

September/October 2024

the Nugget

Dentistry for
the Community:
Advancing Oral Health for All

A PUBLICATION OF THE SACRAMENTO DISTRICT DENTAL SOCIETY



Get Ready For Our UPCOMING EVENTS

September 1, 2024

MidWinter 2025 Registration Opens!

September 10, 2024

General Membership Meeting

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

Member Price: \$89 early (ends 8/27)

\$99 regular (begins 8/28) / \$109 late (begins 9/9)

My Scanner is Better Than Yours (3 CEU, Core)

Presented by Jenny Apekian, DDS; Darrell Chun, DDS, MAGD
and David Lopes, DDS

Sponsored by TDIC

September 13, 2024

Member Event - Shred Day

Friday • 10am–2pm • SDDS Rear Parking lot

Sponsored by TDIC

September 18, 2024

Continuing Education - Licensure Renewal

Wednesday • 5:30–7:30pm • Webinar*

Member Price: \$95 early (ends 8/28) / \$105 regular (begins 8/29)

Infection Control (2 CEU, Core)

Presented by Nancy Dewhirst, RDH, BS

September 19, 2024

Dentists Do Broadway - Company

Thursday • 7:30pm • SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center

September 20, 2024

Continuing Education

Friday • 8:30am–2:30pm • SDDS Classroom

Member Price: \$199 early (ends 8/30) / \$219 regular (begins 8/31)

Make Your Manuals (5 CEU, Core)

Michelle Coker; CDA – Employee Handbook Update (2 CEU, 20%)
Teresa Pichay; CDA – Regulatory Compliance Manual (1.5 CEU, Core)
Matt Leatherman; Abyde – HIPAA Manual (1.5 CEU, Core)

September 24, 2024

Continuing Education - Licensure Renewal

Tuesday • 5:30–7:30pm • Webinar*

Member Price: \$95 early (ends 9/3) / \$105 regular (begins 9/4)

California Dental Practice Act (2 CEU, Core)

Presented by Nancy Dewhirst, RDH, BS



View all CE Courses & Events
online with this QR code.

October 3, 2024

Continuing Education Hands-on

Thursday • 5:30–8:30pm • SDDS Classroom

Member Price:

Recording (3 CEU, Core) & **hands-on** \$395 (ends 9/12) / \$415 (begins 9/13)

Hands-on only* \$300 (ends 9/12) / \$320 (begins 9/13)

**Must have attended lecture on March 21 for this price*

Next Level Bone Grafting - Hands-on (3 CEU, Core)

Presented by Tamir Wardany, DDS, DABOI

Sponsored by Geistlich Biomaterials and H & H Company

October 8, 2024

General Membership Meeting

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

Member Price: \$89 early (ends 9/24)

\$99 regular (begins 9/25) / \$109 late (begins 10/7)

The Many Myths of Pediatric Dentistry (3 CEU, Core)

Presented by David L. Rothman, DDS, FAAPD, FACD, FICD

October 10, 2024

Dentists Do Broadway - Mrs. Doubtfire

Thursday • 7:30pm • SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center

October 23, 2024

Business Forum

Wednesday • 6:00–8:00pm • Webinar*

Member Price: \$75 early (ends 10/2) / \$95 regular (begins 10/3)

Finding the Perfect Fit—Bringing Harmony Back to the Workplace
(2 CEU, 20%)

Presented by Mari Bradford; California Employers Assoc. (CEA),
Wendie Richards; Resource Staffing and Christine Sison; Swiss Monkey
(SDDS Vendor members)

October 26, 2024

Fundraiser for the SDDF Foundation

Saturday • 6:00pm • Hyatt Regency Sacramento

Smiles for Sacramento Gala

**HANDS-
ON!**

More Coming Soon - visit sdds.org for details

November 1, 2024 Continuing Education

Pearls in Our Backyard

November 12, 2024 General Meeting

Dental Implants: Proceed with Caution!

November 14, 2024 Business Forum

Ask Me Anything!

December 10, 2024 Harassment Prevention Training

For Employees and For Supervisors/Employers

** Does not qualify for AGD credit*

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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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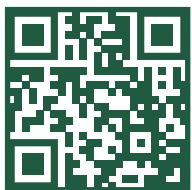
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By **Ash Vasanthan, DDS, MS**
2024 SDDS President

Mentoring the Next Generation

Teaching is a cornerstone of professional development across all disciplines, particularly in fields as dynamic as dentistry. My journey from full-time teaching at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, School of Dentistry to private practice underscores this truth. Teaching and research, which I embraced right after completing my Periodontics Residency and Master's in Dental Biomaterials at University of Alabama at Birmingham, opened avenues to lifelong learning I continue to explore.

In the early stages of our careers, we are fueled by boundless energy and ambition. However, these qualities often meet the tempered pace of well-established institutions, where change is approached with caution despite the common mantra that

"change is the only constant." This can pose challenges for young professionals eager to innovate.

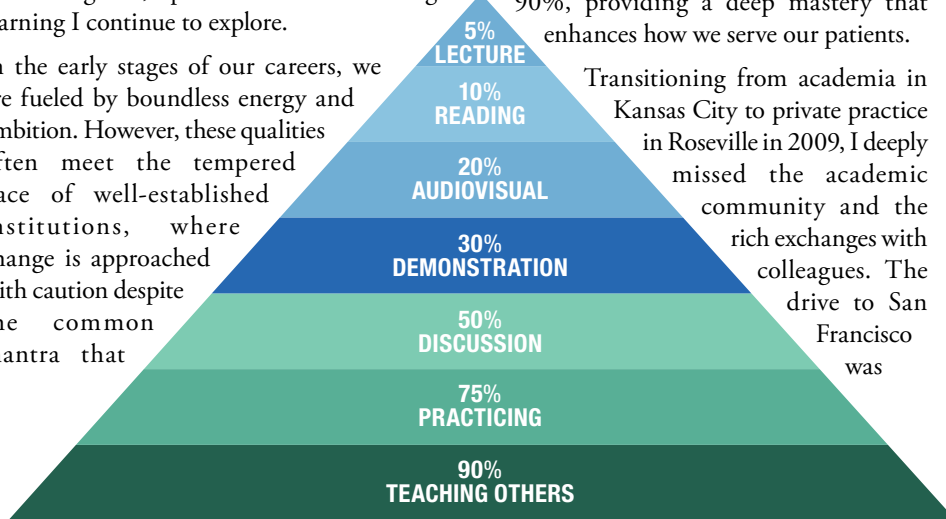
My mentor, Dr. Geurs, once shared a profound insight during our discussions. He believed teaching was the highest form of learning—a sentiment supported by the learning pyramid. This model suggests that while traditional lecturing may impart only 5% retention, teaching skyrockets this to 90%, providing a deep mastery that enhances how we serve our patients.

Transitioning from academia in Kansas City to private practice in Roseville in 2009, I deeply missed the academic community and the rich exchanges with colleagues. The drive to San Francisco was

necessary to connect with dental schools like University of the Pacific and University of California San Francisco. However, Sacramento has now welcomed new opportunities with the advent of dental programs at California Northstate University and UOP's International Dentist Program (Pacific Consortium).

These institutions not only enrich our professional community but are actively seeking volunteer teachers and part-time faculty. For those in the dental field looking to deepen their knowledge and impact the next generation, I encourage exploring these teaching opportunities. Engaging with students enhances our own understanding and ensures the vibrancy of dental education in Sacramento. ■

Ash Vasanthan



HANDS-ON CE COURSE

Thursday, October 3, 2024

Next Level Bone Grafting - Hands-on

3 CEU, Core • 5:30-8:30pm • SDDS Classroom
Recording (3 CEU, Core) & hands-on \$395 (ends 9/12) / \$415 (begins 9/13)

Hands-on only* \$300 (ends 9/12) / \$320 (begins 9/13)

*Must have attended lecture on March 21 for this price

Presented by Tamir Wardany, DDS, DABOI

Sponsored by Geistlich Biomaterials and H & H Company

MEMBER BENEFIT

Friday, September 13, 2024

10:00am-2:00pm • SDDS Back Parking Lot

Shred Day - Member Event

Sponsored by TDIC (SDDS Vendor Member)

Cost: Up to 5 boxes (bankers box size) free to SDDS members.
\$10 per additional box.

New this year: Accepting E-Waste! Check the enclosed form for a list of accepted items.



"Survey Says..."

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

Over the past few months our members have been inundated with surveys, requests for input and more. ADA did a membership survey, CDA is doing one now (watch your emails), and SDDS just finished its quick, 20-question Membership and CE survey. Our survey was sent out to all active SDDS members. The results and comments were very informative and has given us much to integrate into our upcoming programs and goals for next year. Thank you to all members who responded. Sadly, only 99 (7%) dentists responded to our survey. But, every single one of the responses were read, notes were made and plans are in motion to improve, adjust and implement what we can. The amazing news is, in regard to the suggestions for topics and speakers for continuing education, nearly all of the suggestions made were already slated to be presented in our fall program or at our MidWinter Convention 2025. It was such a relief to read and see that we are on the right track with what our members want!

Here are some highlights and comments:

- Supporting the profession, networking, meeting other dentists, and CE Courses were priorities for being a member
- In addition to that, access to information/resources, CE courses (including MW), *the Nugget* magazine, HR Hotline ranked next as top benefits
- 85% of the respondents enjoy LIVE and IN PERSON meetings and courses
- Weeknights are preferred, then Fridays (a few for Saturdays but not many)
- Fun events are enjoyed and suggestions made
- Re: our Foundation – 65% were SDDF members; two people wanted to know more about the Foundation (Who are you? This survey was anonymous, LOL!)

More of what we learned:

- More people need to use the HR Hotline – it's free to all SDDS members, every day, 8am to 4:30pm
- We'll try to offer more business management courses (check out the fall schedule, 4 events scheduled already, manuals, hiring, HR, Ask Me Anything)
- Our MidWinter courses are right on to what the respondents suggested
- We will continue to offer a myriad of time options; weeknights, Fridays, lunch hour webinars
- People loved the River Cats event but we need to do a Kings game!
- Respondents appreciate and thank SDDS for their hard work – thank you for saying so!

We always are trying to be better – thank you to all for your candid responses. As we move forward with planning for the fall and next year, we will take this information forward.

Finally, we hope to see many of our members and their friends at the Foundation Gala on October 26th. There's still plenty of room to sign up. It will be a great night to benefit our Foundation and all we do in the community. Great dinner, wonderful friends, live auction and George Hullin & the Jay Rolerz Band will be ready to get ya' dancing!

Happy Fall, y'all!

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Diphenhydramine Liquid	X	X				Diphenhydramine Liquid Bottle \$5.99
Glucose	✓	✓				Glucose \$5.99
Albuterol Inhaler	✓	✓				Albuterol Inhaler \$69.99
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						Nitroglycerine Spray \$199.99



Prices as of today's date

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WEBSITE: MEDS2URX.COM
dental@meds2urx.com

Pearls in Our Backyard

Friday, November 1, 2024 • 8:30am–3:00pm

Presented by Devan Dalla, DDS; Nisha Manila, BDS, MS, PhD, FACD; Brandon Martin, DDS, MS; Sarmad Paydar, DDS AND Tim Mickiewicz, DDS

From all aspects of dentistry, this CE course gathers together SDDS member dentists who will present pearls for the general practitioner as well as specialists. Speakers listed in order of presentation.

Tim Mickiewicz, DDS

Consilience: How Does it Relate to Medicine and Dentistry?

The power of why is the answer. Whether it's dental, systemic, metabolic and/or skeletal, the everyday patient may have manifestations or disorders that are your responsibility to co-discover with the patient. What appears to be a "common dental issue" may be masking significant problems such as TMD, sleep, pain and other physiological disorders.

Are you prepared to handle the consequences of your treatment decisions? Always aim for perfection; settle for excellence!



Nisha Manila, BDS, MS, PhD, FACD

Artificial Intelligence in Dentistry

Explore the application of artificial intelligence (AI) in dentistry, including fundamental concepts, potential benefits and limitations.



Brandon Martin, DDS, MS

Phase I or Phase Wait: Why would you put braces on an 8-year old?

Are you noticing more third graders with braces or clear aligners? Do these young patients who still have more than half their baby teeth actually need early orthodontic treatment? Sometimes they do, and sometimes they don't. This presentation will explore the rationale, timing and latest treatment options available for early interceptive orthodontics.



Sarmad Paydar, DDS

Considerations in Treating Mucogingival Defects

The Comprehensive Oral Examination encompasses a thorough evaluation of intraoral hard and soft tissues. With respect to the soft tissue evaluation and identifying at-risk sites, clinicians often struggle with a choice between which exposed root surfaces need treatment (with soft tissue augmentation) and which do not. A "decision tree" to aid in diagnosis and subsequent recommendations will yield to early care and the best outcomes. This lecture will provide you with criterions to assess soft tissue deformities in a predictable form to deliver the very best patient outcomes.



Devan Dalla, DDS

Develop a Practical and Predictable Workflow Using Your Digital Technologies for Fixed Implant ALL-On-X Cases

Are you tired of doing verification jigs for full mouth implant cases? How can you predictably finish these complex cases in less appointments and use digital technology? Various methods will be shown that will simplify All-on-X from planning to executing with the digital tools available today.



6 CEU, Core • \$179

Registration – 8:00am

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



Register online today
with this QR code.

Dentistry for the Community: Advancing Oral Health for All



By **Karisa Yamamoto, DDS**
Associate Editor

The oral cavity and its adjacent structures are the gateway to the systems of the body and are essential to daily functioning, having an impact on our physical, mental, social and economic well-being. Over the past few decades, we have witnessed remarkable innovations in dental technologies and materials, as well as growth in our understanding of oral disease. Despite these improvements, far too many Americans have been, and are still, unable to equitably access dental care and experience improvements in their own oral health.

The commonly held belief that poor oral health of poor communities is a result of personal neglect is not supported by research. Rather, lack of access to care and untreated chronic oral disease for many is largely due to oral health disparities and inequities, which are determined by an array of factors, such as age, ability to afford health care services, and proximity to a provider. Racism, not only on an individually expressed bias, but also on a systemic level, has been deeply rooted in the structure of our health care delivery systems, which puts people of color at a major disadvantage in accessing care. Individuals with special health care needs are at increased risk of developing and living with untreated oral disease, as they face barriers to accessing services beyond that required by the general population. Though people residing in correctional facilities are the only ones in the country with the legal right to healthcare, this population shows higher rates of untreated dental caries and periodontal disease, and an increased need for urgent dental care compared to the noninstitutionalized population.¹

The patients we see walking through the doors of private practices for their bi-annual dental visits are those who have the economic, physical, mental, and geographical means to afford, walk, and

The commonly held belief that poor oral health of poor communities is a result of personal neglect is not supported by research.

reach their providers. However, for many of our vulnerable populations, regular dental visits are not feasible. Each year, poor access to dental care impacts our health care system with visits to the emergency department caused by oral disease, conditions that could have been prevented or addressed by a visit to the dentist.

In May 2024, new legislation was introduced in Congress to expand Medicare, Medicaid, and the Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide comprehensive dental coverage to the nation's seniors, veterans, and financially disadvantaged children, individuals, and families. The bill aims to increase the number of dental professionals in America, particularly in rural and underserved communities, make dental care an essential benefit under the Affordable Care Act, and increase the reimbursement rates for dental procedures under Medicaid.² The American Dental Association supports Congress in the importance they are placing on oral health

and the country's overall well-being. Though this proposal for change is a beacon of hope, there is still much progress to be made.

In this issue, we showcase the work of dentists who are fighting to bridge the gaps in access to oral health. An inspiration to us all, these changemakers have dedicated their lives to serving the community as their calling. I hope for readers to gain an understanding of our communities in need, the cultural humility and compassion necessary to treat vulnerable populations, and the immense reward in providing care for underserved patients. ■

References

1. National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research. (2021). Section 1 Effect of Oral Health on the Community, Overall Well-Being, and the Economy. In *Oral Health in America: Advances and Challenges*. Retrieved from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK578297/>
2. NEWS: Sanders Introduces Legislation to Address America's Dental Crisis. (2024, May 17). Senator Bernie Sanders. <https://www.sanders.senate.gov/press-releases/news-sanders-introduces-legislation-to-address-americas-dental-crisis/>

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YOU SHOULD KNOW

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The UOP Pacific Health Care Collaborative has a cohort of 29 International Students representing (10) countries. These doctors are advanced standing and this program is 24 months. Their dental clinic is at 3333 3rd Ave, Sacramento, CA. 95817 | (916) 672-2774

They will begin making screening appointments for New Patients in late August, and the students will begin seeing patients in the Autumn Quarter starting in early October.

Visit the website for more information: <https://www.pacific.edu/PHCCclinic>

BE READY TO COMPLETE ORAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT

With many children heading back to school this month, CDA reminds dentists about their role in completing an oral health assessment for children entering public school for the first time (kindergarten or first grade).

One goal of the assessment is to establish a dental home for children who need further examination and dental treatment. The assessment can be a dentist's complete examination or a screening performed by a dentist, hygienist or RDAEF.



Dentists should expect to receive an assessment form from the child's parent or guardian and be ready to complete section 2.

Learn more about the Kindergarten Oral Health Requirement and read the FAQ for dentists and office staff.

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS? LET US KNOW SO WE CAN UPDATE OUR RECORDS!

THE SDDS ONLINE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY IS ONLINE
VISIT WWW.SDDS.ORG/CURRENT-MEMBERS/

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Help with SDDS recruitment!

If you are unable to attend a particular meeting, call SDDS and we'll arrange for a new member to attend in your place.

Sign up with the enclosed insert and attend these great General Meetings!

CNU DENTAL CLINIC NOW OPEN

California Northstate University of College of Dental Medicine Comprehensive Family Care Clinic

2400 Maritime Drive, Elk Grove, CA 95758
916-686-8914

M-T 8:30am – 5:00pm | F 8:30am – 1:00pm

Provide General Dentistry Services for children and adults. All care is provided by a dental student team under the direct supervision of a licensed dental professional. Medi-Cal Dental accepted.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FOUNDATION

There's still time to join our SDDS Foundation. It's only \$75 a year and you'll help support all the work, outreach, screenings, puppet shows that we do for our community.

2025 MIDWINTER CONVENTION & EXPO REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN - Register your team and save!

DHP MEMBERSHIP

The Dental Health Professional (DHP) Membership is a membership for any Front office staff, dental assistants, RDH's and anyone else who works in a dental office. This membership offers many great benefits. Discounts on CE courses and SDDS events. Big discounts on the MidWinter Convention and a subscription to the award-winning *Nugget* magazine. Sponsor your staff now and they will get the DHP membership through 2025. Price is \$85 if doctor pays, \$95 otherwise.

GALA TABLES STILL AVAILABLE

Visit sdds.org if you'd like to support the Foundation by attending the Gala, October 26.

SAVE THE DATE FOR 2025 SWING FOR SMILES GOLF TOURNAMENT May 9, 2025 at Teal Bend



By Paul Glassman, DDS, MA, MBA
SDDS Member

Dr. Paul Glassman is the Associate Dean for Research and Community Engagement at the College of Dental Medicine at California Northstate University and Professor Emeritus at the University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni, School of Dentistry. He has been prominent in leadership and advocacy efforts on a state and national level for health system reform to improve oral health systems for a wide variety of underserved groups.

Community Based Oral Health Care: Improving Oral Health Access, Equity and Population Oral Health

Dental care delivery systems that allow dental organizations and practices to reach people and improve oral health in their own and surrounding communities, beyond the four walls of the dental office, are expanding in recognition and use. These systems represent new opportunities for the profession to expand practices and improve population oral health.

Oral Health Disparities

The various oral health care systems in the U.S. do not reach most of the country's population. The latest reports from the American Dental Association's (ADA) Health Policy Institute indicate that, in 2021, less than half of the U.S. population had an annual dental visit. This is a significant problem because the "annual visit" measure, although commonly used and relatively easy to collect, is a very low bar. It only measures the number of people that interacted with the oral healthcare system at least once in a given year, not whether people had all their oral health needs met or whether they have good oral health.

The data is even more problematic when race, ethnicity and income are considered. For example, only about 40% of Black or Hispanic children, 23% of Black or Hispanic adults, 35% of children and 25% of adults living in families with an income at or below the federal poverty level, had an annual dental visit. Even in more affluent white population groups, only 58% of children and 47% of adults had an annual dental visit. It is also well known that population groups who use the dental care system the least have the most untreated dental disease.

Evolving Oral Health Systems

There are a number of trends in oral health systems underway that have the potential

to expand the reach of dentists, allowing them to engage more people in their own and adjacent communities and improving population oral health.

One multi-decade trend has been the development of materials and methods for treating dental disease, particularly dental caries, without the need for surgical intervention. Often referred to as "minimally invasive dentistry" (MID), these materials and methods include Fluoride Varnish, Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF), and Interim Therapeutic Restorations. Although these materials and methods can be used in dental offices, they can also be used by allied dental personnel in community settings without the need for a surgical dental suite, local anesthesia, dental handpieces, or even a dentist to be present.

Another trend impacting the ability to expand the reach of oral health care systems is the development and use of teledentistry facilitated care. For the last two decades, I have led the development of the "Virtual Dental Home" (VDH) system of care. As described in a recent technical report by the ADA Standards Committee on Dental Informatics, the VDH is an example of a full-service dental care delivery system. This means that it uses allied dental personnel and non-dental personnel in community locations as "frontline workers" in the dental care system. They are connected to dentists and dental practices through teledentistry systems, which allow dentists in their offices to review oral health records collected in the community, make a diagnosis and treatment plan, and supervise or facilitate community delivered care. When patients have a level of disease that requires services that can only be performed in a dental office, a referral is more likely to be successful because the dentist has already reviewed the patient's

records and can plan for needed procedures and accomplish them with fewer visits than might otherwise be needed.

A six-year demonstration of the VDH system indicated that the majority, up to 80% - 85% of low-income preschool and elementary school children, could be kept healthy in community sites without the need to make a trip to a dental office. Although many dentists were initially concerned that this system would result in fewer patients coming to their offices, decades of experience have now shown that the opposite is true. Many people, who were not accessing any dental care, are now receiving basic prevention and early intervention services in the community and then being referred to dental offices for more complex procedures requiring office-based care.

Community-based Oral Health Systems

As the use of telehealth connected teams and community based oral health delivery systems has increased, numerous innovative

uses have been spearheaded by the California Northstate University, College of Dental Medicine (CNU).

One of these includes a VDH model involving people with developmental disabilities connected to the California Regional Center system. Through this program, community-based allied dental personnel provide a desensitization process involving a gradual introduction to dental care, use MID materials and methods to keep patients healthy in the residential facilities, and utilize the VDH to share records and care plans with dentists asynchronously. This model is expected to show that many people, who are currently in long and inhumane waiting lines for dentistry under sedation or general anesthesia, can access dental care within a more acceptable timeframe.

Another CNU project is studying the ability for a remote dentist to conduct the state required Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment (KOHA), which is supposed to be performed for children during their

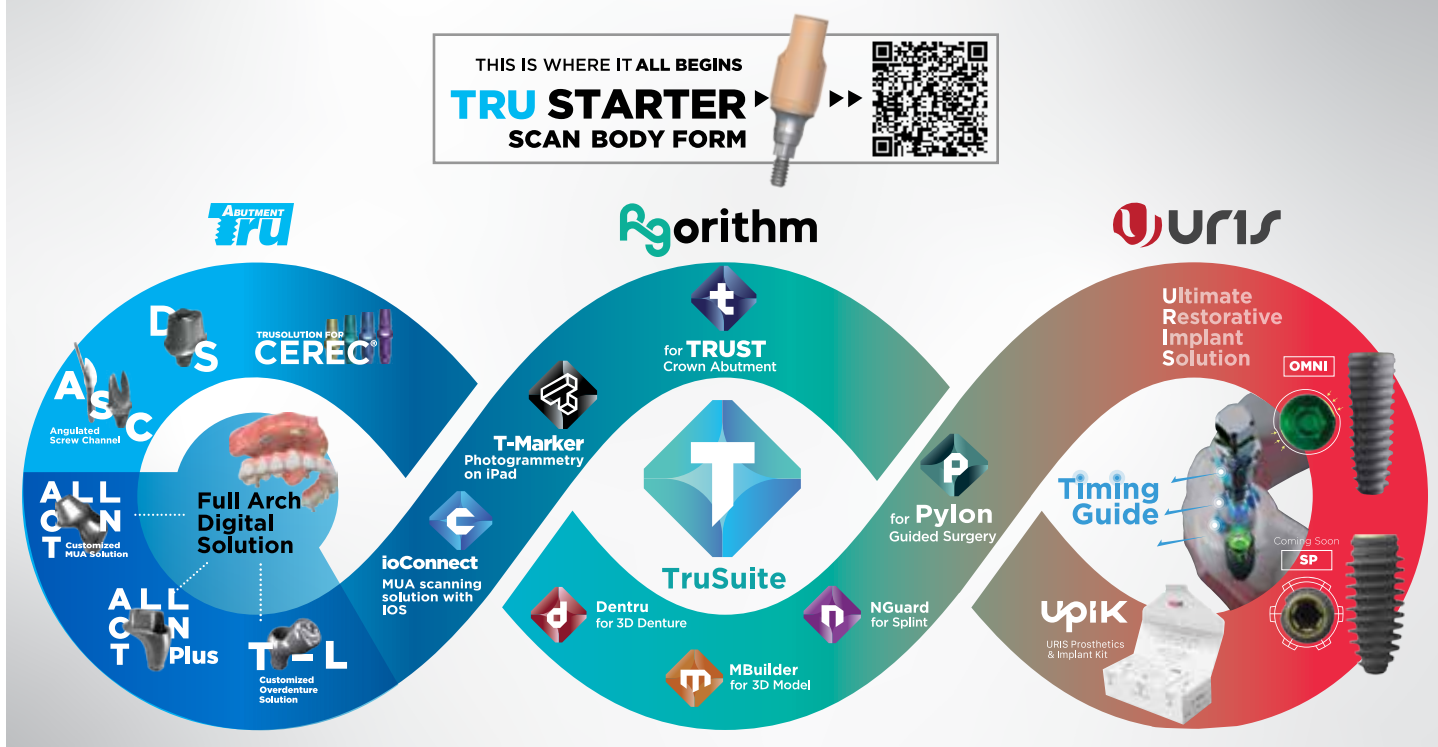
first year of school. However, most children in California do not have this assessment completed. CNU has just finished a demonstration project, which has shown that a remote dentist can review records and photographs taken in-person by a non-dental person, such as a school staff member, and made available to the dentist who is not at the school to review asynchronously. The demonstration has indicated that the accuracy of the remote dentist assessment is equal to, or in some cases better than, an in-person assessment performed by oral health professionals.

Conclusion

As innovations are made within dental care delivery systems, dental organizations and practices can expand their reach to patients who have been historically underserved in the community. These cutting-edge systems present new opportunities for our profession to enhance access to and equity within oral healthcare, ultimately achieving improved oral health for all. ■

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By Thomas Yamamoto, DDS
SDDS Member

Dr. Thomas Yamamoto was born and raised in Sacramento and attended UC Davis with a major in Chemistry and minor in Psychology. A graduate of UCSF School of Dentistry, he established his private practices in Sacramento and Stockton. He and his wife, Kathy, a dental hygienist, practiced together and have two daughters. In 2008, he embarked on a new career with the California Correctional Health Care Services Dental Program Headquarters.

Dentistry for California's Underserved: **Providing Compassionate Care to Incarcerated Patients**

After 24 years of private practice with my wife Kathy, I started a new career with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). In 2008, I was offered a position at the CDCR dental headquarters tasked with developing a strengthened comprehensive care program.

“With a commitment to treating our patients with respect, dignity, and empathy, we unlocked the key gaining our patients’ trust and ultimate compliance with their care.”

A lawsuit upheld in the Federal Courts mandated that the Inmate Dental Services Program shall provide an “Institutional Level of Care.” Prior to the lawsuit, the program provided mostly episodic emergency care, which often lead to suboptimal patient outcomes. Many patients developed oral infections resulting in extractions as the primary treatment option, and without sound continuity of care, some patients “fell through the cracks” and were admitted for hospitalization. To reach compliance with the court ordered mandate, the clinical processes, quality of care, and patient safety at each institution were evaluated to identify areas of improvement to ultimately meet agreed upon standards.

California has one of the largest populations of incarcerated people nationwide. In 2008, the state prisons were overcrowded with a population of almost 180,000. Most of the institutions had to house individuals in gyms with triple bunk beds. Currently, California’s inmate population has decreased 50% to

approximately 90,000 because of changes in the CDCR release programs, which provide a wide range of rehabilitative services and community-based opportunities to help people transition and reintegrate into the community.

Initially, our department was devoted to designing and modernizing the clinics and developing strategies to implement the new guidelines for the Inmate Dental Services Policy and Procedures. After two years, we ventured out to train, supervise and assist in providing care to the incarcerated population statewide. I was anxious and excited to finally go out into the field to deliver care to this deeply underserved population.

Serving this community was a sincerely gratifying learning experience. I challenged myself to develop new strategies to provide quality care and education for my patients. Working at a variety of institutions, I had the opportunity to serve a broad range of individuals within the correctional system. I discovered that a vast majority of my patient pool shared many similarities with the patients in our private practice settings. The most distinct difference is that most of them never had an opportunity to access preventive or comprehensive care. Therefore, patient education was a paramount part of providing high quality, patient-centered care.

In treating my patients, my approach was simple: I implemented the oath that all of us made in dental school to provide care abiding by the ADA Code of Ethics. Many of my colleagues were interested in learning how to provide care within an institutional environment. With a commitment to treating our patients with respect, dignity, and empathy, we unlocked the key gaining our patients’ trust and ultimate compliance with their care. Listening is a powerful tool to gain that trust. I discovered many of my patients suffered from abuse, grew up in a struggling socioeconomic environment, and felt their voices were never heard in the community. Our dental appointments were a unique opportunity to

give them something they may have never experienced before: compassionate care.

Maintaining continuity of care within the correctional health care system presents yet another hurdle to overcome, as patients are constantly being displaced from site to site. Many are transferred to different institutions, relocated to different yards, or scheduled to see multiple doctors within an institution. This multitude of moving parts can translate to frustration amongst the providers as well as the patients. Though efforts have been made to combat this barrier, the reality of the correctional environment makes communication and continuity an ever-present challenge. My approach was to connect with

my patients and provide as much efficient and effective treatment as possible during each encounter, as I did not know when or if there would be an opportunity to see each other again in the near future.

In conclusion, gaining my patients' trust was the most rewarding aspect of providing care to this historically underserved community. Listening to and understanding their needs were crucial in gaining that trust. When a patient is sitting in my chair, whether they are an individual who is incarcerated or not, they are my patient and I will always provide the most compassionate, humanistic care that we have all committed to giving. ■

Resources

1. "26.2 to Life," directed by Christine Woo, is a documentary about the struggles, transformation, and second chances of incarcerated individuals at San Quentin. This documentary hit home with me as I worked extensively at San Quentin, and the stories parallel my experiences with this community.
2. Perez v. Cate is the lawsuit that changed the culture of providing dental care to the incarcerated population within the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

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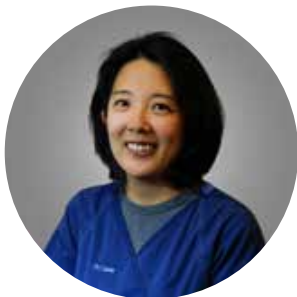
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By **Cassandra Krupansky, DDS, MS**
SDDS Member

Dr. Cassandra Krupansky obtained her dental degree from UCSF and completed a three-year program in Pediatric Dentistry. She was previously in private practice in Roseville. She is thrilled to be part of the team at El Dorado Community Health Centers, a federally qualified health center. She provides comprehensive care to those who lack access to dental services and serves as the Clinical Director of Oral Health.

El Dorado County Smiles

El Dorado County is home to one of the most impressive mobile dental service programs that has now been available for over eight years and has survived severe weather, the COVID-19 pandemic and several logistical challenges.

The story began with the purchase of the vehicle by First 5 El Dorado and a commitment to serving the hard-to-reach populations of El Dorado County that have no other access to dental services. After years of varying starts, and contracted service providers, a partnership was established with a commitment to serving underserved communities. The El Dorado Community Health Centers (EDCHC) had started providing dental services to patients with Medi-Cal to fill a gap in dental services, and we agreed that the need to serve the remote areas of the county was a priority and a

gaps in care, scopes out new programs and services, and implements solutions to better serve the communities of El Dorado County. For these reasons, we have partnered with the El Dorado County Office of Education (EDCOE), First 5 El Dorado, El Dorado County Public Health Department and the El Dorado County Libraries to provide services in the El Dorado Smiles mobile dental van. We use a results-based accountability approach that brings us together to develop a common vision, language, and evaluation framework. This framework is used to align the community needs and develop responsive programs to maximize impact. The El Dorado Smiles Dental Van visited nineteen different locations during this school year and continues to expand to new sites with each season. This year, over eight hundred visits will be conducted in the field with appointments scheduled at six-month rotations to each site. Additional visits and services are added as needed.



service we could provide. The devotion of all partners to collaborate for the benefit of those in need has been a winning combination.

EDCHC has a mission to improve the health of the community through quality healing and preventive services. We believe it is important to evaluate the needs of our patients using our existing Community Health Needs Assessments, which identifies

Our long-term goal for the El Dorado Smiles dental van program is to ensure access to preventive dental services to children in the most rural areas of our county and to provide a one stop shop dental home for patients who can also be referred to our clinic-based centers. The EDCHC team uses the El Dorado Smiles Dental Van to provide services in the field and accepts Medi-Cal, Covered CA, and sliding scale fees for those who qualify based on income and family size. At our health centers, we offer Pediatric and Family Dentistry including dental exams, x-rays, cleanings, fluoride treatments,

fillings, extractions, root canals, crowns and emergency dental care. Other services available through EDCHC to those served on the van include a discounted pharmacy program, bilingual and bicultural health advocates, specialty referral management, in-house medication dispensary, assistance with Covered California and Medi-Cal enrollment, chronic disease management, health coaching, patient education and immediate access to make appointments or speak to a provider online.

The El Dorado Smiles Dental Van helps support our special needs populations by increasing timely access, reducing geographic shortages, increasing equity, all while supporting the quality of care and encouraging prevention services, early intervention and patient education. We do this through outreach activities that bring dental care to community sites and open the door to patients getting care delivered to the neighborhoods they live in.

As part of the overall community dental health planning EDCHC will continue to work in partnership with EDCOE and our Local Oral Health Program (LOHP) to provide sustainable school-based preventative oral health services via the El Dorado Smiles dental van. Our primary supporters are

organizations and community partners that provide dental services and support activities that lead to positive oral health outcomes for children and families.

As the community continues to change over time, new and more effective approaches to

or endodontists for complex treatment will greatly benefit the health of our community.

Long-term sustainability for the El Dorado Smiles Dental Van means ensuring positive oral health outcomes for years to come despite the many changes that will occur.



providing services may be developed and implemented. Because of the severe deficit of specialists, such as endodontists and oral surgeons, who take Medi-Cal dental insurance in the local area, patients are forced to travel long distances for treatment or forego their treatment altogether. EDCHC is constantly looking for opportunities to improve services to fit the needs of our patients. Adding specialists like oral surgeons

Our shared mission is to continue support of dental services within the hard-to-reach communities of El Dorado County. Each organization is committed to serving this goal and is willing to share resources to gain better results through our combined efforts. It is the commitment of everyone involved that will guarantee our program continues to be a success and will remain available to the patients who need it most. ■

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By Mironda Frankenberger, DDS
SDDS Member

Dr. Mironda Frankenberger is an Assistant Professor and the Director of Community Rotations at CNU College of Dental Medicine. She is an advocate for increasing access to dental care for underserved communities and has dedicated her academic career to inspiring the next generation of dentists to pursue dental public health. Her background includes championing for social justice, anti-racism, diversity, equity and inclusion.

Embarking on a New Voyage: **How CNU College of Dental Medicine has Developed their Community-Based Clinical Rotations Program**

California Northstate University, College of Dental Medicine was established in part due to a substantial unmet need for oral healthcare services in the Greater Sacramento Area. The college's mission "to advance the art and science of health through education, service, scholarship and social accountability" is integral to every aspect of curricular development. Providing Community-Based Clinical Rotations (CBCR) is a Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) requirement for dental schools to maintain accreditation. Since the inception of CBCR programs in U.S. dental schools in the late 1960s, this mutually beneficial partnership has proven to provide dental students with clinical and interpersonal experiences that improve their competency and cultural humility as dental care providers. Community dental clinics, also referred to as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), who host dental students on rotations have seen increases in their revenue and improvements in their ability to

provide dental care to the low-income, historically underserved populations which they serve. In addition, dental schools have benefitted from CBCR programs by being able to admit larger class sizes, collect data on the efficacy of several aspects of the dental educational program, and ultimately graduate competent, confident dentists. This past summer, the inaugural class of CNU CDM began their senior year and initiated the college's first cohort to participate in their Community-Based Clinical Rotations!

So, what does it take to establish a brand-new CBCR Program? As the CNU CDM Director of Community Rotations, I've worked with members of our Office of Research and Community Engagement to ensure the successful development and launch of this exciting and integral component of our dental students' education. As an evidence-based institution, we conducted a literature review to analyze and adapt the best practices of established U.S. Dental School CBCR programs. By highlighting other programs' "lessons learned," a checklist for success was developed, which has aided our program development. Our research revealed that a successful CBCR program is one that returns dental students to their dental school with greater skills in technical ability, patient management, critical thinking, clinical judgement, and clinical confidence than they possessed prior to their rotation experience. In addition, successful programs reflect community clinics that are satisfied with the performance of the students and show an increase in the delivery of care to underserved populations. Keeping this definition in mind, a "Checklist for Success" was developed to confirm our effective launch in July 2024.

We began our CBCR planning more than a year before the July 2024 launch date. Once grant funding was secured, we took to the streets, contacting every FQHC within a



day's commute of the CNU campus. The goal was to inform community centers of a new dental school in the Greater Sacramento Area and garner partnerships with centers interested in participating in a Community-Based Clinical Rotation. Ideally those interested sites would have a need for more providers, be able to provide meaningful educational experiences, and see the value that a CBCR partnership would offer to their clinic and patients. Once potential sites were identified, our team voyaged on a sea of site visits with the destination of attaining signed Affiliation Agreements.

With affiliated partnerships pending, I was then tasked with program design. Creating a Community Rotations Manual which outlines the policies, procedures, and expectations of all involved parties is a foundational component of the preparatory process. We established a student assessment method, which illustrates each student's post-rotation clinical knowledge and skills, communication skills, professionalism, and critical thinking. Defining these assessments prior to the start of rotations is another method of assuring that students

and preceptors understand the expectations for each student's performance and progress. These assessments will also be instrumental in providing our institution a means to evaluate the dental college's educational program for gaps or areas of improvement.

As program design continued, meetings with potential rotation sites regarding the number of students they can accommodate, which doctors would be overseeing student delivery of care, and general guidelines and expectations from both parties were underway. As the program director, I coordinate the appointment of all preceptors as volunteer faculty at CNU CDM, as well as calibrate preceptors prior to the start of rotations. Ensuring the preceptors familiarize themselves with our CDM teaching philosophy, understand the assessment method, and demonstrate competency in maneuvering the student data tracking system is all necessary to the successful launch of our program.

Finally, the students are assigned to their community rotation sites based on a system of maximizing preference and minimizing

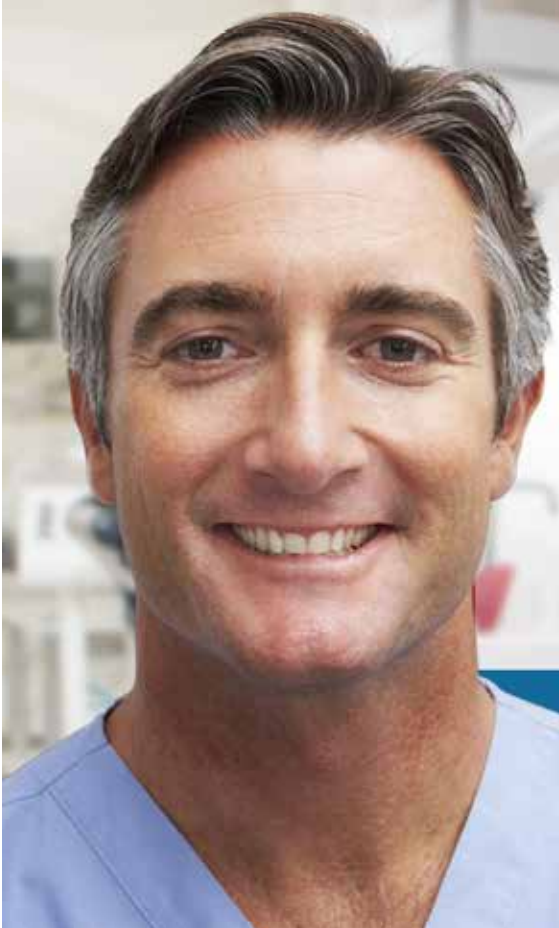
logistical hardship based on the geographic location of each site.

Quality assurance and quality improvement are the key to maintaining the success of any program, including a CBCR program. In order to ensure our compass continues pointing to our north star, a compilation of the lessons learned from the initial literature review has also been developed. These lessons reiterated the main points of our initial roadmap and will serve as a checklist for future program review.

Lessons Learned:

1. Start planning early
2. Set clear goals
3. Prepare students and sites with clear expectations prior to the start date
4. Do not send students on rotation before they are ready
5. Be transparent
6. Relationships matter!

We are so proud of our launch of the CNU CDM Community-Based Clinical Rotations and are hopeful that the past year of evidence-based preparation will ensure our success! ■



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By Karthik Raghuraman, DDS
SDDS Member

Dr. Karthik Raghuraman is a graduate from University of California, San Francisco. Since graduating from UCSF in 2005, he decided to pursue a career in Public Health. He has also taught NYU-Langone AEGD residents and D3 and D4 students from A.T. Still, ASDOH, UCSF and Western dental schools. He currently works for the correctional healthcare system and serves as faculty at California Northstate University.

Federally Qualified Health Centers: Patient-Centered Health Homes for Our Community

When you hear the term, community health centers, the first thoughts that may pop up in your mind may be “free clinic,” “safety net,” “underserved,” and “FQHC.” And you are not wrong in all of the above. However, I would like to talk about my journey in this setting and paint a more detailed picture for you.

I started working in a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in the Central Valley of California soon after my graduation in 2005. It was the most rewarding experience, through which I was able to connect with amazing peers and work with outstanding teams. FQHC programs were born out of the U.S. federal antipoverty initiatives of the 1960s and the creation of Medicaid in 1965. This created the community health center programs that led to FQHCs in the 1970's. They form a key part of serving uninsured and underinsured patients, migrant farmworkers, and other vulnerable populations. To qualify as an FQHC, sites must meet specific requirements: the health center must be located in a high need community, governed by a community board that is made up of 51% patients, and able to provide comprehensive care on a sliding fee scale. The majority of patients seen in these clinics are MediCal and DentiCal recipients. As of 2019 data there are 180 FQHCs serving 5.3 million patients throughout 1,963 health centers.

The term “health center” is now commonly used in place of FQHC, since these clinics provide comprehensive, patient-centered care within a health home all under one roof when possible. A single FQHC can have multiple health center locations to aid in access to care. Patients typically have access to a broad range of primary care services, including dental and medical, behavioral health, women's

health, pediatrics, pharmacy, nutrition, and social services. In addition, they also provide services like optometry, substance use treatment, health education and

The FQHC clinics typically aim to operate at a high level of standards.

promotion, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and alternative medicine. The broad range of services improves not only access to, but also delivery of care and patient outcomes. The dental services typically offer comprehensive exams, periodontal treatments, preventive care, endodontics, oral surgery and restorative care, including prosthodontics both fixed and removable. In addition, our community clinics use electronic health record systems that are well integrated with our medical counterparts, a cornerstone for successful treatment and outcomes for the patients with multiple comorbidities.

The FQHC clinics typically aim to operate at a high level of standards. In my experience, the clinics I have served have rivaled private practices. These clinics undergo rigorous audit measures by federal, state, and local health entities and also seek “joint commission” or third-party accreditation for quality assurance. Quality assurance is maintained through monitoring patient outcomes, conducting staff calibration, and considering patient feedback. The dental materials provided have been on par with many dental clinics that operate in the state of California

with high quality dental chairs, digital radiographs, dental surgical instruments, and up-to-date restorative materials. The clinics I have worked in have dental microscopes and CBCT imaging as well. These clinics are usually very fast-paced and optimized continuously to increase and improve access to care.

Contrary to the widespread belief that these centers run on federal funding, the bulk of the health centers' business operations are supported by the revenue generated from patient care. Often times, grants and other sources of public funding represent a smaller segment of the pie necessary to operate these clinics.

Another aspect, which may not be commonly known, is that health centers

collaborate closely with universities. Community clinics provide an avenue for third- and fourth-year dental students to complete community-based clinical externships. Typically, the feedback from students is overwhelmingly positive, with expressions of gratitude for the real-world experience they receive. Some of these health centers are also affiliated with higher education like Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) residency programs. This is a symbiotic relationship, with the goal of recruiting some of the residency providers back into the community. In addition, dental providers receive some major benefits, such as options for student loan repayment, robust peer support, and lifelong learning experiences. Most FQHCs are a part of

the National Network of Oral Health Access (NNOHA) and the California Primary Care Association (CPCA) which provide resources in operations, advocacy funding, education, and best practices in community healthcare settings.

Working in an FQHC has made me a better dentist and better person. It's a very rewarding experience, treating patients of all ages in a patient-centered health home and collaborative interprofessional environment. I am hoping readers will explore opportunities in the FQHC system, enjoy the many benefits while treating underserved communities, and ultimately promote oral health to all. ■



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Together We Shine: Celebrating Community at the MidWinter Convention

By Sara Baker, MBA, CEO/Partner; SD Dental Solutions

SDDS Vendor Member

As a proud Vendor Member of the Sacramento District Dental Society (SDDS) and a participant in the 2024 MidWinter Convention, I am thrilled to share my experience on an event that not only enlightened but also inspired me. I saw this year's theme, "Light the Team!" as both a call to action and a beacon (a beam, if you will!) that drew our local dental community together in a celebration of unity, learning, and support.

Attending the convention, I had the privilege of delivering two talks. While I stepped to the podium with the intent to impart knowledge, I walked away with unexpected insight and a renewed appreciation for our dental community. It was a welcome reminder that in the act of teaching, we open ourselves up to learning—about our field, each other, and the endless possibilities that collaboration brings.

The significance of community within the dental industry cannot be overstated. Our profession thrives on the exchange of ideas, shared experiences, and the collective

endeavor to advance dental health. Events like the MidWinter Convention underscore the value of coming together, not just as professionals sharing a trade, but as individuals united by a common purpose. Through speakers that captivated, vendors that enlightened, raffles that excited, and networking opportunities that connected, we were reminded of how our relationships serve as the foundation of our success.

I personally value the camaraderie that I find every year at the convention. I had many conversations at MidWinter: business discussions with vendors, insightful exchanges during my presentations with attendees, and chats while tossing a cornhole bag! Each of those interactions reinforced my belief that we are at our best when we are connected. These bonds, however brief, have the power to influence our businesses, enrich our careers, and, most importantly, enhance the care we provide for our patients and clients.

I am so grateful to the Sacramento District Dental Society for executing such a fantastic event. "Light the Team!" was more than a theme; it was an experience that "lit up" the strength and vitality of our community. The SDDS' dedication to fostering a sense of belonging and advancing our industry is truly commendable.

The anticipation for next year's convention is already building! The theme, "Get the CE Scoop," will be another opportunity to reunite, share our achievements, discuss our challenges, and strengthen the bonds that make the Sacramento dental scene not just a network but a community. My heartfelt thanks go to the SDDS... here's to many more years of learning, growing and thriving together! ■

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at sdds.org**



By Ranna Alrabadi
CNU Dental Student

*Ranna Alrabadi is a dental student in the inaugural class (D4) at California Northstate University College of Dental Medicine (CNU CDM). Having an interest in research, she co-authored a research paper published in the **Journal of the CDA**. In addition to the clinical side of dentistry, she is also interested in a career in dental academia.*

When the Unexpected Becomes Reality

As I begin a new academic year as a dental student at CNU, it seems just like yesterday that I was a pre-dental student and getting ready for applications.

My story of how I discovered CNU is an interesting one. A few years into dental school, it still seems too good to be true.

One day, as a pre-dental student in Southern California, I discussed with my academic advisor in 2016 about how competitive dental school is in California. She said there was a surplus of dentists back in the 1980s and since then, there have not been new dental schools opening in California (with the exception of Western U's DMD program).

I asked my advisor if she had heard if a new dental school would open in California. She had not but mentioned that I could do an internet search every now and then and see if anything new comes up. I remember walking out of her office feeling that it would be impossible. What were the chances that a new dental school would open in California?

Since that time, I would google search "new dental school in California" in hopes that, by a miracle, a new dental school would pop up. It wasn't until a few years later that the unexpected happened.

After I received my bachelor's degree in 2019, I began thinking about dental school applications. As I sat in front of my laptop screen, I google searched "new dental school in California" and I clicked on the news button. I will never forget the name of the article that came up, "New Dental School Quietly Ramping Up in Elk Grove." At first, I was in complete disbelief. I thought there was no way that a doctorate degree in dentistry would be offered, as I thought it would be a dental assisting school. Yet, as I navigated to the CNU dental website, it was clear that the program would offer a DMD degree, exactly what I was looking for.

I had never heard of Elk Grove, and I had never been to Sacramento; this was a life-changing event for me. I immediately contacted the email on the CNU website. It was early, CNU's DMD program was taking applications the following year, just in time for when I would be applying.

Being a dental student at CNU has been the most rewarding experience of my life. Where do I start? We have an incredible leadership team, committed and highly experienced faculty and an excellent education.

Everything I could have asked for in a dental school, I found at CNU. I had always wanted to go to a private dental school, I thrived in smaller class sizes, admired humanism as a core leading principle, and having more individualized attention in class and clinic is essential. I couldn't imagine my dental school experience in any other way.

Being at CNU, I am surrounded by dentists and a myriad of specialists that have known each other for years. Having been to SDDS events and general meetings, there is a larger sense of community, one that is highly supportive of each other. To me, this is one of the hallmarks that makes the surrounding dental community unique.

In retrospect, it was my curiosity, a news article that I found, and ultimately fate that led me to CNU. My advice to pre-dental students out there is to stay persistent, believe in yourself, and know that you will end up where you are supposed to be. Miracles do happen. You never know what opportunities might come your way.

I would like to thank our leadership and faculty at my dental school and SDDS for their endless support as I look forward to continuing working alongside the CNU and the SDDS community. ■

Ice Cream Social EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



Wow – thanks to all of you who came to the ICE CREAM SOCIAL in July! We had 99 people there and it was a fun, fun, great, super time! Thanks to the following Membership Committee team who attended: Drs. Cervantes, Delgadillo, Digiorno, Mabalon, Nath, Tchamba, Paydar, Cher Paydar, Rahimi, Chan.

And to the following Board members: Drs. Vasanthan, Aflatooni, Hillendahl, Sue, Payne, Grove, Tchamba, Cervantes, Vaid.

All the D1s from CNU attended, and a few D2s. All the dental students from the UOP Pacific Health Care Collaborative were also in attendance.

And many SDDS members and their families. And we met two dentists from Florida who were at Leatherby's having some fun while on vacation!



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.

MEMBER
BENEFIT!

The 8 Reasons Your Dental Practice Needs a SOC!

Having a Security Operations Center (SOC) provider is important for a dental practice for several reasons:

1. Data Protection

Dental practices handle sensitive patient information, including health records and payment details. A SOC provider can help safeguard this data from cyber threats and breaches, ensuring compliance with regulations like HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act).

2. 24/7 Monitoring

A SOC provides continuous monitoring of systems and networks, allowing for the early detection of suspicious activities or potential security incidents. This round-the-clock vigilance helps to mitigate risks before they escalate into serious issues.

3. Incident Response

In the event of a security breach or cyber attack, a SOC can facilitate a quick response. They have the expertise to contain the incident, assess the damage, and begin recovery procedures, minimizing downtime and financial losses.

4. Threat Intelligence

SOC providers stay current with the latest threats and vulnerabilities in the cybersecurity landscape. They can offer insights and recommendations tailored to the specific risks faced by dental practices, helping to strengthen overall security posture.

5. Employee Training and Awareness

A SOC can assist in training staff on security best practices, such as recognizing phishing attempts or secure handling of patient information. Educated employees are crucial in maintaining cybersecurity.

6. Regulatory Compliance

By employing a SOC, dental practices can ensure they meet various regulatory requirements for data security and privacy, avoiding potential fines and reputational damage.

7. Focus on Core Business

With a SOC handling cybersecurity, dental practitioners can concentrate on their core mission of patient care without the distraction of managing security threats.

8. Reputation Management

A strong security posture fostered by a SOC enhances patient trust. Demonstrating a commitment to protecting sensitive information can help maintain and attract clients.

In summary, partnering with a SOC provider equips dental practices with the tools and expertise needed to protect sensitive data, respond to incidents, and maintain a reliable and secure environment for patient care.

While many IT providers offer basic IT services, not all have the comprehensive security stacks required to protect against today's sophisticated cyber threats. They need to stand out in this regard, providing a full suite of services tailored specifically for dental practices. From compliance management to advanced threat detection and response, they need to have the expertise and tools necessary to safeguard your practice.

For dental practices looking to enhance their IT infrastructure, ensure compliance, and protect patient data, partnering with a capable IT provider is essential. Offer all these services and more, providing peace of mind and allowing dental professionals to focus on what they do best, caring for their patients. ■

Business PC Support specializes in IT services and has a dedicated SOC team. You can reach Ali by email at ali@bpsemail.com or by phone at 916-458-5245

GOT SOC?

IT IS TIME WE HAVE "THE CONVERSATION"!



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GREATER LAKE TAHOE AREA: *New Listing!* 4 Ops, 37+ Yrs. Goodwill, 5-6 days/wk. Hygiene, Desirable Area. 2023 GR \$917K. #CA1715

GREATER SACRAMENTO METRO AREA: *New Listing!* Ortho, 7 Ops, 60+ Yrs. Goodwill, Highly Desirable Socio-Economic Community, 2022 GR \$927K. #CA3450

REDDING/RED BLUFF NORTHERN CA VALLEY AREA: *New Listing!* 5 Ops+RE, 36+Yrs. Goodwill, 2023 GR \$1.4M ,9 days/wk. Hygiene. #CA3954

GREATER SACRAMENTO METRO AREA: Prosth, 4 Ops, 45+Yrs. Goodwill, Dentrix PMS, Highly Desirable Area! 2023 GR \$1.1M. #CA3723

SACRAMENTO/CARMICHAEL/CITRUS HTS./ORANGEVALE AREA: GP, 3 Ops, 47+Yrs. Goodwill, Eaglesoft PMS, Low Overhead, Room to Expand, High-Traffic Location! 2023 GR \$304K. #CA3852

VISALIA/TULARE/HANFORD AREA: GP, 8 Ops, 41+ Yrs. Goodwill, CEREC, Eaglesoft PMS, Digital, 4,800 Sq. Ft. 2023 GR \$1.36M. #CA3791



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Smiles for Kids Needs Your Help!

We're screening this fall in all of our partner schools!

Would you like to help us screen at a school? Let us know at smilesforkids@sdds.org and we'll let the school nurses you'd like to help!

We're also planning for SMILES FOR KIDS in February. Is your office willing to volunteer to be an open site? This is a great way to give

back to our community. Would YOU like to volunteer at a site? We'll also need doctors to adopt SFK and SFBK patients, please let us know if any of these opportunities interest you. It is because of you, our doctors, our volunteers that allow our Foundation to do what it does in your community.

SACRAMENTO DISTRICT DENTAL FOUNDATION DOES...

broadway & music circus

Broadway Shows
Announced for 2024-25

Tickets & Dates
Available Now!



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Winner of 5 Tony Awards® including Best Revival of a Musical, COMPANY "strikes like a lightning bolt. It's brilliantly conceived and funny as hell" (Variety). Helmed by three-time Tony Award-winning director Marianne Elliott (War Horse, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, Angels in America), this revelatory new production of Stephen Sondheim and George Furth's groundbreaking musical comedy is boldly sophisticated, deeply insightful and downright hilarious.



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2024

Everyone's favorite Scottish nanny is headed to Sacramento in "a feel-good, family-friendly comedy that delivers" (The Hollywood Reporter). Based on the beloved film, it's "the lovable, big-hearted musical comedy we need right now" (Chicago Tribune) – one that proves we're better together.



THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2025

KIMBERLY AKIMBO is the winner of five 2023 Tony Awards including BEST MUSICAL! Kimberly is about to turn 16 and recently moved with her family to a new town in suburban New Jersey. In this "howlingly funny heartbreaker of a show" (The New Yorker), Kim is forced to navigate family dysfunction, a rare genetic condition, her first crush ... and possible felony charges. Ever the optimist, she is determined to find happiness against all odds and embark on a great adventure.



Purchase Tickets online with
this QR code or visit sdds.org



THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025

HAMILTON is the epic saga that follows the rise of Founding Father Alexander Hamilton as he fights for honor, love, and a legacy that would shape the course of a nation. Based on Ron Chernow's acclaimed biography and set to a score that blends hip-hop, jazz, R&B, and Broadway, HAMILTON has had a profound impact on culture, politics, and education.



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025

Featuring a book by Tina Fey, MEAN GIRLS tells the story of a naïve newbie who falls prey to a trio of lionized frenemies. Entertainment Weekly calls it "A MARVEL: dazzling and hilarious!" and USA Today says, "We'll let you in on a little secret, because we're such good friends: GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!"



TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2025

TINA – The Tina Turner Musical, the triumphant story of the Queen of Rock and Roll set to the pulse-pounding soundtrack of her most beloved hits! TINA–The Tina Turner Musical presents Tina's journey against all odds to become one of the world's most beloved artists of all time. Featuring her much loved songs, TINA –The Tina Turner Musical is written by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Katori Hall.



WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2025

Winner of the 2023 Tony Award® for Best Revival of a Musical. Leo and Lucille Frank are a newlywed Jewish couple struggling to make a life in the old red hills of Georgia. When Leo is accused of an unspeakable crime, it propels them into an unimaginable test of faith, humanity, justice, and devotion. Riveting and gloriously hopeful, PARADE reminds us that to love, we must truly see one another.

Smiles

FOR SACRAMENTO



dinner. auction. dancing.
October 26, 2024 | 6:00pm | Hyatt Regency Hotel

Come and join us for the Smiles for Sacramento Gala taking place on October 26, 2024, to support the Sacramento District Dental Foundation. Alongside raising funds for the Foundation's community initiatives, we'll also be commemorating its 55th anniversary.

Please consider purchasing a table. Please let us know if you are able to donate an auction item or know someone who would like to donate. Ticket price \$225 per person. Tables of 10 are \$2000.



It was great to have the gala rejuvenated. A great night with colleagues- catching up, smiling, laughing and supporting SDDF!

- Dr. Christy Rollofson-Porrino

For more information about the Smiles for Sacramento Gala, please visit www.sdds.org/foundation/foundation-events/#sddfgala

NEW MEMBERS ON OUR BLOCK

STOP!
IT'S RECRUITMENT TIME



Game on! Monthly Recruitment Competition for SDDS Members

Alright stop, collaborate and listen! SDDS IS LOOKING FOR SOME BRAND NEW ADDITIONS! From August 1 through December 31, we're having a recruitment competition for our SDDS Members that is all that and a bag of chips!

DETAILS: SDDS Members who recruit a new member will WIN the following:

- **Spotlight Post** on SDDS social media platforms and a **shout out in the next *Nugget*** issue (This can be about you or about your office - you pick!)
- **Recognition Announcement** at the next General Meeting with the person you recruited
- **\$25 credit** for CE Course, General Meeting or Member Event (redeemable through May 2025!)
- For each person recruited, you'll receive **one raffle entry to attend MIDWINTER for FREE!**
- **NO LIMIT** on winners per month!
- Email us the name of the people you're recruiting in order to get credit when they join!

At the heart of this monthly competition is this: recruiting new members is about growing our dental society and the voice of our members for the betterment of the dental profession. Why not have a totally tubular time while doing it? We can't wait to see who wins!

2024 SDDS Committees Schedule

Standing Committees

Membership/Engagement

Jan 16 • Apr 16 • May 21 • Oct 1

CPR Committee

Jan 16

Nominating/Leadership

Development

Jan 30 • Mar 11

Advisory Committees

Continuing Education Advisory

Jan 30 • Mar 19 • Sept 17

Nugget Editorial Advisory

Feb 27 • Sept 16

Strategic Plan Advisory

TBA

Budget and Finance Advisory

TBA

Bylaws Advisory

TBA

Legislative Advisory

TBA

GMC Transition Advisory

TBA

Other

SacPAC

Oct 21

CDA House of Delegates

Nov 8-9

Leadership

Board of Directors

Jan 17 • Mar 5 • May 7 • Sept 3 • Nov 5

Executive Committee

Feb 16 • Apr 19 • Aug 6 • Oct 4 • Dec 13

Foundation

Foundation Board

Feb 20 • Oct 1

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TOTAL MEMBERSHIP

(as of 8/15/24)

2,007

MARKET
SHARE:
80.6%

RETENTION RATE: 95.5%
ENGAGEMENT RATE: 72%
(76% active / 58% retired)

TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERS:
1,375

TOTAL RETIRED
MEMBERS: 359

TOTAL DUAL
MEMBERS: 10

TOTAL AFFILIATE
MEMBERS: 5

TOTAL STUDENT
MEMBERS: 200

TOTAL CURRENT
APPLICANTS: 0

TOTAL DHP
MEMBERS: 58

TOTAL NEW
MEMBERS FOR 2024: 65

TOTAL NON-MEMBERS: 440

New Members

Sept/Oct
2024

MUSTAFA ALKASEM, DMD

General Practice – NEW GRAD

Dr. Alkasem earned his dental degree from University of Pennsylvania in 2024. His current practice location is pending.

NORMA CORTEZ-PACHECO, DDS

General Practice

Dr. Cortez-Pacheco earned her dental degree from El Salvador University in 1993. She currently practices at Make a Smile in El Dorado Hills and Spot for Smiles in Folsom.

AARON DEMOVIIE-RAHIMI, DDS

General Practice

Dr. Demoville-Rahimi is a new graduate and earned his dental degree from UOP Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry in 2024. His current practice location is pending.

SUMIR GANDHI, DDS

General Practice

Dr. Gandhi is a new graduate earning his dental degree from New York College of Dentistry in 2024. He currently practices at Ora Dentistry in Elk Grove.

NEEKA GORGANI, DDS

General Practice – Transferred

Dr. Gorgani earned her dental degree from UOP Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry in 2021. Her current practice location is pending.

ELEyna GUERRERO, DMD

General Practice

Dr. Guerrero is a new graduate, earning her degree from University of Nevada Las Vegas in 2024. Her current practice location is pending.

ACHMAN JASWAL, DDS

General Practice

Dr. Jaswal earned his dental degree from an International College of Dentistry in 2022. He is the new owner of Highridge Dental in Folsom.

THEODORE NOVAK, DDS

General Practice

Dr. Novak is a new graduate, earning his dental degree from UCLA School of Dentistry in 2024. His current practice location is pending.

TORAL PANDYA, DDS

General Practice

Dr. Pandya earned her dental degree from UOP Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry in 2012. She currently practices at Watt Antelope Family Dentistry in North Highlands.

TARA SADEGHI, DMD

General Practice

Dr. Sadeghi is a new graduate, earning her dental degree from Western University of Health Sciences in 2024. Her current practice location is pending.

ZORRAIN SHAKEEL, DMD

General Practice

Dr. Shakeel is a new graduate, earning her dental degree from Western University of Health Sciences in 2024. Her current practice location is pending.

JULIANA TOWLE, DDS

General Practice

Dr. Towle is a new graduate, earning her dental degree from UOP Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry in 2024. Her current practice location is pending.

ANGAD SINGH VIRK, DMD

General Practice

Dr. Virk earned his dental degree from Boston University in 2019. His current practice location is pending.

Congratulations
to Our New Retired Members!

Brian Dong, DDS

Mark Phipps, DDS

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

SDDS (doctor's line) (916) 446-1227

ADA (800) 621-8099

CDA (800) 736-8702

TDIC (800) 733-0633

Central California

Well Being Committee . . . (916) 947-5676

Congratulations to Our Life Active and Life Retired Members!

Life Active

Dr. Kosta Adams
Dr. Crystal Anderson
Dr. Steven Anderson
Dr. Mark Arena
Dr. Ron Ask
Dr. H. Michael Balch
Dr. Paul Binon
Dr. Ronald Blanchette
Dr. Adrian Carrington
Dr. John Carson
Dr. Steven Cavagnolo
Dr. James Childress
Dr. Cameron Cho
Dr. Sonney Chong
Dr. Donald Clarke
Dr. Garth Collins
Dr. Fredrick Correa
Dr. Paul Cripe
Dr. Amor Cristobal
Dr. Michael De Anda
Dr. Margaret Delmore
Dr. Lisa Dobak
Dr. Mark Douglas
Dr. Gordon Douglass
Dr. J. Patrick Dunbar
Dr. Gregory Evrigenis
Dr. Kenneth Fat
Dr. Michael Favero
Dr. Ronald Fong
Dr. Thomas Fong
Dr. Steven Frank
Dr. Kenneth Frostad
Dr. Calvin Garland
Dr. Douglas Gedestad
Dr. Lindsay Grady
Dr. Douglas Greenwald
Dr. Gary Griffin
Dr. Lauren Hanschu
Dr. Robert Hays
Dr. Gregory Heise
Dr. Russell Hirano
Dr. Leslie Hoenig
Dr. Michael Holm
Dr. Robert Holt
Dr. Dan Hopper
Dr. Dick Huang
Dr. Stephen Huppert
Dr. Carolyn Ishii
Dr. Ralph Isola
Dr. Thomas Iverson
Dr. Richard Jackson
Dr. Douglas Jaul
Dr. Elizabeth Johnson
Dr. Terrence Jones
Dr. Bryan Judd
Dr. Daniel Jue
Dr. Robert Kelleher
Dr. Richard Kennedy
Dr. Richard Kiholm
Dr. Eric Knutson
Dr. Rob Koch
Dr. Jayanth Kumar
Dr. Kevin Kurio
Dr. Gordon Lee
Dr. James Lee
Dr. Kenneth Lee
Dr. Leland Lee
Dr. Jeffrey Light
Dr. Donald Lovett
Dr. Craig Makishima
Dr. Alexander Malick
Dr. Warren McWilliams
Dr. Luis Mendez
Dr. Timothy Mickiewicz

Dr. Michael Mikitka
Dr. Douglas Miller
Dr. Kathryn Moore
Dr. Kenneth Moore
Dr. James Mucci
Dr. James Musser
Dr. Robert Nisson
Dr. Michael O'Brien
Dr. Jack Oates
Dr. Jeanette Okazaki
Dr. Mireya Ortega
Dr. Gregory Owyang
Dr. David Petey
Dr. Mark Phipps
Dr. Richard Portalupi
Dr. Michael Preskar
Dr. Dexter Quiggle
Dr. Alan Rabe
Dr. Kumar Ramalingam
Dr. Ronald Rasmussen
Dr. B Rawlins
Dr. Donald Rollofson
Dr. Dean Sands
Dr. Timothy Scott
Dr. Richard Shipp
Dr. Edwin Sims
Dr. William Sloan
Dr. David Spector
Dr. Jack Stansfield
Dr. Nick Stubbs
Dr. Wade Tambara
Dr. Kevin Tanner
Dr. Stephen Taylor
Dr. Larry Templin
Dr. Lorence Thomas
Dr. Shaunda Thomas
Dr. Steven Thomson
Dr. Carl Trubschenck
Dr. Brent Varshawsky
Dr. Gary Vedenoff
Dr. Harry Viani
Dr. Michael Wilson
Dr. David Wong
Dr. Timothy Wong
Dr. Keith Wood
Dr. Janice Work
Dr. Peter Worth
Dr. Lynn Yamamoto
Dr. Geryoung Yang
Dr. Bradley Yee
Dr. Timothy York
Dr. James Zimmerman

Life Retired

Dr. Mark Abel
Dr. Guy Acheson
Dr. Thomas Adamson
Dr. Russell Anders
Dr. John Anderson
Dr. Kreston Anderson
Dr. Nancy Archibald
Dr. Robert Argo
Dr. Roger Ashworth
Dr. Joseph Atkinson
Dr. Paul Barkin
Dr. Garry Barone
Dr. Richard Behl
Dr. Cynthia Belgum
Dr. Melvin Bell
Dr. Bernard Benkel
Dr. Wayne Benson
Dr. Peter Berbohm
Dr. Robin Berrin
Dr. Lawrence Bisauta
Dr. Kurtley Bleuel
Dr. Ernest Bock

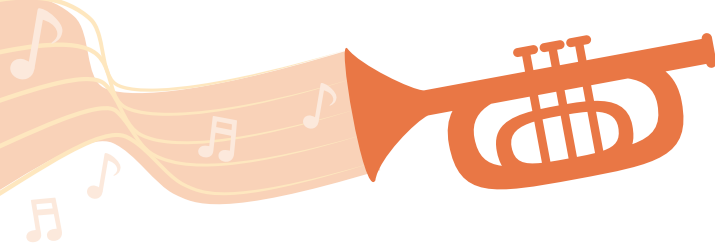
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Dr. Richard Brown
Dr. Steven Brown
Dr. David Bull
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Dr. Donald Campbell
Dr. Ken Campbell
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Dr. Vincenzo Castaldo
Dr. Chris Cerceo
Dr. Jeffrey Chamberlain
Dr. Thad Champlin
Dr. Richard Chang
Dr. Hugh Charles
Dr. Regina Cheung
Dr. John Childers
Dr. Thomas Chin
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Dr. Lawrence Chu
Dr. Robert Church
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Dr. Perry Kolander
Dr. Arden Kwong
Dr. Laurie LaDow
Dr. Arthur Lambert
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Dr. Paul Binon for being awarded the Pacific Coast Society for Prosthodontics, Fred E. Gulick Distinguished Life Member Award **(2)**

Dr. Eric Wong for being the invocation speaker at the 2024 Convocation ceremony Minneapolis, MN. on July, 20, 2024. Pictured with Chethan Chetty (AGD President-Elect), John Regan (Past AGD President), Charles Goodacre (Loma Linda Dean), and Eric Wong (California AGD Trustee). **(3)**

Dr. Theresa Worsham's family welcomed Eden Marie Worsham. She arrived two weeks early **(4)**

SD Reliance for updating their company name to SD Dental Solutions **(see page 36)**

Drs. Gaetan Tchamba and Rashidah Wiley for being recognized by NDA's 40 under Forty! **(5/6)**

UOP Pacific Health Care Collaborative inaugural class! **(7)**



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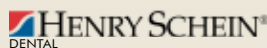
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The SDDS Job Bank is a service offered only to SDDS Members. It is for job seekers to reach other Society members who are looking for dentists to round out their practice, and vice versa. If you are a job seeker or associate seeker contact SDDS at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

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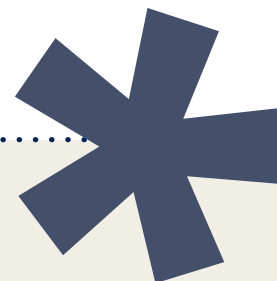
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SDDS CALENDAR OF EVENTS



SEPTEMBER

- 10** General Membership Meeting
My Scanner is Better Than Yours
Details below
- 13** Member Event
Shred Day at SDDS • 10am–2pm
- 18** Licensure Renewal
Infection Control
Nancy Dewhirst, RDH, BS
Wednesday • 5:30–7:30pm
Webinar • 2 CEU, Core
- 20** Continuing Education Course
Make Your Manuals
Employee Handbook Update (2 CEU, 20%)
Regulatory Compliance Manual (1.5 CEU, Core)
HIPAA Manual (1.5 CEU, Core)
Friday • 8:30am–2:30pm
• SDDS Classroom
- 24** Licensure Renewal
California Dental Practice Act
Nancy Dewhirst, RDH, BS
Tuesday • 5:30–7:30pm
Webinar • 2 CEU, Core

For more calendar info and to sign up
for courses online, visit: www.sdds.org

OCTOBER

- 3** Continuing Education Course
Next Level Bone Grafting (Hands-on course)
Tamir Wardany, DDS, DABOI; Sponsored by Geistlich Biomaterials and H & H Company
- 8** General Membership Meeting
The Many Myths of Pediatric Dentistry
Details below
- 23** Business Forum
Finding the Perfect Fit—Bringing Harmony Back to the Workplace
Mari Bradford; California Employers Assoc. (CEA)
Wendie Richards; Resource Staffing and Christine Sison; Swiss Monkey
Wednesday • 6:00–7:30pm
Webinar • 2 CEU, 20%



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Upcoming GENERAL MEETINGS

**SEP
10**

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Tuesday • 3 CEU, Core • \$89 early price

Presented by Jenny Apekian, DDS;
Darrell Chun, DDS, MAGD and David Lopes, DDS
Sponsored by TDIC

Digital Dilemma: Intra-oral scanners

In the rapidly evolving field of digital dentistry, more and more scanners are coming to market. How are these scanners different? How are they the same? Are certain scanners better for certain procedures? Most of all, if you own a scanner, are you using it to its fullest capacity? This throwdown features some of the most popular scanners on the market and will answer many of the questions that continually are asked.

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

**OCT
8**

The Many Myths of Pediatric Dentistry

Tuesday • 3 CEU, Core • \$89 early price

Presented by David L. Rothman, DDS,
FAAPD, FACD, FICD

We do what we were taught in dental school despite time and research passing us by. We sometimes jump on the bandwagon because something sounds good but may be of dubious scientific backing. In this presentation, we'll look at commonly held but not scientifically based myths in kid's dentistry that have been perpetuated by dentists and the "Lay" media for years (including many old wives' tales). We'll look at the difference between common sense, science, and factless fantasy. newer techniques for delivery.