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# **Membership Matters**

A publication of the Oregon Dental Association • June 2018

# MEMBERSHIP MATTERS BUT INVOLVEMENT MATTERS MORE— ODA Members Participate in 2018 ADA Dentist and Student Lobby Day

Also Inside Compliance Corner, page 19 Through the Loupes, page 20

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# PRACTICE TRANSITIONS



#### Steve Timm DMD (Bend)

"A great part of our success was due to Gary's patience and due diligence through the multiple progressions and setbacks we experienced during the sale process. In the end, it turned out to be the most perfect fit!"

#### **Gary Schaub**

"The success of Dr. Steve Timm's transition was mainly due to his timing and flexibility. Unfortunately, we had three well-qualified buyers who individually dropped out at the last moment before closing. One was due to a sudden disability; the second due to financial difficulties unrelated to his financial qualifications; and the third due to unforeseen family issues. Finally Dr. Jared Adams became the perfect buyer. The transition then moved ahead quickly, with a lot of help from Debbie Timm. Dr. Timm is now happily retired!"

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#### FROM THE EDITOR

# For the Well-Being of Our Association Members



By Barry J. Taylor, DMD, FAGD, FACD, CDE

Editor, *Membership Matters* 

Barrytaylor1016@ gmail.com

The opinions expressed in this editorial are solely the author's own and do not reflect the views of the Oregon Dental Association or its affiliated organizations.

#### THE OREGON DENTAL ASSOCIATION

IS REVIVING THE Dentists Health and Well Being Committee with great enthusiasm, as well it should be. As an altruistic professional association in the purest sense, we should be there for our members. Historically, this committee was the resource to contact if a member was having an issue with alcohol or substance abuse; going forward, the committee will be expanding its scope to be a resource for the health and well-being of dentists in a wide assortment of situations. We are casting a wider net now, as well as making an effort to be more proactive than reactive in helping dentists be healthier mentally.

Instead of being a small committee that was available to help members with an alcohol or substance abuse problem, the larger committee will now be a resource for members going through other life stressors such as divorce, litigation or health problems just to name a few examples. By developing a network of members who have gone through prior experiences, the committee hopes to serve as a conduit in connecting members with each other for help. For example, if litigation is brought to your front door unwillingly, we would be able to connect you with someone who has previously had to deal with such a situation. In addition to such peer-to-peer help, the ODA would also maintain a database of health care professionals for which members could be referred to for help with regard to not just substance abuse but also mental health issues.

By being proactive, the committee will also help prevent burnout among dentists by promoting articles, courses, and other resources that address the mental health of the dental provider. The research is poor when one looks for the actual numbers of

how many dentists have burnout. The cliché that dentists have the highest suicide rate among professions has been dismissed,1 yet health care professionals in general do have a high rate of burnout.<sup>2</sup> The classic definition of burnout is "a syndrome of emotional exhaustion, depersonalization, and reduced personal accomplishment that can occur among individuals who work with people in some capacity."<sup>3</sup> Studies looking at physicians report that over 50 percent have at least one symptom of burnout.4 Studies looking at burnout in dentists have ranged from 13 percent<sup>5</sup> to 20 percent.<sup>6</sup> One study in Finland reported that of dentists surveyed that had burnout, 85 percent reported depressive symptoms at a three-year follow up.7 Being creative with the limited data there is, that would mean that there are 350 ODA members today who have burnout, and three years down the road, 300 of them will have symptoms of depression. It will be great if an active Well-Being Committee could help reduce those numbers.

#### References

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#### **UP FRONT**

# Welcome New ODA Members!

Raoul Calderon, DMD Washington County Dental Society

Molly Francis, DMD Clackamas County Dental Society

James Gorman, DDS Southwestern Oregon Dental Society

Brent Hiebert, DDS Yamhill County Dental Society

Stephen Holly, DMD Multnomah Dental Society

Alisha James, DDS Multnomah Dental Society

Jonathan Jelmini, DDS Multnomah Dental Society

Steven Justice, DDS Multnomah Dental Society Hyungsup Lee, DMD Washington County Dental Society

Travis McFee, DDS Marion and Polk Dental Society

James Means, DMD Southern Willamette Dental Society

Neda Modaresi, DDS Multnomah Dental Society

Ryan Mott, DDS Southern Willamette Dental Society

Benjamin Naylor, DMD Lane County Dental Society

Victoria Nguyen, DMD Southern Oregon Dental Society

Christine Sedgley, BDS Multnomah Dental Society Levi Shull, DMD Marion and Polk Dental Society

Sydney Stoker, DMD Multnomah Dental Society

James Surface, DMD Washington County Dental Society

Timothy Tanada, DMD Washington County Dental Society

Todd Weil, DMD Marion and Polk Dental Society

Jason Whitt, DMD Multnomah Dental Society



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# Events & Education Component CE Calendar

#### CONTINUING EDUCATION

Calendar provided by Mehdi Salari, DMD

Date	Host Dental Society	Course Title	Speaker	Hours CE	Location	More Information
9/11/18	Marion & Polk	How to Have Productive Pediatric Appointments	Wes Heringer, III, DMD	1.5	Salem (Boys & Girls Club)	Contact Sabrina H. – mpdentalce@qwestoffice.net
10/09/18	Marion & Polk	Sports Dentistry	David Dowsett, DMD	1.5	West Salem (Roth's)	Contact Sabrina H. – mpdentalce@qwestoffice.net
10/19/18	Southern Willamette	Risk Management	Chris Verbiest	3	TBD	Contact Brian – swdsoregon@gmail.com
11/13/18	Marion & Polk	Sleep Apnea	Patrick Hagerty, DMD	1.5	West Salem (Roth's)	Contact Sabrina H. – mpdentalce@qwestoffice.net
11/15/18	Multnomah	OSHA Update	TBD	2	Milwaukee (Moda Plaza)	multdental@aol.com or lora@multnomahdental.org
12/11/18	Marion & Polk	Risk Management	Chris Verbiest	3	West Salem (Roth's)	Contact Sabrina H. – mpdentalce@qwestoffice.net
1/08/19	Marion & Polk	Prevention & Management of Nerve Injury	Daniel Petrisor, DMD, MD	1.5	West Salem (Roth's)	Contact Sabrina H. – mpdentalce@qwestoffice.net
2/12/19	Marion & Polk	Hot Employment Law	David Briggs, Saalfeld Griggs, PC	1.5	West Salem (Roth's)	Contact Sabrina H. – mpdentalce@qwestoffice.net
3/12/19	Marion & Polk	You, Me & 3D – Past, Present & Future	Jev Clark, DMD, MD	1.5	West Salem (Roth's)	Contact Sabrina H. – mpdentalce@qwestoffice.net
5/14/19	Marion & Polk	New Hematologic Drugs	William "Bud" Pierce, MD, PhD	1.5	West Salem (Roth's)	Contact Sabrina H. – mpdentalce@qwestoffice.net

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

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#### HOUSE OF DELEGATES

# Save the Date for the 2018 ODA House of Delegates!

**ODA LEADERSHIP IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE** that the ODA House of Delegates is moving to a one-day format in 2018! Mark your calendar and plan to serve as a delegate for your component society. A social event will be held on Friday, September 7th, with the formal business of the House being held on Saturday, September 8th at Sunriver Resort.

# House of Delegates Elections

Nominations are now open for the following offices, to be elected by the ODA House of Delegates, September 8. Please submit all applications and nominations by July 1. \*Declared candidates as of 5/15/2018

#### Leadership Development Committee

Positions Open: 3 Term: 3 years Declared Candidates: Kent Burnett, DDS; Gregory Jones, DMD

#### At-Large Trustee

Positions Open: 3 Term: 4 years Declared Candidates: Mark Mutschler, DDS, MS; Frances Sunseri, DMD, MAGD

#### Editor

Term: 3 years Declared Candidates: Alayna Schoblaske, DMD

#### ADA Delegate at Large

Term: 3 years Declared Candidates:

All ODA members are encouraged to participate in the leadership of this organization. For more information about any of these positions, email **cleone@oregondental.org**. Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and a resume. Email your materials to **leadership@oregondental.org** by July 1.

# Tom Tucker Humanitarian Award

Established at the 2017 House of Delegates, the Tom Tucker Humanitarian award is the highest humanitarian and service award for the dentists of Oregon. Award criteria include:

- A significant number of years as an ODA member.
- Active in leadership roles within the ODA and their local component society.
- Demonstrated commitment to being an active member in their local communities.
- Demonstrated to their communities and the ODA a unique attitude and a willingness to serve.
- Mirror the image of Dr. Tom Tucker with a can-do attitude and a genuine desire to serve the common good.

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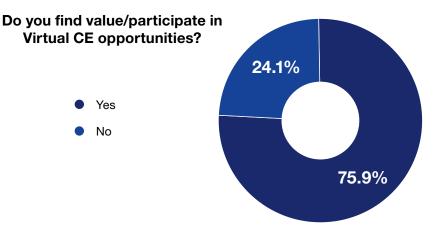






# **Membership Poll Results!**

**IN AN EFFORT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT** our members, we've started to include a poll question in each issue of the *ODA Insider* e-newsletter. Below are the results from April. Please keep an eye out for future questions, and be sure to participate!



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#### Begins 10/4/18

Foundations of Practice Study Club Dr. Scott Hansen 7 Sessions Participation 21 hours

#### 10/6/18

Fall Symposium (Annual Meeting) When is More Less and Less More? Unpacking complex Treatment Options Drs. Stephen Chu, Abdi Sameni Dan Grauer, Jorge Garaicoa Lecture 7 hours

#### Begins 10/13/18

**Implants for the General Dentist** 

Drs. Brad McAllister, Thomas Eshraghi 7 Sessions Participation 56 hours

#### 11/9-10/18

Periodontal Basics and Beyond for the General Dentist\* Thomas Eshraghi

Lecture 8 hours, Participation 16 or 32 hours

#### 1/11-12/19

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Drs. Marc Geissberger, Foroud Hakim Lecture 8 hours, Participation 16 or 32 hours

\* Denotes Mastertrack courses, non-cohort seats available

1/24-27/19, 2/21-24/19, 3/14-17/19 Comprehensive Training in Parenteral Moderate Sedation-Winter 2019

Drs. Ken Reed, Amanda Okundaye, Stanley Malamed, Andrea Fonner Participation 103 hours Las Vegas, Nevada and Portland, Oregon

#### 2/2/19

Maximizing Medical Claim Success for the Dental Practice Dr. Chris Farrugia Participation 7 hours

#### 3/2/19

Howard Memorial Lecture/Student Competition - Minimally Invasive Adhesive and Esthetic Dentistry Abdi Sameni DDS, FACD Lecture 7 hours

#### 4/26/19

CBCT Imaging and Principles\* Shikha Rathi Participation 7 hours

#### 4/27/19

Pediatric Behavior Management and Treatment Planning\* Dr. Gregory Psaltis Participation 7 or 14 hours

#### 1/24-27/19, 2/21-24/19, 3/14-17/19

Comprehensive Training in Parenteral Moderate Sedation-Winter 2019 Drs. Ken Reed, Amanda Okundaye,

Stanley Malamed, Andrea Fonner Participation 103 hours

All courses held in Portland unless otherwise noted

#### MEMBER BENEFIT OF THE MONTH

# How to Travel Safely and What to Pack for Your Next Adventure

By AHI Travel



**PEOPLE TRAVEL FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS:** to learn, to appreciate, to enrich and to transform. Travel relaxes your mind, allowing you to reflect on personal goals and interests and take part in fulfilling activities. Best of all, travel offers opportunities for discovery and immersion into local environments, letting you return home with new insights and fresh perspectives.

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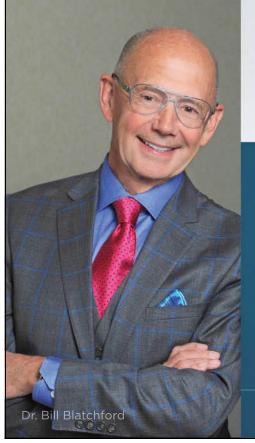
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COMPLIANCE CORNER

# **Oregon Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)**

HOUSE BILL 4143, passed during the 2018 Legislative Session, was targeted at the opioid epidemic in Oregon. As part of that bill, prescribers with an active DEA number are now required to register with the PDPM. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) recently adopted temporary rules regarding this new requirement, which are summarized below. The full text of these rules can be found at www.orpdmp.com/pdmprules.

*Who:* All prescribers with an active United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) registration.

*How:* Visit **www.orpdmp.com** to create your account and register.

When: Prescribers must register no later than July 1, 2018.

All prescribers with an active United States Drug Enforcement Agency registration must register with the PDPM no later than July 1, 2018.





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THROUGH THE LOUPES

# Meet the New Regulatory Affairs Council

**IN ORDER TO ENHANCE ODA'S ADVOCACY EFFORTS** on both legislative and regulatory issues, the 2017 ODA House of Delegates voted to create the recently installed Regulatory Affairs Council (RAC). This new council reviews key regulatory policy issues and advises the ODA Board of Trustees regarding ODA's corresponding engagement and action. The RAC focuses its efforts on regulatory and policy issues connected with the Oregon Board of Dentistry, the Oregon Health Authority and other key partners. Additionally, in conjunction with the Leadership Development Committee, the RAC filters external committee membership requests and identifies candidates to serve in an advisory capacity for affiliated organizations pertaining to regulatory affairs.

The Council first met in January 2018 and has already discussed important topics such as prompt pay, licensure reform and various issues related to the Dental Practice Act.

#### **Current Council Roster:**

- Daniel Miller, DMD, Chair, Clackamas County
- Terri Baarstad, DMD, Lane County
- Christine Chin, DMD, Washington County
- Michael Matsuda, DDS, MS, Washington County
- Vanessa Peterson, DDS, MS, Multnomah
- Will Trevor, DDS, Marion Polk

#### **OHSU Advisory Members:**

- Phillip Marucha, DMD, PhD, Dean
- Tysa Judd
- Paul Lamoreau
- Bryan Schofield

#### Member Testimonies:

#### Tysa Judd

As a third-year dental student, I was only an observer on the RAC. However, I was never made to feel less than a full participant. When I had a question or an opinion, my sharing was welcomed and respected. Participating and observing on the council also made me excited about organized dentistry because the methods used to discuss difficult situations were prime examples of leadership and respect. Watching ideal leadership and interpersonal relationships modeled in real life and



professional application has empowered me with improved leadership and communication. It has set me up for success in my professional and personal future endeavors.

#### REGULATORY AFFAIRS COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

# THROUGH THE LOUPES

#### Vanessa Peterson, DDS, MS

I love being at the forefront of issues that affect dentists, small business owners and the dental health of the public. It is empowering to be able to help influence position change. I also love being part of an awesome group of dentists who support each other.



I've been on committees and councils in organized dentistry for 10 years, but I've never

fully understood how our recommendations interact with local and state organizations to pass laws, regulations and grants. This council is definitely a learning opportunity for me! This council, above all, has taught me how important organized dentistry is in promoting and protecting this amazing field we are in!

#### Michael Matsuda, DDS, MS

The Oregon Dental Association does so much for dentists in Oregon, and I am proud to be a member. I joined the Regulatory Affairs Council because I wanted to help make a difference in maintaining the integrity of our profession. I also wanted to be updated on issues in the forefront of dentistry, both on a local and national level.

Being able to network with leaders in the



dental community has helped broaden my awareness of issues that I was not cognizant of. I have also learned how to better understand the mindset of all parties involved in organized dentistry and not to just see things through the eye of the provider.

#### Terri Baarstad, DMD

I was asked to join, and I wanted to participate in the organization that dedicates itself to our profession. To have a voice and to be heard. It is good to be involved as much as I can be in the profession that I love.

I love hearing what's new and listening to all of the concerns. My experience in local leadership has helped me to voice my concerns even if they

are unpopular. My experience on this council has reinforced how important it is to be involved.  $\blacksquare$ 



ADVOCACY IN ACTION

# 2018 ADA Dentist and Student Lobby Day

#### FROM APRIL 8-10, ALMOST A

**THOUSAND** dentists and students descended upon Washington, D.C. for the 2018 ADA Dentist and Study Lobby day. As members of the "tooth party," Lobby Day attendees learned how to navigate Congress, learned about specific issues affecting the profession and were able to network within and across state delegations. Oregon was well-represented, with our largest state delegation yet! The Oregon team met with elected officials or staff representing all seven districts of Oregon's Congressional Delegation.

Key issues advocated for on Capitol Hill included the following:

- ADA policy on opioid prescribing and prescription database usage
- Student Loan Programs and Higher Education Act
- Dental and Optometric Care Access Act of 2017
- Action for Dental Health
- McCarren-Ferguson Repeal for Health Insurance

#### 2018 Oregon Attendees:

Rick Asai, DMD (Portland) Michael Biermann, DMD (Portland) Bruce Burton, DMD (Hood River) Patrick Hagerty, DMD (Albany) Alisha James, DDS (Corvallis) Tysa Judd (ASDA) Christina Pearson (ASDA) Thomas Pollard, DMD (Portland) James McMahan, DMD (La Grande) Calie Roa, DMD (Jacksonville) Daniel Saucy, DMD (Salem) Bryan Schofield (ASDA) Tesha Waggoner, DMD (Portland) Zachary White (ASDA)

The annual ADA Lobby Day is a great opportunity for members to catch a glimpse of the ongoing advocacy work of the ADA and the American Dental Political Action Committee (ADPAC). ADPAC is the national political action campaign for dentists that supports candidates who will advance the dentistry profession. ADPAC supports members from both political parties.

Similar state work is continually underway here in Oregon. The Dentists of Oregon Political Action Campaign (DOPAC) is ODA's state political campaign contributor, supporting members of both parties who work to make Oregon a great place to practice dentistry. Join us!

Your voice is critical to the ODA and ADA's advocacy work. Make sure to join Oregon's state Dental Day at the Capitol on February 26, 2019, in Salem. The Annual ADA/ASDA Lobby day will be back in D.C. March 24-26, 2019. Let's get this tooth party started!







### A Dental Student's First National Lobby Day

By Christina Pearson, OHSU Class of 2021

The American Dental Association (ADA) and American Student Dental Association's (ASDA) National Lobby Day is a special event where typical political parties like Republican and Democrat are transcended. In the tumultuous political climate we've been experiencing since the most recent presidential nomination, it was encouraging to see both dental students and veteran dental professionals put aside their personal political beliefs and advocate with one united voice for issues concerning the Tooth Party. I was elated and somewhat nervous about being chosen to participate because I wasn't entirely sure what to expect, or what would be expected of me. My apprehension was guickly guelled by a hearty and gracious welcome from members of the Oregon Dental Association, who took time away from their busy schedules to mentor students and lead groups to meetings with our state representatives in both the house and the senate.

Among the prime concerns for students were the recently proposed cuts to the Higher Education Act. The average student debt of a dental school graduate hovers nationally around \$285,000. Here in Oregon, that number is even higher, and approximately 70 percent utilize the **Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans** as well as the Federal Grad PLUS Loans. Cuts to these programs would significantly affect the choices recent graduates would have in where and how they would like to practice. While students can still apply and receive private unsubsidized loans, most do not offer public service loan forgiveness, deductions for the interest paid on those loans or the allowance of deferment. Without these options, a graduate's professional choices are limited due to the heavy financial burden of loan repayment.

Other issues tackled included the ADA's proactive policies with regard to the opioid epidemic occurring throughout our nation. The ADA is one of the first healthcare professions that has voluntarily adopted mandatory continuing education for those prescribing opioids. While some of the dentists and oral surgeons present felt this



was an inconvenient overregulation, several others acutely felt the pain of mismanaged opioid use, having lost their sons due to overdose. One of the most powerful moments of the conference occurred when Dr. Sharon Parsons stood up and stated, "I'd spend hundreds of hours taking CE to get my son back." This personal disclosure really highlighted the importance of equipping practitioners with the skills to recognize and combat opioid abuse. I'm thankful to be part of a profession that has willingly decided to take a proactive stand in the opioid epidemic in order to increase the safety and well-being of the patients we serve.

National Lobby Day helped me realize there is a whole other side to dentistry beyond the clinic. There are individuals making decisions that are shaping the future of the profession and dental education alike. The only way we can be involved in those decisions is to actively participate and make sure our voice is heard on issues like the ones highlighted above. The hard work that happens in Washington, D.C. is important, and without each person's involvement, we would not be able to achieve the same impact. It was a true honor and pleasure to be able to participate in the ADA/ASDA National Lobby Day and advocate for other students like me. I plan on continuing to participate in the legislative portion of ASDA while I am a student and with the ADA once I am a dentist. My hope is that others will also be inspired to take up the mantle of responsibility we have in advocating for the future of students, practitioners and patients both in our nation's capitol and in the communities we are a part of back home as well.

### Getting Involved: From Student to Resident and into Practice

By OHSU Pediatric Resident Tesha Waggoner, DMD

When I was a first-year dental student at OHSU, I swore to myself that I would only get involved with organizations and events that were meaningful to me. Throughout my undergraduate education, I had been involved in everything from community service, to sororities, to student government. I left my undergraduate years feeling exhausted. When I set out to find what I wanted to pursue in dental school, I found myself applying for the position of legislative liaison for the American Student Dental Association. With an emphasis in law in my undergraduate education, I have always been interested in our country's legal system. And when an opportunity came in 2011 to go to Washington, D.C. and get to experience the process firsthand, I jumped at the chance.

Fast forward to 7 years later, and I have had the privilege of attending my state and national Lobby Days five times. Most recently, I attended my first national Lobby Day as a dental resident and not as a student. I walked into the Oregon Dental Association's Welcome Dinner knowing only two of the dentists present, but by the end of dinner, I felt like I had a new group of colleagues and friends. It was incredibly easy to team up with this group of accomplished dentists, and I felt well-prepared to meet and talk with our state representatives after our briefings on Monday. The ADA took considerable time and effort to inform and educate conference attendees on the issues we would be addressing and how to present them.

Lobby Day started on a sunny morning in D.C. just as the cherry blossoms were in full swing. As we went into our scheduled appointments, it felt surreal to be in the offices of congressional representatives and senators I had read about in the news and meet them in real life.

The issues we were able to discuss focused on student loan debt, the opioid crisis, federal enforcement of antitrust laws for health insurance companies, and finally, implementation of federal regulations so that insurance companies cannot set prices for non-covered services.

I know firsthand what a difference our efforts as a united group of dentists and dental students can make. Five years ago, I went to Oregon's dental Lobby Day in Salem as a dental student and lobbied for approval of funding for The Scholarship for a Healthy Oregon Initiative. The initiative allowed the Oregon Legislature to allocate funding to be used to cover tuition and fees for incoming medical students who also agree to practice as a health care practitioner in an OHSU-approved, Oregon designated service site for one year longer than the number of years for which the student receives funding. The measure was approved, in part due to lobbying efforts of the ODA and student dental Lobby Day. I saw my efforts come into real life effect through my current roommate, who received the scholarship and would otherwise not have been able to afford to attend OHSU. She plans on returning to her community just outside of Salem, where she can serve the underserved.

It's stories like these that highlight the importance of our involvement in our profession. It is easy to become pre-occupied in our practices, residencies, or student life and to forget that if we don't unify and present a united voice, we may miss our opportunity to have a voice on issues that affect us and our profession. Being a member of the ADA and ODA is vital to keeping our profession safe, but actually getting involved is how the real change happens. Whether it's through Lobby Day, ADPAC or some other part of our profession, find what aspect of dentistry you are passionate about and go be an advocate for it!





### Membership Matters, but Involvement Matters More

#### By Calie Roa, DMD

I remember my first visit to Washington, D.C. and how intimidating it was sitting in a large conference room with 900+ dentists and students. There are state signs that point you in the direction you are meant to go. You weave among business suits, Tooth Party American flag pins worn with pride, loud music that gets everyone hyped, and a buzz like I haven't seen before, to grab your seat with your state delegation. This year, I am a veteran among 1,100+ strong, and I watch as all the newbies join the ranks and are wide-eyed and as awestruck as I was. These are people ready to work. People ready to make change and fight for one of the best careers in the USA. These are all members of ASDA and ADA. We often say, "I would love to see change, but what can I, one person, do?" Well, this is it. It is that person taking the initiative to ask to join a team. It is being involved in the largest health organization political action committee and working diligently to affect a system that, in some areas, needs some rocking. We sit and learn how to go to Capitol Hill and meet with our representatives

and senators to advocate for changes such as opioid legislation, insurance fairness, and student debt and loan repayment programs. We work so every dentist in this country can have fair and equal reimbursement from insurance companies and so that students don't have to be bogged down by the exorbitant debt they will carry once they leave school. We discuss these issues so that our 116,000-member-strong organization can still have outstanding benefits of one of the top 10 careers in the USA. These people are young, old and everywhere in between but have one goal in mind: doing more and being more so we can enjoy our jobs more. This is just one example of how your membership in the ADA contributes to your career being better and greater. There are so many other examples of people who volunteer their time to make changes and work tirelessly in large and small ways to make dentistry what it is. Being a member is great and needed, but being involved and being a part of all the inner workings of the ADA gives you so much appreciation for this organization and how is works

to make dentistry the greatest and most rewarding career. Don't be intimidated by being one person. There are many standing with you ready to help, so get involved and see how your involvement will propel you into an enjoyment of dentistry you may never have known existed.











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### The 2018 Oregon Dental Conference: Connect Learn Grow

By Betsy Boyd-Flynn

**FROM APRIL 5-7,** members of the dental community gathered at the Oregon Convention Center to learn, share knowledge and grow. This year, the Oregon Dental Conference (ODC) was built around the concept of connection and focused on offering more than just continuing education (CE).

After 21 years at the Oregon Convention Center, many elements of the conference were familiar to attendees: the busy registration area where friends old and new could gather and chat, the hallway lined with conference supporters and partners from non-profit and educational organizations, the receptions with great food and drink, the Motor Mouth car raffle in support of the Dental Foundation of Oregon, and the packed educational schedule that spanned three full days were all examples of the great conference components that make the ODC a must-attend event.

This year's conference offered connections and value for everyone, with fresh ideas and an injection of fun. One example: Sprinkled among the crowd of attendees were flashes of bright blue. One of them was trailing behind **Scott Hansen, DMD**,

ODA Secretary-Treasurer. Along with just over 20 of his colleagues at the meeting, Hansen wore a blue cape that invited the curious to ask how they could get involved and serve the dental community through the ODA. While he took some ribbing from old friends about the guirky idea, Dr. Hansen was quick to point out that the purpose of the cape was to draw attention, to engage attendees in conversation about the importance of participating in leadership for the profession. Asked why he participates in organized dentistry leadership, Dr. Hansen said, "We need good people to stand up for our profession and the integrity of the field. This meeting brings us together to remind us of that."

James McMahan, DMD, ODA

President-Elect from La Grande, agreed, and described the meeting as a place to find camaraderie. "I have missed very few meetings in my 35 years of practice. It is always a place to get your batteries recharged. The camaraderie and renewed friendships always leave me feeling blessed for attending. I have brought my staff many times as well. That has always enhanced our teamwork, as well as providing them





"This year's conference offered connections and value for everyone, with fresh ideas and an injection of fun."

OREGON DENTAL CONFERENCE





valuable training and recognition. As a dentist, I love what I do, and I love patient care. This conference enables me to do that better and have fun in the process. It is one of the most valuable membership benefits that the ODA provides," Dr. McMahan said.

Throughout the meeting, the Solutions Marketplace, with 60,000 square feet of exhibits, was filled with attendees and vendors engaging in discussions and education about the products and services on offer. The ODA made the decision this year to re-focus this element of the ODC; naming the space the Solutions Marketplace instead of an "exhibit hall" emphasized that attendees could expect to find vendors who focused on the dental industry and its unique challenges.

#### A conference for a new generation

Meeting attendees came from all age groups, all dental professions and all communities in Oregon, and the number of new faces in the crowd was striking.

Ariel James of Portland was navigating the conference with Kelli Jameson of Kelso and Tracy Lefebvre of Hillsboro. The three dental assistant students at Concorde Career College attended the meeting for the first time and chose the sessions they wanted to attend as a group. "It's a very exciting experience to do together and bond together," said Lefebvre. In addition, they were effusive about the CE session they attended on Thursday, "Hot Stuff: The Dangers of Oral Inflammation," connecting chronic inflammation in the body to the mouth.

Another first-time attendee, **Lauren Smith**, **DMD**, of Grants Pass is a first-year dentist and planned to attend the Friday afternoon reception just for that group. She had attended conferences like the ODC as a dental student in California and saw the ODC as an opportunity to engage with the dental community in Oregon. Dr. Smith said attending the conference gave her a "larger sense of community on a broader scale, and I'm excited to get involved."

Sara Tapia-Guillen, Kihei Castillo, Edgar Dominguez and Brenda Marroquin attended the ODC as administrators in





the Pacific University dental hygiene program. They staffed one of 32 courtesy tables outside the exhibit hall, gathered job postings for their students, and told attendees about the hygiene clinic they run serving children and adults from the mostly Hispanic, underserved community in Hillsboro. The group also attended to support their students, to connect with alumni, and experience the CE for their own purposes. Tapia-Guillen, the manager of dental services at the clinic, appreciated that courses were tracked for different dental professionals, so that their team could see what other clinics are doing across a range of issues.

#### Attendance is a great tradition

As friends old and new took time to catch up or plan their conference strategy together, the hallways were filled with lots of laughter and hugs.

Jody Perkins, RDH, from Sutherlin was chatting in the main hallway with Joanne Wimpy, RDH, and Teresa Ficken, RDH, from Warrenton. The three hugged each other and recalled that they have attended the conference for more than 25 years and have known each other since they were together in school at Lane Community College. They attend the conference each year for face-to-face education and new products but were quick to volunteer that they come for the friendship and socializing, too. "We run into people we knew from school," said Perkins, "and it's important to support our association."

Jack Rocheld, DDS, is a retired member from Eugene and a long-standing member of the Annual Meeting Council. He was on hand during the opening reception to give attendees their maps for the culinary "tour" of the Pacific Northwest throughout the Solutions Marketplace during the Grand Opening Reception. He has attended the meetings since 1980 and said that the ODC is a great value because there is something for everyone on the schedule. Through the ODA's Partner Group relationships with affiliated dental organizations, a collaborative program with all dental professionals in mind is created, each adding insight and speaker selections to the ODC schedule.

















Though Dr. Rocheld has retired from active practice, he stays involved because "the ODA has been very good to me, and this is a way of giving back," he said.

#### Team building, and bonding

**Darren Huddleston, DMD**, from Grants Pass brought Kelsey Curtis, EFDA, DeAnn Bethke, EFDA, Joanna Guerra, RDH, and Tina Miller from his practice. They sat together at the General Session on Friday morning, which featured speaker Tim Gard. The enthusiastic audience of attendees listened as Gard compared working life to being on stage and encouraged attendees to make sure they were also living *off stage* and nurturing the rest of their lives to make sure they bring their best selves to work. The lively session earned laughter and cheers from the large audience.

Dr. Huddleston's staff appreciated the opportunity to attend the ODC. DeAnn Bethke said, "It is awesome to get to know your colleagues outside the office." Guerra echoed her colleague's thoughts, adding that in the words of Tim Gard, attending the meeting together is part of life "off stage" since they were together outside the office. Tina Miller agreed, and said colleagues in an office are like a family away from family; coming to the ODC together helped to build that bond.

The group from Grants Pass said how lucky they felt to be there and noted that not all offices give people time off for the whole conference to come together. Dr. Huddleston









explained the value of investing in group attendance for the whole conference lies in shared learning and bonding. "We have to be happy with ourselves to be able to have a strong practice," he said.

**Chun-Han Chou, DDS**, of Medford is a periodontist who brought several staff members to the ODC. For Cheryl Kline, CDA, and **Brianna Gowland**, it was their first time attending the ODC. Dr. Chou said he was pleased to bring his staff because the meeting is convenient, affordable and the right size for a great experience. "It's very accessible, with high-quality, great content. It's a great venue, not hard to get around. You don't get lost," Dr. Chou said. He tries to bring at least two people from his practice each year.

As employees who are newer to the profession, Dr. Chou's team noted that it was great to interact with others facing the same challenges in their work. "You get a sense of belonging to a larger professional community," Gowland said. By attending the ODC together, Dr. Chou's team learned about the importance of the team dynamic, working together, and laughing together.

The ODC continues to be a unique event for the Oregon community. At this year's event, any attendee could grow, learn and connect, all in a fun atmosphere that welcomed meaningful engagement. The ODC offered a great chance to support their professional communities as a whole, and each other.















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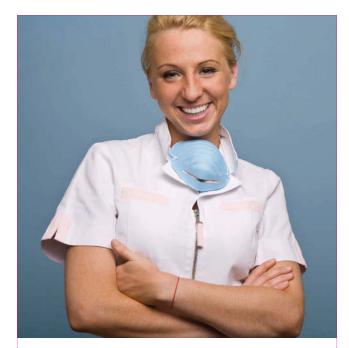
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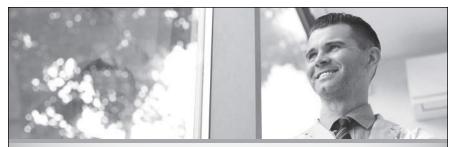
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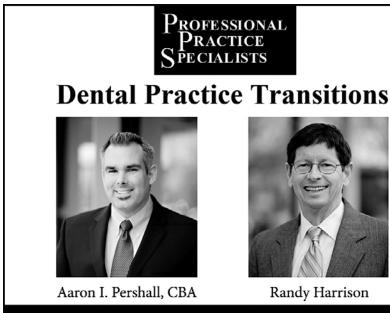
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