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Professional Conduct for Our Professional Organization



By Bruce Burton, Chair of CEBJA

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have done a wonderful job expressing why it is time for urgent and widespread change for the American Dental Association. The changes for the Tripartite (what I like to call TEAM ADA) that is made up of the component, constituent (state) and national organizations will be exciting and challenging. Going forward, we, as members of the ADA, will be discussing the changes put forward by the Trustees, the Strategic Forecasting Committee and the Councils. We, your teammates on the Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs (CEBJA) want to encourage everyone that we should all look at everything through the lens of our *Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct* (“Code of Professional Conduct”) and the ADA Member Conduct Policy (<https://www.ada.org/about/principles/code-of-ethics>).

Per the Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct; the five principles of ethics are 1) Patient Autonomy “Self-Governance,”

2) Non-Maleficence “Do No Harm,” 3) Beneficence “Do Good,” 4) Justice “Fairness,” and 5) Veracity “Truthfulness.” It is extremely critical that we all live by these principles so that dentistry remains a profession and does not become a trade. The public trusts dentists to self-regulate to a large degree, and it is imperative we continue to live up to this responsibility. The vision for CEBJA is to enhance the ethical conscience of dentists by promoting the highest ethical and professional standards in the provision of oral health care to the public. We need your help to achieve our goal by fulfilling this vision.

The *Code of Professional Conduct* and the ADA Member Conduct Policy address how we as dentists interact with our patients and also with each other in a respectful and safe manner. During the four years I have been on the Council, I have witnessed increased breakdowns in how we engage fellow leaders at the constituent and component levels. All ADA members are obliged to follow the *Code of Professional Conduct* as members of the ADA. We encourage constituent and component society volunteers to consider the ADA Member Conduct Policy (available on page 153 of the ADA Current Policies book at https://www.ada.org/-/media/project/ada-organization/ada/ada-org/files/about/governance/current_policies.pdf?rev=f8a6561f9da4421

[387a6c8c982a118f8&hash=9DED0F70F6E09C155240BBF6007A4B70](https://www.ada.org/-/media/project/ada-organization/ada/ada-org/files/about/governance/current_policies.pdf?rev=f8a6561f9da4421)

if they have not done so already. It is a great reminder of how we should conduct ourselves as leaders and teammates. If unhealthy conflict happens, the Code of Professional Conduct and the Member Conduct Policy provide a baseline for what is acceptable and what is not. If you would like any help with this, just let CEBJA know. Contact us via email at cebja@ada.org.

A quote from football coach Chip Kelly of the UCLA Bruins (who I have to admit I liked a lot more when he coached the Oregon Ducks):

“If you are not going to say it, who is? Sometimes, that excuse of ‘Well, I’m not a vocal guy’ is your excuse of being selfish. To be a leader, you have to serve. You have to be able to get out of your comfort zone. Maybe you don’t like talking in front of a group. But that’s what this team needs. Are you willing to do that to get us to compete at the level we have to?”

As we navigate the changes ahead for our organization, I hope all of us will speak up and move beyond our comfort zone. I ask that we let our *Principles of Ethics and the Code of Professional Conduct* and ADA Member Conduct Policy provide us with a guiding ethical lens while we take advantage of the opportunity to change TEAM ADA for a brighter future. 🌟

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WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS! Please reach out to these new members and welcome them into the ODA community.

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Events & Education Component CE Calendar

CONTINUING
EDUCATION

Calendar provided by Mehdi Salari, DMD

This calendar is current as of August 9, 2023.

Please visit the host dental society website for the most up-to-date information.

Date	Dental Society	Course or Event Title	Speaker	CE	Location	More Information
09/14/23	Lane	Hop Valley Dentist Social	-	-	Eugene (Hop Valley Brewing Co.)	Register: www.bit.ly/LCDSEVENTBRITE
09/14/23	Multnomah	Fall Kick Off Tailgate Event - Multi-Component Event	-	-	Wilsonville (ODA Parking Lot)	Register: www.multnomahdental.org
09/14/23	Southern Oregon	Integration - a deep dive into the modern dental laboratory	Mark Hiddle	2	Medford (West Orthodontics)	Info/Register: sodentalsociety@gmail.com
09/21/23	Central Oregon	Complex Mechanics: How to Manage Teeth & Implants Over Time	Kimberly Schlam, DMD, MS	2	Bend (Riverhouse Convention Center)	Info/Register: drjessicahenderson@gmail.com
10/06/23	Lane	Improve the Health of Your Practice Mini-Conference	Dr. Joshua Austin, Dr. Brian Holmes & Dr. Michael Shirtcliff	5.5	Eugene (Lane Community College)	Register: www.bit.ly/LCDSEVENTBRITE
10/12/23	Southern Oregon	Pearls for Exodontia & Infection	Dr. Bryan Clevenger & Matt Myers	1	Medford (West Orthodontics)	Info/Register: sodentalsociety@gmail.com
11/09/23	Multnomah	New Dentist Social	-	-	TBD	Register: www.multnomahdental.org
11/16/23	Southern Oregon	Extraction versus Non-Extraction Orthodontic Treatment	Dr. Dana Schmidl & Dr. Keyon Botsford	1	Medford (West Orthodontics)	Info/Register: sodentalsociety@gmail.com
12/08/23	Lane	Refreshing Your Pediatric Dental Knowledge and Skills	Dr. Greg Psaltis, DDS	6	Eugene (Lane Community College)	Register: www.bit.ly/LCDSEVENTBRITE
12/13/23	Multnomah	3D Imaging Interpretation: You only see what you know	Saulo Sousa Melo, DDS, MS, PhD	2	Portland (OHSU-SOD)	Register: www.multnomahdental.org
01/11/24	Lane	Peri-Implantitis	Dr. Brad McAllister	2	Eugene (Lane Community College)	Register: www.bit.ly/LCDSEVENTBRITE
01/17/24	Multnomah	Cultural Competency	Chris Verbiest	2	TBD	Register: www.multnomahdental.org
02/09/24	Lane	Infection Control	Healthcare Compliance Associates	2	Eugene (Lane Community College)	Register: www.bit.ly/LCDSEVENTBRITE
02/09/24	Lane	Cultural Competency	Healthcare Compliance Associates	2	Eugene (Lane Community College)	Register: www.bit.ly/LCDSEVENTBRITE
03/14/24	Lane	Retirement Planning Strategies for Dentists	Nathan Ricks, CFP, MS	2	Eugene (Lane Community College)	Register: www.bit.ly/LCDSEVENTBRITE
04/19/24	Lane	Soft Tissue & Radiographic Pathology	Dr. Bryan Trump	4	Eugene (Lane Community College)	Register: www.bit.ly/LCDSEVENTBRITE
05/10/24	Lane	LCDS Golf Scramble	-	-	Junction City (Shadow Hills Country Club)	Register: www.bit.ly/LCDSEVENTBRITE
05/15/24	Multnomah	Table Clinics	-	2	TBD	Register: www.multnomahdental.org
06/11/24	Lane	Retiree Luncheon	-	-	TBD	Register: www.bit.ly/LCDSEVENTBRITE
10/18/24	Lane	Suturing for Success: (Hands-on, Limited to 30 people)	Dr. Nabeel Cajee	2	Eugene (Lane Community College)	Register: www.bit.ly/LCDSEVENTBRITE
12/06/24	Lane	Advances in Dental Pharmacotherapy	Karen Baker, RPh, MS	3	Eugene (Lane Community College)	Register: www.bit.ly/LCDSEVENTBRITE

Find this calendar online at www.oregondental.org. Click "Meetings & Events" > "Calendar of Events".

Looking for additional ways to get CE? The American Dental Association has a large collection of webinars and on-demand video learning opportunities available, many of which are free to members. Visit adaceonline.org to catch up on the latest offerings on your own schedule. 🎧

Non-Engaging Custom Abutments with Angled Screw Channels



Alex Rugh, CDT
Team Leader Education, O'Brien Dental Lab



Creating a screw retained bridge requires abutments that don't have an anti-rotational element on the interface. Unfortunately, the vast majority of custom abutments are not available with that type of connection.

Even when bridge abutments are offered, it's extremely rare for them to also have the capability of angling the access hole. Additionally, most of the options that are available are stock parts, so we have no control over the emergence profile or height of the abutment.



There is, however, a company that does offer non-engaging custom abutments for all of the major implant systems. And better yet, we can design them with angled screw channels.



The company is TruAbutment, and their custom abutments are better than using a titanium base for a few reasons:

First, we have much better control over the subgingival contours of the abutment. Second, we can build the abutment up to be more substantial than a titanium base. Finally, we can typically make the abutments much taller than what we would get with a titanium base.



It should be noted that these still won't work in every situation. For instance, if the implants have a really high degree of divergence, the splinted abutments might not seat passively in to the implants. In those situations, we need to make custom abutments that are designed to be parallel to each other and seated to the implants separately for use with a cement retained bridge.



It's also important to point out that these do require a specific screwdriver. But, another thing that is really cool about TruAbutment is that they include a single use ratchet style driver tip with every angled screw channel abutment.



If you would like more information on the non-engaging angled screw channel abutments from TruAbutment, we're always happy to answer your questions.



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Board of Trustees Meeting Highlights

Meeting Highlights

Oregon Dental Association

Board of Trustees Meeting

Saturday, May 20, 2023

- The Board voted to consider a House of Delegates resolution to add an immediate past president position on the Board. The resolution will be discussed at the July Board meeting. 🗣️

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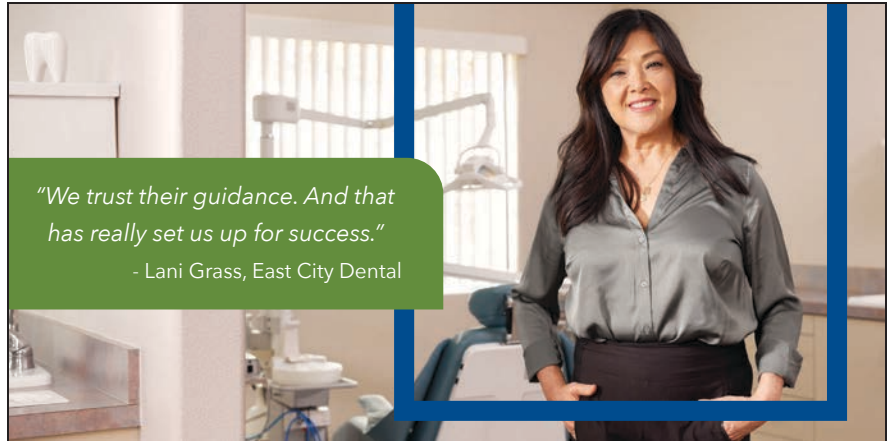


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The Value of Regulatory Advocacy

YOUR OREGON DENTAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP ENSURES DENTISTS have a seat at the table with Oregon lawmakers, as well as the state’s rulemaking and regulatory agencies – so you can focus on your practice and patients.



“The policy guidance and rules created by regulatory agencies have a major impact on Oregon dentists and our patients’ lives. That’s why regulatory advocacy is so important – the results affect every dentist across the state.”

– Dr. Stacy Geisler, DDS, PhD
ODA Regulatory Affairs Council

Our Recent Victories

- ✓ Locked in funding from the Oregon Board of Dentistry for dental team access to the Oregon Wellness Program, which provides mental health support that is nonreported, urgently available and complimentary for health care professionals.
- ✓ Advocated for modernized licensure testing with the Oregon Board of Dentistry.
- ✓ Ensured dentists provided input on proposed dental therapy rules and additional dental pilot projects.
- ✓ Successfully advocated against unequitable licensure fee increase proposals at the Oregon Board of Dentistry.
- ✓ Ensured dental coverage will be included in the state’s new Bridge Plan.
- ✓ Successfully advocated for increased reimbursement rates for Dental Care Organizations and providers.
- ✓ Successfully applied for a new CDT code to allow billing for some immunizations.
- ✓ Successfully passed a bill that will ensure providers have the choice on whether to participate in network leasing and reimbursement via third-party electronic credit cards.

How we do it:



Get Involved!

If you’d like to join other dentists making a difference through legislative advocacy and regulatory affairs, contact ODA at info@oregondental.org.

INFORMATION FOR GRAPHICS PROVIDED BY OREGON DENTAL ASSOCIATION

Dentists Win Insurance Transparency in 2023 Legislative Session

*Workforce initiative, which stalled amid walkout,
poised for future success*

By Kara Hansen

OREGON'S 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION BEGAN WITH A

widespread feeling of relief and hope. For the first time in three years, things seemed back to normal, with committee meetings taking place in person and legislators, lobbyists, and the public walking the Capitol halls as they did before the COVID pandemic began. With four dentists serving as state legislators in Oregon – more than any other state in the nation – optimism was also high that oral health care would receive the attention Oregonians deserve.

Oregon Dental Association members secured a major win in 2023. Dentists are celebrating the passage of one of ODA's flagship bills,

House Bill 3008, which will improve dental insurance transparency across the state.

Thanks to HB 3008, Oregon dentists now have the ability to opt in to various insurance practices, rather than having to opt out. The bill also ensures dental providers have access to more information up front so they can avoid surprise expenses that harm patients and undermine their business. With this legislation, Oregon became the first state in the nation to enact a law requiring dentists' active consent before a network lease can occur, paving the way for other states to similarly protect and empower dental providers.

However, a walkout of Senate Republicans protesting bills on gun rights and on reproductive health and gender-affirming care halted the legislative process for six weeks. When they returned, only eight days remained before the session was constitutionally required to end on June 25. While legislators managed to pass state agency budgets and some bills, such as HB 3008, the shortened timeline left many bipartisan proposals, including dental workforce legislation, on the table.

"Our flagship bill for dental insurance transparency would not have made it across the finish line without the hard work of ODA's Regulatory Affairs Council and





“Our flagship bill for dental insurance transparency would not have made it across the finish line without the hard work of ODA’s Regulatory Affairs Council and Legislative Task Force, our lobbyists, elected officials, and all of our members statewide who advocated for oral health care in the Capitol,” said Oregon Dental Association President Dr. Mark Miller, DMD, MAGD.

Legislative Task Force, our lobbyists, elected officials, and all of our members statewide who advocated for oral health care in the Capitol,” said Oregon Dental Association President Dr. Mark Miller, DMD, MAGD. “As for bills that unfortunately stalled during the walkout, we look forward to continuing to work with members and ODA partners to reinstate these efforts in the year ahead.”

Each session, the Oregon Dental Association tracks hundreds of bills and weighs in on dozens of issues. Keep reading for a recap of key legislation for Oregon dentists in 2023.

House Bill 3008 – Insurance Transparency

Passed unanimously off the House floor; passed the Senate with overwhelming support; effective Jan. 1, 2024

ODA members spearheaded House Bill 3008 to improve transparency of dental plans and prevent surprise

business expenses, protect access to care, improve oral health outcomes, and promote public understanding of health care costs. The bill accomplishes this through transparency in insurance practices involving provider networks, as well as transparency in the claims reimbursement process.

Starting Jan. 1, 2024, dental plans must obtain a provider’s consent before selling or leasing out provider panels, along with advance approval to receive reimbursement payments via electronic credit cards rather than checks. Insurers are also required to communicate about payment processing fees associated with these electronic reimbursements. This will provide much-needed relief for many Oregon dentists. For one ODA member, third-party credit card processing fees have added up to \$11,000 a year.

Throughout the session, a major sticking point was whether insurance

A special thank you goes out to the Oregon Dental Association’s 2023 Legislative Task Force and Regulatory Affairs Council members, volunteers whose input helps to guide our professional staff and shape ODA’s advocacy efforts.

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ODA values our members’ diverse voices! If you would like to join other dentists making a difference through legislative advocacy and regulatory affairs, please contact info@oregondental.org.



companies should be required to have dentists opt into these agreements rather than making them opt out, which often leads to surprise expenses. Ultimately, ODA was successful in ensuring opt-in requirements were included. While some states currently have opt-in requirements when it comes to virtual credit card reimbursements, Oregon is the first in the nation to require consent in advance of network leasing.

House Bill 2979 – Addressing the Dental Workforce Crisis

Won unanimous approval in House Committee on Health Care; stalled in Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Developed by ODA members, and sponsored by dentists Rep. Hai Pham and Rep. Cyrus Javadi, HB 2979 aimed to address Oregon's shortage of dental support staff by funding the primary pathways Oregonians take to become dental assistants and hygienists and better supporting those working in rural and underserved areas. The bill would have invested in high school and community college education and training programs for dental assistants and hygienists, expanded eligibility for incentives to all oral health professionals serving high-need communities, and

improved access to free resources for dentists offering on-the-job training.

ODA staff and leadership collaborated with stakeholders throughout the session and built a coalition including over two dozen organizations – from Oregon Health & Science University, Portland Community College, Clackamas Community College, East Multnomah County Schools and Portland Public Schools, to Kaiser Permanente, Willamette Dental Group, Providence Health & Services, Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center and Care Oregon, to the Oregon Primary

Care Association, Oregon Dental Hygienists' Association, Oregon Dental Assistants Association, and many others.

ODA members testified to legislators, participated in interviews featured on local news programs, and sent a record 1,500+ letters advocating for the bill to state lawmakers. Although HB 2979 stalled during the walkout, the initiative is strongly positioned if reinitiated in 2024.

House Bill 3007 – Office of Oral Health

Approved by House Committee on Health Care; stalled in Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Spearheaded by the Healthy Teeth, Bright Futures Coalition and supported by ODA, HB 3007 would have established an Office of Oral Health and an Oral Health Advisory Committee to support the Oregon Health Authority's dental director and promote evidence-based oral health disease prevention across Oregon.

The House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care approved the bill, sending it to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, where it stalled following the Senate walkout.



“The Oregon Wellness Program promotes the well-being of health care professionals through confidential access to mental health support,” said Dr. Barry Taylor, executive director of the Oregon Dental Association. “We are proud to continue ensuring this important resource is available for our members and for all dentists statewide.”

House Bills 2996 and 3223 – Replacing Written Exams for Dental Assistants

HB 3223 passed

Sponsored by dentists Rep. Pham and Rep. Javadi, HB 2996 would have allowed dental assistants to obtain certification to perform radiography procedures through a combination of education and hands-on training – with proficiency verified by a licensed dentist or dental hygienist – rather than requiring completion of a written exam. HB 3223 expanded on HB 2996 by replacing written testing requirements for other certifications as well.

The bills aimed to empower dental assistants to practice to the full extent of their training and experience by allowing them to establish proficiency without paying to take written exams, as many dentists felt these do not accurately reflect competency, do not affect the health and safety of patients, and can serve as an economic barrier to career advancement.

While HB 2996 did not advance, HB 3223 was amended and passed the Senate. The amended legislation established a workgroup at the Oregon Board of Dentistry to develop recommendations on dental assisting credentials. The bill also expanded types of accepted dental assisting tests and entities that may provide those tests, required that tests are offered in multiple languages, and specified that the Board may not require more than one examination per dental assistant certification type.

Interested in learning more about other dental bills,

health care legislation and business-related bills?

In 2023, ODA tracked and advocated for hundreds of bills, from funding for school sealant programs and community dental health coordinators, to a proposed ban on flavored tobacco, to modifications to the Corporate Activity Tax and much more.

For example, the Oregon Board of Dentistry’s budget bill may not have been a hotly contested piece of legislation, but ODA’s advocacy helped to ensure it included funding for the Oregon Wellness Program, which provides health care professionals, including dentists, with access to mental health support that is not

reported, urgently available, and complimentary.

“The Oregon Wellness Program promotes the well-being of health care professionals through confidential access to mental health support,” said Dr. Barry Taylor, executive director of the Oregon Dental Association. “We are proud to continue ensuring this important resource is available for our members and for all dentists statewide.”

ODA members can access a detailed report that includes these additional bills online, at <https://www.oregondental.org/government-affairs/advocacy/2023-legislative-session>. ●

5 More Bills on Our Radar

House Bill 3090 — Prohibiting distribution or sale of flavored tobacco products in Oregon

Passed out of the House Committee on Health Care, then stalled in the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill 412 — Requiring registration of dental labs with some exceptions

Passed out of the Senate Committee on Health Care, then stalled in the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill 487 — Providing funding for sealant programs and CDHCs

Received unanimous approval by the Senate Committee on Health Care, then stalled in Ways and Means

Senate Bill 469 — Creating a health scholarship program to be administered by Oregon Health and Science University for members of federally recognized tribes

Received a public hearing and supportive testimony from ODA but did not pass

Senate Bill 5011 — Oregon Board of Dentistry’s Budget

Including implementation of dental therapy fees and funding of the Oregon Wellness Program for dental professionals, the Board of Dentistry budget passed and took effect July 1



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**Leah Hickson, DDS
2019 Graduate**

**Application/Nomination
Deadline: December 1, 2023
<http://bit.ly/ODALeadership>**

The ODA Welcomes Incoming Residents

ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 26, 2023, the ODA participated in the OHSU advanced education orientation for incoming residents. Melissa Juenger, ODA Membership & Communications Director, welcomed the residents and touched on the importance of organized dentistry in the state of Oregon. She outlined the many benefits available during the residents' complimentary tripartite membership. Lora Mattsen, Multnomah Dental Society's Executive Director, spoke to the residents about the benefit of community and networking at the local component level.

We would like to welcome all incoming OHSU residents to the ODA and wish them success in their journeys.

Oregon Health and Science University Residents

Endodontics

Mohammed A. Kadhem, DDS
Seonyoung Min, DDS
Ryan Reichelt, DMD

General Practice

Julia Goei, DDS
Aria Mirzazadeh Javaheri, DMD
Cameron Phén, DDS
Asmita Poudel, DDS
Ting Wang, DMD
Megan White, DMD

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Kyle J. Grabowski, DMD
Tiffany Huang, DDS

Orthodontics

David K. Bui, DDS
Kira (Zixin) Chen, DDS
Spencer T. Gibbons, DDS
Lori A. Gossett, DDS

Pediatric Dentistry

Michelle D. Nguyen, DDS
Mona Sivaneri, DDS
Kailey Thomsen, DDS
Manjiri Vartak, DDS

Periodontics

Joshua F. Huber, DMD
Justin J. Kim, DDS
Allison Liu, DDS



Lane County Dental Society Summer of Socials

COMPONENT HIGHLIGHTS

By Nissa Newton, Lane County Executive Director

LANE COUNTY WOMEN DENTISTS GATHERED

at Hendrick's Park for a special wine garden party. The event was sponsored by Columbia Healthcare Banking and supported by assistance from the Oregon Dental Association. This event is one of LCDS' summer social events. In June LCDS restarted their annual retiree luncheon. In August LCDS will have a family picnic, and in September there will be a social at Hop Valley Brewery in Eugene.



LANE COUNTY STAFF

Southern Oregon's Hot Summer Picnic

By Cameron Cutler, Southern Oregon Executive Director

DESPITE THE HEAT FROM THE HOTTEST DAY of the summer, a collection of brave dental families joined the Southern Oregon Dental Society for our annual summer picnic. We rented a pavilion at a park with a splash pad and set up some fun lawn games. The food was perfect summer fare, and the ice cream hit the spot! We made a special effort to invite our new members and non-members and even used the occasion to take nominations for next year's elected officials. Our current elected officials make it their priority to "give back" to our members as much as possible, creating opportunities for social and educational interactions on a regular basis. Summer events are tricky planning around the heat and the smoke. We are so grateful to our members and non-members who came and melted with us! 🌞



SOUTHERN OREGON STAFF

Longstanding ODA Member and Former Trustee Awarded the Academy of General Dentistry's Dr. Thaddeus V. Weclaw Award – Profile of Kim Wright, DMD, MAGD

By Barry Finnemore

FOR THE BETTER PART OF HER CAREER, Kim Wright has been devoted to continuing education for dentists. She was a prime mover behind the Oregon Academy of General Dentistry's 7,200-square-foot training center, which opened in fall 2019 and provides peer-to-peer learning and hands-on training.

Dr. Wright recently was recognized for her years of leadership in CE, receiving the Academy of General Dentistry's Dr. Thaddeus V. Weclaw Award. The national award is presented annually to a dedicated educator who embodies the spirit of comprehensive dental care. It is given to an individual who has made

outstanding contributions to the art and science of dentistry or who has enhanced the principles and goals of AGD and made exceptional efforts in promoting these ideals, the AGD said.

AGD President Hans P. Guter, DDS, FAGD, noted that Dr. Wright "creates opportunities for others, positively impacting their personal and professional growth. Her local and national commitment to creating pathways and contributing to continuing education for young and seasoned dentists strengthens the blueprint of what it truly means to be a committed professional in dentistry."

Dr. Wright, he noted, is known by colleagues as a "continuing education

enthusiast, and learning something new all the time is just who she is."

For her part, Dr. Wright said helping develop and orchestrate hands-on continuing education and lectures is her passion. In fact, the bio on her practice website emphasizes her focus on both "caring for patients and caring for our profession." She noted in her acceptance speech that she is just one of the people behind CE lectures or courses "who make each and every event come off without a hitch."

"My thing during my career has been to just learn one new skill a year and get good at that, and in 10 years you'll have a lot of new skills to help your patients," she said in a recent interview. "Being a continual lifelong learner is how you become a great dentist."

Long involved as a leader in the Oregon AGD and Oregon Dental Association, Dr. Wright described the creation of Oregon AGD's Educational Center, in Tigard, as a "miracle of hard work." Prior to the center, Oregon AGD provided continuing education in space rented from the Oregon Health & Science University School of Dentistry, but the stand-alone center expanded its ability to provide hands-on education.

Built thanks to about \$2 million in donations – half in the form of equipment – the center features an 85-seat lecture hall and 12 clinic chairs where both young and experienced dentists learn new techniques around everything from implants to periodontal surgery. The procedures are free to the mostly low-income Oregonians treated there.



DR. KIM WRIGHT

“It’s where humanitarian service meets education,” Dr. Wright said.

Oregon AGD’s efforts go beyond CE for dentists. Among other initiatives, it partners with Beaverton High School on a program to train aspiring dental assistants. Through a \$300,000 Oregon Health Authority grant, young people begin to learn radiology, sterilization, tooth numbering, and the vocabulary that lays the groundwork for supporting a dental office.

Born and raised in Anchorage, Dr. Wright’s family moved to Alaska when the Federal Aviation Administration recruited her dad away from Boeing in Seattle to install electronics at rural airports as part of the effort to lay the infrastructure for FAA operations.

After graduating from high school, Dr. Wright worked in an office in Anchorage for a couple of years, learning bookkeeping, payroll, and other skills. She wasn’t sure what her next professional step would be but thought she should attend college. She was interested in science, moved to Bellevue, Wash., to attend community college, then transferred to the University of Oregon, where she majored in biology and minored in chemistry.

She was a bit older than most of her fellow students, paying her own way through school and motivated to begin a career. She took part in a pre-dental club, observing dentists around Eugene. She was blessed with great mentors and decided to pursue dentistry, graduating from the OHSU dental school in 1989.

She practiced in Scappoose for 11 years, then sold that office and established a practice in West Linn, Advance Dental Arts, in 2001. Dr. Wright said she enjoys building relationships with patients and providing screenings and care that impact their whole health.

However, forces such as government regulations and insurance companies are intruding on what at

its core is a “relationship business” between dentists and their patients, she said. Organized dentistry is critical to help protect those relationships. “We have influence with those entities influencing the doctor-patient relationship when we speak with one voice,” she added.

Dr. Wright, who is a past president of Oregon AGD and a former ODA trustee, praised the longstanding collaboration between the two

organizations, noting the ODA donated \$50,000 to establish the Oregon AGD’s continuing education center. “We complement each other,” she said.

When she’s not in the office, Dr. Wright – a self-described foodie – likes to cook, fish, hike, and read. She enjoys visiting Alaska to fish for salmon, and she and her husband also have purchased property in Mosier, in the Columbia River Gorge, where they plan to build a house. ●



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