engage directly with experts, and the spontaneous conversations that often lead to lasting professional relationships. These interactions extend far beyond the meeting, influencing how we practice, collaborate, and care for patients long after the conference concludes.

At a time when digital education is abundant, the opportunity to gather, collaborate, and learn together remains uniquely powerful. The Southwest Dental Conference continues to serve not only as an educational event, but as a forum where innovation is shared, perspectives are broadened, and the future of our profession is shaped.

I encourage you to join us and to bring your team for what promises to be an exceptional and impactful meeting.



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



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