



District of Columbia
DENTAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

August 2024, Vol. 70, No. 8



Dr. Cheryle Baptiste

Letter from DC Dental Society President Cheryle Baptiste, DDS, FICD, FIAMDI

Dear Members of the DC Dental Society,
As we step into August, a month marked by a series of celebrations and awareness days, I am delighted to connect with you all. August 6th brings us National Fresh Breath Day, an excellent reminder of the importance of oral hygiene. On August 11th, Align Your Teeth Day encourages us to promote orthodontic health. National Tooth Fairy Day on August 22nd offers a whimsical opportunity to engage with our younger patients about dental care. Let us not forget National Smile Week in the second week of August, emphasizing the joy and confidence a healthy smile brings.

August is also National Back to School Month, a time for preparation and new beginnings. As students return to their studies, let's continue to educate them about the importance of maintaining oral health as part of their routine.

Special birthday wishes to our esteemed DCDS Executive Director, Mr. Kurt Gallagher, on August 9th. Your dedication and leadership are invaluable to our society.

I have been actively participating in the ADA Task Force to Eliminate Barriers for Underrepresented Minorities into the Dental Profession. Our monthly meetings have been productive, fostering initiatives that aim to create a more inclusive and diverse dental community.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to the success of the DCDS 2024 Welcome Home Networking Event on July 18th. It was a vibrant evening, filled with new faces and promising connections. Your enthusiasm and support made it a memorable occasion.

A special thank you to Mr. Kurt Gallagher and Dr. Takeisha Presson for their behind-the-scenes advocacy work to secure an increase in Medicaid fees paid for covered

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Cover photo: DCDS hosted its first Welcome Home Networking Event for members and dentists new to DC on July 18th.

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Tuesday, September 10th Meeting (In-Person): “Oral Motor/Orofacial Myofunctional Disorders and Treatment Across the Lifespan”

Presented by Gillian Gladstone Teran, MA, CCC-SLP, COM®

Business Meeting Begins at 5:45 PM

Education Program Begins at Approximately 6:00 PM

Lecture Format

CE Credits Offered: 2.0 CE Credits

Cost: Free to DCDS Members | Non-Members—\$75 Presentation Recording or \$110 In-Person

Disclosures: None

Session 1: The Foundations and Dysfunction of the Oral Mechanism

We will define oral motor/orofacial myofunctional disorders, understand what these entail, and learn about what is considered normal vs. abnormal function with key structures of the oral mechanism.

Learning Objectives Session 1:

- Defining the oral motor “umbrella” and what consists of oral motor dysfunction.
- Defining normal vs. abnormal orofacial structures and function.
- Understanding the phases and the development of swallowing.
- Understanding speech sound development.

Session 2: Causes Continued; the Oral-Motor Evaluation and Treatment Process

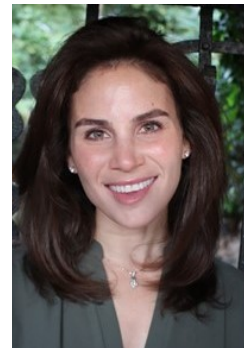
We will discuss the process of evaluation, treatment and review research and case studies.

Learning Objectives Session 2:

- To further discuss structural and habitual causes and limitations that lead to oral motor dysfunction, specifically restricted frenums and noxious habits.
- To determine the process of identifying and resolving oral motor dysfunction (i.e., Evaluation, treatment plan).
- To determine optimal plans of care and timelines of interventions provided by the “team” or pertinent providers.
- To review case studies and discuss relevant research to support evidence-based success with oral-motor/myofunctional treatment.

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

The District of Columbia Dental Society is an ADA CERP Recognized Provider.



Gillian Gladstone Teran

[Register Here](#)

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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](https://www.ada.org/CERP).

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Letter from the President, Continued

dental procedures. Your efforts are crucial in advancing our mission and supporting our members.

The 111th National Dental Association Annual Convention in July was a tremendous success. The theme, "Standing on the Shoulders of Giants, Launching Into a Future Beyond Imagination," resonated with us all. Dr. Nicole Cheek, our 100th NDA President, delivered inspiring messages that motivated young dentists to dream big and aim high. Congratulations to our local dentists, Dr. Albert A. Combs, III, Dr. James Jenkins, Dr. Daniel Young, and Dr. Chanelle Roberts, for being recognized among the NDA 40 Under 40 awardees. Your achievements inspire us all.

The NDA-HEALTH NOW® community outreach event, founded 11 years ago by Dr. Hazel J. Harper, was another highlight. It was gratifying to see so many volunteers come together to serve our community.

I am humbled to have received the Special Recognition Award from President Dr. Nicole Cheek at the NDA President's Gala. Thank you for this honor; it motivates me to continue striving for excellence in our profession.

Looking ahead, we have exciting events on the horizon. Stay tuned for details about our upcoming DCDS Back to School Happy Hour with our HUCD dental students.

Mark your calendars for the following events:

- International College of Dentists Annual Meeting and Convocation, September 6-7, 2024, in Nashville, Tennessee.
- DCDS September CE Meeting - September 10, 2024 - "Oral Motor/Orofacial Myofunctional Disorders in the Pediatric Population" with Gillian Gladstone Teran. See registration information on page 2.
- American College of Dentists Annual Meeting and Convocation in New Orleans, October 16-17.
- Smilecon® in New Orleans, October 17-19.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our society and profession. Together, we will continue to advance the field of dentistry and make a positive impact in our community.

Warm regards,

Cheryle Baptiste, DDS
President 2024-2025

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Mayor Bowser Withdraws Specialty License Proposal

On July 8, Mayor Muriel Bowser withdrew legislation under consideration by the DC Council that would have established a new specialist license for dentist practicing in a recognized area of specialization (B25-0632). DCDS was actively opposing the legislation and had organized a contingent of DC dentists to testify against the proposal during a hearing originally scheduled for July 10. The hearing was cancelled following the withdrawal of the legislation.

DCDS [sent a letter to Mayor Bowser](#) to express appreciation for her action and to outline provisions of the legislation that DCDS did support:

- Clarifying that the ability to place and remove dental implants is within the scope of practice of dentists.
- Authorizing dentists to administer immunizations and vaccinations.
- Authorizing dentists to administer FDA approved neurotoxins (e.g., Botox) for both dental and cosmetic purposes.
- DCDS was advocating for an expansion of the authorization to include the administration of dermal fillers.

DCDS is monitoring for any action to reintroduce a modified proposal to require licensure specific to dental specialties.

DCDS will continue to advocate for those provisions of the legislation it did support, particularly authorization for dentists to administer approved neurotoxins (e.g., Botox) and dermal fillers for cosmetic as well dental purposes.

Additional information on the Dental Specialties Licensure and Scope of Practice Amendment Act of 2023 (B25-0632) is available on the DCDS [summary web page](#).

Visit www.dcdental.org/advocacy to learn more about DCDS advocacy efforts or write to info@dcdental.org.

Next Board of Dentistry Meeting

Wed., September 18th at 9 AM
In-Person and Virtual

2201 Shannon Place SE
Washington, DC 20020

All DC Dentists are encouraged to attend

[Click this link](#) to join online.



DCDS Welcome Home Summer Networking Event

Special thanks to all the DC dentists who turned out for the Welcome Home Summer Networking Event on July 18 to welcome all dentists who were new to DC.



Welcome New Members

Dr. Jocelyn George
Dr. Regina Munsch
Dr. Ghatal Patel
Dr. Mark Prakash
Dr. Justin Tabatabai



Dr. Mintra Thuntarug
Dr. Megan Trask
Dr. Maya Vexler
Dr. Emma Wilkinson

Fall 2024 Continuing Education Presentations

Our monthly meetings are a fantastic opportunity for members to network, enjoy a meal together, and earn continuing education credits. And they're free for all members!

Monthly business meetings begin 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.

[Register Here](#)

Meeting Date	Meeting Topic	Speaker	
September 10	Oral Motor/Orofacial Myofunctional Disorders and Treatment Across the Lifespan	Ms. Gillian Gladstone Teran	
October 17	Updates on Current Dental Materials	Dr. Nate Lawson	
November 14	Risk Management and Malpractice Avoidance	Dr. Marc Leffler	
December 10	Cybersecurity	Mr. Gary Salman	

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.

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Community Happenings

We would like to congratulate DCDS members Drs. Albert Coombs, III and Daniel Young, along with fellow District dentists Drs. James Jenkins and Chanelle Roberts, for receiving a 40 Under 40 Award from the National Dental Association.



Dr. Albert Coombs III, DMD, is a distinguished dentist known for his specialization in dental implants. He is a proud graduate of Tufts University School of Dental Medicine and holds dental licenses in both the District of Columbia and Maryland. Dr. Coombs has earned the prestigious status of Diplomate with the International Dental Implant Association, showcasing his expertise and innovative techniques in implant dentistry. In recognition of his contributions to the field, Dr. Coombs was named one of the Top 40 Under 40 dentists in America by Incisal Edge Magazine in 2023, and he

was also honored in 2024 with the National Dental Association's 40 Under 40 Award. His insights on oral health have been featured in leading publications such as The Huffington Post, demonstrating his dedication to public education and health awareness.

Beyond his professional achievements, Dr. Coombs is deeply committed to community outreach and serving underserved populations. He is passionate about using his skills and education to provide quality dental care to those in need, reflecting his belief in the importance of accessible healthcare for all. Dr. Coombs continues to advance the field of dental implantology while prioritizing compassionate patient care and community service.

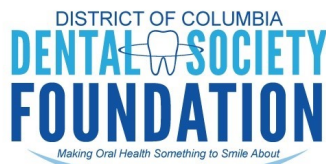


Dr. Daniel Young, originally from Summerville, SC, is a dedicated pediatric dentist who is passionate about serving children and adults with special needs.

His academic foundation is rooted in a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the esteemed university of the District of Columbia and later received a Doctorate in Dental Surgery from Howard University, both in Washington, DC. Dr. Young is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., where he holds the role of Graduate Advisor to a college chapter. In this capacity, he dedicates himself to providing mentorship and guidance to undergraduate students.

He is heavily involved in research focused on public health concerns in underrepresented minority communities and access to equitable care. His research has been published in the Journal of Dental Education and presented at various conferences nationally. He is a member of the National Dental Association, where he serves on the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, and is a member of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

He enjoys fishing, cooking, and following current advances related to the practice of pediatric dentistry.



Giving back to the community

"No need to travel far to help people in need for oral care. I have had the pleasure, over my last 30 years in private practice, to do free endodontic therapy (root canals) through the Spanish Catholic Center Dental Clinic/DC Cares Pro Bono Program, to patients in the District that have no insurance, or income but are in severe pain due to dental infection. Volunteering dental services has not only been personally rewarding and fulfilling, but it provided a way to "give back" and engage with your community. Colleagues and even some of my patients know I have been volunteering my services and they often ask me about it and acknowledge the positive impact it has in our community. Given there are more people in need of oral care than there are providers, consider volunteering your services and put a smile in someone's face!"

Dr. Angela P. Noguera, DDS, MS

Sign up for DC Dental Cares, the DC Dental Society Foundation's pro bono program.

This program is win-win-win: for our community, for the individuals who receive dental procedures that would not otherwise be possible due to costs, and for the DCDS volunteer who gains that warm feeling that comes from doing good.

Patients are fully vetted for need by our partner, the Catholic Charities Healthcare Network (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.

DC Dental Cares Sign Up Form

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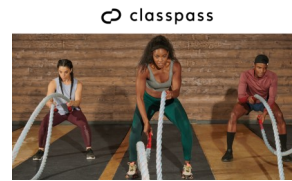
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DC Health is conducting focus groups about dental care experiences in DC. Upon completion of a 90-minute focus group session, participants will receive a \$75 VISA gift card. If you are interested in participating in the focus group, please scan the QR code below. In addition, DC Health provided flyers targeted specifically to distinct demographic segments that you are invited to display in your practice. The flyers are available for [download from the DCDS website in a zip file](#).

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**-Dr. Aliya Kassam
Two Aces Dentistry
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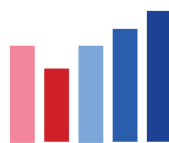


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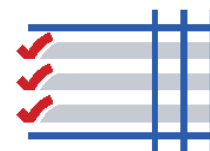
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GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

On **March 15, 2024**, the District of Columbia Department of Health (DC Health) will accept applications for the Health Professional Loan Repayment Program (HPLRP). The program provides loan repayment services to eligible providers practicing in HPLRP-certified Service Obligation Sites (SOS) in the District.

Who Can Apply:

Primary Care, Mental Health, and Dental Providers, Including: Physicians, Dentists, Dental Hygienists, Registered Nurses, Midwives, Advanced Practice Nurses & Physician Assistants

The HPLRP will issue up to eleven (11) award contracts. Award contracts will cover two years of participation and award contract amounts will be equivalent to 44 percent of a provider's total eligible debt - up to a maximum of \$72,617.88 for physicians and up to \$39,938.83 for all other eligible primary care providers. The maximum award amount for four years of service is \$165,040.64 for medical doctors and dentists and \$90,770.07 for all other approved DC licensed providers.

When to Apply:

New provider applications will be accepted from **March 15, 2024 to April 15, 2024.**

How to Apply:

dchealth.dc.gov/service/dc-health-professional-loan-repayment-program-hplrp

How to Complete an HPLRP Application

March 14, 2024 3-4pm
Meeting link: <https://tinyurl.com/5n6m9atd>
Join by phone: 202-860-2110
Access code: 2306 248 7393
Meet virtually with Cisco Webex.

Additional Information:

Providers interested in the program must be employed or have an employment contract with a certified Service Obligation Site (SOS) to provide direct patient care for at least 20 hours per week. A site must be an approved SOS for a provider to be eligible for the HPLRP. To become an SOS, a site must be a public or nonprofit entity located in a Health Professional Shortage or Medically Under-served Area/Population (HPSA/MUA/MUP) and must submit a Site Certification Application to the HPLRP. HPLRP applications, including recommendation letters and loan verification information, must be completed and received by DC Health by April 15, 2024.

Providers at for-profit facilities are newly eligible. See the website for details.

The anticipated contract start date for selected applicants is **August 2024.**





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We are stronger together. Help DCDS grow.

Members are encouraged to invite dentists who are not current members to join DCDS and the ADA. When a non-member dentist joins, the referring dentist will receive a \$100 recruitment bonus in appreciation.

Dentist can now submit Medicare claims electronically

ADA Morning Huddle, August 2, 2024

As of July 1, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services can now accept, process and pay dental claims electronically. The electronic Health Care Claim: Dental (837D), a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act-mandated standard, is used to submit health care claim billing information, encounter information or both from providers of health care services to payers, either directly or via intermediary billers and claims clearinghouses.

[Full story: New changes to submitting Medicare claims](#)

Graduating from ASDA to ADA

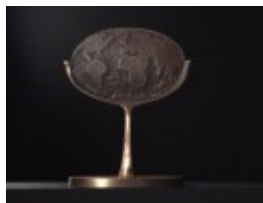
ADA Finance & Operations Huddle, August 3, 2024

A handful of dental schools saw 100% of the 2024 graduating class sign up to be ADA members, while many others hit 95% enrollment during National Signing Day season. ADA news spoke with some of these schools about their 2024 signing day results, what it's like partnering with their state dental societies and the advantage of organized dentistry.

[Full story: Howard University College of Dentistry reached 100% ADA membership signups this year](#)

There is still time to nominate for the 2025 ADA Humanitarian Award

ADA Morning Huddle, August 1, 2024



The ADA's Center for Public and Population Health reminds you that it's not too late. Nomination Portal closes on September 1st of this year. Please visit the [ADA Humanitarian Award](#) website to find eligibility requirements, nomination instructions, and the online nomination portal.

ADA to host webinar on new CMS regulations

ADA Morning Huddle, August 5, 2024

The American Dental Association is hosting a virtual webinar Aug. 12 explaining the minutiae of recent CMS regulations for dentists who accept public or commercial insurance. The webinar will discuss removal of a prohibition on adult dental as an essential health benefit, access monitoring and rate transparency for Medicaid/managed care plans and Medicare's limited medically-necessary dental benefit in 2025. The webinar will be followed by a presentation and moderated Q&A discussion from Natalia Chalmers, D.D.S., Ph.D., chief dental officer of CMS.

[Full story: The webinar will discuss removal of a prohibition on adult dental](#)

Free patient resource: Back-to-school dental exams

ADA Morning Huddle, August 5, 2024



School supply displays have popped up in every store — it's officially back-to-school season. Help parents prep for their child's back-to-school dental appointment with ["5 Questions to Ask at Your Child's Back-to-School Dental Visit."](#) Find more free patient resources at [Mouth-Healthy.org](#).

SmileCon Opening Session

ADA Morning Huddle, August 6, 2024

Get ready to feel wowed, moved and empowered during SmileCon 2024's Opening Session, which will kick off the meeting Oct. 17 in New Orleans. Bestselling author and organizational expert Shawn Kanungo is this year's keynote speaker. Mr. Kanungo, who has guided countless organizations through major technological shifts, will share the secrets of remaining competitive and relevant in today's crowded market, including how the dental profession can successfully leverage the rise of artificial intelligence.

[Full story: Get ready to feel wowed, moved and empowered during SmileCon](#)

Classifieds

Seeking Dental Practices for Acquisition in DMV Area

Description: Established dentist in the DMV (District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia) region actively seeking to purchase dental practices. With a commitment to excellence in patient care and a proven track record of successful practice management, I am looking to expand my professional footprint by acquiring existing practices. If you are considering selling your dental practice and want a seamless transition that preserves your legacy while ensuring continued quality care for your patients, I am interested in discussing potential opportunities. Contact me to explore a mutually beneficial arrangement.

Contact: Dr. Despina Markogiannakis | 571-451-3533 | DrDMarko@gmail.com

Condo Unit for Sale

Description: Situated in the Foggy Bottom Submarket of Washington, DC, this property renovated in 2016 is a total of 5,000 SF which is comprised of a 3,800 SF Dental Suite with 7 chairs, reception, X-ray room, bathroom, and kitchen, along with a 1,200 SF Chiropractor Suite featuring 3 treatment rooms, restroom, storage, and spacious waiting room. Positioned opposite the George Washington University Hospital, it offers high visibility in the Washington Circle. The current chiropractic tenant is open to a sale leaseback arrangement.

Contact: Roxanne Ghashgai | 240-899-7355 | Roxanne@Inf.com

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