



WEST COAST
DISTRICT DENTAL ASSOCIATION

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CHECKUP

West Coast District Dental Association News • Spring 2023



SERVICE

COMMITMENT

INTEGRITY

EXCELLENCE

IN THIS ISSUE: PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE • SUMMER MEETING • REPORTS FROM EVENTS • PHOTOS OF FUN



How are you making a difference this year?

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT
Rita Hurst, DMD, PhD

As my time in this position draws to a close, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you for what we were able to accomplish this year — whether it be the tremendous outpouring of help and resources in response to the devastation of Hurricane Irma or the hard work and talent put into making the President’s Reception and Annual Meeting such an amazing event.

Words cannot describe the efforts that go into the creation of these events and a special thank you goes to those who tirelessly work to build continuing education events that go above and beyond what could ever be expected.

There’s a story that we’ve probably all heard — a child walking along a beach desperately throwing back into the ocean all of the starfish that have washed ashore during the storm. Someone approaches the child and asks why they are doing this — you can’t save them all ... you can’t begin to make a difference.”

The child is at first crushed and defeated, but then picks up another star fish, throws it into the surf, and says, “Well, I made a difference for that one!”

Our story and our difference continue to grow. There are so many ways that we can all make a difference, even if it is for only one person.

First, thank you to everyone that attended this year’s FDA Dentists’ Day on the Hill held in Tallahassee. I encourage all members to attend this event at least once in your dental career, to promote the success of dentistry for our future generations.

In the months ahead, I encourage you to support the FDA and attend the FDC in Orlando, Florida June 29-July 1. And the moment I am sure you’ve all been waiting for... to attend the Summer Meeting at the Ritz Carlton in Naples August 4-6. As many of you have probably heard, The Ritz did sustain significant damage during Hurricane Irma, but they have been working round the clock to open their doors once again. I look forward to seeing you all down there.

And please mark your calendars now for the Florida Mission of Mercy event, which will be sponsored by the WCDDA in 2024, taking place in Lakeland on May 30 through June 1, 2024. As they say, “It takes a village...”



Dr. Hurst at the 2023 President’s Reception

I encourage you to remember this: if we can all make a difference for at LEAST one person, whether in word, deed, thought or financial help. And if we are able to reach at least one... as minuscule of an accomplishment that is... then we have been effective in what we did this year. And I think we were very effective this year. Thank you all for everything you did this year. Stay on the lookout for your incoming president Dr. Lance Karp. I have had the privilege of working closely with him this past year and I know this organization will be left in amazing hands. I look forward to all of the knowledge and dedication he will give to this organization.

WEST COAST DISTRICT DENTAL ASSOCIATION

SUMMER MEETING
AUGUST 4-6, 2023
THE RITZ-CARLTON, NAPLES



Meeting details start on page 5 of this newsletter.
Visit us at wcddental.org for info and registration!

It feels good to do good: The Florida Mission of Mercy

FROM THE EDITOR: Dr. James G. Wilson

When we get involved in our associations, we are often asked to lend a hand to advocacy efforts and service to others. This past year our members helped each other through natural disasters, made foundation donations, participated in Dentists' Day on the Hill, and served those in need through the Florida Dental Association Mission of Mercy.

Did you know that when you give to others, whether that is through a gift of your time or a charitable donation, that you are boosting your own health? According to Mental Health America, "Research indicates that those who consistently help other people experience less depression, greater calm, fewer pains and better health. They may even live longer lives."

The Florida Mission of Mercy is a large-scale professional dental clinic that provides care to any patient at no cost to them, with the goal of serving the under-served and uninsured in Florida — those who would otherwise go without care. The 2023 Florida Mission of Mercy took place in West Palm Beach February 24-25 and included 2,086 volunteers, treating 1,327 patients with 9,543 procedures. The value of this care that is provided at no cost to the attendees was estimated at \$1.85 million.

And the value to the volunteers that gave their time to change lives? Well, priceless. Take a look at the photos of this year's event and you will see impact.



FLORIDA MISSION OF MERCY
LAKELAND | MAY 30 - JUNE 1, 2024

Now is the time to mark your calendar for the 2024 event as the FDA Foundation and the West Coast District Dental Association will be partnering to bring the ninth Florida Mission of Mercy to the RP Funding Center in Lakeland from May 30 – June 1, 2024.

Dentists and specialists of all types, hygienists, and dental care teams are needed to provide care. Other volunteers are needed for patient intake and logistics, and providing overall support to the event. Remember that we help ourselves when we help others, and make plans to be a part of the 2024 event.

2023 Florida Mission of Mercy in West Palm Beach

Thank You, WCDDA Members who Volunteered!



Membership Milestones

This year, 2023, marks their milestone anniversary in organized dentistry.

25 years

Dr. Matthew F Abdoney
Dr. Susan D Anderson
Dr. Eric W Baxmann
Dr. Thomas A Bowles
Dr. Edward B Busch
Dr. Ana M Bush
Dr. Natalie Carr Bustillo
Dr. Reinaldo Claudio-Fonseca
Dr. Manijeh Jenny D'Amelio
Dr. Hilary R Dalton
Dr. Daniel C Delrose
Dr. John D Dos Passos, II
Dr. Bradley J Engle
Dr. Glori A Enzor
Dr. Oliver P Favalli
Dr. Scott N Folino
Dr. John J Foster, Jr
Dr. Robert D Gear, Jr.
Dr. Thomas P Hale
Dr. Keith A Hutchinson
Dr. Tracy L Jackson, Sr.
Dr. Arwinder S Judge
Dr. Zacharias J Kalarickal
Dr. Abdul H Khan
Dr. Dana L. Lambeth-Greer
Dr. James C Lewis
Dr. Charles E McMillian
Dr. Polly T Michaels
Dr. Armando L Pino
Dr. David Piper
Dr. Robert A Powless
Dr. Nitin Sallapudi
Dr. Michelle M Scala Frenchman
Dr. Anthony J Schweiger
Dr. William N Sullivan
Dr. Brian W Thomas
Dr. Brett A Vartdal
Dr. Brant W Wade
Dr. Christopher F Waite
Dr. James G Wilson, II
Dr. Stephen J Zuknick

30 years

Dr. Susan Blankenship
Dr. Scotty L Bolding
Dr. Craig Broome
Dr. Kristin C Burch
Dr. Brian Crosby
Dr. Juan C Curci
Dr. Kimberley D Daxon
Dr. Ed de la Paz
Dr. James G Deluca
Dr. Cynthia Deragon
Dr. Adam Diasti
Dr. Frederick J Fox III
Dr. Gianni Franceschi
Dr. Steven M Guelff
Dr. David M Gulotte
Dr. Gredell Hernandez
Dr. Angela S Hilton Foley
Dr. Michael W Kessler
Dr. Eduardo R Lazaro-Diaz
Dr. Miguel Lopez Jr
Dr. Paul D Mabe
Dr. Andrew J Martineau
Dr. Elizabeth McKenna Pfent
Dr. Farid Moghadasi
Dr. Roxana Mussa
Dr. Marineyda Oyola
Dr. Edwin T Parks
Dr. Gaurangi N Patel
Dr. Barbra J Reed
Dr. Robert C Reid
Dr. Michael W Rowe
Dr. Deborah D Royse
Dr. Larry Saylor II
Dr. Kim L Shaw
Dr. Michael Sheffield
Dr. Robert V Snyders, Jr.
Dr. Adam P Strimer
Dr. Maria D Torres

50 years

Dr. Richard A Baker
Dr. James L Carazola
Dr. George V Dumouchel
Dr. Roger A Dunphy
Dr. Jose M Goldberg
Dr. Robert L Goluba
Dr. Daniel A Haus
Dr. Edwin L Holland
Dr. Robert L Holland
Dr. Barry Lipton
Dr. William E Lovett, Jr
Dr. David A Moore
Dr. Frank B Moss
Dr. Kenneth L Mundy
Dr. Salvatore J Natale
Dr. James M Pyle
Dr. Robert E Rodde
Dr. Richard D Rogers
Dr. Michael R Scher
Dr. Paul C Schmidt
Dr. Charles I Shofnos
Dr. Ronny S Taschner
Dr. William H Truax II
Dr. G Donald Wilhelm

60 years

Dr. Wesley C Ashton
Dr. Robert Y Baldwin
Dr. Lewis E Hanan
Dr. Cynthia S Harper
Dr. Lester J Hutchinson
Dr. Frank J Lombardi
Dr. Andrew C Massaro
Dr. William J McCallie
Dr. Curtis R Moore
Dr. Daniel G Noland
Dr. Robert M Paprocki
Dr. Robert K Sheffield



Photos & Fun

Around the district, our members love getting out and meeting with colleagues at social events and meetings.



SUMMER MEETING
AUGUST 4-6, 2023
THE RITZ-CARLTON, NAPLES



JOIN WCDDA COLLEAGUES
AT THE BEACH



The West Coast District Dental Association Summer Meeting is a great way to end the summer with fun and learning at The Ritz-Carlton, Naples — a beautiful and family-friendly resort on the Gulf of Mexico.

Enjoy morning lectures and sun-soaked afternoons. Socialize with colleagues and exhibitors. Relax in the luxury of ocean breezes and views. After you register, you will receive your group hotel link to book your stay at our WCDDA room rate!

Join us in Naples this August 4-6, 2023!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4

Cycling 7:00 am

No-drop ride, all levels welcome. Registrants will coordinate with each other on route/distance.

Registration & Exhibits 7:30 am – 12:00 pm

Golf at Tiburón Gold Course 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Lecture 8:00 am – 11:30 am

Cigars & Cordials 9:00 pm

Cigars and cordials must be purchased onsite. No coolers can be brought in.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

Fun Run 7:00 am – 8:00 am

Registrants will coordinate with each other on route/distance.

Registration & Exhibits 7:30 am – 12:00 pm

Lecture 8:00 am – 11:30 am

Family Fun Challenge 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Executive Cabinet Meeting 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Affiliate Round Table Meeting 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

WCDDA Officer Installation 5:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Beer, Wine & Cheese Reception 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

Registration & Exhibits 7:30 am – 11:00 pm

Lecture 8:00 am – 10:30 am

WCDDA SUMMER MEETING INFORMATION

Meeting Date: August 4-6, 2023

Location: The Ritz-Carlton, Naples is located at 280 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Naples, FL 34108.

Registration Fees:

WCDDA, FDA or ADA Member	\$285
Non-Member	\$425
Dental Student/Resident	FREE
Retired Member	\$70
Dental Team Member	\$85
Guest (no CE)	FREE

Register before July 28 to save: CE fees increase by \$20.00 per registration category on July 28. Pre-registered dentists receive a WCDDA amenity.

Refund and Cancellation Policy:

All requests for refunds or cancellations must be made in writing to the WCDDA prior to the preregistration deadline of July 28. A cancellation/processing fee of 15% will be charged. No refunds will be given if cancellation is received after the preregistration deadline. No refunds will be given on site.

QUESTIONS?

Questions or requests concerning room reservations should be addressed with The Ritz-Carlton, Naples (239) 598-3300. Questions concerning meeting registration should be addressed with the WCDDA office (813) 654-2500.



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The sophisticated lobby of The Ritz-Carlton, Naples features an ornate Champagne Bar.

HOTEL RATES & INFORMATION



The Ritz-Carlton, Naples (beach property)

Coastal View \$229

Gulf Front \$294

Parking per day \$15, Resort fee waived.

The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort

Resort View \$199

Parking per day \$15, Resort fee \$10

The hotel reservation link will be provided once you have registered for the Summer Meeting. Limit 2 rooms per registrant. Individuals not registered for the meeting will be charged the hotel rack rate instead of the group rate upon checkout. Registrants desiring more than two rooms may check back after May 31, 2023, at which time if there are still rooms remaining in the group room block, the additional rooms will be made available on a first-come basis.



REGISTER TODAY

Scan the QR code or visit us
online at wcdental.org



WCDDA SUMMER MEETING MORNING LECTURES

Friday, August 4

8:00 am – 11:30 am

A Systematic Approach to Comprehensive Treatment Planning for Aesthetics and Function

Gerard J. Lemongello Jr., DMD | 3 CEUs

Mastering treatment planning for aesthetics and function can be challenging. One of the most challenging areas for most dentists is the process of combining the aesthetic examination with the principles of the functional examination to create a treatment plan for success. This program is designed to simplify the entire process from examination through presentation. This program will provide a systematic, step-by-step approach to treatment planning. It integrates esthetics, occlusion, restoration, and periodontics into a logical format that provides confidence in developing the final treatment plan.

Learning Objectives

- How to complete a comprehensive exam.
- What a complete examination must include
- Information you must have from the exam prior to treatment planning.
- The four major areas that need to be considered in treatment planning.
- Facial esthetics and evaluation of how the face alters esthetic planning.
- The esthetic factors that must be addressed in planning.
- The role occlusion plays in modifying the esthetic plan.
- Periodontal considerations necessary to treatment plan for success.
- How to determine if orthodontics is a necessary part of the plan.

Advanced Case Planning and Treatment

This segment of this course will include the diagnosis and treatment of the complex case. The principles illustrated will be shown in a step-by-step manor from initial exam to completion of the case. Cases to be presented will include: Full mouth case with and without change to vertical dimension; the Class II Division II crowded case; the severe wear case; the Class III case.

Participants will learn

- How to complete a diagnostic work up and what it includes.
- Creation of the diagnostic wax up.
- All necessary stents, guides and matrices to aid in preserving or altering vertical dimension of occlusion.
- Preparation design for veneers, veneer onlays or full coverage crowns.
- Bite registration involving full mouth restoration including cross mounting provisional models and the custom incisal guide table.
- Fabrication of the provisional.
- Impression techniques.
- Final case insertion and management of occlusion.

Saturday, August 5

8:00 am – 11:30 am



Implant Aesthetics: Diagnosis and Treatment Planning for Predictable, Functional and Esthetic Results

Gerard J. Lemongello Jr., DMD | 3 CEUs

Mastering the art of predictable implant aesthetics can be challenging. In order to achieve lifelike, functional results, the clinician must first master the art of diagnosis and treatment planning. With the appropriate diagnosis and treatment plan, the next critical step is executing the treatment in a logical systematic way, managing expectation of the patient and achieving exceptional results. One of the most stressful areas for most dentists is the process of creating a beautiful provisional that will guide tissue and predictably achieve the aesthetic outcome for the final restoration in the aesthetic zone. Combining the use of a custom-fabricated provisional abutment, provisional restoration and a custom fabricated impression coping, many of the aesthetics challenges can be addressed. This program is designed to simplify and streamline the entire process of diagnosis, treatment planning, implant provisionalization and final restoration. This program will provide a systematic, step-by-step approach to mastering the critical skills in restoring implant cases. It integrates the techniques necessary in a logical format that provides confidence in developing the final restorative outcome.

Learning Objectives

- Proper treatment planning for esthetic success.
- Comparison of Implant Systems and their predictably. Choosing the right implant.
- The esthetic factors that must be addressed in planning.
- The role occlusion plays in modifying the treatment plan and esthetics.
- Periodontal considerations necessary to treatment plan for success.
- Why it is necessary and how to guide and support soft tissue during the provisional stage.
- How to fabricate a custom provisional healing abutment.
- How to fabricate a custom provisional abutment and provisional restoration.
- Screw retained vs. cement retained provisional.
- How to fabricate a custom impression coping and why it is necessary for predictable results.
- Benefits of immediate provisional.
- Laboratory fabricated provisional vs. Custom fabricated provisional. Advantages/disadvantages.
- Custom provisional techniques for immediate implant placement.
- Custom provisional technique after traditional implant healing.

ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS

Sunday, August 6

8:00 am – 10:30 am

Safe and Effective Prescribing of Controlled Substances

Michael R. Ragan, DMD, JD, LLM | 2 CEUs

Oral-facial pain is real, and most dental personnel were taught that the most effective way to alleviate severe acute and chronic pain was with prescription opioids. As a result, most dentists prescribe them—with benefits but also unintended consequences for our patients. Opioids are also prescribed in emergency departments (EDs) to manage dental pain until treatment can be started. Regular use of opioids—whether prescribed by a health care provider or not—can lead to chemical dependence and, when misused, can lead to addiction, overdose, and death.

By making certain that every dental personnel who prescribes an opioid must have the training to decide when opioid medications should and should not be used. Dental professionals will then be more likely to achieve a balance between the benefits and risks of opioid prescribing, optimize patient attainment of therapeutic goals, and avoid the risk to patient outcome, public health, and viability of their own practice imposed by deficits in knowledge. This course provides the required information pertaining to CS/CS/HB 21, the law addresses opioid abuse by establishing prescribing limits, requiring continuing education on controlled substance prescribing, expanding required use of Florida's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, EFORCSE, and more.

SUPPORT THE WCDDA FUND!



Donate to support the WCDDA Fund for your chance to win a variety of items that will be raffled throughout the meeting. A complete list of items will be featured in the on-site program. Raffle tickets start at \$5.00. You do not have to be present to win. You may purchase tickets in person at the meeting or on the registration website. The WCDDA Fund supports local dental health education, access to care projects, careers in dentistry and disaster relief. For more information about the WCDDA Fund, visit wcdental.org.

Gerard J. Lemongello Jr., DMD

Dr. Gerard J. Lemongello Jr. graduated from the University of Florida, College of Dentistry and has been in private practice since 1987. His focus is on Comprehensive Restorative Dentistry specializing in complex restorative, cosmetic and implant dentistry.



Dr. Lemongello has also completed advanced training in aesthetic and restorative dentistry at some of the most prestigious institutes of learning such as The Seattle Institute, The Dawson Center and the Rosenthal Institute. He completed two years additional training in Orthodontics at the United States Dental Institute. He is an Accredited member of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry. AACD Accredited members have completed a comprehensive credentialing program demonstrating an exceptional level of clinical skill, judgement and ability to perform cosmetic dentistry procedures and are recognized as being among the top cosmetic dentists in the world. He is a member of the American Dental Association, Florida Dental Association and Academy of General Dentistry.

Dr. Lemongello has published numerous articles in leading dental journals and lectures nationally on complex treatment planning, aesthetics and implant dentistry as well as other contemporary dental topics. Dr. Lemongello is a Senior Clinical Instructor with the Rosenthal Institute's Aesthetic Advantage Continuum at New York University. It is at these programs that he teaches dentists the latest techniques in cosmetic, complex restorative and implant dentistry. He previously served as co-chairman of the Comprehensive Esthetic and Restorative Clinic and has held numerous positions on the board as well as presided as president for two terms at the Atlantic Coast Dental Research Clinic in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Michael R. Ragan, DMD, JD, LLM

Dr. Michael Ragan is Managing Partner of a Miami based law firm with 30 years of experience as a defense trial attorney. He received a B.A. from Syracuse University, a D.M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine, a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center, and an L.L.M. in Health Law from Loyola University College of Law. Dr. Ragan has held academic appointments at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine and the Georgetown University Dental School. Dr. Ragan is presently Adjunct Professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine and Clinical Professor, Department of Restorative Dental Sciences, Division of General Dentistry University Florida College of Dentistry. Dr. Ragan is a Medico-Legal Consultant to the Fortress Insurance Company. Dr. Ragan is a Fellow of the American College of Dentists, the International College of Dentists, and the American College of Legal Medicine.



Are you dental license renewal ready?
 Deadline approaching: February 28, 2024!

Zoom virtual seminars with Dr. Michael Ragan

SCAN TO REGISTER with the WCDDA



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
 (required every third biennium)
 October 11th 6-8pm



MEDICAL ERRORS
 (required every biennium)
 November 1st 6-8pm

COST TO ATTEND:
 \$25 for WCDDA, FDA or ADA Members
 \$50 for Nonmembers



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To read more about dental license renewal
 and requirements, visit:

<https://floridasdentistry.gov/renewals/dentist/#tab-ce>

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Dr. Janice Luke
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Dr. Jack Saxonhouse
 Palm Beach County



Dr. Tony Hodge
 Treasure Coast



Dr. Carlton Schwartz
 Northwest, FL



Dr. Marshall Berger
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A Message Of Thanks

HURRICANE IAN destroyed Dr. Nancy Bouchard's Fort Myers Beach office last September. She credits the dental community and organized dentistry for enabling her to rebuild.

Imagine this: one day your dental practice is busy and thriving, the next day it's gone. Literally. Hurricane Ian destroyed Dr. Nancy Bouchard's Fort Myers Beach office last September. She credits the dental community and organized dentistry for enabling her to rebuild. "The FDA found me two weeks after Ian hit. They called me and said they had a grant for me."

Dr. Bouchard says that if it had not been for organized dentistry's assistance, she would've given up. "I was at the other end of my career. I asked myself, do I rebuild? It was the dental people who made it possible." West Coast District Dental Association President Dr. Rita Hurst organized WCDDA's efforts to help Dr. Bouchard and other dentists affected by Ian. WCDDA member, Dr. Jose Alvarez was one of the first WCDDA members who stepped up: "He reached out to me and offered to let me use his office on Fridays," says Dr. Bouchard. "One month after Ian, we were seeing patients."

Dr. Bouchard heard from other WCCDA members, too. Dr. John Park of Winter Haven called her soon after the hurricane. "I was your student at Boston University Dental School," he told her. "What can I do for you?" Soon after that, Dr. Andrew Frey of Fort Myers offered his office space to Dr. Bouchard when he moved to a new location.

"I can't believe the generosity of people," says Dr. Bouchard, "Dentists are amazing." She shared more words of thanks in a letter she sent to WCDDA headquarters. "Ian has taught me a lot," she wrote. "The biggest lesson? Receiving the kindness of others..."

"Your facilitating supply donations throughout southwest Florida brought so many necessary items to get Smiles With Care back on our feet. Thank you so

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

In Memoriam

We are deeply saddened by the loss of our beloved colleagues.

Robert Bousquet, DDS of Tampa, FL passed away on January 1, 2021

Gary Burkholder, DDS of Fort Myers, FL passed away on September 25, 2022

Nelson Castellano, DMD of Tampa, FL passed away on November 18, 2022

Silas Daniel, DDS of Seminole, FL passed away on January 10, 2023

Bert Erwin, DDS of Largo, FL passed away on June 17, 2022

Robert Ettleman, DDS of Tampa, FL passed away on January 23, 2023

Harold Freeburn, DDS of Punta Gorda, FL passed away on August 19, 2022

Wendell Hall, DDS of Tampa, FL passed away on February 12, 2023

William Holbrook, DMD of Floral City, FL passed away on May 30, 2022

Ellis Hyman, DDS of Safety Harbor, FL passed away on May 25, 2022

Frank Kaman, DDS of Sarasota, FL passed away on November 30, 2022

Douglas Koch, DDS of Naples, FL passed away on December 10, 2022

Erwin Koster, DMD of Punta Gorda, FL passed away on November 1, 2022

Joseph Moschella, of Largo, FL passed away on August 17, 2020

James Murphy, DDS of Sarasota, FL passed away on December 18, 2022

Edward Rumberger, DDS of Fort Myers, FL passed away on April 24, 2022

Thomas Suta, DDS of Bradenton, FL passed away January 1, 2015

Jorge Torres Guzmán, DDS of Tampa, FL passed away on March 7, 2023

Craig Wood, DDS of Fort Myers, FL passed away on February 1, 2022

Words of Appreciation for Help after Hurricane Ian

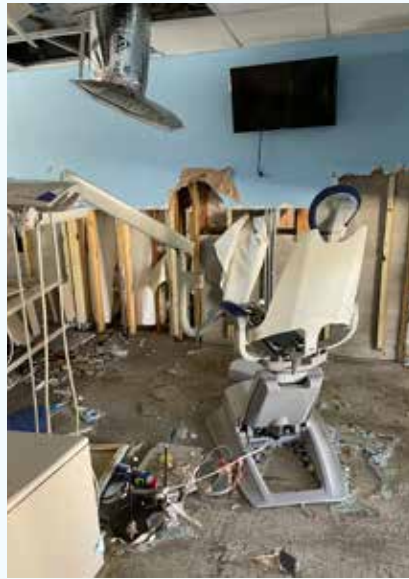
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

very much for being a big part of the resilience of a little dental practice on a little island.”

After experiencing the devastation of Hurricane Ian, Dr. Bouchard suggests that dentists prepare now for potential disasters by reaching out to the FDA, “The FDA has everything you need to do. My team followed those procedures, but nothing could’ve prepared us for Ian.”

Now, along with caring for her patients and her team, Dr. Bouchard is also intent on sharing her appreciation with those who came to her aid. At the recent WCDDA Annual Meeting in February, Dr. Bouchard made a point of finding former FDA president Dr. Rudy Liddell, “I thanked Rudy and told him that if it wasn’t for that call from the FDA, the rebuilding of my practice wouldn’t have happened.”

And what about making the time to write that thank you note to the WCDDA even in the midst of trying to rebuild her practice? “How do I not thank these people?” she says. “I wouldn’t be here without them.”



During the 2022 hurricane season, members donated time, money and supplies to help other members rebuild.



ADA Answers Your Questions on New DEA Registration Requirement Effective June 27

In December 2022, the U.S. Congress passed an omnibus spending bill that included the Medication Access and Training Expansion (MATE) Act. This new law requires prescribers of controlled substances, including dentists, to complete eight hours of one-time training on safely prescribing controlled substances (Schedules II, III, IV, and/or V) in order to receive or renew their registration with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). It’s likely that you received an email from the DEA last week notifying you of this new requirement, which goes into effect on June 27, 2023.

To help dentists comply, the ADA has created Frequently Asked Questions document addressing common questions and will update the FAQ regularly to answer new questions and share additional information. Scan the QR code to access the file or visit: https://www.ada.org/resources/practice/legal-and-regulatory/18_registering-with-the-dea



If you have further questions, contact the ADA’s Member Service Center via e-mail at mvc@ada.org or call 312-440-2500. You can also visit the DEA Diversion Control Division’s website for more updates at deadiversion.usdoj.gov. Additional information may be found at ADA.org.



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Good To Know!

Benefits of being part of the American, Florida and West Coast District Dental Association

Fighting for the Profession of Dentistry

Dentistry's state and federal political action committees ensure the association has a place at the table when lawmakers are debating legislation that affects dentistry. The FDA Political Action Committee (FDAPAC) Board of Directors and American Dental Political Action Committee (ADPAC) work hard to identify and support dental friendly candidates. To stay informed, visit ada.org/advocacy.aspx and floridadental.org.

Third-Party Payer Concerns

The FDA has a dedicated staff member to focus resources on third-party payers in Florida and their impact on members. Working closely with the various insurance plans, Medicaid managed-care plans, the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), Department of Health, Board of Dentistry (BOD) and other state and federal agencies, the FDA Director of Third Party Payer and Professional Affairs addresses issues relating to third-party payers. For additional information, contact Casey Stoutamire, Director of Third Party Payer and Professional Affairs at 800.877.9922 or csoutamire@floridadental.org.

Peer Review

You often can avoid costly legal fees and malpractice suits by using this free service available only to members. Peer Review doesn't always have to be started by a disgruntled patient. A frustrated dentist who feels that everything has been done to satisfy the patient, with no success, also can recommend Peer Review. This is a service provided by colleagues to other members to help mediate problems, and most of the time avoid costly and emotionally draining litigation or Board of Dentistry complaints.

Managed Care Handbook

You Want Me to Sign What? A Florida Dentist's Handbook on Managed Care Contracts is a comprehensive reference including information on reimbursement, risk, negotiating, and rights and duties of both parties. Contact the WCDDA office to obtain your copy, (813) 654-2500.

ADA's Center for Professional Success

This interactive web resource offers members relevant and effective solutions you can use every day on managing your career, expanding your knowledge, and balancing your life. Available at <https://www.ada.org/resources/practice>, there are more than 600 topics.

FDA Career Center

The FDA created the Career Center to give dentists and dental employers a better way to find each other and make that perfect fit. When it comes to making career connections in the dental profession, the mass-market approach of the mega job boards may not be the best way to find what you need. Member discounts are available. Additional information is available at <https://www.floridadental.org/member-center/fda-career-center>.

Top 10 Members-Only Online Resources Marketing Tool-Kit, Legal Resources, Hurricane Readiness, and more! bit.ly/3O4C3nz

FDA Radiography Training Program

The FDA Radiography Training Program allows dentists to provide a convenient, affordable way for dental assistants to obtain radiography training required under Florida law without the need for classrooms, travel and time away from work using an innovative nine-part, online training program. The cost is \$285/per assistant for FDA members and \$385/per assistant for non-FDA members. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3C3sz6s>.

Continuing Education

Free Online CE Members receive up to 30 hours of FREE online CE courses at floridadental.org. Each association hosts annual meetings and monthly meetings that provide high quality continuing education to members and their staff at a significantly reduced rate. WCDDA's Annual Winter and Summer Meetings, WCDDA Affiliate Meetings, Florida Dental Convention (FDC) and the ADA's Annual Session.

Other Member Benefits Include:

ADA" Find a Dentist": The online tool, mouthhealthy.org promotes your practice by allowing you to keep your profile up to date and making it easy for potential patients to locate your practice.

FDA Services: Provides a wide range of insurance at affordable rates. Individual/Group Health, Professional Liability, Term Life, Workers Compensation, Disability, Malpractice, Auto and Pension plans are available. Contact Rick D'Angelo at (813) 475-6948 or rick.dangelo@fdaservices.com.

ADA Credentialing: Spend more time with patients and less time on cumbersome, redundant paperwork. Think like a dentist and run your office like an entrepreneur with ADA's Credentialing Service. Visit ada.org/credentialing.

ADA/FDA/WCDDA Websites: Information right at your fingertips, visit ada.org, floridadental.org and wcdental.org to access important information on laws, rules, and continuing education and employment opportunities. Visit ADA's New Dentist Blog, newdentistblog.ada.org and FDA's Beyond the Bite Blog, <https://blog.floridadental.org/>.

Free Florida and HIPAA Compliance Forms: Free HIPAA forms are available to all members. Visit <https://www.floridadental.org/member-center/member-resources/legal-resources>

CE Broker Tracking: Continuing education attendance records are uploaded into CEbroker.com for each member who attends a meeting at the FDA, WCDDA and affiliate levels.

For more information about membership, call (800) 260-5277 or visit wcdental.org or floridadental.org.

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WCDDA Members Attend Successful 2023 Dentists' Day on the Hill

BY DR. JUSTIN ELIKOFER

Recipient of the Dan Bertoch Dentists' Day on the Hill Memorial Scholarship and pictured on the left in the center photo

It's all too easy to take things for granted in life, whether it's a person, a process, or a product. We can all become complacent and forget the hard work and dedication that went into creating and maintaining it. For dentists, it's all too easy to forget the protections and benefits that have been fought for and won over the years that allow us to provide quality care to patients all the while building successful careers.

The current political landscape has more competing groups vying for limited legislative dollars than in years past. These legislative dollars are imperative to maintaining protections for providers and access to quality care for patients. The numerous "voices" in the room make it more important than ever for dentists to speak up and be heard. This is why I recently attended Dentist Day on the Hill with the Florida Dental Association, and this was my experience and my *why!*

I arrived in Tallahassee at 5:00 pm from my hometown of Tampa, Florida, just in time for happy hour! The FDA hosted a private reception with special guest legislators and provided updates on the progress of the legislative agenda the night before our session. It was a chance to meet and connect with colleagues from all over the state, share experiences and stories, and build camaraderie before the day's advocacy efforts. The dinner featured a keynote speaker, Senator Danny Burgess, who championed a bill to increase veteran's dental benefits. Many of the FDA's team also spoke and took time to acknowledge the importance of the issues and the task at hand.

The next day began with a briefing from the FDA's government affairs office, which provided an overview of the legislative landscape in Florida and the issues at stake. While I was nervous at first to present these issues, the FDA provided materials and talking points, and I was soon ready to join my fellow dentist in meeting with lawmakers. The group then split up into teams and headed out to meet with legislators.

Our mission was to discuss the important issues facing our profession in Florida, including access to care, insurance coverage, and dental education. The group was made up of dentists from all over the state, including general dentists, specialists, and dental students.

Our meetings with legislators were a mix of formal and informal, with some scheduled appointments and others impromptu conversations in the hallways. We shared our stories and experiences, explaining the challenges we face in our practices and advocating for policies that would improve access to care for our patients.

Overall, the day was a success. By sharing our "voices" and advocating for policies that support our profession, we hope to make a difference in the lives of Floridians who rely on dental care to maintain their health and well-being, which in turn provides rewarding careers for dentists like us. We all have a lot of work left to do, but by working together and staying committed to our cause, we can continue to make progress and build a better future for our profession and our patients.



ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP:

Dr. Dan Bertoch devoted much time to advocacy for the dental profession. It is in his spirit that a Memorial Fund in Dan's name was established in 2011 to provide funding for a first-time attendee(s) to Dentists' Day on the Hill in Tallahassee. The grant can be used towards transportation and accommodations at the host hotel.

“DIY” Dentistry Poses Risks for Floridians



From YouTube videos to ads on do-it-yourself (DIY) at-home teeth straightening and whitening, DIY dentistry is a growing trend. However, DIY dentistry can cause serious and sometimes irreparable damage.

Dentists Are Educated for a Reason

Dentists have the extensive education and training to understand how your teeth and mouth are impacted by dental treatments. Orthodontists undergo even more training to know the mechanics of how bones, teeth and gums move and grow in order to safely and effectively straighten teeth.

Patients who undergo dental treatment without first seeing a dentist won't know if they have underlying problems, such as tooth decay or gum disease, that can be made worse by unsupervised treatment.

As Florida's advocate for oral health, the Florida Dental Association (FDA), along with the American Dental Association (ADA), works to educate Floridians on the risks of undergoing dental treatment without the expert care of a dentist or specialist. The ADA strongly discourages the practice of direct to consumer dental laboratory services because of the potential for irreversible harm to patients. This includes services where patients take their own impressions and order products such as teeth bleaching products, partial dentures, veneers and aligners.

DIY dental treatments have the potential to cause damage and irreversible complications for patients.

- Tooth loss
- Jaw problems
- Bite problems
- Gum disease
- Infection

HOW PATIENTS CAN REPORT A PROBLEM

If a patient experiences any problems with direct to consumer (DTC) dental laboratory products, such as aligners or partial dentures, they can report them to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration at www.fda.gov/safety/medical-product-safety-information/forms-reporting-fda.

Specifically, Form FDA 3500B – Voluntary Reporting for Consumers (a consumer-friendly reporting form).

For more information on DIY dentistry, please contact:

Joe Anne Hart

CHIEF LEGISLATIVE OFFICER

jahart@floridadental.org or 850-224-1089

Alexandra Abboud

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS LIAISON

aabboud@floridadental.org or 850-224-1089





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*Non-members pay \$385.

Dental Lifeline Network • Florida Donated Dental Services (DDS) Program

The need for access to care continues for many vulnerable individuals in Florida. An easy way to give back and help fill the access void that many people face when it comes to finding quality dental care is through **Dental Lifeline Network • Florida and its Donated Dental Services (DDS)** program. Dental Lifeline Network, a strategic partner of the ADA, has been operating the DDS program nationally since 1985 and in Florida Statewide since 2003 with the support of the Florida Dental Association. DDS' volunteer network of dentists and labs connects patients who need services with the dentists who volunteer their time to provide it. Are you willing to see one patient through the FL DDS program? Please join the other dentists in FL who currently volunteer with DDS.

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- You determine the treatment plan.
- Coordinators work with specialists and the labs
- You don't pay for lab expenses.
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Service, Commitment, Integrity,
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CULTURE:

The WCDDA Newsletter is published two times a year, in the Fall and the Spring. The Editor of the association and staff organize, print and mail to membership. The position of the editor is elected by the Executive Cabinet and does not have a specified term. The editorial staff holds the right to deny ads submitted for publishing. The newsletter may publish signed articles relating to all phases of dentistry, but assumes no responsibility for opinions expressed by the contributors. Publication in this newsletter does not imply the West Coast District Dental Association endorses any products or services that are advertised. Views, editorials, news columns and/or articles are those of the author's and not necessarily of the editor, staff, or members of the West Coast District Dental Association.

NEED HELP WITH PATIENT COMPLAINTS?

The Peer Review program is designed to help Florida Dental Association member dentists.

Avoid costly legal fees, malpractice suits and Board of Dentistry complaints by using this free service exclusively for members.



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PEER REVIEW

Learn more online at FloridaDental.org/PeerReview or by contacting FDA Peer Review Coordinator Lywanda Tucker at 850.350.7143 or ltucker@floridadental.org