



District of Columbia
DENTAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

June 2023, Vol. 69, No. 6



Dr. "Anna" Bettios

Letter from the DC Dental Society President Ioana "Anna" Bettios, DDS, MS, FACP, FICD, FACD

Dear Colleagues,

June historically has been the month when the term of office for the DCDS president, other officers and board members change, but as a result of the recent changes in bylaws, I am honored to serve as president until the end of the year. The change in leadership for our Society will continue to occur during the Annual Awards Meeting, which is now scheduled to be held as the last meeting of the year.

What a year it has been this far! Our Society has engaged in initiatives on every front: continuing education events, social gatherings with families and staff, membership happy hours, legislative and advocacy efforts, and social media improvement. More great things are coming with new initiatives and changes proposed by the Bylaws Committee. These changes are scheduled for a membership vote during the September CE course on September 14. The proposed bylaws amendment will affirm the right of members to participate in elections via electronic ballot, including on votes for future bylaws amendments, and will grant the board of directors the flexibility to establish new committees, or disband them, to enable an agile organizational structure that can better meet member needs. We hope that all members will join the September meeting and will support the proposed changes.

In addition, we want you to get involved in your DCDS. Several committees have openings for new members, and we urge all members to apply for the positions. We also need support for our ongoing advocacy work, where your voice is essential.

The incredible happenings of this past year would not be possible without the outstanding leadership and support by Executive Director Kurt Gallagher and his staff, Cheryl Michi and Maeceon Lewis. All three were presented with an Award of Excellence during the May meeting of the board of directors for

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Cover photo: June 2023 DCDS Happy Hour at Lia's Restaurant

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Encore Presentation

“Trials and Tribulations of Digital Dental Implant Surgery” Presented by Dr. Israel Puterman Wednesday, June 28 from 7-9 PM Live Webinar

This will be a repeat of our February continuing education program.
If you registered previously, there is no need to re-register.

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

Live Virtual CE Presentation by Israel Puterman

Cost: Free to DCDS Members | Non-Members—\$75

Visit the [DCDS Registration Fees & Cancellation Policy page](#) for more details on registration and [read about Dr. Puterman here](#).

Program Description: Digitally-Oriented Tooth Replacement: A Surgical Perspective

Session 1: Digital vs. Analog Implant Surgery: What’s the Difference?

Session Description: Review various surgical scenarios and how they are treated, directly comparing analog and digital implant surgery.

Learning Objectives:

- Recognize the strengths and limitations of implant surgery using digital technology
- Recognize the strengths and limitations of implant surgery using analog technology
- Understand the methods used to maintain gingival architecture around an immediate implant

Session 2: Challenges in the Replacement of Adjacent Missing Teeth

Session Description: This lecture will explore complex situations involving adjacent anterior missing teeth and the decisions involved in their replacement

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the complexity in replacing 2 adjacent missing teeth in the anterior
- Understand the options to improve a situation with a malpositioned anterior implant
- Understand the role of bone and soft tissue grafting in obtaining a favorable outcome



Dr. Israel Puterman

[Register Here](#)

Continuing Education Disclaimer: The District of Columbia Dental Society is an ADA CERP Recognized Provider. ADA CERP is a service of the American Dental Association to assist dental professionals in identifying quality providers of continuing dental education. ADA CERP does not approve or endorse individual courses or instructors, nor does it imply acceptance of credit hours by boards of dentistry. It is the responsibility of each participant to verify the CE requirements of his or her licensing or regulatory agency and to contact them with any questions regarding licensing. The DC Dental Society designates the above presentations for the number of CE credits listed.

Concerns or complaints about a CE provider may be directed to the provider or to the **Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition** at ADA.org/CERP.

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Letter from the President—Continued from Page 1

their exceptional support to our Society, working many hours behind the scenes to secure venues and schedule events, making every step of the process run smoothly for myself, the committees and the members. They are most deserving of the award. The awards will also be included during the Annual Awards Meeting for formal recognition.

I would like to congratulate one of our past presidents, Dr. Chris Loukaitis, who received a Distinguished Faculty Award for his more than 25 years of educational achievements at the Howard University College of Dentistry. This award was presented at the Annual Honors and Awards ceremony held during Howard's graduation last month (see photo on page 6).

On the advocacy front, the executive director and several members attended the May 19th Board of Dentistry meeting and continue to advocate on behalf of our members for licensure improvements and expanded scope of practice. Most of the recommendations DCDS offered to the board of dentistry to allow dentists and dental assistants to perform more procedures have been incorporated into the draft regulations, including a recently published proposed regulation that would create a Level III dental assistant with the ability to perform coronal polishing and apply pit and fissure sealants.

Of great surprise was the recent communication from DC Health stating that a criminal background check (CBC) will be required for licensure renewal. The email communication sent on May 25 states "A person renewing his or her license, registration, or certification shall be required to undergo a fingerprint scan CBC or a CBC based on a name search, which shall include the applicant's gender, Social Security number, date of birth, and mailing address. The CBC shall occur at a two (2) year interval coinciding with the renewal date of the respective profession." DCDS is researching whether other states have similar requirements in place for licensure renewal. The Public Policy Committee is currently reviewing options and developing a letter to send to DC Health to outline our concerns.

DCDS recently submitted a letter supporting the Prior Authorization Amendments Act of 2023 ([BN-0124](#)) to the DC Council Committee on Health. The draft legislation would establish new rights for patients and healthcare providers with respect to the prior authorization process used by insurance companies to assess whether certain care will be covered by insurance in advance of delivery of that care. The legislation would also establish deadlines for insurance companies to respond to prior authorization requests and appeals in the event an initial request is denied. DCDS is calling upon the DC Council to clarify that the legislation will also protect patients when they seek dental care and to expand the legislation to hold insurance companies accountable to their promise to pay for prior authorized care.

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DC Dental Society

2001 K Street, NW
3rd Floor North
Washington, DC 20006
P: (202) 367-1163
F: (202) 367-2163
E: info@dcdental.org

Letter from the President—Continued on Page 4

Letter from the President—Continued from Page 3

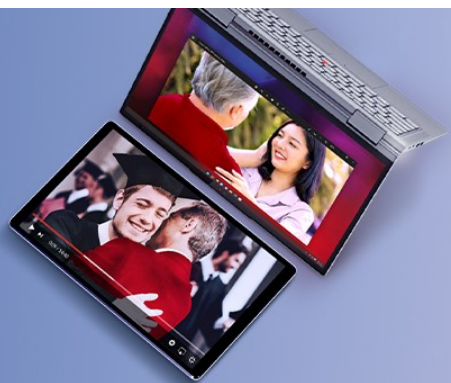
Thank you to all who participated in the annual Educational Needs Assessment Survey that collects feedback on programs over the last year and explores subjects for educational lectures in the future. We have a great lineup of speakers through December, and the Education Committee is already working to develop programs for 2024. The Membership Committee is organizing more social events as a follow up to the huge success of the social at the Nats game held during our Spring Symposium, which was attended by office staff and family members.

Lastly, I would like to thank our May CE lecturer, Robyn Reis, on her wonderful presentation on “5 Ways to Attract and Retain High Performing Staff Members.” It was a very informative presentation during the current challenges with staffing. Although this course does not count towards renewal licensing credit, it was a great management presentation and can still be submitted for AGD and other credit providers for attendance.

We will resume continuing education programs on Thursday, September 14 with a virtual “ Digital Dentistry” 2-hour CE presentation by Dr. Christopher Pescatore. Stay well and safe!

Very sincerely,

Dr. Ioana “Anna” Bettios, DDS, MS, FICD, FACD, FACP
DCDS President 2022-2023



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Upcoming Fall 2023 Continuing Education Presentations

Monthly business meeting begins at 5:45 p.m. Educational session begins at approximately 6:00 p.m.
[Visit the DCDS website](#) for course information, speaker bios, fees and cancellation policy.

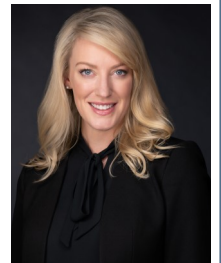
About DCDS Speakers

Your DC Dental Society has developed a continuing education program that features leading experts in dental care whether they practice across the country or down the street. The inclusion of local presenters on the program for DCDS monthly meetings is intended to foster collegiality and support our local community. DCDS does not endorse one specialist over another, but celebrates D.C. talent.



Thursday, September 14th
Digital Dentistry Update
Virtual Only
CE Credits Offered: 2.0
Presenter: Dr. Christopher Pescatore

Tuesday, October 10th
Biomimetic Dentistry
In Person
CE Credits Offered: 2.0 CE Credits
Presenter: Dr. Amelia Orta



Tuesday, November 14th
Risk Management
In Person
CE Credits Offered: 2.0
Presenter: Andrew Gerner,
CPF, R.K. Tongue

Tuesday, December 5th
Fit Body. Calm Mind. Inspired Practice.
In Person
CE Credits Offered: 2.0
Presenter: Dr. Uche Odiatu



[Register Here](#)

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Congratulations to the Howard University College of Dentistry Class of 2023!

On May 11, 88 students graduated from HUCD, joining the community of dentists.



Photo at right: DC Dental Society President Dr. Ioana Bettios and Robert T. Freeman Society President Dr. Floretta Cuffey-Terry awaiting to delivery congratulatory remarks at the graduation ceremony.



Dr. Loukaitis receives Distinguished Faculty Award

Congratulations to past president Dr. Chris Loukaitis, who was recognized recently with the Distinguished Faculty Award from Dean Andrea Jackson of the Howard University College of Dentistry. Dr. Loukaitis has been a member of the HUCD faculty in the department of prosthodontics since 2000.



Dr. Bettios recognized DCDS staff

Dr. Anna Bettios recognized DCDS staff at a recent board meeting for their dedication and work behind the scenes to execute the society's mission and purpose.

DCDS and ADA Help Dentists Fulfill New DEA Education Requirement

DEA to require 8 hours of training on safely prescribing controlled substances starting June 27

DCDS has offered a number of courses on opioids in recent years that may count towards satisfying the new, one-time training requirement from the DEA. Follow the step-by-step guide below to access your DCDS/ADA course transcript to identify all courses you have completed that may be applicable.

Recent DCDS courses include:

- Dr. Tom Viola, “Top of the Heap” Frequently Prescribed Medications and Clinical Dental Considerations” (2.5 CE Hours; May 2020)
- Dr. Raymond Dionne, “Implementing Best Practices for Acute Dental Pain to Optimize Analgesia and Minimize Substance Abuse” (2.0 CE Hours; Spring & Fall Symposium for Licensure)
- Dr. Ernie Luce, “Opioids and Analgesic Prescribing for the Dentist” (2.0 CE Hours; Spring Symposium for Licensure)

How to Access your CE Record

Visit the DCDS website and click on the “Track Your CE” link or the “Track CE” menu item.

The screenshot shows the DCDS website homepage. At the top, there are logos for the District of Columbia Dental Society and ADA, along with a search bar. Below the logos is a navigation menu with items: MEMBER CENTER, MEETINGS, NEWS, ADVOCACY, ABOUT US, FOUNDATION, and FOR THE PUBLIC. The MEMBER CENTER dropdown menu is open, showing options like DC Licensure, Join / Renew, Member Benefits, Member Directory, Track CE (circled in red), Volunteer and Donate, and Career Center. On the right side of the page, there is a vertical menu with items: DCDS Monthly Meetings, Hesy-Re Marketplace, Online CE Evaluation, Track Your CE (circled in red), Apply for/Renew Membership, and Classifieds. The main content area has a welcome message and contact information.

Click on the “Log in CE” button.

The screenshot shows the 'Track CE' page on the DCDS website. The page title is 'Track CE'. The main content area contains instructions for logging into the CE portal and uploading certificates. At the bottom of the page, there is a 'Log Into CE' button circled in red. There are also advertisements for ADA and a product.

Filter courses by date.

Download or print your CE record.

Education Unit Summary

From Date: MM DD 2023

To Date: MM DD 2023

Sort by Earned Date: Sort by Date: Newest to Oldest

* Filter will be applied to "Course End Date (DateEarned)"

Provider	Title	Status	Education Category	Location	CEUs	Earned Date	Expiration Date	Description	Actions
ADA	Conscious and Unconscious Bias in Dental Practice Ethical Considerations	Approved	ADA-Chicago	ADA Online	2.00	5/24/2023	-		
ADA	Clinical Complications In Fixed Prosthodontics: Causes, Prevention, and Management, Part 3	Approved	ADA-Chicago	ADA Online	1.00	5/24/2023	-		
ADA	Physical intimate partner violence and oralhealth problems during pregnancy (April 2023 Article 2)	Approved	ADA-Chicago	ADA Online	1.00	5/24/2023	-		

Need more opioids courses? Check out these courses from the ADA.

Course	Credit Type
Special Considerations of Pain Management and Opioid Use in Older Adults	CE Credit (ADA CERP)
Emergency Department Referral Model in Action: Addressing Dental Access Opioid Prevention and Pain Management	CE Credit (ADA CERP)
Clinical Practice Guideline for Management of Acute Dental Pain	CE Credit (ADA CERP)

The following one-hour ADA webinars are hosted by the ADA through the Providers Clinical Support System. The courses are free and include a certificate of completion. The ADA is an approved training provider.

Course	Credit Type
The Dental Hygienist’s Role in Supporting Patients with Substance Use Disorder	Certificate of Completion (ADA/PCSS)
What You Need to Know About Pain Management as the Opioid Overdose Crisis Evolves	Certificate of Completion (ADA/PCSS)
Opioids, Dentistry and Addiction: The Dentist’s Role in Treating Pain	Certificate of Completion (ADA/PCSS)
The Impact of COVID-19 on the Addiction Field: A Call to Dentists	Certificate of Completion (ADA/PCSS)
Integrating Controlled Substance Risk Assessment and Management into Dental Practice	Certificate of Completion (ADA/PCSS)

Programs and Discounts

DC Dental Society has partnered with service providers to offer member discounts. We currently partner with:

Affinity Programs

Educational Loans



Compliance Services



Insurance



Dental Supplies



**DCDS Members Saved 25%
in the month of May
by shopping on TDSC.com**

ADA Endorsed Programs

Our Endorsed Company Program brings you special member savings on products and services designed specifically to work for your practice: from professional liability insurance to business credit cards to office supplies and computers. There are also endorsements geared towards your home life, such as health insurance, appliances, and even automobiles.

Many members are able to recoup a great deal of their dues dollars through the savings they receive by simply participating in these programs. Take advantage of the benefits of membership.

For more information about these programs, visit the [DCDS website](#)

Did You Know?

If You Missed the Live Symposium Presentations, You Can Still Purchase and Access the Recordings

The 2023 Spring Symposium for Licensure was held April 11 to April 27, 2023. The Symposium provides four courses that are required for license renewal in DC: infection control, LGBTQ+ cultural competency, ethics and opioids misuse (prescribing dentists only).

These courses were held virtually. The Board of Dentistry now allows all CE requirements to be satisfied through online courses. Additional details regarding DC continuing education requirements for dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants are available on the DCDS [DC Licensure](#) web page.

If you have not registered for these courses, registration is still open to receive the course recordings. Dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants are invited to register.

View more information about the [Symposium](#).

View more information about the [Speakers](#).

Course Category	CE Credits Offered	Required for Dentists	Required for Dental Hygienists	Required for Dental Assistants
Minimum CE Hours		30 hours	15 hours	10 hours
Infection Control	2 hours	2 hours	2 hours	2 hours
LGBTQ Cultural Competency	2 hours*	2 hours	2 hours	2 hours
Ethics	1 hour	1 hours	1 hour	1 hour
Abuse and Misuse of Prescription Drugs/Opioids	2 hours	2 hours for prescribers	Not Required	Not Required
CPR	Not Offered	CPR for health care providers	Basic Level CPR	2 hours in Basic Life Support

*Includes credit for the self-study article "Supporting Hispanic LGBTQ+ Patients."

Register for Symposium Recordings

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Advocacy Update

DCDS attends Board of Dentistry meeting to advocate for licensure improvements and expanded scope of practice

DCDS Executive Director Kurt Gallagher and several members attended the May 19th Board of Dentistry meeting and continue to advocate on behalf of our members for licensure improvements and expanded scope of practice. Most of the recommendations DCDS offered to the board of dentistry to allow dentists and dental assistants to perform more procedures have been incorporated into the draft regulations, including a recently published proposed regulation that would create a Level III dental assistant with the ability to perform coronal polishing and apply pit and fissure sealants.

DC Health requiring Criminal Background Checks

DC Health is requiring a criminal background check (CBC) for licensure renewal. The email communication sent on May 25 by DC Health states “A person renewing his or her license, registration, or certification shall be required to undergo a fingerprint scan CBC or a CBC based on a name search, which shall include the applicant’s gender, Social Security number, date of birth, and mailing address. The CBC shall occur at a two (2) year interval coinciding with the renewal date of the respective profession.” The DC Dental Society is researching whether other states have similar requirements in place for licensure renewal. The DCDS Public Policy Committee is currently reviewing options and developing a letter to send to DC Health to outline our concerns. For more information, visit <https://dchealth.dc.gov/service/criminal-background-check>.

DCDS supports Prior Authorization Amendments Act of 2023

DCDS recently submitted a letter supporting the Prior Authorization Amendments Act of 2023 ([BN-0124](#)) to the DC Council Committee on Health. The draft legislation would establish new rights for patients and healthcare providers with respect to the prior authorization process used by insurance companies to assess whether certain care will be covered by insurance in advance of delivery of that care. The legislation would also establish times for insurance companies to respond to prior authorization requests and appeals in the event an initial request is denied. DCDS is calling upon the DC Council to clarify that the legislation will also protect patients when they seek dental care and to expand the legislation to hold insurance companies accountable to their promise to pay for prior authorized care.



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Board of Dentistry Survey

Dentist and Dental Facility Certification to Administer Sedation or General Anesthesia

The District of Columbia Board of Dentistry ("Board") is developing the administrative framework for implementing the Dentist and Dental Facility Certification to Administer Sedation or General Anesthesia in the District of Columbia. As a licensed dentist in the District of Columbia, your feedback to the survey will help the Board develop an effective and efficient certification process. The survey will remain open until **June 20, 2023**.

The Board will grant one (1) Continuing Education Unit (CEU) for reviewing the [Dentist and Dental Facility Certification to Administer Sedation or General Anesthesia regulations](#) **and** for completing the survey. The one (1) CEU credit will only be accepted by the Board for the licensure renewal period ending December 31, 2023 for licensed dentist in the District of Columbia eligible for renewal. The CEU may not be used in any other jurisdiction.

To access the survey, please click the following link: <https://arcg.is/Lmu81>

DCDS Proposed Bylaws Amendments

DCDS proposed bylaws amendments are scheduled for a membership vote during the September 14 business meeting before the continuing education presentation. The [proposed bylaws amendments](#) will:

- Affirm the right of members to participate in elections via electronic ballot, including votes on future bylaws amendments.
- Grant the board of directors the flexibility to establish new committees, or disband them, to enable an agile organizational structure that can better meet member needs.
- Specify that elected officers and board members will be announced at the last meeting of the fiscal year. Officers shall assume the responsibilities of their respective offices on January 1st of the following year.
- Affirm that the membership may conduct business via an electronic meeting.
- Specify that the Annual Awards Meeting will be held as the first meeting of the year.

Make a Difference — Join a DCDS Committee!

Show your commitment to your dental society and make a difference by becoming one of our committee members. The following committees have openings for 2024-2026:

Education Committee

Membership Committee

Public Policy Committee

Professional Standards Committee

If you'd like to join a committee, please contact DCDS staff at info@dcdental.org.

Welcome New Members

Alyssa Bonomo

Sepehr Dehbashi

Mohammad Hemmatian

Temidayo Obayomi

Charity VanderWall-Lacey



Jacob Young is a general dentist in Washington DC. Dr. Young was born and raised in Missouri and he earned both his bachelor's degree and DDS from the University of Missouri. Dr. Young's wife is also a dentist in the US Army. Dr. Young is currently serving patients in Spring Valley, with a passion for cosmetic dentistry. Outside of work, Dr. Young enjoys biking, hiking and exploring the local food scene with his wife.

Special Thanks to Our DCDS Sponsors

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A Joy to Serve

“It just brings a joy to the heart to serve and give expecting nothing in return and the gratefulness of the patients is infectious.” Dr. Rodney Savoia

Calling All Endodontists

We received a request through DC Dental Cares on behalf of a patient who needs a root canal. Are there any endodontists in DC who would be willing to provide a root canal to this patient pro bono?

DC Dental Cares is a program of the DC Dental Society Foundation that coordinates pro bono dental care to members of the Washington Community in need. This program is administered under a partnership with the Catholic Charities Health Care Network. Through this program, DC dentists provide care in their own office with no long term commitment. The type and amount of treatment rendered to these patients is entirely at the discretion of the dentist. Patients are pre-screened for eligibility based on their economic status. Participating dentists receive a referral outlining the patient’s general oral health needs and their chief concern.

If you are an Endodontist who can participate in the DC Dental Cares Pro Bono Program please sign up via the button below. Once you are signed up you can begin to receive referrals

Patients are fully vetted for need by CCHCN, and the treating dentist sets the level of care provided. You can treat one person a year or several a month, all while in the comfort of your own office. Sign up using our brief online form via the button below.

Sign Up for



DCDS Foundation’s Oral Care Video Series

The DC Dental Society Foundation developed a series of short oral health education videos to assist home health aids, family members and others who serve as caregivers by raising knowledge of potential oral health conditions with the goal of improving oral health. The videos cover a range of topics from the characteristics of a healthy mouth to how to assist other with tooth brushing and oral hygiene.

[What Do Healthy and Unhealthy Mouths Look Like?](#) (9:21)

[Mouth Biology and Its Effects on Overall Health](#) (10:21)

[General Homecare Tips for Caregivers](#) (10:18)

[Aging and Oral Health](#) (3:55)

[Helping Patients with Tooth Brushing and Oral Hygiene](#) (10:13)

[Dental Restorations, Dentures and Appliances](#) (8:30)

[Dental Medications](#) (2:52)

[Oral Care for Persons with Cognitive Impairment or Dementia](#) (9:33)

[Watch Dr. Selvaggio’s Full Presentation](#) [53 minutes]

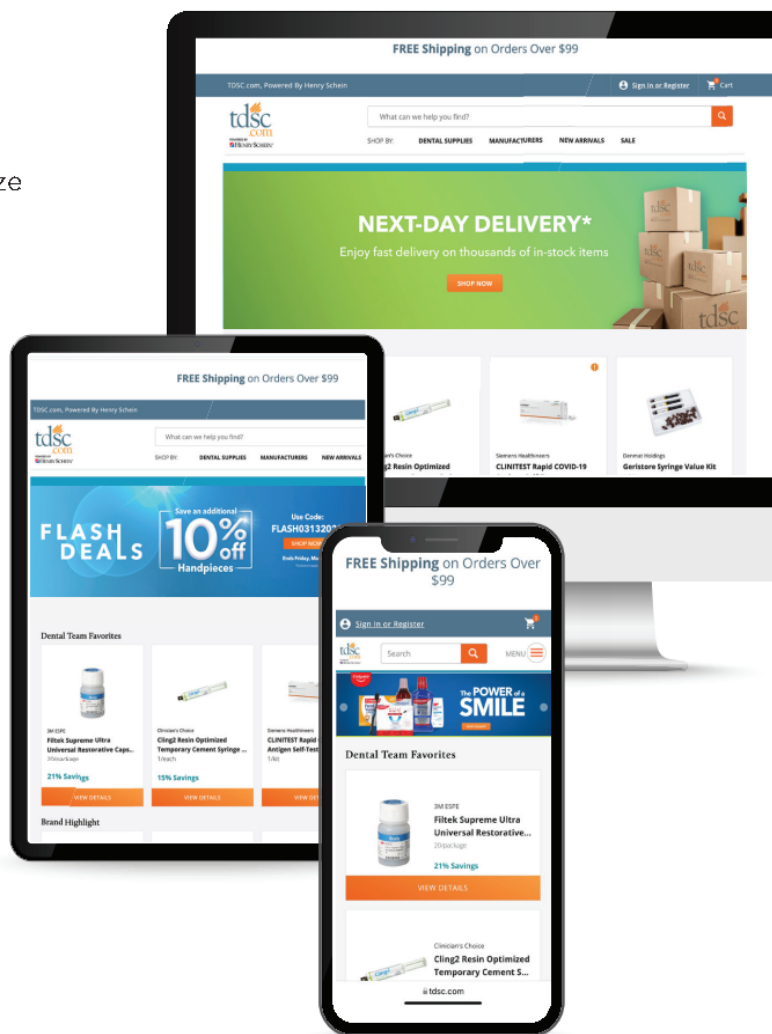
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- Kerr
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DACS

District Addiction Consultation Service

Supporting
prescribers
across the
District of
Columbia



District Addiction Consultation Service (DACCS)

DACS supports primary care and specialty prescribers in addressing the needs of their patients with substance use disorders and chronic pain management.

Consultation



Phone consultation for clinical questions provided by our team of expert addiction medicine specialists

Education



Education and training opportunities

Resources & Referrals



Assistance in the identification of substance use and behavioral health resources and referrals

1-866-337-DACS (3227)

www.DistrictACS.org



Funding for DACCS is provided by the District of Columbia Government, DC Health, Health Regulation and Licensing Administration (HRLA), Pharmaceutical Control Division (PCD).

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\$4,221 / 28% average annual savings for DCDS Members



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House passes HALT Fentanyl Act

ADA Morning Huddle, May 31, 2023

House lawmakers voted 289-133 to pass the [Halt All Lethal Trafficking of Fentanyl Act](#) that would permanently classify all fentanyl-related substances as Schedule I drugs under the Controlled Substances Act. The bill, which received support from the Biden administration, would create a new registration process for Schedule I research and impose similar penalties for offenses involving fentanyl analogues and fentanyl-related substances, among other provisions.

[Full Story: House Passes Bill to Address Fentanyl Overdoses](#)

Study: Dentists have a role in celiac disease diagnosis

ADA Morning Huddle, May 31, 2023

Dental manifestations of celiac disease can include delayed eruption in children and dental enamel defects in children and adults, and they may be the only signs of the disease for those who have not been diagnosed, according to a review in the [Journal of Clinical Medicine](#). "Dentists can play an important role in identifying people who may have unrecognized celiac disease and may help prevent its progress and long-term complications," researchers wrote.

[Full Story: Dental Manifestations in Patients with Celiac Disease](#)

ADA intellectual property includes CDT

ADA Weekend Huddle, June 3 2023

The ADA issued a reminder that it is the copyright owner of the Current Dental Terminology, the Code on Dental Procedures and Nomenclature and the ADA Dental Claim Form, and that the CDT is intellectual property developed by the ADA Council on Dental Benefit Programs' Code Maintenance Committee. A license to use the CDT is not required for dentists, dental teams and hospitals.

Dentists are urged to confirm with vendors that they have a license to include the CDT in their software.

[Full Story: CDT is ADA Intellectual Property](#)

JADA study compares cements' effect on restoration color

ADA Morning Huddle, May 30, 2023

A study published in [The Journal of the American Dental Association](#) found that opaque cements affected the final color of restorations more than highly translucent cement. Results for the opaque cement were influenced by thickness and resin shade but translucent cement did not affect the color, researchers said.

[Full Story: Impact of Translucent Cement vs. Opaque Cement on Final Restoration Color](#)

Tool may help assess oral health of older adults

ADA Morning Huddle, June 2, 2023



A rapid oral health deterioration risk assessment tool for older patients, which involves four assessment steps and four risk categories, is a standard model that can guide new dentists' treatment decisions, according to a study in the [Journal of Clinical Medicine](#). The tool is similar to the caries risk assessment and can help with development of age-appropriate treatment plans.

[Full Story: Tool Assesses Oral Health of Older Adults](#)

Dr. Hung: AAPIs need formal body in organized dentistry

ADA Morning Huddle, June 1, 2023

Cathy Hung, D.D.S., a member of the ADA Wellness Ambassador Program and an ADA Institute for Diversity in Leadership alumna, says Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders need a formal body within organized dentistry. ADA Health Policy Institute data show that in 2020, 18% of the dental workforce was Asian, compared with 5.6% of the general population. "It is disheartening to think an overrepresented group in the dental workforce bears no representation on the national organizational level," Dr. Hung said.

[Full Story: Need for formal body in dentistry for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders](#)

Artificial Intelligence: Methods for Advancing Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology

ADA Morning Huddle, May 31, 2023



In this [comprehensive report](#), Drs. Karen Panetta, Rahul Rajendran and Aruna Ramesh offer dentists a closer look at computer vision, an interdisciplinary field of artificial intelligence. The experts discuss how AI is augmenting assisted computer-based tools to assist dental professionals. Interested in AI and its applications in dentistry? Be sure to check out this [comprehensive JADA+ digital resource](#) that offers dentists a plethora of resources.

No money for raises? Ease financial stress instead

ADA Finance & Operations Huddle, June 3, 2023

Small businesses that don't have the budget to increase pay or benefits can instead use voluntary withholdings to promote better financial management for employees -- more than half of whom cite finances as their top source of stress, consultant Barbara Weltman writes. Employers can arrange tax-advantaged dollars or group rates to cover commuting expenses, dependent care, savings bond purchases and other expenses.

[Full Story: Voluntary Wage Withholding to Promote Better Financial Management for Employees](#)

Constance Wu to be keynote speaker at SmileCon 2023

ADA Morning Huddle, June 7, 2023

Actor Constance Wu will be the keynote speaker at SmileCon 2023 Opening Session on Oct. 5, kicking off the meeting with a discussion about wellness and her personal journey. "Her words will be a vital reminder to all who hear them that taking care of yourself is the first step in sharing your talents with others," said ADA President George R. Shepley, D.D.S. The Opening Session also will include recognition of the ADA 10 Under 10 Award winners, musical entertainment and remarks from Dr. Shepley. SmileCon will take place Oct. 5 to 7 in Orlando.



[Full Story: SmileCon Keynote Speaker](#)

Nominate awardees for 2024 Humanitarian Award by Sept. 1

ADA Morning Huddle, June 2, 2023

The ADA Humanitarian Award, one of ADA's highest honors, is open to member dentists who have distinguished themselves by giving a minimum of 10 years to improving the oral health of underserved populations in the United States. The award includes a \$10,000 gift to the dental charity or project of the recipient's choice and recognition at SmileCon® 2024. [Learn more and submit a nomination!](#)

HPI data show increase in dentists affiliated with DSOs

ADA Morning Huddle, June 5, 2023

The number of dentists across the US affiliated with dental support organizations totaled 13% in 2022, compared with 10.4% in 2019 and 8.8% in 2017, according to ADA Health Policy Institute [data](#). Dentists who have been out of dental school for less than 10 years were more likely to be affiliated with a DSO, at 23%, versus 11% for those who had not been in dental school for 11 to 25 years and 7% for those who had been out of school for more than 25 years.

[Full Story: More Dentists Affiliating with DSOs](#)

More than 500,000 people disenrolled from Medicaid

ADA Morning Huddle, June 5, 2023

More than half a million people in 11 states have been disenrolled from Medicaid as of May 2023 as states continue the redetermination process, in large part because people did not complete the enrollment process. The ADA continues to advocate to make comprehensive dental care a mandatory component of Medicaid coverage for adults. In addition to assistance at the state level, the ADA is advocating for legislation that would ease the [administrative burden](#) for dentists who see Medicaid patients and for legislation that would [expand Medicaid dental](#) services in all 50 states.

[Full Story: Medicaid Disenrollments](#)

FDA grants full approval to COVID-19 antiviral Paxlovid

ADA Morning Huddle, May 30, 2023

Pfizer's Paxlovid, an oral antiviral COVID-19 treatment, was given full [Food and Drug Administration approval](#) last week, paving the way for the drug's commercial sale after government supplies are exhausted. The treatment is approved for adults with COVID-19 who are at high risk for progression to severe infection.

[Full Story: Pfizer's Antiviral Paxlovid Gains Full Approval](#)

New CDC Guidance on Masking in Healthcare Facilities

What's Up Wednesdays, May 31, 2023

With the end of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency in the U.S., the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently announced new guidance to help dentists determine how to best implement mask use in their offices. Dentists are still required to follow standard and transmission-based precautions when treating patients, including wearing proper personal protective equipment and adhering to Occupational Safety and Health Administration workplace safety rules and state and local requirements regarding masking.

The new CDC guidance provides information for dentists with questions about broader masking in health care facilities, suggesting that facilities consider the following factors:

- The types of patients the facility treats, including those who may have a higher risk for severe COVID-19
- Input from stakeholders like patients and office personnel
- Plans from other facilities with which the facility shares patients
- Available data, such as local COVID-19 incidence data

Read additional information about the new guidance in [ADA News](#).

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