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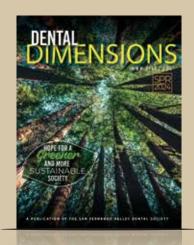












#### **CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS**

Do you have an unusual case study or an interesting article you would like to have published? Dental Dimensions is looking for articles from our members so we can share our collective knowledge. Articles should be 500-1000 words with references where applicable and photos if possible. Send your submissions to: exec.sfvds@sbcglobal.net or contact the dental society office at 818-576-0116.







## IN THIS SSUE SPRING 2024

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Dental Dimensions is an opinion and discussion magazine for SFVDS membership. Opinions expressed by authors are their own, and not necessarily those of SFVDS or Dental Dimensions Editorial Board. SFVDS reserves the right to edit all contributions for clarity and length, as well as reject any material submitted. Dental Dimensions is published quarterly by the SFVDS, 9205 Alabama Avenue, Suite B, Chatsworth, CA 91311 (818) 576-0116. Acceptance of advertising in Dental Dimensions in no way constitutes approval or endorsement by San Fernando Valley Dental Society or products or services advertised. SFVDS reserves the right to reject any advertisement.

# FROM YOUR DITOR

Contemplating the future in retirement has been a recent reflection for me, though the reality is that retirement still seems distant. Currently, I find myself deeply entrenched in my dual roles as an educator for dental students at the UCLA School of Dentistry and the overseeing practitioner of a thriving private dental practice. My journey at UCLA, which commenced in 1988 teaching Oral Radiology once a week, has evolved into a full-time commitment as the Group Practice Director and Health Science Clinical Assistant Professor. Simultaneously, my three-decade-old private practice has been a constant in my life.

Contrary to expectations of slowing down, my involvement at the dental school has intensified. I've embraced additional teaching responsibilities, delved into more research initiatives, and contributed to a growing number of publications. Yet, amidst the bustling academic environment, I have discerned that the time has come to step back from my private practice. Thankfully, my eldest daughter, Rebecca, a 2019 graduate of the UCSF School of Dentistry, has seamlessly assumed control, modernizing the practice while embodying the same compassion and comfort that my patients have come to expect

Transitioning away from my private practice has allowed me to redirect my energies, and I've found a new avenue in organized dentistry. A visit to our local chapter, SFVDS, led to a meeting with Dr. Anette Masters, an individual who, like me, cannot fathom retirement. Consequently, she has assumed the role of our acting Executive Director. When Dr. Masters invited me to contribute as the Editor of Dental Dimensions, I felt compelled to accept. It is intriguing how individuals like us seek fulfillment and purpose during our Golden Years, remaining enthusiastic contributors to our profession even as we approach retirement.

Navigating the responsibilities of an editor, I pondered the focal point for my inaugural edition of Dental Dimensions. The answer became clear when considering the skyrocketing prices of everyday commodities—\$8 for a dozen eggs and a gallon of gas alike. Sustainability emerged as the imperative theme. It is a call for all of us to be mindful of resourcefulness and waste reduction, not only for our benefit but for the prosperity of future generations. This consciousness can commence within our dental practices, emphasizing the judicious use and reuse of resources for the betterment of humanity. I am excited about my new role as the Editor of SFVDS Dental Dimensions and eagerly anticipate contributing to the dissemination of informed perspectives. The engagements within the dental society promise to keep me occupied, making retirement a prospect that must wait, at least for now.



Whether you just graduated dental school or you're nearing your ten-year mark, life may not seem like it's slowing down. Starting out your career has challenges and has only gotten more complicated the last two years. The San Fernando Valley Dental Society (SFVDS) is a powerful resource that many dentists underutilize. It's important for new graduates and early career dentists to know that there is an established network of people at the SFVDS to help you achieve a higher degree of success in your career. The SFVDS is not just an organization that hosts CE courses, but also has a lot more to offer, including mentorships, avenues to new career opportunities, and serves as a resource to help you connect with experts in various industries surrounding dentistry (HR, Law, Marketing, Real estate, etc.).

As the Chair of the New Dentist Committee, it is my goal to help recent graduates foster new relationships to help advance your profession and quality of life. I hope many of you who are new to the profession take advantage of these opportunities, and I hope to see you at some of our events. Please, feel free to contact me with any affairs or topics you would like to see us host in the future.

## FROM YOUR RESIDENT



Dear friends and colleagues,

It is an honor and privilege to be the 2024 President of the San Fernando Valley Dental Society. This component is one of the more influential dental societies in California. We are fortunate to have excellent leaders in our Board of Directors.

The beginning of my year as President was intense. At the end of 2023 we began organizing the 2024 calendar for the ExCom, Board of Directors, and Foundation meetings. We also began working alongside Dr. Mahrouz Cohen, Chairperson for the Continuing Education Programs, on the Continuing Education Calendar for In person and Zoom Meetings, including the mandatory courses to renew the dental license with Dental Board of CA. We look forward to providing our members with a year filled with educational opportunities as well as community service events. Keep an eye out for more information on events such as the Dental Assistant Program, Veterans Smile Day, and Healing California.

The transition to President has been easier with the help of our office. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our wonderful team Dr. Anette Masters, Bella, and Wendy. Their hard work and collaboration are invaluable to the success of our dental society.

Welcome to the new members of our Board of Directors: Dr. Bryanna Hubbard, Dr. Marilyn Hopkins, and Dr. Maryet Babrood we look forward to working with you all this year. I would also like to thank our Board of Directors for their support of my 2024 Presidency. Also, a huge thank you to Dr. Mark Amundsen and Dr. Chi Leung for organizing the Strategic

Planning Retreat. As well as to Dr. Elbert Tom, our Editor, without whom this issue of Dental Dimensions would not have been possible. We are excited to once again begin publishing our Dental Dimensions Magazine after a hiatus. With this return we hope to provide our members with relevant information and articles to help your practice.

I would like to express my deepest sympathies to the family of Dr. Mike Bromberg. The San Fernando Valley Dental Society has faced an immense loss with the passing of one the most knowledgeable Doctors in organized dentistry. We truly miss Dr. Bromberg and his passion for organized dentistry. The SFVDS will continue in his footsteps to advocate for our members and the community.

I would also like to recognize and thank our exhibitors. They have collaborated and shown

their support at several events. We look forward to continuing to work with you all and connecting you with our members.

I want to invite all members of the San Fernando Valley Dental Society to contact us if they need any support or would like to provide any suggestions/ recommendations.

WE HOPE TO PROVIDE **OUR MEMBERS WITH** RELEVANT INFORMATION **AND ARTICLES TO** HELP YOUR PRACTICE.

MAY THIS BE A SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR THE San Fernando Valley Dental Society.

Dr. Trubiel Barbosa



## A PERSPECTIVE FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIR & INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Contemplating the value of your membership in Organized Dentistry? Allow me to assure you that your affiliation with the San Fernando Valley Dental Society is anything but fruitless. Let me provide you with a glimpse of the offerings we've provided our members:

- Dental and Practice Management presentations: We continuously furnish invaluable tips and resources on navigating the business aspects of Dentistry. We also establish connections with companies offering assistance in practice management, encompassing marketing, hiring, advertising, as well as financial solutions.
- Zone Meetings: Covering topics such as CDT Coding Update, Employment Law & HR Updates, TMJ and Orofacial Pain, Tips on Endo, and Schedule II Opioid Prescribing Requirements, these meetings are a treasure trove of knowledge. By attending, members can earn a minimum of 16 FREE CE credits through our 8 Zone meetings, with 2 CE credits awarded per session. We ensure that our members stay abreast of the latest Dental Regulations and clinical techniques without needing to venture beyond the boundaries of SFVDS.
- Hands-on Workshops on Pinhole Technique, this workshop is designed to enhance our members' clinical skills and become familiar with all the instrumentation, theory and therapy for providing the Pinhole gingival recession reversal treatments.
- Schlep & Shred: A unique benefit

exclusive to SFVDS, this service enables members to securely dispose of old charts, X-rays, and outdated equipment. Offered three times a year at various locations within our component boundaries.

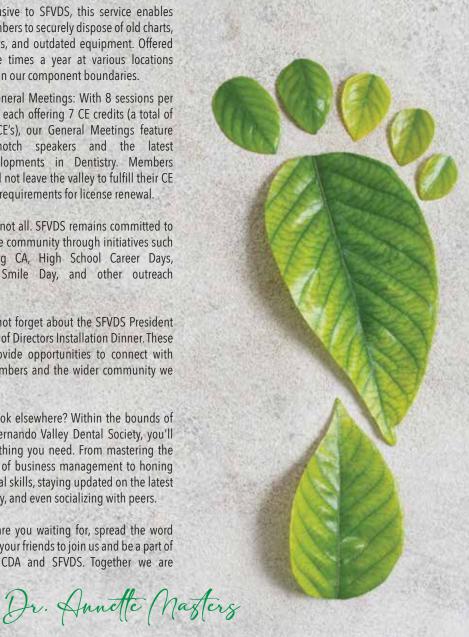
• General Meetings: With 8 sessions per year, each offering 7 CE credits (a total of 56 CE's), our General Meetings feature top-notch speakers and the latest developments in Dentistry. Members need not leave the valley to fulfill their CE unit requirements for license renewal.

But that's not all. SFVDS remains committed to serving the community through initiatives such as Healing CA, High School Career Days, Veterans Smile Day, and other outreach programs.

And let's not forget about the SFVDS President and Board of Directors Installation Dinner. These events provide opportunities to connect with fellow members and the wider community we serve.

So, why look elsewhere? Within the bounds of the San Fernando Valley Dental Society, you'll find everything you need. From mastering the intricacies of business management to honing your clinical skills, staying updated on the latest in Dentistry, and even socializing with peers.

So, what are you waiting for, spread the word and invite your friends to join us and be a part of the ADA, CDA and SFVDS. Together we are Stronger!



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Dear esteemed members of the San Fernando Valley Dental Society,

I am honored to introduce myself as your Treasurer for the year 2024. Having dedicated over a decade to the SFVDS board, I have had the privilege of serving as the Editor for over five years. These years of experience with the board have given me unique insights into the workings of our esteemed society and a profound appreciation for the bonds we share as dental professionals.

As your Treasurer, my primary duty is to ensure the financial well-being of our society. I understand the importance of transparent and responsible financial management to support our mission of promoting excellence in dental care. Through meticulous budgeting and financial planning, I aim to contribute to the continued success and growth of the SFVDS.

Reflecting on my years of service, I treasure the camaraderie and collaborative spirit that define our organization. The connections forged and knowledge shared have been invaluable, and I am eager to apply this wealth of experience to my role as Treasurer. In this capacity, I will strive to maintain the fiscal health of our society, enabling us to pursue our goals and initiatives with confidence.

In conclusion, I am grateful for the opportunity to continue serving the SFVDS in this new capacity. The role of the Treasurer is pivotal in ensuring the sustained success of our organization, and I am committed to upholding the financial integrity that our members deserve. Together, let us navigate the fiscal responsibilities ahead, confident in our shared commitment to excellence in dental care. Thank you for entrusting me with this responsibility, and I look forward to a prosperous year ahead.

Or. Shukan Kanuga





Nurturing Growth and Opportunities in Organized Dentistry

In my 25-year journey through the world of dentistry, I have always believed that opportunities are akin to hidden treasures behind locked doors. Those who dare to turn the key and explore the unknown discover the richness behind each closed door. Organized dentistry, I've found, is the vital pulse at the heart of the dental world, orchestrating the rhythm of advancements and symbolizing a pivotal role where innovation, collaboration, and progress converge.

Currently, I am honored to serve as the Secretary of the San Fernando Valley Dental Society (SFVDS), a role marked by a lifelong passion for dentistry that ignited early in life and evolved through diverse experiences. Here, I briefly share my unique experience in this volunteering position.

My connection with ADA, CDA, and SFVDS commenced during my second year at USC dental school. Fueled by my interest in exploring this unique aspect of the dental world, my engagements have grown over the years. With each step forward, I discovered a community that resonated with my fervor for organized dentistry. The unique family environment that governs SFVDS became evident as I actively became involved.

The symbiotic relationship between my professional growth and the organizational ethos culminated in my appointment as the Secretary of SFVDS. In this role, my responsibilities extend beyond mere administrative tasks. I am entrusted with maintaining accurate records of meetings, handling correspondence, and providing crucial support to the Board in various capacities. It is a role that demands precision, dedication, and a profound understanding of the organization's intricate dynamics.

Navigating the responsibilities of the secretary role has been both challenging and enriching. The dynamic nature of organized dentistry requires adaptability and foresight. Challenges have been met with collaborative solutions, lessons have been learned through experience, and opportunities for growth have been embraced.

Implementing best practices and strategies has been pivotal in enhancing the effectiveness of the Board's operations. Communication channels have been streamlined, fostering a more cohesive and responsive organizational structure.

I want to underscore the unique family environment that governs SFVDS. The extraordinary help, mentorship, and guidance I received when becoming actively involved have been invaluable. This community not only supports professional growth but also fosters personal connections that make our journey in dentistry fulfilling.

In conclusion, my journey as the Secretary of SFVDS encapsulates the seamless integration of a lifelong passion for dentistry with an active commitment to organized dental endeavors. The secretary's role transcends mere administration; it serves as a catalyst for progress and cohesion within SFVDS. I look forward to contributing further to the vibrant tapestry of organized dentistry in the San Fernando Valley and Californian. Together, we continue to shape the future of dental care, one strategic decision at a time.

#### BCR TRUSTEEREPORT

It was indeed a great honor to be elected by our membership to represent SFVDS at the Board of Components Representative (BCR), for the 2024-2025 term. However, due to an unfortunate

health issue with Dr. Alvarez our previous BCR Rep., that prevented him from completing his term, I attended the first meeting in October 2023. I wanted to give a shout out to Dr. Alvarez for the great job he has done as our representative with CDA during his term and wish him a speedy recovery. I have since attended a second meeting which was a joint meeting with CDA Board of Directors.

I wanted to take this opportunity to inform you about the decisions discussed at those meetings that will affect our society and members.

- Survey shows that despite challenges that face dentistry and new graduates, most of them still have a positive view on the profession and the future.
- CDA continues to pursue a lawsuit against Delta Dental, a report was presented to the Board in closed session.
- Dues increase, CDA House Of Delegates passed a resolution to increase dues by \$100 in 2024 to cover financial shortage due to pandemic and other factors.
- Reinstate The Pledge of Allegiance; BCR passed a resolution recommending that the Pledge of Allegiance be reinstated at the opening ceremony of the CDA House Of Delegates (HOD).
- Reinstate an in-person Reference Committee hearing; the 2023 CDA HOD passed a resolution to reinstate the in-person Reference Committee Hearing during the 2024 CDA House Of Delegates.
- TDSC Historical Workgroup: Leading up to and during the 2023 house, questions were raised by delegates as to if and how the proposed member dues increase is impacted by investments in The Dentists Supply Company (TDSC). With additional questions answered during component caucuses and the house session, the board recognized that there may still be lingering questions. As such, the board approved the establishment of a TDSC Historical Workgroup to develop a report that provides a comprehensive sequence of events on this important chapter in the organization. This report is not intended to be an audit, but rather a better understanding of this important set of events and decisions.
- Support for Proposition 1: The board voted to approve support and funding for California Proposition 1, to help deal with the homeless population problem.
- Component visitation by BOD members: board members would visit components, aiming at improving communications and honest dialogue. In 2024, SFVDS will be visited by Dr. John Blake, CDA past president.

- House of Delegates Referrals Update: The board discussed the status of the 2023 house resolutions that were referred to an appropriate CDA entity, as well as the prior board action regarding the future direction of the CDA Council on Membership. The board recommended that the board of component representatives (BCR) address the CDA Special Committee Composition (Resolution 15-2023-H) and Council on Membership, which was shared with BCR on January 26, and is to be on the agenda for the May BCR meeting.
- BCR Chair election; The BCR members elected Dr John Taylor from Orange County Dental society as chair for the year 2024.

The BCR members pledged to work very hard to communicate the needs of their components and members to CDA Board of Directors and ensure that their voices are heard.

If you have any questions or opinions that you would like to share, please contact me - Cell: 818.378.2880 - Email: painfre553@aol.com.

Dr. Mahfouz Geneis

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Dear Fellow Member of the SFVDS,

I hope this message finds you well. We wanted to bring your attention to recent legislative developments that could have a significant impact on the dental profession at various levels of government. Stay informed to ensure that your practice remains compliant and that you can continue providing exceptional care to your patients.

At the city level, Los Angeles has recently implemented new regulations aimed at enhancing dental care accessibility for residents. These changes focus on streamlining licensing procedures and establishing guidelines for telehealth consultations. Dentists are encouraged to familiarize themselves with these updates to leverage emerging technologies while maintaining the highest standards of patient care.

On the county level, ongoing discussions surround public health initiatives that may affect dental practices. Collaborative efforts between health departments and dental professionals are being explored to address preventive measures and community outreach programs. Dentists in Los Angeles are encouraged to engage with local health authorities to contribute valuable insights and ensure the dental community's voice is heard in shaping public health strategies.

Statewide, California is considering legislation that could impact dental insurance coverage and reimbursement rates. As advocates for oral health, it is crucial for dentists to stay informed about potential changes in insurance regulations, as they directly influence practice revenue and patient access to essential services.

Lastly, at the national level, proposals related to healthcare reform and public health infrastructure may have far-reaching effects on dentistry. Stay tuned for updates on funding opportunities, research initiatives, and collaborative efforts that can benefit your practice and the overall oral health of the community.

In conclusion, it is imperative for dentists in the Los Angeles area to stay informed about legislative changes at all levels of government. By actively engaging with local, state, and national discussions, you can contribute to shaping policies that foster a healthier and more accessible dental care environment for your patients. We encourage you to participate in professional associations, attend relevant workshops, and collaborate with your peers to navigate these changes successfully.

Thank you for your dedication to providing exceptional dental care, and we wish you continued success in your practice.

Or. Gib Snow

## SAVETHE DATE

#### MAY 15 – 18, 2024

CDA Presents, Anaheim
May 17, 2024 @ CDA Presents.
ADA New Dentist Event.
"Ask me Anything."

MAY 22, 2024 CPR - SFVDS Office

MAY 28, 2024
Zone Meeting #6 - Social Media
In Person

JUNE 5, 2024 CPR - SFVDS Office

JUNE 26, 2024 Technology - Zoom

AUGUST 21, 2024
CPR - SFVDS Office

AUGUST 27, 2024
Zone Meeting #7 - Opioids - Zoom

#### **SEPTEMBER 25, 2024**

General Meeting #7 Osha, Infection Control Zoom

SEPTEMBER 28, 2024
Afternoon Tea - In Person

OCTOBER 9, 2024 Endo - In Person

OCTOBER 26, 2024 Schelp and Shred

NOVEMBER 5, 2024
Zone Meeting #8 - Invisalign - Zoom

NOVEMBER 13, 2024 CPR - SFVDS Office

#### RECTORS YOUR 2024 OAR



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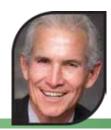
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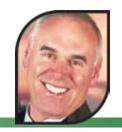
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MARYET BABROOD, DDS DIGITAL MEDIA COMMITTEE



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MARTIN COURTNEY, DDS MEDIA RELATIONS MEMBER AT LARGE



MICHAEL S. SIMMONS, DMD, MSC, MPH MEMBER AT LARGE



JAMES P. JENSVOLD, DDS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

# HOPE FOR A GREEN AND MORE SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

#### BY ELBERT TOM, MPH, DDS

As noxious hydrocarbons fill our air with gas driven autos, and plastic bags and trash pollute our oceans and threaten wildlife, there seems to be an impetus to be green and sustainable for future generations. Many efforts have been aimed to combat our waste and pollution such as the production of more hybrid and electric vehicles, but is this enough? Aside from environmental waste products, the dental profession has been moving to be more sustainable such as moving to digital radiography thereby eliminating the need for fixer and developer as

potential pollutants to our sewage systems, not using actual radiographic film which would have an added effect of disposal of lead foil, protective paper and plastic film casings. Dental profession sustainability movement has also been in the direction of offices going paperless, whereby the charts and forms are virtual (2). There have also been efforts to use more bio-friendly dental materials such as biodegradable cups, bamboo toothbrushes and floss, sponges, prophy angles, HVE suction tips, providing tele-dentistry services when possible, reducing amalgam placement and promoting positive health care practices to reduce

As the fear of COVID-19 remains, ideas suggesting abandonment of disposable shoe covers, disposable face masks such as Halyard N95, disposable gowns and gloves are not possible at this time. However, companies are currently engaging in earth friendly

materials that may be a viable alternative to what we are using today (1,2,3,4,5,6,7). In light of these figures, scientists have stepped up to design sustainable ways of upcycling used PPE, particularly masks (8).

Researchers in Australia have been meeting recycling challenges by assessing the feasibility of transforming masks into roadways,(3) and found the product could be used to create two of the four layers typically used in the construction

process. Scientists in Russia, Mexico and the U.S. have also been studying how disposable mask waste can be converted into batteries (8). An additional study published in April 2022 took PPE waste, including masks, and showed the materials could be used to create white LEDs(5). Scientists have also assessed the effects of treated face mask chips in granular soil(3), used most commonly in backfill, railways and construction, and found it to be a suitable ingredient.

> In 2022, the S.O.S. (Students of Sustainability) was formed at the UCLA School of Dentistry. The members collaborated through

> > their shared passion for a greener future in oral health care touching upon ways in which the School of Dentistry

could do their share to help mankind. Projects include recycling packaging from dental school issued kits, selling scrub caps to minimize use of disposable hair nets, fundraising projects such as reusable lunch boxes and utensils and recycling of bottles and cans. They have also been instrumental in working with the main campus's Sustainability Unit to have more recycling bins distributed and available at the dental school, all the while continuing to educate the student body, staff and faculty on the benefits of recycling and sustainability. A survey, distributed within the dental school, addressing public perceptions of sustainability and knowledge regarding this topic has been formulated. Results from this study will be examined and reviewed and findings presented to a journal. A

focus on education and sustainability awareness may be conducted especially if there is a target population not yet in compliance.

Organizations such as Greenpeace, Audubon Society and Sierra Club, have been leading the way in promoting sustainability while acting as advocates for a greener society. Through their efforts, as well as those such as at the UCLA School of Dentistry's SOS, our future generations shall enjoy a greener tomorrow. Let's do our part to save the Earth!

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dental disease (2).

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## IDIOPATHIC THROMBOCYTOPENIC PURPURA

## ANGINA BULLOSA HEMORRHAGICA

Do you have an interesting clinical case that you would like to share?

If so, please submit it to exec.sfvds@sbcglobal.net and we'll feature it in a future Dental Dimensions.

Patient is a healthy 30 year old Caucasian female who recovered from COVID-19 the week prior. No significant symptoms nor apparent secondary effects. The patient awoke to find "blood blisters" in her mouth, so she called to see her dentist first. While at the dentist office, photos were taken and the patient was advised to see her MD. When she called her MD, the MD felt it was an autoimmune type response to COVID. He thought if it was blood related, she would have bruises on her body, which she had none at that time. She was told to start on a steroid regimen and scheduled an appointment to see the MD in a week and to have her blood work done. The following day, she awoke with bruises on her body and the MD told her to go to the Emergency Room. In the ER, blood work was taken and results indicated low platelet count of 2,000 and was told to see a Hematologist. Spent the night in the hospital, received medication and platelet monitoring. Within 2 days, her platelets rose to an acceptable level and she was discharged. What is the most likely diagnosis?



is manifested by low levels of platelets. It occurs when the immune system mistakenly attacks platelets. In children, it may follow a viral infection. In adults, it may be chronic. Symptoms may include bleeding easily, and pinpoint-sized reddish-purple spots on the lower legs. In children, ITP usually resolves without any treatment. Adults commonly need treatment with medications for bleeding such as steroids and blood transfusion.

## ANGINA BULLOSA HEMORRHAGICA (ABH)

is an uncommon disorder appearing as hematic blisters in the oral and oropharyngeal region. The etiopathogenesis of this lesion is yet unknown and considered multifactorial. However, local trauma of the oral mucosa is the most commonly cited etiology in literature. Most common site of this lesion is the palate; however, it is also seen on labial mucosa, buccal mucosa, and tongue. ABH occurring in patients with diabetes mellitus and hypertension has already been described in literature. Platelet count is essentially normal.

THE CASE ABOVE IS IDIOPATHIC THROMBOCYTOPENIC PURPURA

## DENTISTBURNOUT



- About 1 in 10 dentists experience burnout syndrome, with most clinicians reporting symptoms of emotional exhaustion and depersonalization, according to a systematic review published on April 26 in the Journal of Evidence-Based Dental Practice.
- The most reported symptom was emotional exhaustion, the authors wrote.
- "The review's results have important implications for dental practices as it highlights the need for interventions to mitigate the risk of burnout syndrome in dentistry," wrote the authors, led by Dr. Carlos Jurado of the University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics in Iowa City, IA.
- Burnout has been a persistent problem among dental professionals, and the COVID-19 pandemic shone a spotlight on the problem.
- To investigate the prevalence of burnout syndrome in dentists, a systematic review was conducted in January 2021 comprising studies that used the Maslach Burnout Inventory. For the quantitative analysis, 31 studies representing more than 13,000 dentists from around the globe were evaluated, according to the study.
- The systematic review revealed that 13% of dentists (95% confidence interval [CI]: 0.6-21; I<sup>2</sup>: 97%) experienced burnout syndrome, with emotional exhaustion being reported the most often (28% [95% CI: 24-32; I2: 21%]). Depersonalization (18% [95% CI: 8-28; I<sup>2</sup>: 86%]) and reduced personal accomplishment (10% [95% CI: 8-13; 12: 0%]) followed as second and third, respectively, the authors wrote.
- Regarding the levels of burnout syndrome among dentists, 25% of clinicians experienced high emotional exhaustion, 18% (95% CI: 10-26; I<sup>2</sup>: 97%) experienced high depersonalization, and 32% (95% 20-45; I2: 98%) reported low personal accomplishment. Among dentists, the mean levels of emotional exhaustion were 17.9 (95% CI: 9.4-26.4; I<sup>2</sup>: 95) while the mean levels of depersonalization were 6.9 (95% CI: 3.4-10.5; I<sup>2</sup>: 80) and 34.7 (95% CI: 23.8-45.6 I<sup>2</sup>: 99) for reduced personal accomplishment, the authors noted.
- However, the review had several weaknesses, including relying solely on self-reported measures of burnout syndrome, which may limit the accuracy of the prevalence estimates and may be subject to social desirability bias and other biases, the authors acknowledged.
- Longitudinal studies that explore the risk factors for burnout in dentists should be conducted. Additionally, policymakers should recognize burnout as a significant problem and spend money on strategies like mindfulness training and flexible work arrangements that help dentists mitigate stress and reduce emotional exhaustion.

## THE OPIOID CONTROVERSY: IS IT ALL WORTH THE PAIN?

ELBERT TOM, M.P.H., D.D.S., RAM M. VADERHOBLI, D.D.S., SEAN S MONG, D.D.S., LEELA DEVI SIVARAJ, SUNAYANA VALLAKONDA & LEENA ALTARAWNEH



As the world rebounds from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the opioid epidemic has resurfaced, leading to unprecedented problems for families and communities. The United States has the highest prescription opioid usage rate in the world as health care providers prescribe to combat pain management. Some are questioning opioid effectiveness while noting that this substance may pose ethical and legal considerations for the medical and dental professions. (1) Is there a viable substitute medication that is as effective yet yields fewer incidences of abuse and addiction?

Prescription opioids are still a factor in the ongoing opioid crisis. Dentists have a responsibility to prevent opioid diversion, misuse, and abuse as common prescribers of opioids. The use of evidence-based principles in the treatment of acute post-operative dental pain is essential. Dentists are responsible for following guidelines and personalizing post-operative analgesic therapy, while being aware that each opioid prescription has farreaching consequences that affect the current and future panorama of the opioid epidemic. Alternative prescribing practices such as acetaminophen and NSAIDS and other less potent medications may be a solution to the nationwide problem.

From 1999 - 2019, nearly 500,000 people died from an overdose involving any opioid, including prescription and illicit opioids (4) Almost half of the population had more than the required number of days' supplies, and patients aged 18 to 34, men, and those using oxycodone were the most likely to have opioids administered inappropriately. (5,6)

In 2019, dentists dispensed 10,736,743 opioid prescriptions to patients over the age of 12 years. High-volume dentists accounted for 46.9% of all prescriptions and 47.5% of high-risk prescriptions., dentists being the most common prescribers of opioids for adolescents. [7] The entire "economic burden" of prescription opioid usage in the United States is \$78.5 billion per year. [8] In the United States, an estimated 1 million opioid medications supplied after tooth extractions go unused [9].

In the December 2018 Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), it was referenced that many teens and young adults who were planned for wisdom teeth extractions were prescribed opioids by their dental providers, subsequently leading to an increased risk of addiction.(2) To combat the potential for overdose and opioid abuse in teens, the American Dental Association (ADA) now supports mandatory continuing education for opioid prescribers with an emphasis on preventing drug overdoses, chemical dependency and drug diversion further supporting limiting the dose and duration of initial opioid prescriptions to a duration of no more than seven days, consistent with CDC's recommendations.(3) Following this announcement by the ADA, the Dental Board of California (DBC) further voted to require continuing education courses on the prescribing of opioids as a condition of dental license renewal.

Law enforcement, medical prescribers, the public health community, and the treatment and recovery community have a responsibility to work together to combat the opioid crisis. Education about the risks of prescribed drugs is

also necessary. Effective treatment is essential since addiction may occur so quickly and has grown so widespread. [10] Dentists can help to prevent opioid diversion, misuse, and abuse, by acting in accordance with both state and federal laws, including legal associations and federal agencies' involvement like the Enforcement Association (DEA) and STOP, SUPPORT, HOPE (Act & Law), The responsible practitioner's ability to manage pain is a key competence. Directing dental patients to dental clinics is one of the strategies to lower the number of needless opioid prescriptions written in the Emergency Room. Understanding principles of ethics and employing them in the prescription opioid context helps in framing ground rules for what is considered acceptable and unacceptable interventions in the pain management context. It assists physicians and dentists to better help those in need while keeping their liability protected.

1 Health Sciences Clinical Assistant Professor and Group Practice Director, UCLA School of Dentistry 2 Professor of Clinical Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences Director, Advanced Education in General Dentistry Post Grad Residency UCSF School of Dentistry 3 Chair for Interdisciplinary Dentistry Section Director for Dental Student General Clinic UCLA School of Dentistry4 Research Assistant, Department of Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences, UCSF School of Dentistry

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# CPCDD EDUCATION REQUIREMENT FOR CALIFORNIA LICENSED DENTISTS

There are two distinct requirements related to the prescription of opioids by dental practitioners in the state of California:

#### 1. DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA REQUIREMENT

Please refer to the link below.

https://www.dbc.ca.gov/formspubs/alert\_imp\_ce\_changes.pdf

This is a requirement for dentists every time they renew their dental licenses and was effective 1/1/23.

The UCLA School of Dentistry Continuing Education offers an online course that fulfills this requirement. The link is:

 $https://reg.learningstream.com/reg/event\_page.aspx?ek=0033-0030-5c5a9d8-7e96047bfa63342ca57f23633$ 

#### 2. DEA REQUIREMENT

Please refer to the link below.

https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubs/docs/MATE\_training.html

This is a one-time requirement for dentists when renewing their DEA licenses and was effective 6/27/23.

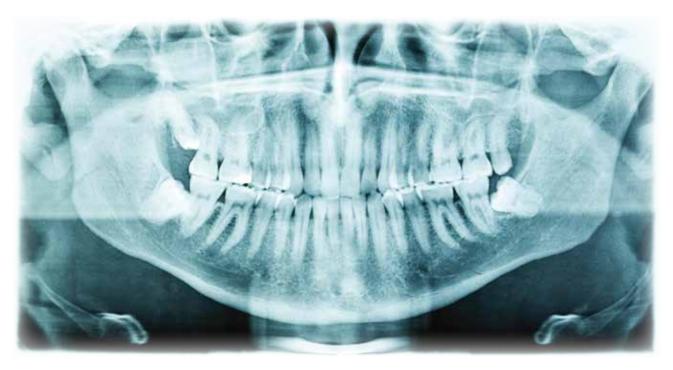
The DEA requirement cannot be fulfilled by courses approved by the Dental Board of California to satisfy requirement (1) above and is NOT currently offered by UCLA School of Dentistry Continuing Education. However, any practitioner can access up to 8.5 units of FREE credit at:

https://edhub.ama-assn.org/course/302

## OPIOID CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Beginning January 1, 2023, dentists licensed in California will be required to complete a two-unit course approved by the Dental Board of California (DBC) on the responsibilities and requirements of prescribing and dispensing Schedule II opioids, every two years as a condition of license renewal. Updated in September 2022, Section 1016 of the California Dental Practice Act states that the new course must cover, at a minimum, the practices for pain management in dentistry, regulatory requirements for prescribers and dispensers, and dental office procedures for managing vulnerable or substance use disorder patients.

### ADA RELEASES UPDATED RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENHANCE RADIOGRAPHY SAFETY IN DENTISTRY



Recommendations include appropriate, justified use of dental X-rays, discontinuing use of lead abdominal aprons, thyroid collars

CHICAGO, Feb. 1, 2024 – The use of lead abdominal aprons or thyroid collars on patients when conducting dental X-rays is no longer recommended, according to an expert panel established by the American Dental Association (ADA) Council on Scientific Affairs. Additionally, dentists should take into consideration the diagnostic information needed from X-rays to benefit patient care or substantially improve clinical outcomes.

The Journal of the American Dental Association published the new recommendations today, which aim to improve radiation protection in dental radiography and cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT). Medical physicists with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) supported the panel's development of these recommendations - the first on dental imaging safety and radiation protection from the Council since 2012. The Council's recommendations are also aligned with recent recommendations released by the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology.

After reviewing published studies on radiography, the expert panel determined lead aprons and thyroid collars are not necessary to shield patients from radiation exposure. These recommendations apply to all patients, regardless of age or health status (like pregnancy). Evidence indicates that modern digital X-ray equipment and restricting the beam size only to the area that needs to be imaged better protect patients against radiation exposure to other parts of their body. Lead aprons and thyroid collars can also block the primary X-ray beam, preventing dentists from capturing the image they need.

"When this happens, more radiographs need to be taken, and unnecessary X-rays are what we want to avoid," said Dr. Purnima Kumar, D.D.S., Ph.D., professor of dentistry and chair of the Department of Periodontology and Oral Medicine at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry and chair of the ADA Council on Scientific Affairs. "The central point of these recommendations is that clinicians should order radiographs in moderation to minimize both patients' and dental professionals' exposure to ionizing radiation."

The recommendations also advise dentists to safeguard patients against unnecessary radiation exposure by:

- Ordering radiographs like X-rays to optimize diagnostic information and enhance patient care outcomes and making every effort to use images acquired at previous dental exams;
- Using digital instead of conventional X-ray film for imaging;
- Restricting the beam size during an X-ray exam to the area that needs to be assessed (an approach called "rectangular collimation");
- Properly positioning patients so the best image can be taken;
- · Incorporating CBCT only when lower-exposure options will not provide the necessary diagnostic information; and
- Adhering to all applicable federal, state and local regulations on radiation safety.

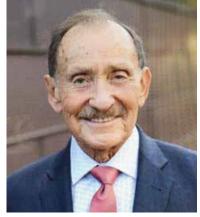
"We encourage dentists and their teams to review these best-practice recommendations, comply with radiation protection regulations and talk with their patients about any questions or concerns before ordering dental imaging," Dr. Kumar said.

To view the complete recommendations, visit JADA.ada.org.

## MEMBER HIGHLIGHT **ORAL AND** MAXILLOFACIAL **SURGERY**

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ayala, Candelaria	1005 S. Central Ave Glendale, CA 91204	(818) 244-2155
Cheung, Rennie	11550 Indian Hills Rd Ste 320 Mission Hills, CA91345 -1203	
Cho, Nam	221 E Glenoaks Blvd Ste 140, Glendale, CA 91207-2123	(818) 241-4217
Colletta, Ryan	27421 Tourney Rd #150, Valencia, CA 91355	(661) 255-1515
Feder, Ted	9066 Tampa Ave, Northridge, CA 91324-3523	(818) 993-3700
Goo, Brian	2625 W Alameda Ave Ste 502, Burbank, CA 91505-4816	(818) 797-9344
Habashy, James	1000 W Carson St, Torrance, CA 90502-2004	(818) 339-7220
Hadaya, Danny	221 W. Alameda Ave #101, Burbank, CA 91502	(818) 840-6960
Hale, Robert	6325 Topanga Canyon Blvd Ste 435, Woodland Hills, CA 91367-2046	(818) 999-0900
Hammoudeh, Jeffrey	221 E Glenoaks Blvd Ste 140, Glendale, CA 91207-2123	(818) 241-4217
Hammoudeh, Jeffrey	221 E Glenoaks Blvd Ste 140, Glendale, CA 91207-2123	(818) 241-4217
Kang, Christopher	1137 W Avenue M14 Ste 101, Palmdale, CA 93551-1429	(661) 266-8840
Lang, Rudolph	27450 Tourney Rd Ste 160, Valencia, CA 91355-1863	(661) 253-3500
Lokot, Sergey	5363 Balboa Blvd Ste 233, Encino, CA 91316-2824	(818) 788-4424
Lytle, Robert	500 N Central Ave. #710, Glendale, CA 91203-3386	(818) 240-1805
Maranon, George	16311 Ventura Blvd Ste 820, Encino, CA 91436-4394	(818) 990-5500
Mirzaians, Ara	205 S Verdugo Rd, Glendale, CA 91205-1424	(818) 281-3624
Mizin, Alexei	24013 Ventura Blvd Ste 100, Calabasas, CA 91302-1145	(818) 225-2211
Mower, Robert	27421 Tourney Rd Ste 150, Valencia, CA 91355-5647	(661) 255-1515
Pezeshkian, Armen	1016 E Broadway Ste 104, Glendale, CA 91205-4534	(818) 409-0999
Phan, The	11200 Corbin Ave # 208, Porter Ranch, CA 91326-4120	(818) 368-8522
Salaita, Nicholas	44441 16th St W Ste 103, Lancaster, CA 93534-2873	(661) 942-4353
Scaramella, John	23450 Lyons Ave, Newhal, CA 91321-5778	(661) 254-0390
Smiler, Dennis	4521 Sherman Oaks Ave Ste 201, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403-3807	(818) 849-0602
Stamper, Elgan	1370 Foothill Blvd Ste 200, La Canada, CA 91011-2117	(818) 952-8183
Stephens, David	1021 W Avenue M14, Palmdale, CA 93551-1440	(818) 270-0713
Urata, Mark	221 E Glenoaks Blvd Ste 140, Glendale, CA 91207-2123	(818) 241-4217





SFVDS PAST PRESIDENT

DR. MYRON "MIKE" BROMBERG

1938-2023

"DR. BROMBERG HAS BEEN NOT JUST A BEACON OF PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE BUT ALSO A TRUE MENTOR AND FRIEND. HE STANDS AS A PILLAR OF STRENGTH AND ADVOCACY WITHIN THE DENTAL COMMUNITY. TIRELESSLY CHAMPIONING THE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF DENTISTS. HIS LEADERSHIP TRANSCENDS THE ORDINARY, MARKED BY A PROFOUND COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE AND ETHICAL PRACTICE IN DENTISTRY, DR. BROMBERG HAS NOT ONLY LED WITH STRATEGIC FORESIGHT BUT HAS ALSO FIERCELY DEFENDED OUR PROFESSION IN TIMES OF CHALLENGE, ENSURING THAT OUR VOICES ARE HEARD AND RESPECTED. HIS EFFORTS HAVE SAFEGUARDED OUR PRACTICE RIGHTS, ENHANCED OUR WORKING CONDITIONS, AND UPHELD THE DIGNITY OF OUR PROFESSION. AS WE HONOR DR. BROMBERG. WE CELEBRATE A LEADER WHO INSPIRED US TO STAND UP FOR WHAT IS RIGHT IN DENTISTRY."



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JANUARY 2023 • FEBRUARY 2024

BY DR. ANETTE MASTERS

## JANUARY 2023





We kick off the year 2023 with exceptional speakers and timely discussions, beginning with Dr. Leonard Tau's insights on online marketing.



#### Emily Letran, D.D.S., W.S

on Best Selling Author



#### **Metrics**

# of New Clients # of Referrals From Existing Client Average \$ Per New Client Cost of Acquisition Per New Client \$ Per Hour Production % Acceptance After Presentation

Discovering the art of 'working less and making more' with Dr. Emily Letran.

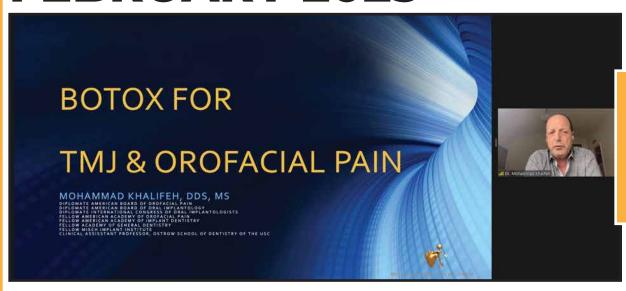






Dr. Stuart Balikov provides comprehensive insights into insurance billing and CDT coding during our Zone Meeting, including an update on the 2023 CDT coding and insurance billing changes.

## FEBRUARY 2023



Dr. Mohammad Khalifeh delivers an enlightening lecture on the safety and efficacy of Botox for sleep bruxism.





Leslie Canham shares her expertise in the mandatory DBC course covering OSHA, Infection Control, and the CA Dental Practice Act.

### **MARCH 2023**



The SFVDS Board of Directors collaborates into the late hours to finalize and approve the agenda.

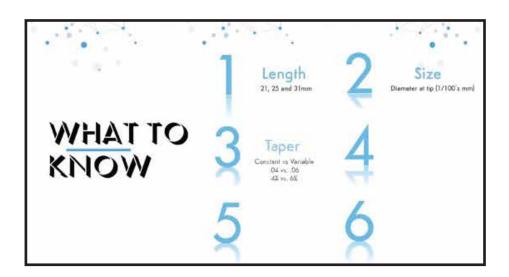




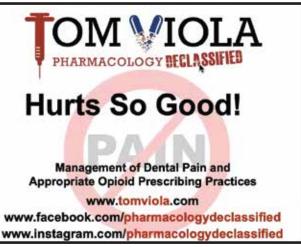


Dr. Ryan Walsh offers invaluable insights into maximizing endodontic success through his lecture titled 'Tips, Tricks, and Techniques,' enhancing your endodontic practice and elevate patient outcomes.





### **APRIL 2023**





We always find Dr. Tom Viola's presentations engaging, as he consistently captivates the audience. Ensuring our membership remains DEA compliant is imperative.

Dr. John Chao presents the groundbreaking Pinhole Technique, widely recognized and used within the dental community. This marks our first hands-on workshop for 2023, with all seats filled to maximum capacity.





When President Bassali calls for a vote, unanimous support is shown as every board member raises their hand and votes 'aye'.

## MAY 2023



### HIPAA Compliance Training

A PACE

Copyright 2021 4D Emiin Rahnuma, Safety Compliance Experts Safety ComplianceExperts.com



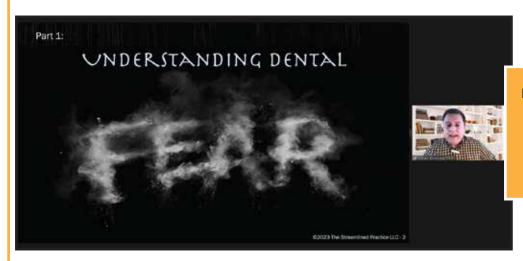
Eiman Rahnama and Levi Barlavi, JD, diligently ensure our membership remains compliant with all Dental Board license requirements, offering invaluable guidance and support.





The UCLA-SFVDS
pre-collaboration
meeting, led by Dr's.
Elbert Tom, Anette
Masters, Sean Sakhai,
along with Bob
Affleck from Dental
Coach, brought
together a dynamic
group including UCLA
students Christian,
Brent, Rocio, Michal,
and Lauren.

## **JUNE 2023**



During the lecture on 'Understanding Dental Fear' by Dr. William Moorehead, attendees gained valuable insights into techniques for alleviating anxiety in apprehensive patients, making it an informative and enriching meeting.

Dr. Josh Kats delivered an insightful lecture on the utilization and interpretation of CBCT in dental practice. Attendees gained comprehensive knowledge on effectively reading and interpreting CBCT results, making it an essential learning session for advancing diagnostic capabilities.



A Visit from Former Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian in June during the SFVDS Board Meeting





#### 2023 SFVDS Installation of Officers and Board of Directors



In a momentous ceremony, Dr. Emad Bassali, the President for 2023, is officially installed into office by USC Dean Dr. Avishai Sadan. This symbolic event marks the beginning of Dr. Bassali's tenure, where he lead SFVDS with vision and commitment, supported by the guidance of esteemed leaders in the dental community.



The SFVDS Board of Directors for 2023 solemnly undertakes their oath of service to the SFVDS community, committing to uphold its values and serve with dedication and integrity.

#### 2023 SFVDS Board of Directors, members, and leaders of different CA Dental Societies













#### General Meeting In-person with Dr. Stanley Malamed and Dr. Jose Luis Ruiz













Meeting with Southern CA Dental Society Presidents and Executive Directors



June Meeting at SFVDS Central Office on Dental Insurance Billing Sponsored by Fortune Management





Meet & Greet with Former Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian in Pasadena









## JULY 2023

July ADA Leadership and Membership Conference in Chicago. California received 3 awards on the Membership Category.











## AUGUST 2023



L.A. Dental Meeting

## SEPTEMBER 2023





## OCTOBER 2023

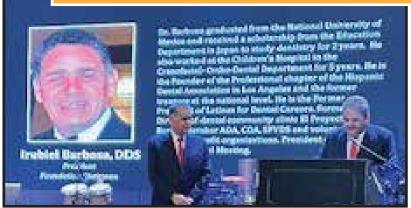


October ADA House of Delegates in Orlando



## JANUARY 2024

#### 2024 Installation Dinner



al Department for 5 years. He is assional chapter of the Hispanic a Angeles and the former level. However Former Donta! numity c

2024 President, Dr. Irubiel Barbosa getting inducted by Dr. Lauro Medrano founder of Greater New York Meeting.





Passing of the Gavel from 2023 President Dr. Emad Bassali to 2024 President Dr. Irubiel Barbosa.



Dr. Jorge Alvarez receives the SFVDS Service Recognition Award, with Dr. Susan Fredericks and Dr. Mark Amundsen honoring his dedicated volunteerism at the MEND clinic.





Dr. Irubiel giving his acceptance speech and was joined by his wife, Dr. Adriana Galvan along with Dr. Jorge Montes and wife Dr.



The 2024 Board of Directors being sworn in and inducted by 2024 CDA President Dr. Carliza Marcos.





### January 2024 Board Meeting Dr. Barbosa's first in person Board meeting in 2024













## FEBRUARY 2024

CPR class at SFVDS Central Office, a member benefit.





General Meeting #2 – OSHA, Infection Control and CA Dental Practice Act

















Dr. Barbosa welcomes all the attendees to the first in-person General meeting of 2024. Dr. Mahrouz Cohen, 2024 Program Chair moderated the lecture

#### SFVDS Board of Directors Strategic Planning Retreat

















Your SFDVS Board Members convened for three days to plan and strategize the next two years of the dental society.



Following days of hard work, a well-deserved dinner and group photo are in order.







## WELCOMEN EW MEMBERS

GLORIA PARK, DMD General Tufts University School of Dentistry, 2021

> KRISTIN ARITA-KIM, DDS General University of Michigan, 2015

LUCERO BARILLAS GUADALUPE, DDS

SOHEIL AMIRMOAZZAMI, DDS General UCLA, 1997

MEDEHA SALAHUDDIM, DDS General University of Buffalo, 2016

> MEHRAN EVINI, DDS General International, 2022

HEATHER NGUYEN, DDS General University of the Pacific, 2022

> ALI MAHDY, DDS General University of Oklahoma

SAMEER JAIN, DDS Endodontics University of Texas-Houston, 2017

STEPHANIE COLLETA, DDS General University of the Pacific, 2011

**GABRIELLE POLYAKOV, DDS** General University of the Pacific, 2023

> ARASH MERATI, DDS Periodontics Prosthodontics Roseman University of Health Sciences, 2017

MARIAM N. KHACHATRIAN, DDS General USC, 2023

FARNAZ SHEIKHOLAEMMEH, DDS General USC, 2021

KATHRYN CHENG, DDS Pediatrics New York College of Dentistry, 2014

> DAVID ELIMELECH, DDS General International, 2011

**EVALINA JOSEFSSON, DDS** General USC, 2015

PAYAM SHAAF, DDS General USC, 2019

NAREK OVSEPIAN, DDS General Loma Linda University, 2011

NOAM GREENBAUM, DDS General University of Michigan, 2017

MELODY KHONSARI, DDS General UCSF School of Dentistry, 2018

JAAMI O. BAIG, DDS General University of Michigan, 2017

MIKYA MAREFAT, DDS General Loma Linda University, 2023

JONATHAN PHAM, DMD General Western University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine

EDUARDO MOLINA ALMAZAN, DDS General Universidad de la Salle, MX, 2021

MINDY GARFINKLE, DDS General University of Michigan, 2011

LILIT MIRZOYAN, DDS General University of the Pacific, 2010

> HARGUN SINGH, DDS Pediatrics SUNY-Buffalo, 2013

> SAJA W. FADDA, DDS USC, 2023

ANNA HARMANDARIAN, DDS General UCLA, 1991

> NORA GHODOUSI, DDS Pediatrics USC, 2016

RAFFI PARTAMIAN, DDS Orthodontics UCLA, 2010

ALFRED TAMIR, DDS General NYU, 2000

LUCY T. HALLAJIAN, DDS Pediatrics UCSF School of Dentistry, 2017

CHRISTIAN SNEAD, DDS General USC, 2018

BENNY KOHANTEB, DDS General USC, 1996

ARMEN HARTOONIAN, DMD General Boston University, 2009

MARCELA MARIN, DDS General University of the Pacific, 2010

ERNESTO RIOS LINARES, DDS General Universidad De La Salle, MX, 2017

SHOSHANA FIRST, DDS General New York University, 2022

EREZ Y. ARUSI, DDS General Rutgers The State University of NJ, 2020

> ANDRE MARDEROSIAN, DDS General University of Pennsylvania, 2017

ABDOLREZA SAFFARI-NAZARI, DDS General Instit de Medicina Bucharest, 1994

> DANIEL KOHANCHI, DDS Periodontics USC, 2019

MELODY KOHANOFF, DDS General USC, 2021

ANGELA CHOI, DDS General Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, 2009

LOIS LEDESMA, DDS General UCLA, 1986

NAREK OHANIAN, DDS General University of the Pacific, 2020

JACOB GURSTEIN, DDS Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery USC, 2023

NAREH AVEDIAN, DMD General Western University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine, 2023

AVIEL GAFT, DMD
General
Western University of Health Sciences
College of Dental Medicine, 2023

ARMEN ARQUTIOUNIAN, DDS General USC, 2023

JAMIE HUH, DDS General USC, 2023

TABAN MILANI, DDS General USC, 2023

DANIELLE MIN, DDS General USC, 2023

BERDJ ODABACHIAN, DDS General USC, 2023

MARGOT SAFARIAN, DDS General USC, 2023

DAVID ZAGHI, DDS General USC, 2023

BENJAMIN KURNICK, DDS General UCLA, 2023

MICHELLE LUONG, DDS General UCLA, 2023

> RYAN DAVIS, DDS Generaľ UCLA, 2023

ARBI ANANIAN, DDS General New York University, 2023

SASON DARDASHTI, DDS General University of Colorado, 2019

ROSEMARY NAVARRO, DDS General UCLA, 1983

NAJI HAMOUI, DDS General Western University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine, 2019

> HOVSEP NARGIZYAN, DDS
> General USC, 2003

ARIN HAGHVERDIAN, DDS Pediatrics Western University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine, 2020

MASOUD SALEKIAN, DDS General Medical College of Georgia, 2010

JEAN REITTER, DDS General Univ de Strasbourg I (Louis Pasteur), 1990

DANIEL CHUKHMAN, DDS General Midwestern University, 2023

KHIZER HAFEEZ, DDS General New York University, 2023

NATHAN NOURIAN, DDS Orthodontics USC, 2020

CONNIE LEE, DDS
Periodontics
New York University, 2017

MARIOS ALBERTO PEREZ VILLAGOMEZ, DDS

General Universidad De La Salle, MX, 2021

ALIREZA KHOSHNOODI, DDS Endodontics University of Nevada, 2020

JONATHAN MADDATU, DDS General International, 1997

REZA HOSSEIN KHANI, DDS General Tehran University, Iran, 1998

MARYAM YOUSIF, DDS

THANMAYA VADI, DDS General University of Washington, 2015

JI HYUN SHIM, DDS General New York College of Dentistry, 2020

CHRISTINE SAADE, DDS General Arizona School of Dentistry, 2023

> RODIRK AVRAND, DDS General USC, 2023

KAMELIA EBRAHIMIAN PAYVAND. DDS General USC, 2023

DAVID COHEN, DDS General USC, 2023

ANIK SARGSYAN, DDS

ANOOSH MOGHADDAM, DDS General USC, 2023

SHERVIN SHAHSAVARI, DDS General Arizona School of Dentistry, 2023

DAVIS LEE. DMD General Oregon Health Science University, 2023

> ILYA ALAYEV, DDS General International, 1996

SONA MARTIROSYAN, DDS General Loma Linda University, 2023

ARLETTE GUERRERO RODRIGUEZ, DDS General Universidad De La Salle, MX, 2022

ALEXANDRA MAMALIGER. DDS General International, 2018

JASON VERDI, DDS General University of the Pacific, 2023

JULIA NGUYEN, DDS Prosthodontics New York University, 2020

SHUSHANIK BARSIGIAN, DDS General New York College of Dentistry, 2023

RAFFI DADAIAN, DDS General Temple University School of Dentistry, 2021 NINA RASTEGAR, DDS

DARUYAN AYAZI, DDS General New York College of Dentistry, 2023

KAREN PASTRANO RECALDE, DDS General UCSF School of Dentistry, 2022

> LADAN ZIAIE MATIN, DDS Endodontics USC, 2020

> ARMEN TERTERYAN, DDS General USC. 2003

**ANGEL SANCHEZ-FIGUERAS, DDS** General 21900 Burbank Blvd. Ste 300 UCLA, 1983

FLYNNE WEINGARTEN, DDS General Indiana University, 2011

AZITA EZZATI, DDS General Universidad De La Salle, MX, 2023

RAMIL MUSTAFAYEV, DDS General International, 2022

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