

March/April 2023

# the Nugget

## A Lesson in Pseudoscience



# Get Ready For Our UPCOMING EVENTS

MAR  
14

## General Membership Meeting - In-Person

Tuesday • 5:45pm Social & Exhibitors  
6:45pm Dinner & Program  
Hilton Sacramento Arden West • \$80

## Malpractice Stories: Risk Exposure, Prevention, Safety, and Empowerment (3 CEU, Core)

Presented by Michael Kowalski, DDS, JD

MAR  
17

## Continuing Education - In-Person

Friday • 8:30am–12:30pm • SDDS Office • \$159

## COMPLIANCE DAY – Do You Have What You Need? (4 CEU, Core)

Presented by Dolan Williams, CEO; B & W Compliance (SDDS Vendor Member) and Teresa Pichay, CHPC, Sr. Regulatory Compliance Analyst; CDA

MAR  
22

## Continuing Education - Webinar

Wednesday • 6:30–8:30pm  
Complimentary for SDDS members

## Dental Care During Pregnancy - Increasing Utilization for Improved Patient Health Outcomes (2 CEU, Core)

Presented by Jay Kumar, DDS; Susan Gorman, MD; Mark Seaver, MD and Margaret Delmore, MD, DDS

MAR  
29

## Business/Practice Management Forum - In-Person

Wednesday • 6:30–8:30pm • SDDS Office • \$75

## Buy it, Build It, Lease It (No CEU)

Presented by a Panel of Experts, our Vendor Member Partners

APR  
11

## General Membership Meeting - In-Person

Tuesday • 5:45pm Social & Exhibitors  
6:45pm Dinner & Program  
Hilton Sacramento Arden West • \$80

## Dinner with the Deans - State of Dental Education and Future of Dentistry (3 CEU, Core)

Presented by Kevin Keating, MS, DDS, Nader Nadershahi, DDS, MBA, EdD and Michael Reddy DMD, DMSc

APR  
15

## CPR–AHA BLS Blended Learning

Saturday • 8–8:45am, 9–9:45am, 10–10:45am  
SDDS Office • \$87.50

## Skills Testing, 3 Time Sessions (4 CEU, Core)

APR  
18

## Continuing Education - Webinar

Tuesday • 12–1pm • SDDS Office • \$79

## OSHA: Safety Leaders Part 1 (1 CEU, Core)

Presented by Nancy Dewhirst, RDH

APR  
19

## Business/Practice Management Forum - In-Person

Wednesday • 6:30–8:30pm • SDDS Office • \$75

## Build Your Fortress of Protection (No CEU)

Presented by Joshua Johnson

Sponsored by Fortune Law Firm (SDDS Vendor Member)

APR  
21

## Continuing Education - In-Person

Friday • 8:30am–3pm • SDDS Office • \$179

## Pearls in Our Backyard (6 CEU, Core)

Presented by Ian Marion, DDS; Homan Javaheri, DMD, MDS; Matt Sandretti, DDS, MSD; Clifford Chow, DDS and Jeff Delgadillo, DDS

APR  
25

## Continuing Education - Webinar

Tuesday • 12–1pm • \$79

## OSHA: Team Training Part 2 (1 CEU, Core)

Presented by Nancy Dewhirst, RDH

**SAVE  
THE DATE!**

**May 4, 2023**

**Big  
Day of  
Giving**

On May 4<sup>th</sup> donate to the  
**Sacramento District  
Dental Foundation**



View all CE courses  
online with this QR code.



Join us for  
**Dental Day at  
Sutter Health Park!**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2023**

Bring your staff, family, and friends to enjoy a fun  
night out of baseball at our own Sutter Health Park.

Register online at [sdds.org](https://sdds.org)!



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Brian Ralli, DDS

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Carl Hillendahl, DDS • *Editor-in-Chief*  
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## Awards

### International College of Dentists (ICD)

2022 • Humanitarian Service Award  
 2022 • Special Citation Award  
 2022 • Overall Newsletter, honorable mention  
 2021 • Platinum Pencil, *honorable mention*  
 Outstanding use of graphics  
 2021 • Special Citation Award  
 2020 • Platinum Pencil  
 2020 • Golden Pen, *honorable mention*  
 Article / series of articles of interest to the profession  
 2020 • Special Citation Award  
 2019 • Special Citation Award  
 2019 • Golden Pen, *honorable mention*  
 2018 • Humanitarian Service Award  
 2017 • Special Citation Award  
 2016 • Golden Pen, *honorable mention*  
 2015 • Special Citation Award  
 2014 • Outstanding Cover, *honorable mention*

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# Pearls in Our Backyard

## Friday, April 21, 2023 • 8:30am–3pm

Presented by Ian Marion, DDS; Homan Javaheri, DMD, MDS;  
Matt Sandretti, DDS, MSD; Clifford Chow, DDS and Jeff Delgadillo, DDS

### Pediatric Frenum Assessment and Treatment

Nearly every child has a frenum - maxillary, mandibular, lingual, or buccal, they are everywhere! The key for a dental practitioner is to be able to identify frenae, and determine when intervention is necessary. This presentation will include overview frenum identification, classification, indications for treatment, other key players in frenum evaluation/treatment will be discussed as well, as treatment often involves professionals outside of the dental field.

*Dr. Ian Marion is a Pediatric Dentist working at The Spot for Smiles in Elk Grove and Folsom. He received his DDS from the University of the Pacific, followed by a GPR at St. Barnabas Hospital, and a Pediatric Dentistry Residency at the University of Washington in Seattle.*



### CBCT in Endodontics

This lecture will discuss how additional information provided by CBCT may increase and improve diagnostic accuracy and confidence in decision-making as well as have an impact of treatment planning, endodontic treatment and follow-up.

*Dr. Homan Javaheri began his dental career in Tehran, Iran at Shahid Beheshti University Dental School where he earned his DDS degree. He later attended Boston University School of Dental Medicine where he was awarded his DMD. Dr. Javaheri also completed University of Connecticut's Advanced Endodontic Graduate Program where he received a certificate in Endodontics and a Master of Dental Science degree.*



### Orthodontics and Restorative Treatment: A Winning Combination

One of the most rewarding and challenging aspects of interdisciplinary care is the coordination of tooth movement with restorative treatment planning. As a team, we have the opportunity to use our individual skillsets, creativity and collaborative mindset to design the best outcomes for our patients. We will discuss orthodontic considerations for some of the most common restorative challenges as well as the role of digital dentistry in evaluation, treatment planning and visualization of final results.

*Dr. Matthew Sandretti graduated from UCLA with both his Bachelor's and DDS degrees and then completed his Master's degree and orthodontic residency at the Medical College of Virginia. He practices orthodontics in Elk Grove and Sacramento.*



### Chairside Risk Assessment for Temporomandibular Disorders

Temporomandibular disorders (TMD) risk assessment is difficult in general dentistry due to the complexity of multifactorial risk factors, paucity of robust data and lack of standardized education. Secondary data analysis from a recent large prospective TMD study has resulted in a chairside risk assessment tool that can be utilized based on a dentist's standard medical history. This risk assessment tool can be important with respect to dental treatment planning and prevention of the development of TMDs.

*Dr. Clifford Chow is an Orofacial Pain Specialist that limits his practice to the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of temporomandibular disorders and orofacial pain. He graduated with a DDS degree from the University of California San Francisco School of Dentistry in 1981.*



### MRONJ Update & Emergency Prevention/Preparedness

The best way to respond to the most common emergencies or complications is preemptive preparation. We will also discuss an update on MRONJ (Medication-Related Osteonecrosis of the Jaws).

*Dr. Jeffrey Delgadillo graduated from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) School of Dentistry and completed oral surgery residency at Montefiore Medical Center in New York City. Dr. Delgadillo was trained at the largest implant and bone regeneration center in the country.*



## 6 CEU, Core • \$179

Registration begins 30 minutes prior to each class

Class held in the SDDS Classroom  
2035 Hurley Way, Ste 200 Sacramento



Register online today  
with this QR code.

# President's Message



By **Lisa Dobak, DDS**  
2023 SDDS President

## Be the Most Trusted Source

Congratulations to all those who supported and participated in the SDDS MidWinter Convention! It was a huge success with over 600 dentists and teams attendees, 30 sponsors, 80 exhibitors and company reps, and 28 local and international speakers. What a great two days we had!

While it was a huge success, it was also a huge amount of effort to organize - which begs the question of why do we do this every year? The answer is much more than just for the world-class CE. It is an opportunity to see old friends, classmates, a chance for peer networking, to visit with the companies and their reps with new materials and equipment and services for dentists and their offices, spend time with your favorite specialist outside of the usual busy work week, relax with your team members outside the office, visit with our SDDS team, and strengthen our dental community ties....and it was FUN! (Oh, the fun we had!)

March kicks off the beginning of our other fabulous CE programs including OSHA refreshers for your team, License Renewal and Pearls in the Backyard with our very own members speaking. Our General Membership Meetings offer

more opportunities to socialize before the dinner and presentation, which always includes CE on timely and relevant topics. Special effort is being placed on welcoming new members and first time attendees to our GMs. Please visit the New Member Corner next to registration and look for the members with "First Timer" ribbons. Our energetic Membership Committee

**Dentists, because of our knowledge, skills, and expertise should be the most trusted source of oral health information.**

members will be present with their new concept - "Be a Buddy!" They will be wearing their "I'm a Buddy" ribbons. Would you be a buddy too? Let us know and we'll get you a ribbon too! Please make a special effort to introduce yourself and include our new members and first time attendees into our SDDS community.

Do you remember your first General Membership meeting?

Finally, let's congratulate Dr. Brian Ralli and our superb *Nugget* Committee for this month's issue. In our 24 hour social media informercial world, the public is inundated with promises of "better, faster, cheaper" by those with an agenda. Dentists, because of our knowledge, skills, and expertise should be the most trusted source of oral health information. However, it's essential to have a platform greater than the one-on-one educational opportunities we have in our practices. Thank you to the *Nugget* Committee for your wise choice of topics and your talented presentation. I'm sure we will all benefit and learn from these articles so we can remain the most trusted source of dental health information.

Warmest Regards,

## Swing for Smiles

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



CONTESTS! • RAFFLE PRIZES!  
DRINKS ON THE COURSE!  
GOLF SOUVENIRS!

Join us to support the  
SDDS Foundation on May 12th at  
Ancil Hoffman Golf Course! All  
proceeds benefit the programs  
funded by the Foundation



## LEADERSHIP

President: Lisa Dobak, DDS  
Immediate Past President: Wesley Yee, DDS  
President Elect/Treasurer: Ash Vasanthan, DDS, MS  
Secretary: Nima Aflatooni, DDS  
Editor-in-Chief: Carl Hillendahl, DDS  
Executive Director: Cathy Levering

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Craig Alpha, DDS  
Eric Grove, DDS  
Lisa Laptalo, DMD  
Viren Patel, DDS  
Kart Raghuraman, DDS  
Jeff Sue, DDS  
Chirag Vaid, DDS  
Guest of the Board: Ashleigh Areias, DDS  
Guest of the Board: Andrea Cervantes, DDS

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CPR: Margaret Delmore, MD, DDS  
Membership/Engagement:  
Ashleigh Areias, DDS/Sarah Mathai, DDS  
Nominating/Leadership Development:  
Wesley Yee, DDS

## COMMITTEES STANDING

GMC Transition: Kevin Keating, DDS, MS  
Budget & Finance Advisory: Ash Vasanthan, DDS, MS  
Bylaws Advisory: Volki Felahy, DDS/Wesley Yee, DDS  
CE Advisory: Eric Wong, DDS  
Strategic Planning Advisory:  
Ash Vasanthan, DDS, MS/Nima Aflatooni, DDS

## TASK FORCES ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Foundation: Carl Hillendahl, DDS  
SacPAC: Gary Ackerman, DDS

## SPECIAL EVENTS OTHER

Cathy Levering | Executive Director  
Della Yee | Director of Operations  
Sofia Gutierrez | Foundation Projects/CPR  
Anne Rogerson | Office Manager  
Jessica Luther | Graphic Designer  
Katie Marshall | Administrative Assistant/Membership

## SDDS STAFF

## What We Are and What We Do... And Why?



By **Cathy B. Levering**  
SDDS Executive Director

Over the past several months, through the strategic planning process and the initial meetings with some of the committees, it has become very clear what our Society means to our members...

**COMMUNITY! Our community of dentists!**  
*Support for each other, make friends with colleagues,  
learn from each other, meet our peers and share information.*

Our local dental society provides small group interaction, local networking, a 'part of the team' ambiance, a phone number that answers all day long with a live voice (the Doctor line is 916-446-1227), resources to members, answers to questions (a lot of questions!), peer support and camaraderie among members and again, **community**. While the ADA and CDA represent our members on many levels of advocacy, small business support, resources and information, members are telling us what is most important is they want to be part of our **community**, locally. That's what they appreciate about SDDS. We are hearing more and more that our members need, want and appreciate **community** now more than ever. Whether it's a study club environment or just a general meeting where they can sit across the table from a fellow practitioner, or meeting fellow dentists while serving on a committee, this **community** that we have built is what we strive to continue, improve and advocate for in the business plan and goals of our dental society. Through COVID we lost some of that **community** with our remote-only restrictions. People missed people. We tried our best to create a different experience. But now we're back! And this **community** is better than ever!

At SDDS, we assess everything we do - we survey, we ask questions, and we listen. It is not about just the CE that we offer, although that's a valuable member benefit and convenience, for sure. It's not just about the fun events either. It's EVERYTHING that builds our **community**. We also provide a forum that helps us meet and be together, have fun, support our member dentists to enhance their skills and knowledge, and make a difference in our own **community** through our charitable Foundation.

So, when a member calls to say they want to drop their membership and that they "don't use their benefits," it makes me think that we're not doing our job well enough. It's definitely not only about the insurance, the CE, or the licensure renewal benefits, it's about US. It's about supporting dentists and being together to make us all better at what we do and who we are. We are a **community** - for each other, for our professional success, and for our **community**.

*Cathy*

*The Nugget* is an opinion and discussion magazine for SDDS membership. Opinions expressed by authors are their own, and not necessarily those of SDDS or *The Nugget* Editorial Board. SDDS reserves the right to edit all contributions for clarity and length, as well as reject any material submitted. *The Nugget* is published bimonthly by the SDDS, 2035 Hurley Way, Ste 200, Sacramento, CA 95825 (916) 446-1211. Acceptance of advertising in *The Nugget* in no way constitutes approval or endorsement by Sacramento District Dental Society of products or services advertised. SDDS reserves the right to reject any advertisement.

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## A Lesson in Pseudoscience

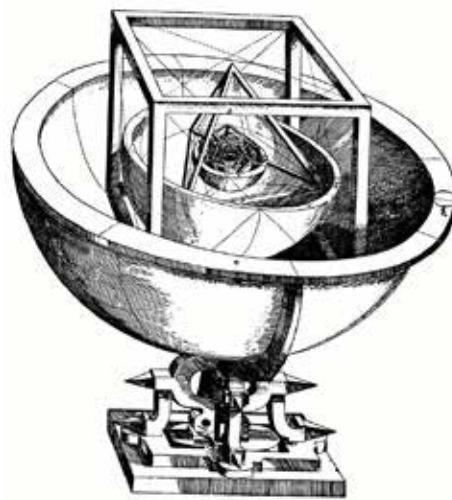


By **Brian Ralli, DDS**  
Associate Editor

As a seven year old, I remember my dad being obsessed with the miniseries *Cosmos* aired on PBS in 1980. Throughout my childhood, I remember my dad always mimicked the relaxing tones of the great Carl Sagan saying “billions and billions of stars...” whenever the opportunity arose. Later in my teens, I discovered the show myself and went on to read most of the works of Carl Sagan. Sagan was one of the all time great science communicators, but he was also one of the biggest proponents of scientific skepticism making it his mission to debunk much of the popular pseudoscience of the time especially pertaining to supernatural cures and scams that preyed on the ill-informed. He taught how fallible our human minds are and how easily our senses and our preconceived desires and beliefs can drastically mislead our understanding of the nature of the universe.

My favorite episode of *Cosmos* is the story of Johannes Kepler. Kepler was a German astronomer during the 17th century who is the father of planetary motion. The first orbiting telescope that allowed us to find planets around other stars is named after Kepler in his honor. As was common of his time, Kepler was a deeply religious man. He viewed the solar system like a precision clock created by God in a very specific manner of motion for mankind to observe and understand the nature of creation. He was also a believer in astrology, believing that the motion of the stars and the planets could predict the future of human lives.

His first public work was devoted to describing the orbits of the six known planets as precisely following specific geometric shapes. Kepler spent decades building models and developing telescopes to confirm his theories.



Despite a near lifetime of devotion to his specific preconceived beliefs in the nature of our solar system, at some point he finally stepped back and abandoned those notions as being wrong. Once he made that step, he came up with the correct theory later in life—that the planets, in fact, orbited in wide, elliptical orbits and not geometrical spheres. While not as machine-like as he had previously believed, the motions did indeed follow mathematical formulas that Kepler was able to finally derive from

his observations. Those formulas are still correct and useful to this day.

Kepler should be a lesson to all of us. Many times as dentists, we become invested emotionally and commonly financially in a material, method, or piece of equipment that we have incorporated into our practice. Many times we were promised success from a product representative or a specific continuing education course. It can be difficult, like Kepler, to step back and conclude that something we have been doing for many years is in fact, not working, or even worse, detrimental to our patients. Dentistry is the largest medical specialty. We are in fact, scientists in our own right. I challenge all of my colleagues to look at all of the nuances of our day to day practices and truly ask ourselves about their scientific validity. When we use a new technology or material, we should be skeptical of its efficacy. When we tell a patient they “need” a particular procedure, we should be confident in the science behind that recommendation. While the science of dentistry may not be the predictable machine of Kepler's universe, we can as scientists ourselves, trust that our practices are fundamentally based on rigorously tested scientific principles and not pseudoscience. ■

## From Your 2022 SDDS President

### A Year in Review of the Sacramento District Dental Society

I look back on 2022 as President with fond memories of a successful year for SDDS. We returned to in-person meetings with a new normal. It was wonderful to see each other in the flesh and greet one another with fist bumps, hand shakes, and even hugs. Our general meetings included a throw down panel and excellent speakers per your requests from your surveys. Thanks to everyone for their continued input on our surveys!

Our MidWinter Convention 2022 at the Safe Credit Union Convention Center brought us all "Back together again." We had 600 attendees, 175 exhibitors reps, and 75 vendors. There were great speakers on every subject you could imagine. Gift baskets, iPads, dinners, and even some cash were given out during Friday's luncheon. Our MidWinter Convention is local and has a great vibe that you won't get at some of the State meetings. By the time this *Nugget* hits your mailbox, we will have completed our MW for 2023 and it looks like it will surpass all records and be the best ever!

The SDDF Golf Tournament was moved to a new venue at Ancil Hoffman Golf Course. We had a beautiful day with a full field of golfers and supportive vendors, who really enjoyed doing "business" on the golf course. This year's tournament is May 12, 2023 - remember, you don't have to be good, but lucky! Happy participants went home with golf balls, clubs, gift certificates, and lots of great memories of a wonderful day benefitting our Foundation.

I can't thank our 2022 Board members and committees enough for their guidance, participation and energy they provided us

in 2022. They helped us get back to normal, came up with great ideas and supported us in so many ways – thank you Board! Thank you Committee Chairs! Thank you to all 200 participants and volunteers! We know you have busy practices and family obligations, and we are honored that you choose to volunteer with SDDS. Thank you!

2022 was a great year for SDDS, although our reserves finally experienced the "market correction" we have anticipated the past few years. Suffice it to say, we're in great shape and our "stay the course" philosophy will keep us safe for the upcoming years. We have had a conservative investment policy and have enjoyed constant and positive growth the last 14 years. The good news is that we have not needed to use our reserves AT ALL since we started them in 2005. They are safe, we didn't go into the reserves during COVID and we have policies and protections in place; our organization is well run, safe and accountable thanks to great oversight by our Board and our Executive Director.

Thank you to our SDDS Team Anne, Jessica, Sofia and Katie who work tirelessly to serve our members and community. This past January, Della Yee has returned to SDDS again after 8 years with the California Veterinary Medical Association. Our Executive Director Extraordinaire, Cathy Levering, has been doing an amazing job in making SDDS the premier dental society in the nation. Her tireless efforts in building our membership, securing sponsors and vendors, and knowledge of everyone in the dental community makes Cathy irreplaceable.



By **Wesley Yee, DDS**  
2022 SDDS President

In 2022, we came out of our shell with over 2400 attendees at our 50 events, courses, and fun activities. Our engagement level is a remarkable 82% and our market share stands at 80%. However we all have friends and colleagues sitting on the sidelines who are not members - please invite these friends to our general meetings or events.

Last Fall, we had an incredible strategic planning retreat. We worked, contemplated, and shared outside the box to plan for our future for SDDS. Everyone was heard and all opinions were respected. We are so blessed to have talented, thoughtful, and generous leadership in our Society. Our directors for SDDS and SDDF, Committee Chairs, and Delegates to CDA served you well. We now have a plan to take us through the next 5 years and we are so proud of our future – and excited to implement all the ideas.

I hope that you will step up and participate – it's so rewarding to be part of our success. Please say yes when you are asked to serve. And thank you again for being members of the best Dental Society in the nation! I will always remember 2022 as one of the most rewarding years of my life! I wish you all well in 2023 and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wesley Yee DDS". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Wesley Yee, DDS



# 2022 MEMBERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

**82%**  
ENGAGEMENT RATE

**49** COURSES AND  
EVENTS OFFERED

**210** MEMBERS ON COMMITTEES  
**26** MEMBERS RETIRED  
**2022** BACK ON TRACK

**101**  
NEW MEMBERS

**93.6%**  
RETENTION RATE

**2385** TOTAL ATTENDANCE  
FOR COURSES & EVENTS

**80.5%**  
MARKET SHARE

MEMBERSHIP  
**GROWTH**

2000**1085** 2010**1522**

2005**1334** 2015**1591**

2021**1753**

2022**1741**

## 2022 FINAL MEMBERSHIP (as of 12.31.2022)

### DENTIST MEMBERS

ACTIVE: 1,386

RETIRED: 346

**TOTAL DENTIST MEMBERS: 1,732**

### AUXILIARY MEMBERS

DHP (Dental Health Professionals): 61

STUDENTS: 86

**TOTAL ALL MEMBERS: 1,879**

## 2022 FISCAL YEAR END

### CURRENT ASSETS

Cash	\$428,984
Building Reserves	\$986,533
Operating Reserves	\$659,934
Accounts Receivable	\$26,613
Prepaid Expenses	\$49,665
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS:	\$2,151,730
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS:	\$5,967
OTHER ASSETS/DEPOSITS:	\$7,907
<b>TOTAL ASSETS:</b>	<b>\$2,165,604</b>

### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Accounts Payable	-\$32,580
Deferred Revenue	\$395,340
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>	<b>\$427,920</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
Retained Earnings	\$1,916,409
Net Income	-\$178,725
<b>TOTAL EQUITY:</b>	<b>\$1,737,684</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY:</b>	<b>\$2,165,604</b>

*Note: Due to this year's market correction, our net income shows a net loss.*

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# YOU SHOULD KNOW

## FROM THE LABOR COMMISSIONER

*Submitted by Von A. Boyenger, Sr. Deputy Labor Commissioner*

Just wanted to share a typical question from an RDH. Our response that makes most sense regarding “Per Diem.” It is as follows;

### Question:

What I’m trying to figure out is; because I am paid by the day, am I owed overtime after eight hours of work? I heard you say that if I agreed to be paid by the day, that is it, no changes or overtime is due. As long as it reflects on your paycheck that you are paid by the day and the day amount. If my paycheck has an hourly rate, then I am owed overtime after 8 hours of work.

If this is true, my next problem is that I get paid by the day but on my check it has an hourly rate. This stuff gets confusing!!

### My response:

Since an RDH is not a salary exempt employee, anything over 8 hours of work would be paid at the overtime rate... unless you are on an actual (approved by the state) Alternative Workweek Schedule.

Cathy, to avoid confusion, you may want to cease the practice of using the term “per diem” as it leads to wage claims. Being “On Salary” would clear up any confusion because if an employee is “on salary” (not salary exempt – which they cannot be by law), if an employee works less than 8 hours in a workday, they can be docked for the difference. Conversely, if they work more than 8 hours, they must be paid overtime.

The use of the term “per diem” means per day which essentially is being on salary except that there is NO mention (unless in a bonified contract) that working anything less than eight hours will be docked. (In which case, they are actually a salaried employee). This is why the term “per Diem” is a “misnomer” at best. That term tried to “split the uprights” in a manner that allows for great misinterpretation by employers and employees alike. In either case, any RDH is entitled to overtime if they work more than 8 hours in a workday or 40 hours in a workweek regardless if they are “per diem” or on salary.

## CAREFORCE NEEDS YOUR HELP! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

California CareForce is excited to announce that they will be coming to Plymouth, CA to host their first ever FREE healthcare clinic in Amador County! The clinic will be held at Amador County Fairgrounds from March 24-25, 2023.

If you are interested in volunteering with California CareForce, please email Sarina Klein (sarina@californiacareforce.org) or call 916-749-4170.

## FACE-MASK REQUIREMENTS FOR HEALTH CARE SETTINGS STILL APPLY TO DENTAL OFFICES

*Reprinted with permission from CDA*

The new state guidance clarifies that face masks will remain required for all individuals, regardless of their vaccination status, in dental offices and other health care settings, in long-term care settings, indoors at K-12 schools, on public transit and in other specified settings. All workers and patients in dental offices must wear face masks. Also, N95s or better respirators should continue to be worn during aerosol-generating procedures.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

May 20-21, 2023

Santa Clara County Dental Foundation's  
Free Dental Clinic  
San Jose Convention Center, South Hall

Learn more at [www.sccdf.org/svhs](http://www.sccdf.org/svhs)

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

2023 dues are due no later than March 31st. This is the last year with a three month grace period, next year they will be due January 31st.

## EMERGENCIES AND CALL REFERRALS AFTER HOURS

*Submitted by CDA*

Not providing a patient of record a resource for emergency care could be considered patient abandonment. The DPA does not expressly state this but this is how the board has interpreted it.

In addition, the CDA Code of Ethics, [https://www.cda.org/Portals/0/pdfs/code\\_of\\_ethics/code-of-ethics-2020.pdf](https://www.cda.org/Portals/0/pdfs/code_of_ethics/code-of-ethics-2020.pdf), states a dentist has the obligation to make reasonable arrangements for emergency care of their patients of record.

Also, dental benefit contracts require providers to make appropriate arrangements for the emergency care of their patients. It is the dental benefit plans that require hours be posted.

Leaving an outgoing voicemail for patients to contact the dental society after hours is inappropriate, and dental societies should inform their members of such. We do have a resource – “Managing Emergency Patients When Your Office is Closed” – that you are free to publish in your newsletter as long as credit is given to CDA Practice Support.





**By Brian Ralli, DDS**  
SDDS Member

*Dr. Ralli graduated from the University of the Pacific Dental School in 2000. He currently practices with his wife, Ling Ralli, in Roseville, CA. He has served on the SDDS Nugget Editorial Board since 2017. Besides managing a dental practice, he is also a proud father of five.*

# Bite Mark INJUSTICE

Three-year-old Courtney Smith was sleeping in her room the night of September 15, 1990 when she was abducted while her sisters slept nearby. Two days later her body was found in a nearby pond murdered and sexually assaulted. The crime shocked the rural community of Brooksville, Mississippi. Several suspects were brought in for questioning, notably the ex-boyfriend of the victim's mother, Levon Brooks. The autopsy of the child revealed apparent bite marks on her wrist. At this point we are introduced to Dr. Michael West, a forensic dentist in the state who was also a self proclaimed bite mark expert. Utilizing dental models from twelve suspects, Dr. West concluded that the marks on the body could have only come from the incisors of Levon Brooks. Notably, impressions were also taken of a Justin Albert Johnson whom Dr. West ruled out as not being a match (he will come into play later). Based on corroborating testimony from the victim's six-year old sister, Levon Brooks was arrested and charged with murder. During the trial, the sister's testimony proved contradictory and unreliable. The bulk of the prosecution's case rested on the shoulders of Dr. West. Despite Brooks having claimed to be working at a local club the night of the murder, he was found guilty and sentenced to life in prison.

In just four months after Levon Brooks' conviction, the small community of Brooksville was rocked by an almost identical murder. Another three-year-old girl, Christine Jackson, was abducted in the middle of the night and her body was found in a creek. Once again, the coroner felt he saw bite marks on the body of the victim and once again Dr. West was called in to help with the investigation. West confirmed that the marks were human and could only have come from the boyfriend of the victim's mother, Kennedy Brewer. At the time, West had been suspended from the

American Board of Forensic Odontology, yet still was allowed to testify. He later testified that the marks on the body were "indeed and without a doubt inflicted [sic] by Kennedy Brewer." Kennedy was found guilty and sentenced to death.



The notoriety of these cases elevated the career of Dr. Michael West who became the de facto expert in forensic bite mark analysis. West repeatedly claimed that his techniques were unique to his skill set and could not be performed by anyone else. He testified in dozens of cases that resulted in many convictions. West also claimed to be an expert in the analysis of "trace metals", fingernail wounds, tool marks and other pseudo-scientific theories. West's techniques would commonly involve forcing dental casts into the flesh of the cadaver to attempt to replicate the injury. He was a very boisterous man who would provide entertaining testimonies during trials and had a talent for reinforcing his status as the lone expert in the field many times putting down fellow professionals. West would testify under oath using very assertive language, coming across very convincing to juries.

Levon Brooks and Kennedy Brewer spent a combined three decades in prison. Brewer, who was sentenced to death nearly had that sentence executed if not for a last minute stay



of execution. In 2001, The Innocence Project, an organization dedicated to investigate wrongful convictions looked into the Brewer case. They funded a DNA analysis that not only proved Brewer could not have possibly been the murderer but that the DNA matched another suspect at the time, Justin Albert Johnson (remember that guy?). Johnson had been one of the suspects in the first murder whom Dr. West had proclaimed could not have possibly made the bite marks attributed to Levon Brooks. Upon questioning, Justin Albert Johnson confessed to both murders which was corroborated with DNA evidence. Curiously, Johnson insisted that he did not bite either victim upon interview by law enforcement. Later, Entomology research experiments clearly showed all “bite marks” were the result of crawfish feeding on the bodies postmortem. Both men have since been released from prison.

Attention to these cases has led to a closer look at other cases involving the testimony of Dr. West. Over thirty-four cases to which Michael West provided testimonies have since been overturned. Notably in recent years, 84-year-old Eddie Lee Howard was released

after TWENTY SIX YEARS on death row directly attributed to Dr. West’s testimony involving bite marks on an exhumed body. No photographs were able to show any evidence of bite marks, but West testified that the marks were clearly visible to him utilizing an ultraviolet light and “special glasses.” Again, DNA evidence showed no match to the accused and the case was overturned due to “almost no evidence of guilt.”

Bite marks were prominently featured during the Ted Bundy trial where Bundy had unique fractures of his upper teeth that were provided as evidence during the trial. Even the dentist who testified during that trial specifically pointed out that this burgeoning science at the time could not definitively identify a suspect, only perhaps exclude certain people. The National Academy of Sciences published a study in 2009 discrediting bite mark analysis as a credible means of identification specifically finding a huge potential for an investigator to be biased trying to match a distorted marking to the teeth of a known suspect. The Council of Advisors on Science and Technology deemed bite-mark evidence “not scientifically valid” in 2016. There are

relatively few published studies on bite mark analysis, mostly performed in the 1980’s and not backed by empirical data. Given the elastic nature of human skin and changes the the body undergoes postmortem there is little doubt that much of the interpretation of the data involves the subjective opinion of the researcher.

That all being said, Forensic Odontology is indeed a legitimate branch of forensic medicine. It is supervised by the American Board of Forensic Odontology and is an invaluable source in helping identify bodies (especially after fires and disasters). Despite bite mark controversies, Forensic Odontology is still a tool to identify criminals albeit under rigorous scientific standards.

Despite criticisms, West still stands behind his testimonies to this day. While Justin Albert Johnson confessed to both murders and acting alone, in a recent interview, West still insisted that his bite mark analysis was sound and that both Brooks and Brewer had to have been involved. West said in a 2011 interview for Oxygen.com that bite mark analysis should no longer be used in court, but not because it is junk science but rather because he is the only one qualified to do such study and that everyone else are “amateur practitioners.” In the same interview, he equated his persecution with the removal of Confederate statues in public places in the South, proclaiming “They want to erase me from history.”— West is only recently retired and still resides in Mississippi. In 2020, Netflix, ran a documentary specifically detailing the career of Dr. Michael West and the lives of some of the individuals incarcerated due to his testimonies. ■



By **Volki Felahy, DDS**  
SDDS Member

*Dr. Felahy graduated from the University of the Pacific Dugoni School of Dentistry in 2001. He has been active in the SDDS serving as the SDDS President, Chair of Ethics, and Editor of the Nugget. Dr. Felahy has lectured statewide on ethical practices. On his off time he enjoys sailing and spending time with his family.*

# *The Ethics of Questionable Treatment*

Twenty-plus years ago, I graduated from dental school and started my journey as a dentist. I had the privilege of graduating from UOP when Dr. Dugoni was still Dean, which definitely shows my age. He distilled a vision into all graduates. One about loving what you do, that you are a safe beginner and, most importantly, that you are now a doctor. You are to uphold the highest standard of practice, give back to your profession that gives you so much, and always pay it forward. He was such an amazing mentor for all of dentistry, a truly positive force that propelled our dental profession forward globally. I live by those words, and he was right. We are part of the greatest profession in the world. Sure, there are always bumps in the road, but there is no more noble calling.

When I was asked to write an article on the subject of questionable treatments, the first thing that came to mind was Dr. Dugoni and our CDA Code of Ethics. Dr. Dugoni always said, "You are a doctor. Act as such." In our code, that translates to professionalism.

## Professionalism

Professionalism means as doctors we have the obligation to vet any treatment, any procedure that we perform to ensure it is a valid, safe, research-backed method of treatment that will lead to the best possible outcome with the least risk for our patients. Think about that for a second. Questions that should be going through your mind when presenting treatment options are: Do you know the research behind the treatment option? Do you have the training for a predictable outcome?

## Integrity

Another ethical principle that comes to mind is integrity. What is that in relation to dentistry? It is the ability to do what is right when no one is looking and there is no fear of repercussions. Wow, that's a big one. How many of us speed? Jaywalk? Don't tell anyone, but I do! But when it comes to my profession, I walk a very distinct line. I know for a fact most of us do the same. To walk that line, we always have to prioritize the best for our patients. I have been involved in organized dentistry from the start of my career. Again, an influence from Dr. Dugoni and the UOP school culture. Of my time volunteering, I have spent the majority involved in ethics as Ethics Chair locally and as Chair of the Judicial Council for the CDA. In my more than a decade of studying and applying, teaching and coaching ethics, I have never been disappointed in our members. Not one of us, when pressed, will not do the right thing.

I am so honored to be a part of the greatest profession. Remember, if you ever have a question about a treatment modality or a new procedure, or a general gut feeling something is not right, you have a family of dentists who would love to help you make the right decision. If a technology or procedure sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Reach out with your questions to your dental family at SDDS. Let us work together to keep the greatest profession the greatest. ■



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*Upcoming* **GENERAL MEETING**

**MAR  
14**

**Malpractice Stories:  
Risk Exposure, Prevention, Safety,  
and Empowerment**

**Presented by Michael Kowalski, DDS, JD**

As dental professionals we emphasize prevention for our patients. This talk will focus on how to become proactive with risk exposure and management. Topics will include recent changes in California law governing dental malpractice legal actions, trends in malpractice litigation, how to deal with patient expectations and threats of potential legal actions as well as protocols for complete documentation. Proactive risk recognition allows for increased options, better results and more trusting patients.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Learn the recent changes in California law and the potential impact for dental practices
- Become proactive with managing patient expectations and threats of legal action
- Understand effective documentation practices

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# *The Machine That Cures All*



By **Brian Ralli, DDS**  
Associate Editor

In the late 1990's, a woman was recently diagnosed with advanced colon and liver cancer. Her doctors had recommended a regimen of chemotherapy, but somehow she ended up in the clinic of a Shelvie Rettmann, an unlicensed practitioner of alternative medicine who claimed she could cure cancer with a variety of dubious treatments notably a "Rife Frequency Generator." She was known at the time to give seminars about her products and claimed to have cured thousands of patients. Her seemingly miraculous machine would scan the needs of the body and emit a specific frequency of electromagnetic radiation that would cure the disease entirely. The patient spent a couple thousand dollars on the treatment which included having pictures taken of her with a Polaroid camera that were placed in a cup on top of the machine which subsequently "cured" her. Within a month, the patient ended up in the hospital in acute pain with her cancer considerably progressed. She died a short time later.

The Rife Frequency Generator is a pseudoscience based on radionics or treatment using radio waves. It is actually a technology that goes back nearly a hundred years invented by Royal Raymond Rife in the 1920's. It is based on the studies of a Albert Abrams who believed that specific diseases emitted electromagnetic frequencies. Rife believed at the time that he could disrupt those frequencies and therefore cure the disease with his invention. The American Medical Association immediately condemned Rife's experiments as having no scientific basis. Use of this therapy faded into obscurity until a 1987 book called *The*

*Cancer Cure that Worked!*: Fifty Years of Suppression caught the notice of the public. The use of the machine saw a resurgence in the 1990's as unscrupulous practitioners saw a way to market both the sale of the machines and the treatments themselves.



*This machine caught my attention recently when I visited a friend of mine. He had recently made some commendable lifestyle changes and was very motivated about his overall health and fitness. I had noticed a high tech looking device running on top of a file cabinet. I asked him if this was some sort of advanced internet router or something of the sort. He was very excited to tell me all about his Rife machine. The story initially began with the most unifying central concept: the medical establishment "doesn't want you to know" about this machine. For just a few thousand dollars, you can cure all disease yourself, right in your home. He was very enthusiastic about the theory behind it. Expanding on the original theories of Abrams and Rife, now he invoked the seemingly ubiquitous Nikola Tesla one of the fathers of electrical technology who is also commonly a dominant figure in much modern pseudoscience. There was*

discussion of quantum theory which does seem to be a go to explanation for almost all pseudoscience as quantum theory is seemingly magical to almost anyone who doesn't have an advanced degree in physics. He also talked about how the company is developing an even better service where you can send them fingernail clippings to their central location where they will analyze your DNA and a signal to anywhere in the world that can cure you remotely. Again, there was much discussion of "suppression of the truth," "the government doesn't want you to know about it," and "thousands of people have been cured."



Does any of this apply to dentistry? Surely no dentist is using or marketing this machine, right? Unfortunately, a simple Google search showed me that there are indeed dental offices pushing radionic scanning and therapy. One dental office in California is marketing the "AO Scan Digital Body Analyzer." According to the office's website, this machine passes micro-current frequencies through the body and then analyzes them against a library of 120,000 different frequencies associated with various diseases and imbalances. The machine also can "assist in balancing your body to an optimal frequency." Also included is a report you can bring to your physician to "let them know to improve your health."

I bet the physicians just love that. The office also markets a “SEFI” machine which stands for Subtle Energy Frequency Imprinter which (for assuredly an additional charge), lets the patient provide an object like a bracelet or ring which the machine will “imprint” with the appropriate healing frequency, and the patient can conveniently get their healing energies imparted even after they leave the office.



The most common Rife machines marketed to the consumer is sold by a company interestingly named Spooky2. The company offers a variety of different machines that employ a myriad of different electromagnetic therapies from radio waves to lasers. As my friend mentioned, they also market “remote mode” which does indeed involve sending them a sample of your

DNA where the company applies soothing frequencies directed at you no matter where you are in the world or even the entire universe. Again, they rely on the magic of quantum theory where theoretical physics claims that particles can be separated and instantaneously manipulated anywhere regardless of distance. While this theory of “quantum entanglement” is indeed a real thing, it is more or less theoretical and has no practical application. Their website is filled with many testimonials and many links to videos for tuning your machine to cure specific ailments including “gum disease” and “dental root infections”. They also have a robust community forum for users to share tips and discuss their machines. Despite all these claims, the company of course adds a disclaimer on all of their pages saying that the product is an “experimental electronic device only” and not intended to diagnose or treat disease.

The problem with most pseudoscience in general is that it relies heavily on testimonials and anecdotal evidence. Most diseases are self limiting. Due to billions of years of evolution, our body has an amazing ability to heal itself. Whether you use a fancy electronic device, meditate, pray, take a pill, or just do nothing, more often than not, you will get better. Even diseases like cancer can go into spontaneous remission. Of course we all

know about the placebo effect. Getting ANY sort of therapy does tend to trick the brain to feel better, especially symptoms that are more neurological in source. There is always a certain level of confirmation bias associated with most of these therapies. People talk about them and give testimonials when they work. When they don't work, we usually don't hear about it. There is also something called the “sunk cost fallacy” where it is human nature that when you have devoted a lot of investment into a course of action, our brains tend to do whatever it takes to convince ourselves that it actually worked. In the case of my friend, it also bears mention that many times when people embark on a path to improve their health, they also make other lifestyle changes too. I recently got into working out at the gym. I went to “nutrition” stores and bought hundreds of dollars in various supplements to make me lose weight, get stronger, etc... Needless to say, I did indeed lose weight and got stronger. Was it those handful of expensive horse pills I was taking every morning? Of course not, it was because I was getting exercise and eating healthy. I noted when reading a lot of the patient testimonials, they also admitted they started exercising, quit drinking, quit smoking, cut out sugar, etc... No doubt many of their “aches and pains” went away when they lived a healthier life in general. ■

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**May 4, 2023**

On May 4<sup>th</sup> donate to the  
**Sacramento District  
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# Committee Corner



## SacPAC

*SDDS Political Action Committee*



By **Gary Ackerman, DDS**  
Chair, SacPAC

### WHAT IS SACPAC?

We need your support in making a political difference in our Sacramento community! In 2001, the SACPAC was founded by the Sacramento District Dental Society. What is the purpose of SACPAC? It was created to establish a fund to make contributions to candidates for local and state offices in the SDDS component area. SacPAC contributes to those candidates and incumbents who support the concern, beliefs and issues of Sacramento

District Dental Society and its members. This is important so that we can get our concerns to the local political leaders that represent us. Without the SacPAC we have no voice and we are easily forgotten or passed over.

### HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

It's only \$99 a year and we need more members to participate so that our voice can be heard. Please consider joining this year and sign up to be a PAC supporter/member.

Thank you for helping us advance our political goals focusing on small business in our own community and for helping with advocacy.

*Thank you  
to those who support!  
It's only \$99*

### 2022-23 PAC Supporters!

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## 2023 SDDS Committees Schedule

### Leadership

#### Board of Directors

Jan 3 • Mar 7 • May 2 • Sep 5 • Nov 7

#### Executive Committee

Feb 10 • Apr 14 • Aug 4 • Oct 13 • Dec 1

### Foundation

#### Foundation Board

Mar 1 • Sep 18

### Other

#### SacPAC

Fall

#### CDA House of Delegates

Nov 10, 17-18

### Standing Committees

#### Membership/Engagement

Mar 21 • May 16 • Sept 18

#### CPR Committee

Feb 27

#### Nominating/Leadership

#### Development

Feb 6 • TBA

### Advisory Committees

#### Continuing Education Advisory

Feb 27

#### Nugget Editorial Advisory

Jan 17 • Sep 20

### Strategic Plan Advisory

TBA

### Budget and Finance Advisory

TBA

### Bylaws Advisory

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### Legislative Advisory

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### GMC Transition Advisory

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# Pregnancy and Oral Health

## How To Help Your Patients Navigate Dental Care While Expecting

By Margaret Delmore, MD, DDS, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery (SDDS Past President)  
and Katie Andrew, Ed.M. Director of Government Affairs, Liberty Dental Plan

Dental management of the preconception, pregnant and post-partum or lactating patient is the essence of tripartite of care – you are caring for two patients at one time – parent and child. In fact, a parent's oral health is one of the best predictors of their child's oral health, which can impact their overall health, academic performance, and socio-economic outcomes. Pregnancy presents a unique opportunity to educate expectant parents about the importance of oral health and accessing dental care for themselves and their children.

During pregnancy there are many physiologic changes that occur in the body of the pregnant patient. These physiological changes encompass a variety of systems including cardiovascular, respiratory, hematological and immunological and can sometimes adversely affect oral health. The oral changes that can manifest during pregnancy include 'pregnancy' gingivitis, benign oral gingival lesions, tooth mobility, tooth erosion, dental caries and periodontitis. Poor oral health during pregnancy may also lead to adverse health outcomes for the parent and baby such as preterm birth, preeclampsia, gestational diabetes, and low birth weight. Additionally, evidence suggests that most infants and young children acquire cariogenic bacteria from their parents. Untreated maternal dental disease nearly doubles the odds of a child having untreated and more severe dental caries. That is why early preventive intervention is critical to both decrease the severity of dental disease in parent and child and reduce subsequent health care costs. We cannot ignore a parent's oral health as a key component of their overall health and that of their children.

Despite the implicit relationship between oral health and the health outcomes of parent and child, dental care during pregnancy is an underutilized component of comprehensive prenatal care, with only 44 percent of pregnant people in California accessing dental care during pregnancy. Why? Some responsibility may lie with the patients, many of whom do not realize the impact that poor oral health can have on pregnancy outcomes or may have misconceptions about the safety of dental care during pregnancy. However, some responsibility may lie with providers—dentists who are concerned about their liability when treating pregnant patients or OB-GYNs not adequately inquiring about the condition of their pregnant patient's oral health and ensuring they are connected to a dental home. Whatever the underlying causes, it is of utmost importance for dental and medical professionals alike to provide pregnant people with oral health education, appropriate referral, and timely oral health care. Pregnancy is a "teachable" moment when parents are motivated to adopt healthy behaviors, and providers of all disciplines should leverage this time to educate and ensure that parents, and therefore their children, have optimal oral health.

On March Wednesday, March 22, 2023, join the California Department of Public Health's Office of Oral Health, Sacramento District Dental Society (SDDS), the SDDS Foundation (SDDF), California Northstate University (CNSU), and LIBERTY Dental Plan for a free medical-dental collaborative learning event, Dental Care During Pregnancy: Increasing Utilization for Improved Patient Health Outcomes, to better understand

the safety and importance of dental care during the pregnancy continuum – from preconception to post-partum. The intent of this virtual learning event is to increase collaboration between dental and medical providers while improving understanding of guidelines and best practices.

### Learning objectives include:

1. Explain the connection between oral health status and pregnancy outcomes.
2. Identify the challenges and opportunities for providing dental care to pregnant people.
3. Apply screening for dental needs and referral process into practice when caring for pregnant people.
4. Implement practical guidelines for providing care to people during pregnancy.

Please join us!

**Free for SDDS Members  
2 CEU, Core**

Wednesday, March 22, 2023  
6:30-8:30pm • Webinar  
Register with this QR code





## Upcoming CONTINUING EDUCATION

### Annual Osha Compliance Training – Are We Safe “Enough”?

Presented by Nancy Dewhirst, RDH

**APR  
18**

#### **OSHA: Safety Leaders Part 1** ..... \$79

Tuesday, April 18, 2023 • 12:00–1:00pm • 1 CEU, Core

*Safety training linking policy to practice: Recommended for Infection Control Coordinators (ICC) and the whole safety team.*

Get an overview of the physical, chemical, and infectious disease risks and updated safety protocols that dental offices must have in place. Review required written policies and learn what is needed to ensure safe dental visits for all patients and dental workers. Standard and Transmission-based Precautions are explained and indoor air safety options are explored.

**\$150** (for both)

#### **SIGN UP FOR BOTH WEBINARS AND SAVE!**

*If registered by 4/7/23  
(for members only)*

**APR  
25**

#### **OSHA: Team Training Part 2** ..... \$79

Tuesday, April 25, 2023 • 12:00–1:00pm • 1 CEU, Core

*Safety training linking policy to practice: Recommended for Infection Control Coordinators (ICC) and the whole safety team.*

Within the context of the physical, chemical, and infectious disease risks and updated safety protocols, apply Standard and Transmission-based Precautions. Safety tips are categorized by effectiveness and include safe practices, environmental asepsis, engineering controls, hand hygiene, instrument sterilization, waterline management, and PPE.

*This course is a webinar, a link to join will be sent to your email 48 hours prior to course date*

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of our listings.*

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**ELK GROVE/SOUTH SACRAMENTO:** 4 Ops Ortho Practice, 21+ Yrs. Goodwill, High Demand Area. 2021 GR \$724K. #CA3250

**FAIRFIELD/VALLEJO AREA:** 7Ops+RE, Paperless, 43+Yrs Goodwill, 5 hygiene days/wk. 2021 GR \$1.5M. #CA3117

**GREATER MODESTO:** 7 Ops, Digital, 15 Yrs. Goodwill, Desirable Area, Room to Grow! GR \$614K. #CA3286

**GREATER FAIRFIELD AREA:** 4 Ops+RE, 32+ Yrs. Goodwill, Paperless. 2021 GR \$548K. #CA2955

**GREATER LAKE TAHOE AREA:** 4 Ops, 37+ Yrs. Goodwill, Strong Hyg. Softdent PM Software. Projected 2022 GR \$900K. #CA1715

**GREATER MODESTO AREA:** 5 Ops, 20+ Yrs. Goodwill, 4 days of Hyg. Digital. 2021 GR \$758K. #CA3329

**GREATER MODESTO AREA:** 7 Ops+RE, 16+ Yrs. Goodwill, Dentrux PM Software. 2021 GR \$758K. #CA2795

**GREATER MODESTO AREA:** *New Listing!* 5 Ops Great Location, 32 Yrs. Goodwill, Eaglesoft PM Software, Digital. 2021 GR \$372K. #CA3369

**GREATER VACAVILLE AREA:** 5 Ops, 28 Yrs. Goodwill, High Demand Area. Must sell quick! 2021 GR \$449K. #CA3328

**LAKE TAHOE:** 4 Ops, Digital Pano, 20+Yrs Goodwill, Paperless, Delta PPO practice with No Delta Premier. 2021 GR \$1.4M. #CA3100

**RED BLUFF/CORNING/ORLAND AREA:** GP, 6 Ops+RE, 33+Yrs Goodwill, Paperless, Digital, 8 Hyg Days with room to grow! 2021 GR \$825K. #CA316



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## Are you participating in the Swing for Smiles Golf Tournament?

The SDDS Foundation's Annual Golf Tournament is coming up on **May 12<sup>th</sup>**. This will be our second year playing at Ancil Hoffman Golf Course in Carmichael. It was a great new course last year, so we're going back for another year to test your golf skills with your friends and colleagues!

We'd love to have you plan to play, invite your friends (dentists and non-dentists) for a day of golf, fun and games, and camaraderie - all to support the Foundation! Here are ways to support the golf tournament:

- Put a foursome together – invite your dentist and/or non-dentist friends to introduce them to our Foundation
- Sign up as a single – we'll put you with a fun foursome
- Sponsor a tee or green – if you aren't able to attend yourself

- Donate a raffle prize
- Be a sponsor - lots of great sponsorship opportunities still available

The golf tournament includes breakfast and lunch, snacks and libations from the sponsors on the course and loads of fun.

Please sign up for this awesome event (the signup form is included as an insert in this issue). It's sure to be a great time and, best of all, it supports our wonderful Foundation and all the great projects it supports for our community! ■





# IS YOUR DENTAL OFFICE OSHA COMPLIANT?

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## Upcoming CONTINUING EDUCATION

### **MAR 17** COMPLIANCE DAY – Do You Have What You Need?

Presented by Dolan Williams, CEO; B and W Compliance (SDDS Vendor Member) and Teresa Pichay, CHPC, Sr. Regulatory Compliance Analyst; CDA

Bring your laptop to this course, and you will go home with a checklist and sample plan that you need to bring your office compliance up to date. Specifically discussed will be the Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan (OSHA required) and the HIPAA compliance manuals. Additionally, Ms. Pichay will explain and help you access all the manuals available to SDDS/CDA members on the CDA website.

#### HIPAA COMPLIANCE ESSENTIALS - Course Objectives:

- Learn how to manage certain situations common to dental practices that pertain to patient information
- Verify if you have completed the essential steps for HIPAA compliance
- Know where to look for compliance assistance

#### DEVELOP YOUR PRACTICE'S EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN - Course Objectives:

- Requirements of OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens Standard vs Infection Control
- Identify the key provisions of a written exposure control plan
- Develop a written Exposure Control Plan

**4 CEU, Core • \$159**

**8:00am:** Registration

**8:30am–12:30pm:** Class

**SDDS Classroom:**

2035 Hurley Way, Suite 200  
Sacramento



Register online  
today with this  
QR code.



# SDDS Foundation

## Smiles for Kids and Big Kids What You Do Makes a Difference

Our Foundation programs are a great way to volunteer - please let us know if you can adopt a kid or big kid!

### Ways You Can Help:

#### Adopt a Patient Who You Know Needs Help

1. Do you know someone in your community, your church, your neighborhood who you can help? (Kids or adults)
2. Invite them to be your SFK, SFBK patient.
3. Do good.
4. THANK YOU!

#### Are You Already Doing a Lot of Pro Bono Work?

1. Let us know so we can "count this up" - all of your good work needs to be (and should be!) compiled.
2. We'd love to track the demographics of all our members' donated work (and we know you are doing a ton!)

#### Volunteer to Adopt a Child or Adult Patient

1. Send us an email that you would like to volunteer to adopt a patient; we'll send you a patient or two (or more if you want!)



2. Specialists - we always need help to refer our SFK and SFBK patients (especially ortho, pedo and oral surgeons)

Just email us and tell us "I'd love to help with a child, a parent, an elderly patient" and we'll get you signed up.

Thank you for your consideration and willingness to help! ■



SACRAMENTO DISTRICT DENTAL FOUNDATION DOES...

# broadway & music circus

Music Circus Shows  
Coming Summer 2023

Tickets Available  
March 3rd!



**THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023**  
**BEAUTIFUL – THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL**  
This Tony\* and Grammy\* Award-winning inspiring true story of King's remarkable rise to stardom, from being part of a hit songwriting team to becoming one of the most successful solo acts in popular music history. Along the way, she made more than beautiful music, she wrote the soundtrack to a generation.



**THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023**  
**THE ADDAMS FAMILY**  
This "deliciously dark and superbly funny" musical comedy embraces the wackiness in every family. The award-winning show is based on some of the characters created by The New Yorker cartoonist Charles Addams in his single-panel drawings, which depict a ghoulish American family with an affinity for all things macabre.



**THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2023**  
**THE MUSIC MAN**  
One of musical theatre's most beloved works, this tribute to the optimism, warmth and stubbornness of small town America has been charming audiences of all ages for decades. There's trouble in River City when traveling salesman Harold Hill comes to town and causes disruption. Featuring the classic songs "Seventy Six Trombones," "Goodnight My Someone" and "Till There Was You."



**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023**  
**RENT**  
Set in the East Village of New York City, the Pulitzer Prize-winning musical that shaped a generation of audiences is about falling in love, finding your voice and living for today. Featuring songs that rock and a story that resonates with audiences of all ages, RENT has become a pop cultural phenomenon.

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# YOU THE DENTIST, THE BUSINESS OWNER



**YOU ARE A DENTIST.** You've been to school, taken your Boards and settled into practice. End of story?

Not quite. Are you up to speed on tax laws, potential deductions and other important business issues?

In this monthly column, we will offer information pertinent to you, the dentist as the business owner.

## Important Things To Know For Tax Year 2023

By **Clint Bedolido, CPA, Partner; MUN CPAs**  
(SDDS Vendor Member)

### Extended deadlines

It's that time of the year again to start gathering your tax documents, cleaning up your books, and contacting your tax preparer so you can file your taxes timely. It's not the most fun thing to do but it is something you must do. Whether you are a W-2 employee, a sole proprietor, a shareholder in an S-corporation, or a partner in a partnership, you will need to file your tax return by a certain deadline.

With all the rain and flooding that hit California in January, the IRS offered relief to areas designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a disaster area. The tax filing and tax payment deadlines were extended to **May 15, 2023** for all individuals and households that reside or have a business in the counties of Alameda, Colusa, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Kings, Lake, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Orange, Placer, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Ventura, Yolo, and Yuba. The current list of eligible localities is available on the Tax Relief in Disaster Situations page on IRS.gov.

This relief applies to all the filing and payment deadlines falling on or after January 8, 2023 and before May 15, 2023. California conforms to these filing extensions granted by the IRS.

### California Assembly Bill 150 (Pass-through entity elective tax)

California enacted AB 150 on July 16, 2021, allowing eligible pass-through entity businesses to pay an elective tax as a workaround to the \$10,000 limitation on the federal itemized deduction for state and local taxes. You can elect to pay a tax of 9.3% of the qualifying California net income from your business and get a deduction for that payment, that otherwise would be limited if you were to pay the tax on the individual level. You will get a credit on your personal tax return for the amount of the tax paid in, which means you are not paying an additional tax but merely paying the tax through the business and receiving a federal deduction for it.

The savings of doing this pass-through entity elective tax payment can be sizeable and will depend on the amount of California net income. For example, if your business has California net income of \$100,000, you can elect to pay in the PTE tax of \$9,300 and be able to deduct this payment on your Federal tax return. The bigger the income, the bigger the deduction.

In order to qualify for the election, you must make a prepayment by June 15th of the current tax year. Don't miss this date, otherwise, you lose out on the tax savings. The amount of the prepayment is \$1,000 or 50% of the PTE tax you paid for the prior year, whichever is greater.

### Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC)

There are still so many businesses out there who haven't taken advantage of the ERTC.

The Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) was created as part of the CARES Act. Eligible employers can apply for a tax credit on qualifying wages, reducing the impact of pandemic-related shutdowns and loss of business. Recently, the credit was extended through tax year 12/31/2021 because of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and it represents a significant opportunity for your clients to recoup some of the losses suffered during the pandemic.

The ERTC can be claimed by employers against qualified wages paid to eligible employees after March 12, 2020 if:

- Operations were partially or fully suspended under government orders due to COVID-19
- The business experienced a decline in percentage of gross receipts from 2020 or 2021 as compared to 2019 (or 2020, if the business was not in existence in 2019)

The ERTC can be claimed retroactively and your business has three years from when you filed your payroll tax returns to amend the forms and claim the credit.

The ERTC amounts are below:

1. 2020 – 50% of \$10,000 in gross wages per employee – Up to a \$5,000 credit per employee for the year.
2. 2021 – 70% of \$10,000 in gross wages per employee per quarter – Up to a \$7,000 credit per employee per quarter. ■

You can reach Clint by email at [ccb@muncpas.com](mailto:ccb@muncpas.com) or by phone at 916-774-4208



# Wondering if you have the right tax strategies?

## Free Review of your Last 3 years Tax Returns!

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- Work with over 100 Dental Practices
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# Board Report

## January 3, 2023

### Highlights of the Board Meeting

*"It is the mission of the Sacramento District Dental Society to be the recognized source for serving its members and for enhancing the oral health of the community."*

#### CORE VALUES:

Community – Integrity –  
Service – Engagement

#### President Report

Dr. Lisa Dobak welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending and serving on the Board this year.

She reviewed the year ahead and some of the challenges we will be facing in 2023 including: the economy, insurance challenges, CDA's lawsuit against Delta Dental, organized dentistry support, membership recruitment sustainability, CDA and TDIC's services and response to members' concerns and more. Our goals for this year will be to revise bylaws, update policy documents, focus on membership retention and new member acquisition, look for other sources of non-dues revenue. We will be very careful with our budget planning this year! Dr. Dobak discussed the Board responsibilities and duties, Board attendance and involvement. The Board has a fiduciary responsibility to make sure our organization is operating and, with the Executive Director, adhering to the strategic plan. SDDS has worked hard to create diversity of leadership: ethnic, gender, GPs vs. specialists, etc. It is the duty of the Board to ask questions, read ahead of time and be engaged.

#### Secretary's Report

Dr. Ash Vasanthan, 2022 Secretary, reported on the December year end. We made our goal of 101 new members and our market share for December ended with 80.5%. Our final year engagement rate was 82% - the best year ever – and the retention rate is 93.5%. We will continue to strive to beat these numbers next year.

#### Treasurer's Report

Dr. Lisa Dobak, 2022 Treasurer, reported on the fiscal year end projection. The investment accounts saw their first downturn since 2008, as this downturn has been expected the past few years. We will continue to 'stay the course' with our conservative money management guidelines. Our reserves continue to be strong and intact. The 2023 proposed budget was discussed and approved.

#### Action Items

- New check signers were approved
- Leadership Development Committee / Nominating Committee was approved; their work will begin in February
- All Committees and Chairs were approved

#### Board of Component Representatives (CDA BCR)

Dr. Viren Patel will again serve as the BCR Chair and will serve on the CDA Board in that position.



By Nima Aflatooni, DDS  
Secretary

#### New Business... New Ideas - Projects For The Year

Bylaws and Policy document assignments – Two workgroups were made to work on questions, revisions to the bylaws and the policies. This project will progress through the year with final revisions completed by September, hopefully.

#### Executive Director's Report

Cathy Levering reported on the following:

- Cathy / Staff Goals for 2023
- Program at a Glance / Year's Calendar
- Vendor Members – we currently have 42
- MidWinter update – it's going to be great with 600 anticipated to attend; the Expo is sold out with 80 vendors and 150 representatives

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37pm

#### Next Board meetings:

March 7, May 2, Sept 5, Nov 7 at 6pm

If you have ever considered moving to or in Placerville/  
this is an incredibly easy opportunity, don't miss out....



## Dental Building for Sale Lease or Move in 2900 Cold Springs Rd, Placerville Ca 95667 3200 + Square Feet

7 Ops, Gorgeous Waiting Room, 4 bathrooms, lots of easy parking, and room on the lot for expansion or another Building., Great location near Home Depot and food and DMV.

Decades of good will as a dental office in town, easy access location  
Available April 2023 or most likely before.

Contact Dr Dean K Sands DMD  
**Call: 530-305-5000 or Email: drdksands@gmail.com**

Target price is \$620,000  
or

Divided \$400,000 for building and \$220,000 Leasehold Improvements  
OWC if needed.

Lease \$1.00 per sq foot/plus Insurance/Taxes combined or separate comes to  
approx  
\$1.29 / sq foot







# YOU

## THE DENTIST, THE EMPLOYER

## Ransomware on the Rise: Steps To Protect Your Practice and Systems From Cyber Disruption

Reprinted with permission from **TDIC**

When a cyberattack hits, your practice comes to a screeching halt. A compromised system can mean no access to schedules, billing or patient records. Learn how to proactively protect your systems, prevent cyber incidents and responsibly respond to a ransomware attack.

Over the past two years of practice disruption due to the pandemic, dentists have become attuned to navigating new challenges and balancing complex risks. However, there are some issues that blindside even the most seasoned practice owners. Imagine coming in ready to start the day, booting up your computer to check the schedule and then ... nothing. There's just a blank screen, or worse yet, a message stating that your system has been locked and a demand for a payment to gain access. When a ransomware attack hits, your practice comes to a screeching halt. A compromised system can mean no access to schedules, billing or patient records.

Cybercriminals have been leveraging practice disruptions to launch ransomware attacks in skyrocketing numbers. Dentists must proactively protect their practice systems, be prepared for the eventuality of receiving a demand and follow sound steps to recover from an attack.

In just one case handled by The Dentists Insurance Company, the total costs to conduct a forensic IT investigation, get systems back online and cover lost business neared \$100,000. When the dentist could not access his files, it soon became clear that the system had been hacked and the practice was a victim of ransomware. As patient data

was stored in the cloud, the dentist didn't believe that there had been a data breach but was still paralyzed from doing business because his systems and files were locked.

By the time a forensic IT firm was engaged to regain access to the system, get it back up and running again and unlock the data, the dentist had already paid a \$25,000 ransom demand. The insurance claim reflected more than \$70,000 in costs due to the amount of time the practice operations were down plus the expertise needed to investigate and reconcile the records and data.

In cases like this, recovering data and reimbursement for the associated financial loss is crucial to practice sustainability. But the investigation into how the system was accessed can be priceless in helping to support and train the practice team in mitigating future crises. In today's high-risk climate, everyone on the team should understand the potential implications of clicking on an attachment from an untrusted source or opening a malicious email.

### Prevention

The dedicated analysts who answer The Dentists Insurance Company's Risk Management Advice Line field calls from association members across the 15 states TDIC serves, helping them to navigate practice challenges — everything from patient care to documentation to employment to property. These experts have also developed tools that TDIC policyholders can access at any time by logging into their accounts online through the company's newly enhanced website.

### DO YOU USE THE HR HOTLINE?

The HR Hotline an exclusive benefit to SDDS Members. It is powered by the California Employers Association and they are ready for your call.

### SDDS HR Hotline

FREE TO SDDS MEMBERS!

888.784.4031

MEMBER  
BENEFIT!

Resources to support cyber incident prevention include:

- A comprehensive Cyber Liability Guide for an overview of risks and targets, data breach and cyberattacks, investigations, preparation and prevention
- A Cyber Event Checklist to plan for how your practice should respond to a cyberattack or incident
- A full library of articles, including expert guidance on the many aspects of cyber awareness and risk management in dentistry

These tools, in addition to guidance from your IT professional, can help you train your staff on recognizing and mitigating cyber risks.

### Protection

A proactive approach also means having the right type and amount of insurance coverage in place. To keep pace with today's evolving risks, owners — regardless of practice size — need insurance that goes beyond data breach. Look for a policy that is built to help you respond to and recover from a broad range of cyber incidents.

TDIC Business Owner's policyholders can apply to add Cyber Suite Liability coverage at any time. If you don't yet have cyber insurance or are unsure about your coverage, request a free policy review to compare your options and determine the solution that best fits your practice needs. Don't wait until a ransomware attack to realize what your policy does or doesn't cover.

## Response

With ransomware attacks on the rise, even well-prepared and well-protected practices will still be targeted. If you do experience an incident, it can be difficult to maintain the presence of mind to respond in a way that mitigates further risk.

While every incident is different, these six steps are sound guidance to support you:

1. **Don't pay** a ransomware demand until you consult a professional.
2. **Contact** your IT provider right away for assistance. Let an expert assess the situation.
3. **Document** without clicking on links or deleting information. Take a picture of the screen and note what it said at the time of the incident. Capture when it happened and how it occurred, if known.
4. **Save** network security logs that indicate the date, time and device used. Collect facts and gather information from your staff and IT provider.
5. **Call** your professional insurance provider or log in to your account to report the incident as soon as possible and initiate a claim.
6. **Report** a data breach to appropriate agencies.
  - For ransomware: Federal (FBI) and state law enforcement agencies.
  - The internet crime complaint center (IC3).
  - Security breach notifications required by law in your state.
  - For data breaches: Department of Health & Human Services.

Following a response plan and sharing accurate information with your insurer are both crucial to your recovery and initiating the claim process. Know that you're not alone when faced with a cyberattack or ransomware demand. TDIC recognizes the stress and disruption that is created when these cyber events occur and has created resources to assist with implementing a proactive approach for your practice. Stay informed of cybercrime trends and reach out to the experts at your professional insurance company for guidance on setting up prevention plans to lessen the risks of future incidents! ■

Contact Casandra Lopez, TDIC's dedicated team member for SDDS Members, by email at [casandra.lopez@tdicins.com](mailto:casandra.lopez@tdicins.com) or phone at: 888-627-3318.



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## Upcoming BUSINESS FORUM

APR  
19

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**Joshua Johnson, Owner; Fortress Management**  
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Learn how to structure your business and personal life so that all moving pieces work in harmony to protect you, your family, and your practice. The Fortune Law Firm has taken its years of courtroom experience to create a fortress of protection against the four threats to a practice: trial lawyers, the NPDB, the IRS and Probate Court.

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**6:00pm:** Registration | **6:30–8:30pm:** Class

**SDDS Classroom:**  
2035 Hurley Way, Suite 200 Sacramento



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# TOTAL MEMBERSHIP

(as of 2/9/23:)

# 1,880

MARKET  
SHARE:  
80.5%

RETENTION RATE: 93.7%  
ENGAGEMENT RATE: 82%

## New Members

**FARKAD ALAZZAWI, DDS** *Welcome Back!*  
General Practice

Dr. Alazzawi earned his dental degree from International in 2018. He is currently practicing at Western Dental in North Highlands.

**JATIN ARORA, DDS** *Welcome Back!*  
General Practice

Dr. Arora earned his dental degree from UCSF in 2020. He is currently practicing at Laguna Smiles in Elk Grove.

**SEAN BOYNES, DMD** *Affiliate!*  
Dental Anesthesiologist

Dr. Boynes earned his dental degree from University of Pittsburgh in 2003. He serves as the Vice President of Government Growth & Innovation for Access Dental Plan.

**YANG CHAI, DDS** *Transfer!*  
Orthodontics

Dr. Chai earned his dental degree from UCLA in 2019. His current office address is pending.

**KIRAN FAREED, DDS**  
General Practice

Dr. Fareed earned her dental degree from UOP in 2019. She is currently practicing at Smile Art Dental in Sacramento.

**SHAHRAM KHODAI, DDS** *Welcome Back!*  
General Practice

Dr. Khodai earned his dental degree from UOP in 2017. He is currently practicing at Premier Dental Group in Sacramento.

**DISHA KHENI, DDS**  
General Practice

Dr. Kheni earned her dental degree from International in 2022. She is currently practicing at Western Dental in Sacramento.

**KELSEY LOMEN, DDS** *Transfer!*  
General Practice

Dr. Lomen earned her dental degree from UCLA in 2022. Her current office address is pending.

**KAITLYN LIU, DDS**  
General Practice

Dr. Liu earned her dental degree from UOP in 2022. Her current office address is pending.

**LEE LO, DDS** *Welcome Back!*  
General Practice

Dr. Lo earned her dental degree from UCSF in 2017. She is currently practicing in Sacramento.

**ROSHANI MEHTA, DDS**  
General Practice

Dr. Mehta earned her dental degree from UOP in 1994. She is the California Dental Director of Quality for Access Dental Plan.

**IGNACIO ESAUL MENDOZA HAM, DDS** *Transfer!*  
General Practice

Dr. Mendoza Ham earned his dental degree from Mexico- Universidad De La Salle in 2015. He is currently practicing at Access Dental in Sacramento.

**SHIBANI SEHGAL, DMD** *Welcome Back!*  
General Practice

Dr. Sehgal earned her dental degree from University of Pennsylvania in 2010. She is currently practicing at Chapa de Indian Dental Clinic in Auburn.

**ELNAZ SHARIF, DDS** *Transfer!*  
General Practice

Dr. Sharif earned her dental degree from UCLA in 2020. Her current practice location is pending.

**BRITTANY VACURA, DDS** *Welcome Back!*  
General Practice

Dr. Vacura earned her dental degree from UCSF in 2017. She is currently practicing at WellSpace.

**DEXTER YEE, DDS** *Welcome Back!*  
Pediatrics

Dr. Yee earned her dental degree from Tufts University in 2011. He is currently practicing at Weideman Pediatric & Orthodontics in Citrus Heights.

### Pending Applicants:

Upasana Baidawar, DDS  
Lana Hoang, DDS  
Pratik Makadia, DDS  
Eudora Mkorombindo, DMD

### Congratulations to Our New Retired Members!

Richard Chang, DDS  
Kevin Cassidy, DDS  
Lewis M. Del Debbio, DDS  
Arden Kwong, DDS

TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERS:  
1,467

TOTAL RETIRED  
MEMBERS: 347

TOTAL DUAL  
MEMBERS: 7

TOTAL AFFILIATE  
MEMBERS: 10

TOTAL STUDENT  
MEMBERS: 87

TOTAL CURRENT  
APPLICANTS: 5

TOTAL DHP  
MEMBERS: 58

TOTAL NEW  
MEMBERS FOR 2022: 12



## Are You Following SDDS on Social Media Yet?

SDDS is working on amping up our social media presence this year! We're hoping to create more content to educate, inform, and enlighten our members! If you aren't already following SDDS on Facebook and Instagram, do so to see all of the great things we're creating for you this year!



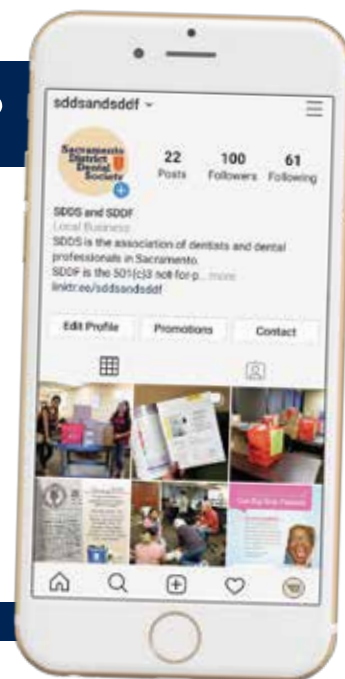
Follow our Facebook to keep up to date on all of our upcoming events, for news relevant to the dental profession, and announcements!

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Follow our Instagram for behind-the-scenes photos of our courses and speakers, insight into SDDS and fun announcements!

[instagram.com/sddsandsddf/](https://instagram.com/sddsandsddf/)



## In Memoriam



Dr. Hendrik Blom passed away on December 12, 2022 after a valiant fight against Parkinson's. He received his Doctorate in Dentistry from UC San Francisco in 1976 then his degree in Orthodontics in 1979. He practiced orthodontics in Citrus Heights for over 35 years. One of his favorite sayings was, "compliments are nice, but you are only as good as your last case."



Dr. Frederick Wenck passed away on January 6, 2023. He earned his DDS at Northwestern University in 1965 and joined SDDS in 1973, practicing in South Lake Tahoe until his retirement in 2020. Dr. Wenck served on the Peer Review Committee for 30 years, serving even after he retired.



Dr. Jack Sioukas passed away on February 3, 2023 at the age of 86. He earned his DDS from the University of Illinois, served in the U.S. Air Force and owned his own dental practice from 1964 to 1984 and then retired from dentistry, starting a second career as a real estate developer.



Dr. Roberto Sepulveda passed away on April 1, 2022. He earned his DDS at UCSF in 1980. He retired in 2020 and was member of SDDS since 2016.



Dr. Thomas Sharples passed away on April 22, 2022. He earned his DDS at University of Iowa in 1967. He joined SDDS in 1969 and practiced endodontics for more than 30 years, retiring and moving to Maine in 2008.



*Are you a member of our Foundation?*

Foundation Membership invoices recently went out in the mail, so if you see a \$75 invoice from the Foundation, that is your Foundation Membership!

Your Foundation Membership helps to fund our Smiles for Kids, Smiles for Big Kids programs and other forms of community outreach!

Not yet a member of the Foundation? Email us at [sdds@sdds.org](mailto:sdds@sdds.org) to become a member and make a difference.

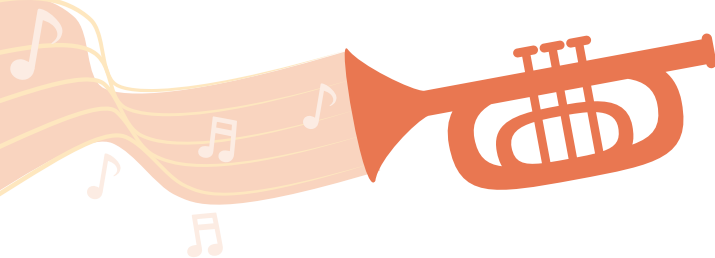
Thanks for your support!

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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CDA/TDIC . . . . . (800) 736-8702

Denti-Cal Referral: . . . . . (800) 322-6384  
Central Valley  
Well Being Committee . . . (559) 359-5631

# We're Blowing your horn!



## Congratulations to...

**Dr. Rosemary Wu and her husband Robert** on their recent marriage in Malibu. It was an intimate Christmas time wedding! **(1)**

**Dr. Kevin Cassidy** on his recent retirement - this is the view of his deck in Tahoe! **(2)**

**Dr. Gaetan Tchamba** on the purchase of his new practice on Avondale Drive in Sacramento!



## LET US KNOW YOUR NEWS!

Send us your news to [sdds@sdds.org](mailto:sdds@sdds.org) to let everyone know about the great things that are happening!



Join us for  
**Dental Day**  
with the **River Cats!**

.....  
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2023**

Bring your staff, family, and friends to enjoy a fun night out of baseball at our own Sutter Health Park.

Tickets available at [sdds.org](http://sdds.org)!

# Vendor Member SPOTLIGHT

we love  
our Vendor Members!



Malonn Barnes has served in the financial industry since 2003. He helps business owners, health care professionals, entrepreneurs, and individuals set a clear and realistic path toward meeting their financial objective while showing them how to build and preserve wealth.

ph: (916) 648-6224 | [fa.ml.com/malonn.m.barnes](http://fa.ml.com/malonn.m.barnes)

## Malonn Barnes

ph: (916) 873-6245 | [malonn.m.barnes@ml.com](mailto:malonn.m.barnes@ml.com)



Professional Practice Sales has been faithfully serving members of the Sacramento District Dental Society since 1966.

## Benefits, Services, Special Pricing and/or Discounts Extended to SDDS Members:

PPS shall perform a thorough scrub on the practice prior to our having a meaningful discussion with the Owner as they contemplate this event. The Owner shall receive the candid feed-back they need regarding their practice, so they can then make the proper decisions. The Owner shall be properly prepared for this unique journey, with their understanding their role in the process.

ph: (415) 899-8580 | [PPSsellsDDS.com](http://PPSsellsDDS.com)

## Ray Irving

[Ray@PPSsellsDDS.com](mailto:Ray@PPSsellsDDS.com)

## Edna Irving

[Edna@PPSsellsDDS.com](mailto:Edna@PPSsellsDDS.com)



U.S. Bank is a subsidiary of U.S. Bancorp (NYSE: USB), the fifth largest commercial bank in the United States. U.S. Bank operates 52 banking offices in the Sacramento Region and provides a comprehensive line of banking, investment, mortgage, trust and payment services products to consumers and businesses in the local market. Visit us on the web at [www.usbank.com](http://www.usbank.com).

ph: (279) 200-2944 | [usbank.com](http://usbank.com)

## John Smythe

[john.smythe@usbank.com](mailto:john.smythe@usbank.com)



Provide is the dental industry's only fully digital finance company. When you partner with Provide, you gain access to our customer-first finance experience and personalized service. From application to funding, our streamlined digital process allows easy collaboration with your trusted partners, saving you time so you can focus on what matters most: your patients.

ph: (877) 341-0617 | [getprovide.com](http://getprovide.com)

## Jason Schneller, Start Up – Expansion/Project

ph: (818) 561-8106 | [jason.schneller@getprovide.com](mailto:jason.schneller@getprovide.com)

## Christine Carvalho,

Practice Acquisition – Commercial Real Estate

ph: (408) 981-2524

[christine.carvalho@getprovide.com](mailto:christine.carvalho@getprovide.com)



Resource Staffing Group provides comprehensive staffing services to premier companies along the West Coast. From our establishment in 1985, we have been committed to a high level of professionalism, the best customer service and sustainability.

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[www.resourcestaff.com/employers/dental](http://www.resourcestaff.com/employers/dental)

## Debbie Kemper, Sr. Recruiter

[dkemper@resourcestaff.com](mailto:dkemper@resourcestaff.com)

## Wendie Richards, Dental Staffing Consultant

[wrichards@resourcestaff.com](mailto:wrichards@resourcestaff.com)



learn more  
about these Vendor Members!



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## Felisha Fondren, Dental Operations Manager

ph: (818) 237-0536

[felisha.r.fondren@healthnet.com](mailto:felisha.r.fondren@healthnet.com)



As one of the first credit unions in the Sacramento area to provide SBA financing, First U.S. has the experience and know-how to help move your practice to the next level.

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Visit [firstus.org](http://firstus.org) for more information, or contact one of our business specialists for a no-obligation, FREE review to see how we can help you with any business need:

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## Bob Miller, Business Services Manager

[bmiller@firstus.org](mailto:bmiller@firstus.org)



At TDIC, protecting dentists is all we do. Since 1980, when we were founded by a bold group of dentists, this has been our singular focus.

## Benefits, Services, Special Pricing and/or Discounts Extended to SDDS Members:

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## Casandra Lopez, Insurance Advisor

ph: 888-627-3318 | [casandra.lopez@tdicins.com](mailto:casandra.lopez@tdicins.com)



**Analgesic Services, Inc.**

Steve Shupe, President  
916.928.1068  
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Since 2004

**we love**  
our Vendor  
Members!

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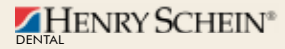
Tony Vigil, President  
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henryschein.com



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209.366.2486  
olsonconstructioninc.com



Since 2004

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Keith B. Dunnagan, Senior Attorney  
Diana Doroshuk, Firm Administrator  
916.966.2260  
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& Orthodontics**

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Since 2016

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209.623.9332  
starrefining.com



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510.501.1959  
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Since 2014

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Since 2017

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Since 2014

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Implantology**

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www.amiitv.org/sdds



Since 2021

MEMBER  
BENEFIT!

## SDDS VENDOR MEMBER SUPPORT IS A WIN-WIN RELATIONSHIP!

SDDS started the Vendor Member program in 2002 to provide resources for our members that would best serve their needs. We realize that you have a choice for vendors and services; we only hope that you give our Vendor Members first consideration since they directly support SDDS.



Learn more about what  
these Vendor Members  
have to offer!

### Financial Services

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Business Banking  
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bannerbank.com



Since 2017

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firstus.org



Since 2005

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Since 2022

**MUN CPAs**  
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916.724.3962  
muncpas.com



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818.561.8106  
getprovide.com



Since 2022

**Thomas Doll**  
Brett LeMmon  
925.280.5766  
thomasdoll.com



Since 2019

**Trek Financial**  
Evan G. Mathew  
530.757.4460  
trekfinancial.com



Since 2021

**US Bank**  
John Smythe  
279.200.2944  
usbank.com



Since 2017

### Retirement Planning

**California Dentists' Guild**  
Elizabeth Clark  
800.851.0008  
cadentistsguild.org



Since 2021

### Empl./Staffing/Assoc.

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Roy Fruehauf  
916.918.5752  
ddsmatch.com



Since 2020

**Resource Staffing Group**  
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resourcestaff.com



Since 2003

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swissmonkey.io



Since 2016

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hndental.com



Since 2018

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800.268.9012  
libertydentalplan.com



Since 2016

### IT & Dental Billing

**SD Reliance Management**  
Dennis Krohn Jr.,  
President/Partner  
916.367.4252  
sdreliance.com



Since 2021

### Compliance Services

**Abyde Compliance**  
Travis Watson  
727.977.6077  
abyde.com



Since 2022

**B & W Compliance, Inc.**  
Donna Boyd  
510.560.6191  
BandWcompliance.com



Since 2021

### Practice Management

**Adams Dental Consulting**  
Ashlee Adams  
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adamsdentalconsulting.com



Since 2021

**MGE Management Experts**  
Dan Brown  
757.530.4277  
mgeonline.com



Since 2022

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# Job Bank

The SDDS Job Bank is a service offered only to SDDS Members. It is for job seekers to reach other Society members who are looking for dentists to round out their practice, and vice versa. If you are a job seeker or associate seeker contact SDDS at (916) 446-1227, we can also provide contact information for the members listed below.

**MEMBER  
BENEFIT!**

## ASSOCIATE POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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Garth Collins, DDS • Folsom • PT/Temp • GP  
Raj Zanzi, DMD • Rocklin • PT • GP  
Nima Aflatooni, DDS • Gold River • PT • GP  
Calvin Garland, DDS • Sacramento • PT • GP  
Denisse Montalvo, DDS • Sacramento • PT • GP  
Anthony Dang, DDS • Rancho Cordova • PT • GP  
James Robison, DDS • Rocklin • PT • GP  
Cassandra Krupansky, DDS Placerville/ Cameron Park • FT • GP  
Bruce Thomas, DDS • Davis • PT/FT • GP  
Christopher Schiappa, DDS • Pioneer • PT • GP  
Junie Baldanado, DDS • Loomis • PT • GP  
Shahin Shamsian, DDS • South Sacramento • PT/FT • GP  
Mahnaz Moussavi, DDS • Folsom • FT • GP  
Jonathan Chan, DDS • Roseville • PT • GP  
Hung Le, DDS • Elk Grove • PT • GP  
Carlos Bonilla, DMD • Sacramento • PT • Endo  
David Park, DDS • FT/PT • GP  
Elizabeth Johnson, DDS • various Wellspace locations • FT/PT/Fill-In • GP

## DOCS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

Yang Chai, DDS • FT • Ortho  
Sabrina Franciosa, DDS • STUDENT • FT • GP  
Shahryar Khodai, DDS • PT • GP  
Bruce Taber, DDS • Fill-In • GP



# Classified Ads

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The office of Dr. Hung Do is excited to add an Endodontist Associate to their team 2-3 days a week. The team thrives in a fun, motivated and encouraging environment. Successful candidates will have a patient first, compassionate personality with solid clinical skills and ethics. Preference is a candidate with previous private practice experience but also willing to mentor new grads. Completion of Endodontic Residency is required. License/credentials applicable to the state of California. Inquiries and CV's submitted to Jenny Wilding at [jjwilding@mosaicdentalcollective.com](mailto:jjwilding@mosaicdentalcollective.com) 1-2/23

Looking for an amazing General Dentist to join our team 2-3 days a week. We have an incredible community and pride ourselves on the care we provide our community. Contact: [admin@calkidzidental.com](mailto:admin@calkidzidental.com) 7-8/22

**SUPERSTARS WANTED!** The Spot for Smiles is seeking an AMAZING pediatric specialist (or GP who loves kiddos). Come find out why we are THE SPOT for kids dentistry in the greater Sacramento area. Email CV and cover letter to [derekb@spotforsmiles.com](mailto:derekb@spotforsmiles.com) 4/22

Kids Care Dental & Orthodontics seeks orthodontists to join our teams in the greater Sacramento and greater Stockton areas. We believe when kids grow up enjoying the dentist, healthy teeth and gums will follow. As the key drivers of our mission—to give every kid a healthy smile—our dentists, orthodontists and oral surgeons exhibit a genuine love of children and teeth. A good fit for our culture means you are also honest, playful, lighthearted, approachable, hardworking, and compassionate. Patients love us...come find out why! Send your resume to [talent@kidscaredental.com](mailto:talent@kidscaredental.com). 6-7/17

WELLSPACE HEALTH ORGANIZATION (an FQHC) is taking applications for fill-in/part-time/full-time dentists. Send your resume/CV to [eljohnson@wellspacehealth.org](mailto:eljohnson@wellspacehealth.org). 1/15

SDDS member dentists can place one classified ad

**FOR FREE!**

MEMBER BENEFIT!

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Kids Care Dental & Orthodontics seeks dentists to join our teams in the greater Sacramento and greater Stockton areas. We believe when kids grow up enjoying the dentist, healthy teeth and gums will follow. As the key drivers of our mission—to give every kid a healthy smile—our dentists, orthodontists and oral surgeons exhibit a genuine love of children and teeth. A good fit for our culture means you are also honest, playful, lighthearted, approachable, hardworking, and compassionate. Patients love us...come find out why! Send your resume to [talent@kidscaredental.com](mailto:talent@kidscaredental.com). 6-7/17

## PRACTICES FOR SALE

General Practice for sale centrally located in Elk Grove. Fee for service & PPO collections \$650,000.00 on 20 Hours of work week. No HMO's or MediCal. 25 years goodwill. Email: [DenselnDente@gmail.com](mailto:DenselnDente@gmail.com) 3-4/23c

Practice for sale: Seller motivated: Practice collected over \$1-219M in 2021. 3200SF w/7 fully equipped ops and plumbed for 3 additional \$850k. Contact [acostacuevasfamilydental@frontiernet.net](mailto:acostacuevasfamilydental@frontiernet.net) 1-2/23

**PLACER COUNTY ALONGSIDE INTERSTATE 80:** Delta PPO shall collect \$590,000 in 2022. Building also available for purchase. **FAIR OAKS:** Phenomenal exposure at busy intersection. What makes this a tremendous investment is the real estate is included. **LAKE TAHOE:** Collections in 2022 shall top \$875,000 on 20-hour work week with Available Profits of close to \$400,000. Asking \$225,000. For more information, go to [www.PPSellsDDS.com](http://www.PPSellsDDS.com) or phone Ray Irving at 415-899-8580. 9-10/22

Omni Practice Group has several listings in the Sacramento area:

Amazing south Sacramento County growth opportunity practice. High visibility location. Underserved community and 6 operatories. (CAD125).

Elk Grove practice with a great reputation, 4 fully equipped ops, growing collections, and customer base. Highly desirable medical building, over \$800k in annual collections. (CAD124).

For more information, contact Chris Barbour (#2135925) at [chris@omni-pg.com](mailto:chris@omni-pg.com) or call (916) 792-5038. 4/22

## FOR LEASE

900 SF New! Includes: Sewer, Water, Garbage and Supplied Dental Grade Air/Vac Hookup. Rent: \$3,375.00 - \$4,050.00/Month. 916-384-7287 [ccdb1901@gmail.com](mailto:ccdb1901@gmail.com) 1-3 Months Free! Move In Today! 11-12/22

Brand new construction Roseville dental offices, Citrus Heights, Rocklin, Lincoln, South Sacramento Dental suites for lease; Sacramento Dental building \$575K; Ranga Pathak, Broker Associate, RE/MAX Gold, DRE01364897; Tel:(916)201-9247; Email: [ranga.pathak@norcalgold.com](mailto:ranga.pathak@norcalgold.com). 8-9/21

1150 sq ft. Carmichael Dental office. Three operatories, some dental equipment included in lease. Turnkey Dental office. Garbage & sewer included in lease. Property is fenced, no homeless issues. \$1900 per month. 2447 Mission Ave. #B. Please call 916-483-2484 7-8/22

Greenhaven Dental Office For Lease. Professional Dental Building 930 Florin Road Ste 100. 1,396 S.F. \$1.85 PSF Plus Utilities. Contact agent (916) 443-1500 CA DRE Lic. #01413910 11/20

SACRAMENTO DENTAL COMPLEX has one 3 unit suite which is equipped for immediate occupancy. Two other suites total 1630 sq. ft which can be remodeled to your personal office design with generous tenant improvements. 2525 K Street. Please call for details: (916) 448-5702. 10/11

## EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Two A-dec dental chair units in great condition for sale. For pics call 916-996-1631 3-4/23c

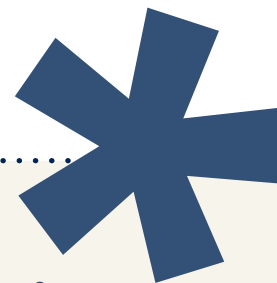
Looking to equip a hygiene room, second office, or need supplies? We have Pelton Crane Chairman, Midmark 11 Sterilizer, Dentsply endo rotary system, XDR sensors, Dentsply cavitron units plus inserts, Phillips xray units, Ceiling lights, dual compressor, and numerous sundries and supplies. Please inquire by contacting me at [wesleyee@aol.com](mailto:wesleyee@aol.com) or (926) 508-5230 3-4/23c

Equipment for Sale and/or Lease of Turnkey Office in El Dorado Hills. 6 Ops of Excellent condition ADec chairs/cabinets/stools/delivery units, Compressor and Vacuum. Moved to new location, previous EDH office is turnkey and ready for new tenant. Reception furniture, office decor, breakroom table/refrigerator all still there. Priced to move. Contact [everhart.ryan@gmail.com](mailto:everhart.ryan@gmail.com) 9-10/22

Selling your practice? Need an associate? Have office space to lease? SDDS member dentists get one complimentary, professionally related classified ad per year (30 word maximum). For more information on placing a classified ad, please call the SDDS office at 916.446.1227 or visit <http://www.sdds.org/publications-media/advertise/>

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# SDDS CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## MARCH

- 11** General Membership Meeting  
**Malpractice Stories: Risk Exposure, Prevention, Safety, and Empowerment**  
*Michael Kowalski, DDS, JD*  
3 CEU, Core / Hilton Arden West
- 17** Continuing Education Course  
**Compliance Day – Do You Have What You Need?**  
*Dolan Williams; B & W Compliance, Inc. (SDDS Vendor Member) and Teresa Pichay, CHPC; California Dental Association*  
4 CEU, Core / 8:30am–12:30pm  
SDDS Office
- 22** Continuing Education Course  
**Dental Care During Pregnancy**  
Panel of Experts  
2 CEU, 20% / 6:30–8:30pm / Webinar

- 29** Business Forum  
**Buy It, Build it, Lease it?**  
*Panel of Experts*  
No CEU / 6:30–8:30pm / SDDS Office

## APRIL

- 11** General Membership Meeting  
**Dinner with the Deans**  
*Kevin Keating, MS, DDS; Nader Nadershahi, DDS, MBA, EdD and Michael Reddy DMD, DMSc*  
3 CEU, Core / Hilton Arden West
- 15** CPR–AHA BLS Blended Learning  
**Skills Testing, 3 Time Sessions**  
4 CEU, Core / 8–8:45am, 9–9:45am, 10–10:45am / SDDS Office

See page 18 for upcoming committee meetings

- 18** Continuing Education Course  
**OSHA: Safety Leaders Part 1**  
*Nancy Dewhirst, RDH*  
1 CEU, Core / 12–1pm / Webinar
- 19** Business Forum  
**Build Your Fortress of Protection**  
*Joshua Johnson: Sponsored by Fortune Law Firm (SDDS Vendor Member)*  
No CEU / 6:30–8:30pm / SDDS Office
- 21** Continuing Education Course  
**Pearls in Our Backyard**  
*Ian Marion, DDS; Homan Javaheri, DMD, MDS; Matt Sandretti, DDS, MSD; Clifford Chow, DDS and Jeff Delgadillo, DDS*  
6 CEU, Core / 8:30am–3pm / SDDS Office
- 25** Continuing Education Course  
**OSHA: Team Training Part 2**  
*Nancy Dewhirst, RDH*  
1 CEU, Core / 12–1pm / Webinar



## Swing for Smiles 2023 – Register Today!

Come support the Foundation at the annual Golf Tournament on May 12th at Ancil Hoffman Golf Course!



## Upcoming GENERAL MEETINGS

**MAR  
14**

### Malpractice Stories: Risk Exposure, Prevention, Safety, and Empowerment

Tuesday • 3 CEU, Core • \$80

Presented by Michael Kowalski, DDS, JD

As dental professionals we emphasize prevention for our patients. This talk will focus on how to become proactive with risk exposure and management. Topics will include recent changes in California law governing dental malpractice legal actions, trends in malpractice litigation, how to deal with patient expectations and threats of potential legal actions as well as protocols for complete documentation. Proactive risk recognition allows for increased options, better results and more trusting patients.

**APR  
11**

### Dinner with the Deans: State of Dental Education and Future of Dentistry

Tuesday • 3 CEU, Core • \$80

Presented by Kevin Keating, MS, DDS; Nader Nadershahi, DDS, MBA, EdD and Michael Reddy DMD, DMSc

The speakers will share their vision to guide the schools through the challenges and the work in progress in their respective schools to best prepare the dental student. In addition to listening to them you will also have an opportunity to interact with them for a Q and A. Don't miss this rare opportunity to be a part of this special program.

**5:45pm:** Social & Table Clinics | **6:45pm:** Dinner & Program  
Hilton Sacramento Arden West (2200 Harvard Street, Sac)