www.dcds.org

DCDS connection

September/October 2026
Volume 19, Issue 5

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 14
TAMUCOD 17
DCDS Foundation 19
Classified Advertising 21

2026 SWDC Results

by Thomas Schlieve, DDS, MD, 2026 SWDC Chairperson

Gaps Bridged, Boundaries Broken!

As we reflect on the 99th Southwest Dental Conference, I want to extend my sincere gratitude to everyone who helped make this year's meeting such a tremendous success. What we experienced together over these two days in August was far more than a Conference—it was a powerful demonstration of what organized dentistry can accomplish when we come together with a shared commitment to learning and advancing patient care.

This year, attendance, engagement and educational participation was strong, reaffirming the strength and vitality of our dental community. Our goal was to create a meeting that was clinically exceptional, collaborative in spirit and meaningful for the entire dental team. Because of your participation, enthusiasm and support, we achieved that vision.

To our attendees, thank you for investing your time, energy and dedication into continuing education and professional growth. The willingness of dentists, hygienists, assistants, administrative professionals and laboratory technicians to learn together is what continues to move our profession forward. The conversations in lecture halls, hallways, workshops and networking events reminded all of us that dentistry is strongest when we share knowledge and support one another.

To our vendors and industry partners, thank you for your continued commitment to innovation and education. The Exhibit Hall remains one of the most valuable aspects of the Southwest Dental Conference, providing attendees with direct access to emerging technologies, materials and solutions that will shape the future of patient care and practice success.

To our outstanding clinicians and speakers, thank you for sharing your expertise, experience and passion with our attendees. Your willingness to teach, mentor and inspire is what elevates this Conference year after year.

Finally, I want to express my deepest appreciation to the Scientific Committee and the Silver Stars. Their countless hours of planning, organization and behind-the-scenes work are truly what make this meeting possible. Their dedication to excellence continues to uphold the longstanding tradition and reputation of the Southwest Dental Conference.

I look forward to building on this momentum together as we continue bridging gaps, breaking boundaries and shaping the future of oral healthcare. Mark your calendar today to join us next year on August 20–21 as we celebrate the milestone 100th year of the Southwest Dental Conference—a century of education, innovation and commitment to advancing dentistry together. We look forward to celebrating our profession and honoring the history of this remarkable tradition with all of you.

2026 Chairman Dr. Tom Schlieve bestows the 2027 Chairman's Hat on incoming SWDC Chairman Dr. Wendy Steger. See more photos from this year's SWDC on pages 10-13.



The Write Stuff

Gabrielle Dizon, DDS, DCDS President

Honoring a Legacy of Service: Celebrating Jane Evans



One of the most memorable and heartfelt moments of this year's Southwest Dental Conference was the opportunity to recognize an individual whose dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment have helped shape the Dallas County Dental Society for more than three decades.

During the Chairman's Reception, we proudly honored our Executive Director, Jane Evans, for her remarkable 33 years of service to our organization. Surrounded by friends, family, and dental leaders from across the region, Jane was presented with an honorary plaque recognizing her extraordinary contributions to the Society and the profession of dentistry. In addition, we announced a lasting tribute to her legacy: the dedication and naming of the Dallas County Dental Society headquarters building in her honor.

A highlight of the evening was hearing from the many leaders whose careers and service have been impacted by Jane's guidance and support. More than ten past presidents of the Dallas County Dental Society took the stage to share personal stories, reflections, and words of gratitude. Their remarks painted a vivid picture of Jane's immeasurable influence on our organization.

The dedication of our headquarters building in Jane's name serves as a permanent testament to her impact. It is a fitting tribute to someone whose work has left an indelible mark on our Society and whose influence will continue to be felt for years to come. Every member, visitor, and future leader who walks through those doors will be reminded of the extraordinary legacy of service she leaves behind.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the entire membership of the Dallas County Dental Society, I extend our deepest gratitude to Jane Evans for her 33 years of exemplary service. It was an honor to celebrate her accomplishments at the Southwest Dental Conference and to recognize a legacy built on dedication, leadership, and a steadfast commitment to organized dentistry.



DCDS Executive Director Jane Evans (center) with many of the former DCDS presidents who served during her 33 years of service. A video of the presentation can be found by clicking here.



DCDS Connection is published bimonthly for the members of DCDS, 13633 Omega Road, Dallas, Texas 75244. First class U.S. postage is paid at Dallas, Texas. Subscriptions are free to DCDS members, and non-members may purchase copies for $10 per issue. Digital archives are available at dcds.org.

The opinions expressed herein are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily represent the viewpoint of DCDS, its Staff or its Board of Directors, unless specifically stated as such. All content is copyrighted, and reproduction or reprinting of any of the contents without written permission of DCDS is prohibited. DCDS does not warranty or endorse any products or services advertised in this publication.

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

Editor ..... Simmi Patel, DDS

Managing Editor .....Rosemary S. Martinez

Executive Director ..... Jane D. Evans

ISSN 2576-4276 Copyright ©2026

Member Publication
AADEJ
American Association of Dental Editors & Journalists

Impressions

Editorial by Simmi Patel, DDS, Editor

Never Give Up



One thing I admire about dentistry is that we do not like to give up. Whether we are in the middle of a difficult surgical or restorative procedure, dentists are not the type to throw in the towel. I greatly respect that quality in our profession. Dentistry has also taught me patience, a trait that was often lacking in my younger years.

Recently, I watched a story about an 82-year-old man who lives alone in a small village in India. Every day, he wakes up at 4:00 a.m. to bathe, pray, and clean his modest home, which is missing half a wall and remains exposed to the elements. Afterward, he goes to work and volunteers at his place of worship.

To get there, he travels 25 kilometers, or approximately 15 miles, through the jungle on his bicycle. During the rainy season, his bike chain occasionally gets stuck, forcing him to use a wooden stick to put it back into place. His wife passed away about 17 years ago, and he has no children or relatives to help him. In his village, many people struggle with addictions, so he dedicates his spare time to counseling and encouraging others to avoid substance abuse.

At the end of the story, someone asked him whether he ever felt lonely. His eyes became red with emotion, but he answered, “No, because I know that God is always with me.”

This story is not about religion. Rather, it is a reminder of how hard some people fight just to make it through a single day. It encourages me to look around and appreciate how fortunate I am to have such wonderful friends, colleagues, and family members supporting me every step of the way, even when I make mistakes. They laugh with me, cry with me, and celebrate with me, giving my life meaning and fulfillment.

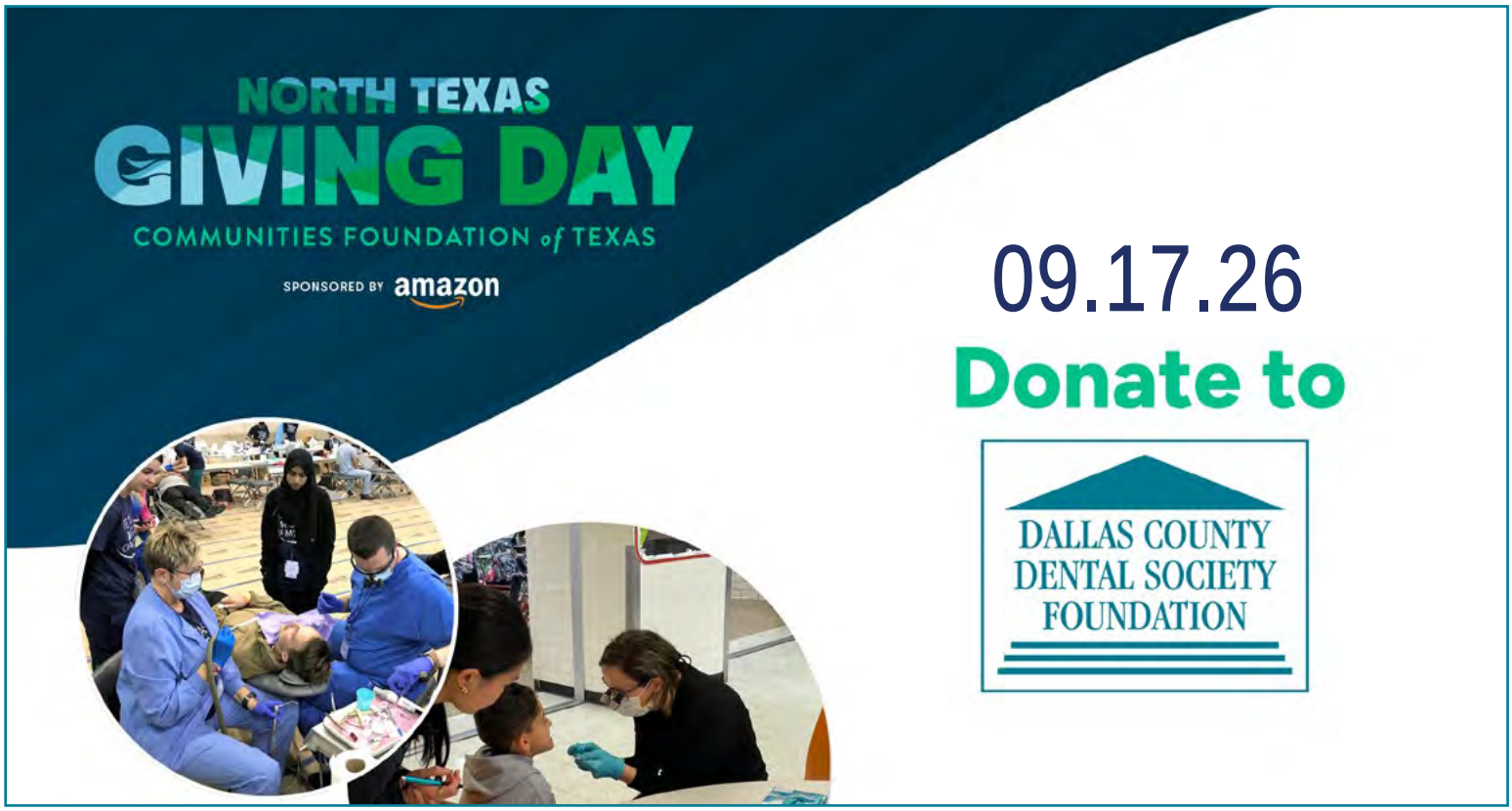
I wish I had understood this lesson when I was younger, but some lessons can only be learned through experience.

> “Some lessons can only be learned through experience.

When we feel defeated or believe we have failed, it is imperative that we remember not to give up. Perseverance is a lesson worth carrying with us, and it reflects the professionalism and resilience that define our industry.

To end on a positive note, the 82-year-old man was eventually gifted an apartment in a nearby city through the support of his place of worship, eliminating his need to travel such long distances. In the end, it turned out that he, too, was surrounded by a caring community. He had great fellowship all along.

Never give up. Sometimes the support we need is closer than we realize.



From The Hub

by Jane D. Evans, Executive Director

Looking for a Mentor? Take the Next Step in Your Professional Journey



Starting a career in dentistry can be both exciting and challenging. Whether you are a dental student or new dentist (out of school five years of less) having a mentor can make a meaningful difference. A mentor can provide more than clinical guidance. A mentor can help you navigate real world challenges, build confidence, improve communication skills, and make informed decisions about your career.

Mentorship can provide support in areas such as:

- Clinical decision-making and treatment planning
- Building confidence in patient communication
- Practice management and leadership
- Career planning and professional development
- Work-life balance and avoiding burnout
- Preparing for advanced training or specialization
- Navigating the transition from dental school to professional practice

You don't have to have everything figured out. A mentorship relationship is an opportunity to ask questions, discuss challenges, explore career goals, and gain perspective from someone who has already experienced part of the journey.

What Makes a Great Mentee? Successful mentorship starts with an engaged mentee. We encourage participants to come prepared with goals, questions, and a willingness to learn.

An ideal mentee is:

- Open to feedback
- Committed to professional growth
- Willing to communicate regularly
- Curious and eager to learn
- Respectful of their mentor's time and experience
- Ready to take action on the guidance they receive

Every dental career is different, which is why finding a mentor whose experience aligns with your goals can be so valuable. Whether you want to strengthen your clinical skills, explore practice ownership, develop leadership abilities, or simply have someone to turn to for professional advice, mentorship can help you move forward with greater confidence.

Don't navigate your dental career alone. Find a mentor, ask questions, build connections, and invest in your future.

If you are interested in becoming a mentee or would like more information about the dental mentorship program join us for "Career Connections: Speed Mentorship Match Night" on September 24, 2026. This is an opportunity to share your experience, build meaningful connections, and make a lasting impact on your future in dentistry.

You can register by going to dcds.org/events. If you have questions email jane@dcds.org.

ACCELERATE YOUR CAREER IN ONE POWERFUL EVENING!



DCDS Speed Mentorship Match Night connects early-career dentists with experienced practitioners through fast-paced, meaningful conversations focused on clinical success, practice **ownership, leadership, finances,** and career growth.

Build valuable connections, gain practical insights, and leave with resources to help you thrive during **your first five years in dentistry.**

Dentists under 5 years of practice, dental students or those in graduate/residency programs can register now at dcds.org/events.

Sponsored by the American Dental Society. Hosted by the DCDS Membership Development Committee.

New Dentists

News and perspective from dentists under 10 years of practice



May Lin, DDS

What They Ask About First

This past year I've seen a few patients starting cancer treatment workup or recovering from major surgery. And there's a pattern I've come to expect: before I even bring it up, the conversation turns to their teeth.

It's rarely the question I'm braced for. Not "will this hurt" or "how long is recovery." Instead, patients ask if they'll be able to eat again. They bring up wanting implants, a filling that fell out years ago, a partial denture that never fit right, almost in the same breath as they're processing a diagnosis that's about to take over the next year of their life. Somewhere between chemo schedules and surgery consent forms, their mouth becomes one of the few things that still feels like theirs to talk about. Eating a meal with their family, or smiling without covering their mouth, is not a small thing when everything else about their body feels out of their hands.

> **"Eating a meal with their family, or smiling without covering their mouth, is not a small thing when everything else about their body feels out of their hands.**

One of the more interesting problems sitting at the intersection of head and neck surgery and dentistry is how to rehabilitate patients at scale, bridging the gap between vascularized or non-vascularized bone grafts and implant-supported dental restoration. It's a hard problem. And patients will go to great lengths to get their teeth back, which tells you something about how much it actually matters to them.

Dental rehabilitation is rarely just about function. It's tied to dignity, especially when so much else about a patient's body no longer feels like their own decision. Chewing well enough to maintain weight through treatment, healing properly after reconstructive surgery, smiling in front of family without a second thought: none of that is a small ask. It's often what's holding a patient's confidence together through difficult treatment.

Several of these patients also carry stories of dental clinics that deferred treatment because of their complex medical history. I hope more of the field grows comfortable rehabilitating medically complex patients, with the patient staying the main focus regardless of specialty. Whether that conversation happens at medical and dental conferences or through continuing education, I hope we keep pushing it toward multidisciplinary care. Bringing a patient's surgeon or oncologist into the same conversation as their dentist, dietitian, and speech-language pathologist would go a long way toward improving that care.

Pre-treatment dental evaluation is an essential part of comprehensive head and neck cancer care. Many patients require dental clearance and oral hygiene education before radiation therapy. At some hospitals, any patient receiving head and neck radiation gets a full mouth extraction to avoid the risk of osteoradionecrosis. While that's indicated for some patients, it's hard to overlook the shift in diet and daily life it creates for someone already going through difficult treatment.

Nutrition is closely tied to that same care. Many patients end up on tube feeds, most often bolus feeds, which can be uncomfortable and make it hard to hit their nutrition goals. That can spiral into poor wound healing and other complications, and when patients are already fighting what feels like a losing battle, oral hygiene often stops feeling like something worth the effort.

The maxillomandibular complex sits at the center of all of this. Collaborating across specialties, surgery, oncology, dentistry, nutrition, speech pathology, is what actually moves the needle on a patient's head and neck experience. No single provider working alone can do that on their own.

It's changed how I open these conversations. Now I ask patients what matters most to them before I tell them what I think matters. Sometimes it's not the biggest problem on the chart. Sometimes it's realizing that food, one of the few comforts they have left, might be off the table during recovery. Whatever they ask about first, we should treat their concerns with respect and care.

DCDS Member's Message Board

Upcoming Events

September 15 – General Membership Meeting

September 17, 2026 – North Texas Giving Day: DCDS Foundation

September 24 – Career Connections: Speed Mentorship Match Night

November 17 – General Membership Meeting

Register at www.dcds.org/events



Welcome New Members!

GENERAL PRACTICE

Malak AlRefai
Tanner McKay Argyle
Urwa Asad
Michael Austin
Adriana Caridad Beruvides
Amisha Bhardwaj
Angie Bradley
Mavis Luma Chenyi
Jay Chou
Cameron Noelle Chung
Sydney Cremer
Lorenzo Cruz
Ramtin Dastgir
Anniya D Davis
Peter M Doan
Kate Ewing
Sarah Gencarella McCabe
Michelle Gibbs
Lindawatti Hermawan
Javairia Idris
Mickayla Jasmin
Jasmine Nelson Johnson
Alexander Soo-Sung Jun
Jorge Anibal Laguna Sandoval
Peter Lam
Evan J Leibrock
David Lloyd
Thomas H Luepke IV
Camila B Maeso Martino
Jacob Daniel Mahler
Limi Mathews
Kathryn Jean Mootz
Elaine Morrow
Thuy Thi Thanh Nguyen
Justin Mason Nguyen
Alexander C. Nunn
Silvia Nweze-Okudo
Danielle Ha Pham
Tyler Resendez
Carla Alexandra Rivera Hitzschky
Karenis Sanchez
Sumayya Zaakirah Shaik
Crosbi Shelby
Bahram Soroushi
Omar Soto
Wendel Teixeira
Rashmi Thapa
James Luan Tran
Dylan Truong
Levi Ulmer
Tey Um
Brian Khoa Van
Nicholas Terence Vankka
Juhi Vyas
Warda S. Wyne
Reule Yardley

PROSTHODONTICS

Nikita Sinha
Austin Tyler Green

ORAL/MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

Jonathan Borg

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

Elizabeth P Vaidyan

GRAD STUDENTS

Ahmed Abdullah
Michael J Andrews
Kathleen Dalton Becker
Richard Collin Burris
Karina Caia Lemos
Christy Ren Chang
Maya Dalal
Ioakeim Panagiotis Flevotomas
Braedon Foster Gunn
Jung-Woo Hong
Yan Jing
Thomas Taehyeon Kim
Danika Lund
Daniela Machado
Hamsini Nathan
Leslie Bich-Linh Nguyen
Justin Quynh Long Nguyen
Ignacio Parra Carrasquer
Javier Alejandro Perez Colina
Eleanor M. Revelis
Hannah Taylor Ryan
Jezrael Saiko
Alyssa Schiavon Gandini
Andrew Trinh
Bhavi Vashi
Andrea Louise Woywitka



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
- 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

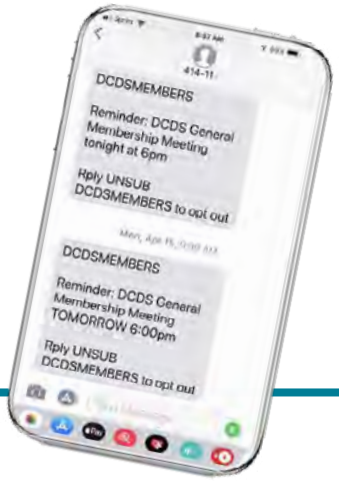
DCDS members receive ALL membership benefits offered by Texas Dental Association, including free entry to TDA TEXAS Meeting.

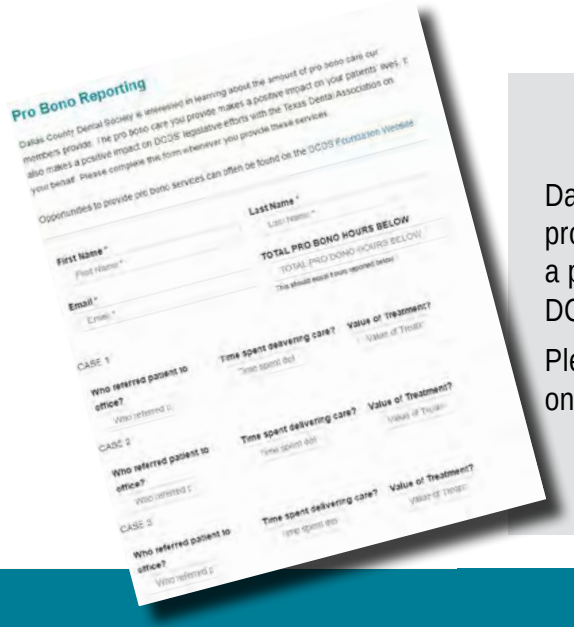
DCDS members receive ALL membership benefits offered by American Dental Association, including photo directory and public referrals through Find-a-Dentist.

www.dcds.org/membership

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

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





PRO BONO HOURS

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

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

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

Applause, Applause!



DCDS Member Jacqueline M. Plemons, DDS, MS, has been selected as an At-Large Nominee for the Texas Academy of General Dentistry's (Texas AGD) Texas Dentist of the Year™ Award. Dr. Plemons is one of 16 distinguished dentists nominated for this year's award. She and the other nominees will be honored at the Texas Academy Awards on Friday, September 18, 2026. "The Texas Dentist of the Year nominees represent the very best of our profession," said Texas AGD President Dr. Jon Dossett, MAGD. "Through clinical excellence, leadership, mentorship, and service to their communities, these dentists have made a lasting impact on both their patients and the future of dentistry. We are proud to recognize Dr. Plemons and all of this year's nominees for their outstanding contributions."

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!

The ADA has released new advocacy resources to help dentists and dental students engage directly with their elected officials through in-district advocacy. Hosting a member of Congress at your dental school, practice or community event is an opportunity to tell your story firsthand, showcase the care you provide and demonstrate how government policies directly affect patients and the dental profession. The ADA provides tools, guidance and support to help make these visits successful.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN IN-DISTRICT ADVOCACY.

ADA
American Dental Association®

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.



2026 Southwest Dental Conference

Thank you to all who attended and supported the Southwest Dental Conference!
These photos and more from the Chairman's Dinner can be found by clicking here.

































Thank You, 2026 Silver Stars: Our Ambassadors of the SWDC Conference!

Dr. Michael Austin
Ms. Kaytlin Barfield
Ms. Vicki Batten
Dr. Stephanie Bowers
Ms. Melissa Brinlee
Ms. Angela Castleman
Dr. Zhou Chen
Dr. Linda Cheng
Dr. Akshay Chhana
Dr. Katherine Clark
Ms. Magnolia Cruz
Dr. Noah Cruz
Ms. Judy Curb
Dr. Beau Deaver
Dr. Mayra Estrada
Ms. Denise Francisco
Dr. Gayle Glenn
Dr. Sujatha Govindarajan
Dr. Raquel Hazbun
Dr. Bob Hunsucker
Dr. Brent Hutson
Dr. Missy Jaynes
Dr. Hayden Keys
Ms. Thao Kim
Dr. Andy Lam
Dr. Celeste Latham
Dr. May Lin
Dr. Thomas Luepke
Ms. Joanne Martinez
Dr. Camila Maeso Martino
Dr. Ashley McGhee
Dr. Danette McNew
Mr. Cody Mindedahl
Dr. Pavani Molli
Ms. Chelsea Moorman
Dr. Nathan Neal
Dr. Mike Neeley
Dr. Phuong Ngo
Dr. Simmi Patel
Dr. Elise Pruett
Dr. Michael Rainwater
Ms. Stacie Ray
Ms. Rachel Roberts
Dr. Zachary Schwab
Dr. Jeff Siebert
Dr. Carmen Smith
Ms. Leah Spittle
Dr. Audrey Stansbury
Dr. Olga Stepanchenko
Ms. Carla Strickland
Mr. Dave Swift
Dr. Sarah Tevis
Dr. Juhi Vyas
Dr. Jon Williamson
Dr. Xixi Wu
Dr. Reule Yardley
Dr. Kay Youngren
Dr. Aisa Zamani











Thank you to our 2025 - 2026 Scientific Committee for searching out great clinicians!

Dr. Wendy Steger
Dr. Gabby Dizon
Dr. Kathy Kasper
Dr. Bob Hunsucker
Dr. Thomas Schlieve
Dr. Gayle Glenn
Dr. Mitra Bolouri















A big THANK YOU to DCDS Members who shared their thought leadership by presenting!

Dr. Pat Allen
Dr. Gabrielle Jackson
Dr. Mac McDonald
Dr. Paras Patel
Dr. Jacqueline Plemons
Dr. Andrew Read-Fuller
Dr. Randy Sandovich
Dr. David Witherspoon

Diversity + Inclusivity

by Martin Kahn, DDS
Diversity and Inclusivity Committee Member

Different Perspectives, Stronger Communities



For the past 15 years, I have been a board member of my neighborhood association during which time I have experienced the joy of working with a diverse group of neighbors whose different backgrounds and experiences have strengthened our community. We have worked together to provide our members with many worthwhile events and community service projects. Our board consists of individuals from a variety of career paths including a musician, realtor, CPA, CFO, graphic artist—and even a dentist. Several members have physical handicaps and three originally were from foreign countries.

With this in mind, it was very natural to transfer these positive experiences to DCDS and I have never been disappointed. I am always pleased when reading the names of our newest members whose names usually reflect a diverse heritage, I have witnessed our society grow and mature these past many years. Our different backgrounds, experiences and perspectives have made us a stronger organization and better able to serve the diverse communities of Dallas. The combination of changes in the demographics of our city and the outstanding leadership and guidance from the many Boards of Directors has resulted in a Society we can all be proud to represent.

We continue to offer an array of opportunities through our DCDS Foundation that services all the people of Dallas and its suburbs by supporting health fairs, career days, classroom visits and other community events. As a retired dentist of 14 years, I remain an active volunteer. I have always enjoyed the events I have participated in over the years and have been thanked by the office staff at DCDS every time.

I hope many of you will avail yourselves to assist at one of the many outreach programs offered by the Foundation. You will be rewarded in the best way a person can be with gratitude, friendship and the satisfaction of making a difference in someone's life.



General Membership Meeting - September 2026

An Update and Review of Oral Cancer and Precancerous Lesions: What Every Clinician Can Not Afford to Not Know

JOHN WRIGHT, DDS, MS



Dr. John M. Wright is a Regents Professor, Department of Diagnostic Sciences, Texas A&M University College of Dentistry in Dallas Texas. He is an oral pathologist and a Diplomate of both the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology and the American Board of Oral Medicine. He has contributed over 200 publications to scientific literature, including 32 book chapters and 5 textbooks. Dr. Wright has served as President of the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, President of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial pathology and President of the Internatioanl Association of Oral Pathologists. Dr. Wright was a contributing member to the last two WHO classifications of head and neck tumors and is an editor of the recently released AFIP Fascicle on Head and Neck Pathology. He has been a member of the DCDS for almost 50 years and has given over 400 invited lectures worldwide.

58,500 patients will be diagnosed with oral cancer this year in the USA and 12,250 will die. Dentistry deals with no other disease that extracts a greater price in morbidity and mortality than oral cancer. Practicing clinicians have an ethical, professional and medicolegal responsibility to be knowledgeable about this disease.

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

Sponsored by McLerran & Associates

Learning Objectives:

- Gain knowledge of the epidemiologic and demographic features of patients
- Become familiar with the etiology including HPV and the biologic principles of cancer
- Identify the clinical features of oral cancer and precancerous lesions
- Understand your role in the identification, diagnosis and management of oral cancer

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL ACCESS. IF YOU DECIDE TO CHANGE YOUR VIEWING PREFERENCE AFTER REGISTRATION, PLEASE CALL THE DCDS OFFICE. REGISTER TODAY AT WWW.DCDS.ORG/EVENTS

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

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

DALLAS COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 15

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

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

Dallas County Dental Society is an ADA CERP recognized provider.

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

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

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

TEXAS A&M COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY

CONTINUING DENTAL EDUCATION

Better Solutions. *BETTER CARE.*



Controlled Substance Management: Best Practices in Dentistry

Explore effective non-opioid pain management solutions and practical tools for delivering safer, patient-centered care. Learn from Karen A. Baker, RPh, MS, professor emeritus at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry, and gain evidence-based strategies to improve patient care.

Friday, September 25, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.
This course meets TSBDE requirements

NEW

Registered Dental Hygienist Local Infiltration Anesthesia Renewal Course



Join Eric Fox, MS, RDH, clinical assistant professor in the Dental Hygiene Program at Texas A&M College of Dentistry, to enhance your skills in local infiltration anesthesia and learn evidence-based techniques that improve patient comfort and clinical outcomes.

Friday, October 9, 2026 - 9:30 a.m.
In-person & Online

Don't wait... spots fill up fast!

tx.ag/CDEcourses

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
College of Dentistry

Office of Lifelong Learning and Alumni Relations

Texas A&M University College of Dentistry

TAMU College of Dentistry's $40,000 jaw expanders study is accepting patients

Dr. Shivam Mehta, clinical assistant professor and program director in orthodontics at Texas A&M University College of Dentistry in Dallas, is accepting patients for a $40,000 study of jaw expander types and techniques in teens and young adults undergoing orthodontic treatment. Plans are to study 20 patients with bone-anchored expanders and 20 with hybrid expanders.

The American Association of Orthodontists Foundation grant enables Mehta to evaluate two standard mini-screw-assisted rapid palatal expander protocols for reshaping narrow jaws to determine which treatment design is most effective. Studying patients ages 14 to 25 in both A&M Dentistry's clinic and in private practices in Dallas-Fort Worth, he's researching bone-anchored MARPE against hybrid MARPE that anchor expanders to bone and teeth.

"Which one orthodontists use is often dependent on where they studied, continuing education they received and what they feel comfortable using," Mehta said.

He added bone-anchored MARPEs tend to lead to higher stress on palatal mini screws, while the hybrid technique puts higher stress on molars.

Part of the study researches how each treatment affects the jaw and jaw structures. Mehta, who joined A&M Dentistry in 2024 from Marquette University School of Dentistry, said this could be among the first clinical trials on two different kinds of MARPEs since their introduction in 2010.

Mehta said previous studies showed that 14%-20% of the global population has a posterior crossbite, and that correcting a crossbite is easiest in young children because their jaws are still growing and more malleable; traditional expanders are most effective in such cases.

However, as more adults seek orthodontic care, MARPEs are necessary to help many avoid surgery to expand narrow maxillary jaws. Roughly one in three orthodontic patients is an adult, according to the American Association of Orthodontists' latest information.





Above left: Orthodontics student Dr. Janessa Montefalco looks at adult patient Roxana Lopez during an appointment at Texas A&M University College of Dentistry. Above right: Dr. Shivam Mehta.

Some simulation studies have found bone-anchored MARPEs more advantageous for adult patients with periodontal disease, but Mehta noted that further study is necessary. Mehta further stated that a high percentage of his patients at A&M Dentistry and in practice are adults.

Two patients were enrolled in the study as of Aug. 10, and both will receive all their treatment at A&M Dentistry's clinic. Trial participants must be new patients who haven't had orthodontic treatment.

The study investigators also bring valuable perspectives from their experience treating patients with MARPEs in private practice.

Jolley Orthodontics in Trophy Club and myKIDSdds in Dallas are slated to accept patients for the study. Drs. Cameron Jolley, owner and orthodontist at J.O., and Glenn Cohen, an orthodontist at myKIDSdds, are clinical faculty in the orthodontics department. They will screen patients for the trial at their practices.

"We have a tendency in our office to use a hybrid tooth/bone-borne MARPE because there is no clear evidence that one is superior to the other," Jolley said. "This study will answer relevant clinical questions regarding this technique, which should improve outcomes for our patients."

Mehta said MARPEs can help adults of all ages, but the study will focus on adolescents and young adults. Patients will be studied for six months, and future research may include studying older age groups.

"I hope to have the first results by early next year," he said. "Potentially, a second study could look at the long-term outcomes—possibly as long as two years—and bring in some of the same patients."

Dentists who may have patients who could qualify for the study may reach Mehta at smehta@tamu.edu.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
College of Dentistry

At Texas A&M University College of Dentistry, we stand for better care. Since 1905, the college has served patients and educated future oral health professionals. Today, it continues to transform lives through nationally recognized education, groundbreaking research, specialized patient care and continuing dental education — building healthier communities and brighter futures. Learn more at dentistry.tamu.edu and follow @TAMUdental.

General Membership Meeting - November 2026
Prescribing Controlled Substances: Drugs, Monitoring and Standards of Care

JACQUELINE PLEMONS, DDS, MS



Dr. Jacqueline Plemons is a board certified periodontist in Dallas who currently serves as Editor for the Texas Dental Association. Dr. Plemons attended Texas A&M University for her undergraduate training before graduating from Baylor College of Dentistry in 1986. She completed her periodontal residency in 1988 earning a Master of Science in Oral Biology and a Certificate in Periodontics. She also completed a Fellowship in Oral Medicine and has advanced training in dental implants and dental anesthesiology. Dr. Plemons is a Professor in the Department of Periodontics at Texas A&M University College of Dentistry where she serves as the Director of the Stomatology Center, a nationally recognized center for patients suffering from unique medical conditions affecting the oral cavity. Dr. Plemons lectures across the United States and has published numerous article in periodontics, oral medicine and dental implants.

The abuse of prescription narcotics has reached epidemic proportions across the nation. Both national and state-wide efforts to combat the problem affect the practice of dentistry in Texas and across the nation. This course will review safe and ethical ways to prescribe and monitor the use of controlled substances as they relate to dental care and how to manage dental pain.

Learning Objectives:

- Discover the nature and magnitude of the opioid epidemic in the US/Texas
- Review safe and effective pain management techniques
- Learn approved procedures of prescribing and monitoring controlled substances

Audience: Dentists
AGD Code: 134/340
CE Hours: 2 technical and/or scientific
CE Verification provided

SPONSORED BY Wingspan Transitions

WINGSPAN TRANSITIONS

ALSO JOINING US:

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



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

REGISTER TODAY AT WWW.DCDS.ORG/EVENTS

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

Cancellation Policy: The cancellation/refund deadline is November 10, 2026. A 20% administrative fee will be assessed for all cancellation requests on or prior to this date. Since this is a limited attendance course, "no shows" will forfeit the full course fee. No refunds will be granted after November 10, 2026.

DALLAS COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 17

REGISTER TODAY AT WWW.DCDS.ORG/EVENTS

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

Dallas County Dental Society
is an ADA CERP recognized provider.

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

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

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

Your DCDS Foundation at Work!

by Dr. Preston Colven, DCDS Foundation President

Give a Gift That Keeps Smiles Growing

North Texas Giving Day is September 17, and your gift to the Dallas County Dental Society Foundation can help bring healthier smiles to thousands of people across Dallas County.

Last year's North Texas Giving Day gifts are already making a difference. So far in 2026, those donations have helped us provide 15 community health fairs and Tooth Talks, reaching 840 adults and nearly 3,000 children with dental screenings, oral health education and oral health kits.

And we're not done. We expect to reach 2,000 more people before the end of the year.

Your North Texas Giving Day gift helps make programs like these possible:

- Give Kids a Smile — dental education and screenings for underserved children
- Smiles for Caregivers — supporting those who spend their lives caring for others
- Senior Smiles — bringing oral health education and care to older adults in Dallas County
- Scholarships — investing in the next generation of dental professionals and public health leaders.

Early giving begins September 1, and if you give on September 18, your donation can help us unlock additional matching funds and bonuses, making your gift go even further.

Help us dream bigger for 2027. More programs. More people reached. More healthy smiles. Give on North Texas Giving Day and help the DCDS Foundation continue enhancing oral health in our community.

Visit https://www.northtexasgivingday.org/DCDSFoundation for more information and to donate.

Mark your calendar for the Dental Tree Program: November 6–13, 2026

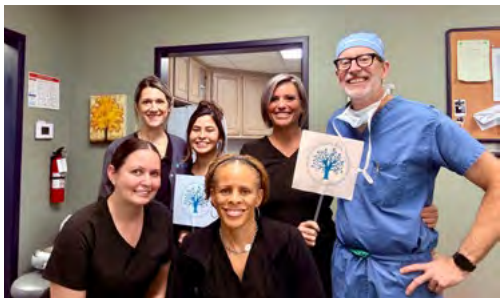
This year, the DCDS Foundation's Dental Tree Program is growing from three days to an entire week of giving back. The idea is simple: help someone in the community through oral health care or education.

You can use your time and talents to help someone already in your chair by identifying a patient within your own practice who could benefit from pro bono dental care—perhaps a longtime patient who needs treatment but doesn't have the financial means to receive it. No referrals. No complicated process. Just an opportunity to make a hyper-local impact by helping someone you already know.

Or you can sign up for one of the several community service projects we have set up, including Tooth Talks, Meals on Wheels + Oral health education, or community health fairs. No supplies to buy...just sign up and show up!

Below: photos from previous Dental Tree Program activities.





DALLAS COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION • DENTAL TREE PROGRAM •

During Dental Tree Week, provide care, share your expertise and give someone a reason to smile. The Foundation will collect information about the value of care provided so we can celebrate the collective impact of DCDS members giving back to their communities.

Your time. Your talent. Your opportunity to make a difference.

Find out more at https://www.dcdsfoundation.org/events/dental-tree-event.



TO VOLUNTEER WWW.DCDSFOUNDATION.ORG TO GIVE

DENTAL OFFICE NETWORK

Your Transition is closer than you think!

Is your practice ready?

Go with a Guide that knows the territory!

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

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

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

Practice of the Month: Carrollton

GP practice. 4 ops., 1900 sq. ft., high visibility shopping center, state-of-the-art all digital practice run on Dentrix. 20 NP's per month. Extremely well run satellite practice with 100% collections. Doc generates 300K on ONLY one day per week! Build this awesome practice further on your own with your own staff.

Email Info@OfficeNetworkUSA.com

Reference Code: BCH8

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



Classified Advertising

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

For Sale/Lease - Offices

OFFICE TO SHARE

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

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

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





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

Follow DCDS and SWDC on social media!

SAVE THE DATE! AUG. 20-21, 2027

