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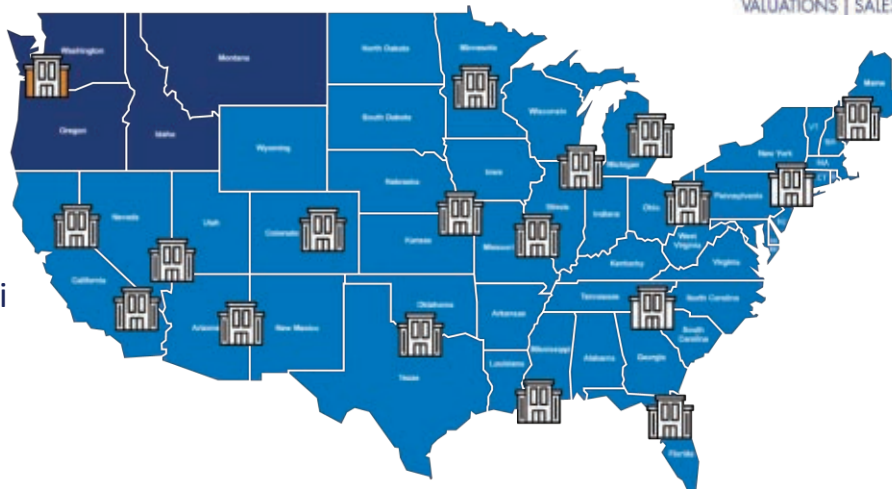
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PUBLISHED AUGUST 2026/ODA-K0726 *Membership Matters* (ISSN 1082-4111) (USPS-905060) is published monthly (except January, July and October) by the Oregon Dental Association, 8699 SW Sun PI, Wilsonville, OR 97070. All statements of opinion and of alleged fact are published on the authority of the writer under whose name they appear and are not to be regarded as the views of the ODA or its subsidiaries or affiliates. Subscription to *Membership Matters* is a member benefit of the Oregon Dental Association. The annual subscription rate for nonmembers is \$40. Single copies may be purchased for \$5 each.

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Periodicals postage paid at Wilsonville, Oregon, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes and all correspondence to: 8699 SW Sun PI, Wilsonville, OR 97070; 503-218-2010 or 800-452-5628 (toll-free in Oregon).

Published by  **NAYLOR** 550 SW 2nd Avenue, Suite 200, Gainesville, FL 32601, Tel: 800-369-6220 www.naylor.com, **Publisher** Kimberly Hough
Editor Russell Underwood **Layout and Design** Mahender Veer

COVER IMAGE: ODA MEMBERS & STAFF

Women In Leadership – Modeling The Way



By Alayna Schoblaske,
ODA Editor

DENTISTRY IS UNDERGOING A SIGNIFICANT DEMOGRAPHIC

SHIFT. Data from the American Dental Association Health Policy Institute (HPI) show that women represented 34.5% of the U.S. dentist workforce in 2020, and project that the profession will reach gender parity by 2040.¹

This shift is already visible in dental schools. In 2025-26, women represented 56.4% of dental school graduates, a remarkable change from 1985, when women accounted for just 21.3% of graduates.²

At the Oregon Dental Association, we have seen an upward trend in women leaders. Our Immediate Past President (Dr. Caroline Zeller), President (Dr. Amberena Fairlee), President-Elect (Dr. Julie Spaniel), and Speaker (Dr. Jossi Stokes) are all women – the first time this has happened in ODA history.

This matters because research across organizational behavior and volunteer engagement consistently demonstrates that people are

more likely to participate, build connections, and develop a sense of belonging when they see themselves reflected in leadership. Representation creates pathways for future involvement. Within dentistry, visible leadership has also been shown to reinforce professional identity and encourage advancement opportunities for emerging leaders.³

As associations across the country work to address changing membership patterns, creating communities that reflect and engage their members has become increasingly important. Organizations that intentionally cultivate inclusive leadership are better positioned to foster mentorship, strengthen member connection, and remain relevant to the next generation of professionals.¹

Later in this issue, on page 14, we have highlighted some of our women leaders and asked them to reflect on their leadership. I'll kick things off by sharing some of my personal reflections below.

What inspired you to pursue a career in dentistry, and how did your experience as a woman shape that journey?

I was originally inspired to pursue dentistry by my childhood orthodontist, Dr. Terry Dischinger. As I further explored the field, though, I realized that general dentistry was the best fit for me. Before dental school, I worked with teachers that taught in underserved communities. Those

teachers, when they knew I was interested in dentistry, often asked where they could direct their students for reduced-cost dental care because they saw the impact of tooth pain on their learning. This inspired me to be a part of the network of providers that care for these kids. ADA Health Policy Institute research shows that female dentists have higher participation in Medicaid than male dentists, and I fall into this category. I work in a federally qualified health center, and about 70% of my patients are covered by the Oregon Health Plan.

Did you have any women that mentored you? What did you learn from them?

I have been mentored by many women, both within dentistry and beyond it. Before dental school, I shadowed Dr. Kristine Aadland's office and she showed me how fun and welcoming an all-woman team can be. My mom, Ann Schoblaske, who is a teacher, showed me the power of education to enhance my practice. My former boss, Lacey Pittman-Tomanek, taught me the importance of a strong vision and cemented my desire to serve traditionally underserved communities. My classmates, Dr. Amberena Fairlee and Dr. Britta Martinez, taught me grit, passion, and dedication. Former ADA President, Dr. Linda Edgar, showed me that there is a place for women at every level of leadership in organized dentistry – and made sure I had a role. My boss,

Dr. Amy Fine, has taught me so much about communication and clarity. And each of these women have rooted for me and helped shape the type of dentist and person I am.

Every leader is unique. What experiences and perspectives do you bring to your leadership role?

My most recent experience is that of becoming a mother. My son, Conner, was born in February 2026 and I am learning what it means to be a mom alongside being a dentist, volunteer, and leader. So far, it means that every moment is much more precious and I am prioritizing

efficiency and effectiveness in my dental commitments so I can spend quality time with my husband and Conner. It also means that I have even more passion for educating pregnant people about the impacts of oral health on pregnancy and newborn babies – this is work that I did before having Conner, and now I have the first-hand experience to back it up!

We are seeing more women enter dental school. Do you think our profession will change because of the change in gender demographics? If so, how?

I do. As I mentioned earlier, female dentists also have higher participation in Medicaid than male dentists. I hope we see increased participation in Medicaid as well as more advocacy for a sustainable comprehensive Medicaid dental benefit in every state. 📍

References:

1. American Dental Association Health Policy Institute. *Women make up growing percentage of dental workforce* (2021).
2. American Dental Association Health Policy Institute. *Dental Education Program Enrollment and Graduates Report, 2025–26*.
3. Academy of General Dentistry. *Six AGD Leaders Discuss the Influence of Women in Dentistry*, March 9, 2026.

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Board of Trustees May 2026 Meeting Highlights

- The Annual Business Meeting will be held on October 3, 2026, as a two-hour working lunch on Saturday of the Regional Event.
- The bylaws will be revised as follows: remove all references to “immediate past president” in Section 7.01A; update Section 7.01C to replace “immediate past president” with “current president”; and remove the reference to “editor” in Section 7.01E.
- Jessica Yoder from McDonald Jacobs gave a Financial Statement Review.
- The board approved that the ODA Student Leadership Award will be open to all fourth-year OHSU dental students. All eligible candidates are required to submit an application and curriculum vitae by April 1 of each year.
- Dr. Travis Baskerville was elected to the Regulatory Affairs Council for a three-year term, which will begin immediately and will end at the 2028 Annual Business Meeting. He will be eligible for a second term. 🗳️

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Reflecting the Future: ODA Women Leaders in Dentistry

FEATURE

By Melissa Juenger, ODA Membership and Communications Director

THE OREGON DENTAL ASSOCIATION IS FORTUNATE TO

have a strong and diverse group of volunteer leaders helping shape the future of organized dentistry. Their leadership not only reflects where the profession is today, it helps create opportunities for those who will follow.

At the Oregon Dental Association, leadership is already reflecting the changing face of the profession. Internal ODA data show that women currently serve in 28 of the association's 62 volunteer leadership positions. These leaders range in age from 28 to 67 and represent every practice modality, bringing a broad range of experiences and perspectives to organized dentistry.

This month, we invited ODA's current women leaders to share their perspectives, experiences, and insights on women in dentistry. Check out Dr. Schoblaske's editorial on page 4 & 5 for her answers, too.



Dr. Amberena Fairlee, ODA President

Every leader is unique. What experiences and perspectives do you bring to your leadership role?

My experiences as a woman have definitely formed my leadership style. I think society has programmed so many people to see male leaders as pillars of authority first and foremost. In my experience, authority doesn't necessarily lay the groundwork for trust. As a leader, I've tried to use humility and kindness to gain trust. Once trust is established, I can use my other leadership skills (decisiveness, flexibility, optimism) to allow the team to grow. Being a mother of three has really just enhanced my humility and flexibility and developed my patience.

We are seeing more women enter dental school. Do you think our profession will change



because of the change in gender demographics? If so, how?

Having more women in the profession can only change it for the better. Female healthcare providers have been proven to give their patients better health outcomes. I think having more female dentists in the field will ultimately lead to more flexible work environments because those dentists know the invisible workload that many women carry outside of their jobs. The majority of dental team members are women. With women often carrying a heavier domestic burden, having more flexibility from dentists will likely increase dental team member satisfaction, which is good for the profession as a whole.

What advice would you give to young women considering a career in dentistry today?

I would encourage any young woman to consider a career in dentistry, but I would also encourage them to enter the career mindfully. The debt-load that comes with becoming a dentist is massive, and working with patients or team members is not always gratifying. However, you can be in a flexible career with comfortable pay, you can work with your hands and make functional art, you can get people out of pain, you can help people overcome fear, and you can help your community. I love what I do, and I think other women would too.

What is your “why” for volunteering in a leadership role for the ODA?

I believe that people don't want to be a part of something if they don't see people like them in leadership positions. As a young enthusiastic woman, I want to be a beacon for other young women to advocate for their own profession. With the ODA, I'm able to fight for causes that directly affect dentists and their ability to practice. I'm able to build connections with other dentists that inspire positivity in the field. I want people to know that leadership can fit into a busy schedule and can be such a gratifying addition to the clinical work we're already doing.

Dr. Erika Smith, ODA Leadership Development Committee

My interest in dentistry began in high school. When I first expressed that goal, I was fortunate to have supportive people around me, even though most were not in the dental field. My mom, in particular, was a constant source of encouragement through the ups and downs. As a dietitian, she always encouraged my siblings and me to pursue education and choose work we enjoyed. Although she did not know exactly



how to guide me toward dentistry, she shared my excitement and helped me keep going. Much of my determination and perseverance came from her example. She was empathetic, supportive, and steady, even when she did not fully understand what I was experiencing. I believe those qualities are part of what women bring to leadership: the ability to recognize others' needs, listen carefully, consider multiple perspectives, and support people in meaningful ways. Those same qualities are essential in dental care. Many patients are working to improve their health, confidence, smile, and oral health. When we approach them with understanding and encouragement, they are more likely to believe they can make positive changes. They feel supported rather than judged, seen and heard rather than overlooked, and partnered with someone who cares about them as people – not just about their teeth.

From the start of dental school and continuing up to now, I have been fortunate to learn from many strong role models and to build meaningful friendships through my involvement in the ODA and leadership. These relationships have helped me navigate my career and deepen my appreciation for the profession. Dentistry has been incredibly rewarding, and I would strongly recommend it to anyone considering this path. As a unique part of medicine, dentistry needs caring, compassionate providers, and women bring an important ability to offer that support to patients and colleagues alike. I am so happy that more women are considering dentistry as a career option and are entering dental schools. When I first started practicing there were many times when a patient remarked that “they had never had a female dentist before.” That happens less now

and I have had patients request female providers. I believe women are already making so many positive changes to the dental profession and this is just the beginning.

Dr. Julie Spaniel, ODA President-Elect

What inspired you to pursue a career in dentistry, and how did your experience as a woman shape that journey?

I did not initially plan to pursue a career in dentistry. As an undergraduate, I was a pre-med student and fully expected to attend medical school. During that time, I had the opportunity to shadow a friend during her emergency medicine rotation. While I found medicine fascinating, I realized that I wanted a career that would allow me to make a meaningful impact on patients' lives while also providing greater balance.

Dentistry offered exactly that. I was drawn to the ability to build long-term relationships with patients, own and lead my own business, maintain a more reasonable on-call schedule, and create a career that could coexist with my personal goals, including having a family. It was a profession that combined science, artistry, entrepreneurship, and patient care in a way that truly resonated with me.



Leadership is not about having all the answers. It taught me humility, resilience, and the importance of listening to others and seeking diverse perspectives. — Dr. Julie Spaniel

My experience as a woman also shaped my journey. When I entered dental school, women represented only a small percentage of the class. Patients were overwhelmingly receptive and supportive, but there were times when it felt as though some instructors held the few women in the program to a different standard or were particularly tough on us. Those experiences challenged me to develop confidence, resilience, and determination.

Did you have any women that mentored you? What did you learn from them?

Yes, absolutely. One of the most influential mentors in my life was Dr. LeeAnn Podruch, the woman from whom I purchased my first dental practice. I bought that practice when I was only 28 years old and just three years out of dental school. As a young dentist and first-time business owner, I had a lot to learn, and her guidance was invaluable.

She taught me the importance of focusing on the day in front of me rather than becoming overwhelmed by the challenges of owning a practice. She emphasized building genuine relationships with patients, taking the time to know them as individuals, and understanding that trust and connection are at the heart of excellent dental care. Those lessons shaped the way I have practiced dentistry throughout my career.

Over the past 30 years, I have been fortunate to learn from many mentors through professional organizations, like the ODA and private practice networks. What began as professional

relationships evolved into lasting friendships. These mentors taught me not only how to be a better business owner and clinician, but also how to lead, serve my community, and support the next generation of dentists. Their influence has been one of the greatest gifts of my career.

Every leader is unique. What experiences and perspectives do you bring to your leadership role?

I believe we learn far more from our challenges than from our successes. Over my 35 years in dentistry, I built and grew a large dental practice while raising four children and managing the many demands of family, business ownership, and leadership. About ten years into my career, I found myself relying on alcohol to cope with the stress and pressure. Acknowledging my problem, asking for help, and committing to recovery was one of the most difficult experiences of my life, but it ultimately became one of the most transformative.

That journey changed the way I lead. Dentistry can be an isolating profession, and I learned that none of us are meant to navigate life's challenges alone. Recovery taught me that vulnerability is not weakness, that asking for help requires courage, and that leadership is not about having all the answers. It taught me humility, resilience, and the importance of listening to others and seeking diverse perspectives.

As a leader, I now lead with greater empathy and compassion because I understand that everyone is carrying challenges we may not see. I strive to create environments where people feel heard, valued, and supported.

Most importantly, I believe in lifting others as I rise. The people who helped me through my struggles changed my life, and I view leadership as an opportunity to extend that same support, encouragement, and sense of belonging to others.

What makes women great leaders?

Women are exceptional leaders because they often lead through collaboration rather than hierarchy, focusing on relationships, communication, and building consensus. They tend to create environments where people feel heard, valued, and empowered to contribute, which fosters trust, engagement, and stronger teams.

Women also bring a high degree of emotional intelligence to leadership. They are often skilled at listening, understanding different perspectives, and navigating complex interpersonal dynamics. These qualities allow them to connect authentically with others, make thoughtful decisions, and lead with both confidence and compassion.

Perhaps most importantly, women frequently view leadership as an opportunity to serve rather than to direct. They invest in developing others, mentoring future leaders, and creating opportunities for those around them to succeed. By leading with empathy, inclusion, resilience, and a commitment to lifting others, women help build stronger organizations, professions, and communities.

We are seeing more women enter dental school. Do you think our profession will change

because of the change in gender demographics? If so, how?

As more women enter dentistry, I believe the profession will continue to evolve in positive and meaningful ways. While great dentists and leaders come from all backgrounds, the increasing presence of women brings a broader range of perspectives, experiences, and leadership styles to our profession. Diversity in thought leads to better decision-making, stronger organizations, and a profession that is more responsive to the needs of both patients and practitioners.

I believe we will continue to see greater emphasis on collaboration, communication, mentorship, and work-life integration. Women have helped broaden the conversation around professional well-being, family responsibilities, leadership development, and creating sustainable careers. These are not just women's issues – they are issues that benefit the entire profession.

Most importantly, as more women assume leadership roles in organized dentistry, education, and private practice, future generations of dentists will see a profession that is more inclusive and representative of the communities we serve. The result will be a stronger profession that values diverse perspectives, supports its members more effectively, and continues to put patient relationships and quality care at the center of what we do.

What advice would you give to young women considering a career in dentistry today?

My advice to young women considering dentistry is to be confident in your abilities, seek out mentors, and never be afraid to ask for help. Dentistry is an incredibly rewarding profession that offers the opportunity to combine science,

artistry, entrepreneurship, and service while making a meaningful difference in people's lives.

I would also encourage them to remember that there is no such thing as a perfect career path. There will be challenges, setbacks, and moments of self-doubt, but those experiences often become our greatest teachers. Growth comes from navigating difficulties, learning from mistakes, and continuing to move forward with resilience and humility.

Finally, build your community early. Get involved and meet your colleagues. Dentistry can be demanding, and no one succeeds alone. Surround yourself with mentors, colleagues, and friends who will support and challenge you. Invest in relationships, continue learning throughout your career, and look for opportunities to help others along the way. The most fulfilling careers are not measured solely by professional success, but by the lives you impact and the people you bring with you on the journey.

What is your “why” for volunteering in a leadership role for the ODA?

My “why” for volunteering in a leadership role at the ODA is simple: I care deeply about the future of our profession and the people within it. After many years in dentistry and leadership, it is both an honor and a privilege to serve my colleagues and give back to a profession that has given me so much.

Leadership within the ODA provides an opportunity to make a meaningful impact beyond my own practice. It allows me to advocate for dentists and patients, influence issues that affect the sustainability of private practice, including insurance reimbursement, and help shape the policies and

governance that will guide our profession into the future. It also provides a platform for mentoring and supporting early-career dentists as they navigate the challenges and opportunities of practice ownership and professional growth.

I also believe strong organizations require a wide variety of voices at the leadership table. Different experiences, perspectives, and backgrounds lead to better decisions and stronger outcomes. My goal is to listen, collaborate, and help ensure that all members feel represented. Ultimately, my motivation is service – to contribute to a profession I love, support my colleagues, and help leave dentistry stronger for the next generation than it was when I entered it.

Dr. Jossi Stokes, ODA Speaker

What inspired you to pursue a career in dentistry, and how did your experience as a woman shape that journey?

Science has always been an interest and passion. So has creating things with an artistic flair. Dentistry seemed to be a way to combine the two together.



Did you have any women that mentored you? What did you learn from them?

I entered dentistry just as it was turning the tide of a male-dominated profession. I was not aware of many female dentists while I was growing up. But I made a tight-knit group of girlfriends in dental school, and we mentor each other – even 25 years later!

Every leader is unique. What experiences and perspectives do you bring to your leadership role?

At this point, wisdom. Yes, I am lumping myself into the “old” category. But my goal is to bring dedication, empathy, and excellence with a steady measure of humility to everything I am involved in.

What makes women great leaders?

I think it is more about leaders sustaining leaders. When you can relate to a leader, it cultivates thoughts of “if she can do it, so can I.”

We are seeing more women enter dental school. Do you think our profession will change because of the change in gender demographics? If so, how?

I think we are already seeing changes. With more women in the industry and the balance of work-life taking center stage, many dentists are making decisions to work part-time. It is part of the reason we are seeing shortages in the industry.

What advice would you give to young women considering a career in dentistry today?

If you love it, do it. Whatever you choose, do it for the love of it. Life is too short to “just get a job.” Dentistry has an added bonus of opening a lot of doors to so many careers. There is no normal path anymore.

What is your “why” for volunteering in a leadership role for the ODA?

Once you have your feet firmly planted on the ground of daily dentistry (whatever that looks like for you), life can get mundane. Volunteering will award you so much more than what you give. You will find people who raise your standards, remind you of your essential purpose and challenge you to become the best version of yourself. At least that is why I do it.

Dr. Kim Wright, ODA Wellness Ambassador

Every leader is unique. What experiences and perspectives do you bring to your leadership role?

I am someone who just gets stuff done, the person every chair wants on their committee. Honestly, since I am this kind of person having a leadership role especially as the President of an organization where your job is to facilitate and bring a group to consensus is very different from my native skill set. I have been working more to develop these skills and make that second nature. This is what can make anyone's leadership journey interesting and helps you grow as a leader in many different ways.



We are seeing more women enter dental school. Do you think our profession will change because of the change in gender demographics? If so, how?

I think women choose dentistry because it can be an extremely rewarding profession and allow flexibility in your life. Many women have a two-income household which changes the dynamics on how much you may need to work to create balance in life. The other reality is that many of the household and child rearing responsibilities fall more onto moms than their partners. This often creates an internal conflict about serving the profession in a leadership role. For me, all this was true, but working for the greater good filled my bucket and always re-energized me. The people I have met along the way made all these choices we make worthwhile.

What advice would you give to young women considering a career in dentistry today?

There is a lot of negativity out there around being a dentist. However, it is a career that is both art and science and you CAN make your own way with a very positive outcome. There are employment opportunities if that is what you desire, teaching, research, and then the staple of our profession to own your own practice (or 2). Whatever your path you must make it yours to fit your lifestyle, goals, and vision for your future. Now many will say you just have to grind through the early years to pay your loans, and that is a fact. However, there is a light at the end of that tunnel for most everyone. Keep your eye on the long game, create your vision early and just begin taking the steps to create what you want, it is possible, but not without some hard work. Take care of yourself so that you can accomplish your dreams. ●

Join the ODA's Legislative Action Team!

There has never been a more important time to advocate for dentistry and get involved in the legislative process!

The ODA's professional lobby team represents the dental industry in Salem and Washington D.C., but there is no substitute for the voices of those working with patients and running dental offices every day and who can advocate for patients' rights.

Legislators want to hear from those with firsthand experience in dentistry, which is why we need YOU to sign up and get involved with our Legislative Action Team!

What does it mean to join the ODA Legislative Action Team?

Signing up means you'll be added to our list of advocates we may call upon when we need dentists to speak on behalf of the industry.

What might I be asked to do as a member of the ODA Legislative Action Team?

Advocacy can take many forms, depending on your comfort level, experience and expertise. You may be invited to:

- Write a letter to your legislators
- Call your legislator's office to urge them to vote on a bill
- Submit an op-ed for a local publication
- Attend a meeting with a legislator
- Attend Dental Day at the Capitol in Salem
- Testify in a legislative committee
- Attend a fundraiser on behalf of ODA's political action committee: DOPAC
- Fly to Washington, D.C. with dental advocates from across the country to advocate for dental priorities

How do I sign up?

Email Brett Hamilton, ODA's Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs, at bhamilton@oregondental.org.



oregon dental
ASSOCIATION

Outreach, Education about Link between Oral and Heart Health Continues to Gain Momentum

WELLNESS

By Melody Finnemore

FOR OLESYA SALATHE, DMD, THE LINK BETWEEN oral health and heart health is personal. In 2019, her mother had a heart attack when she was just in her 50s.

“Looking back, she always had risk factors like cardiovascular disease in her family. She’s now diagnosed with early-onset dementia and Alzheimer’s, and she also had periodontal disease. She’s actually got full dentures now,” she said.

Dr. Salathe already was aware of the link between oral health and heart disease from her training as a dental student and 16 years of practice. As the owner and operator of Salathe Dental in West Linn and The Dentist Off Main in Molalla, she works to educate her patients about how to treat – and better yet, prevent – periodontal disease.

Since the 2012 publication of the American Heart Association’s scientific statement on the connection between periodontal disease and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD), the body of literature on the topic has grown substantially. ASCVD is the most common cause of death globally, and in the United States heart disease and strokes cause more deaths each year than cancer and chronic lower respiratory diseases combined.

Research has shown that the associations between ASCVD and periodontal disease include bacteremia, vascular infection and systemic inflammation. Periodontal disease is among several factors that contribute to chronic systemic inflammation, as oral bacteria and periodontal inflammatory markers enter the bloodstream. Gum

disease is linked to a higher risk for heart and blood vessel disease and high blood pressure.

In fact, individuals with periodontal disease face a 28 percent higher likelihood of developing cardiovascular conditions, according to the American Heart Association. Of adults age 30 or older, 42 percent have gum disease. Nearly half of U.S. adults, 122.4 million, have high blood pressure, and 56.3 percent of those who have been diagnosed with it have uncontrolled hypertension. Another 57.8 million people with uncontrolled blood pressure are not even aware of it.

Treating gum disease improves endothelial function and reduces systemic inflammation, highlighting the need to integrate oral health into cardiovascular prevention. By promoting oral hygiene and early periodontal care, dental professionals can help reduce cardiovascular risk for the general population, the American Heart Association states.

Noting that dental professionals are in a unique position to detect early signs of systemic disease symptoms such as elevated blood pressure, the American Heart Association has partnered with Delta Dental to launch the Healthy Smiles, Healthy Hearts campaign in an effort to help patients, dental care teams and primary care teams better understand and address the connection between oral and heart health.

The initiative encourages dental professionals to turn every patient visit into a complete health check, given that 29 million people have a dental visit but not a medical check-up every year. By adding routine blood pressure

checks, dental teams can identify elevated readings early and connect patients to timely follow-up care.

The campaign provides an interactive e-module titled “The Cardiovascular-Oral Systemic Link” to inform providers about best practices for interdisciplinary collaboration between dental and primary care teams and when to refer patients for medical follow-up. CE credits are available for dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants as well as physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners and physician associates.

Healthy Smiles, Healthy Hearts also offers a standardized process for blood pressure screening through a series of vodcasts, and guidance on how to educate patients about their blood pressure readings and what they mean for cardiovascular health. CE credits are available for participating in the vodcasts as well.

“The recommendations for how to take a person’s blood pressure are really important because it’s often done in a dental chair with the patient leaning back when they should be sitting up with their feet on the floor,” Dr. Salathe said. “It also includes a list of approved blood pressure devices that are more accurate than one you might get on Amazon.”

In addition, the Healthy Smiles, Healthy Hearts webpage provides ready-to-print resources in English and Spanish to explain the oral and heart health connection to patients, including a poster and other materials that can be displayed in waiting areas and treatment rooms.

By adding medical screenings to dental settings, anywhere from \$42 million to \$102 million could be saved each year. That is an average of \$33 per patient who has been screened and referred, the American Heart Association estimates.

Dr. Salathe has signed her practices up to be Healthy Smiles, Healthy Hearts champions, just one of several actions she is taking to educate patients and dental professionals alike about the oral and heart health connection. (See callout box)

"I'm really excited to see this forward progress movement, and even just that recognition that healthy smiles mean healthy hearts as well. I do believe we need more dental offices to take action and speak up about oral health and heart awareness," she said.

For more information about Healthy Smiles, Healthy Hearts resources, please visit <https://professional.heart.org/en/education/healthy-smiles-healthy-hearts-for-professionals>. 📺

https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/10.1161/CIR.0000000000001390?__cf_chl_f_tk=QjX0GgNKIICh1LvBQwYpPVv.eyJXbY1N.okiSXvdu0U-1783374370-1.0.1.1-Gi6n1fB3a7GCONEQ.9iQUO7.cBxIToRr0.RiJXKDSqE
https://www.heart.org/en/-/media/Files/Health-Topics/Oral-Health/Oral-Heart-Connection-Guide.pdf?sc_lang=en
<https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/oral-health/about-healthy-smiles-healthy-hearts>

Dr. Olesya Salathe Promotes Oral-Heart Health Connection Through National Leadership Role

Dr. Olesya Salathe's efforts to educate patients and dental professionals alike about the connection between oral health and heart health includes serving on the leadership team for the Go Red for Women campaign.

Initiated in 2004, the American Heart Association's signature campaign addresses the awareness and clinical care of cardiovascular disease, the greatest threat to women's health. Nearly 45 percent of women age 20 and older are living with some form of cardiovascular disease, and less than half of women entering pregnancy in the U.S. have optimal cardiovascular health, according to the American Heart Association.

"From our teen years to our pre- and post-menopausal years, we all have slightly different risk factors during those times of our life and we present with different systems," Dr. Salathe said.

"Women are up to 27 percent less likely to receive CPR just because of our anatomy. People are less likely to get involved, especially in public."

Dr. Salathe said she joined the executive leadership team for the



Go Red for Women campaign as part of her efforts to educate people about the connection between oral health and heart health. She also signed her practices in West Linn and Molalla up as Champions of Change, which recognizes offices in implementing integrated oral and

cardiovascular assessment and education systems.

This September, Dr. Salathe will help organize a fundraising luncheon that invites women to get involved in the campaign and introduces them to the American Heart Association's Healthy Smiles, Healthy Hearts initiative as well.

A New Era and New Dates for the ODC

By Elizabeth Sasse, DDS



ABOUT A DECADE AGO, I WAS AT

a hands-on CE learning how to use this “new, revolutionary” one-file endo system. The reps assured us it would only take one file to complete a root canal. The dentist sitting next to me leaned over and whispered to me, “Next thing you know, they’re going to tell us we’re not doing extension for prevention anymore.”

“...We’re not,” I replied. In fact, the technique of extending filling preparations into noncarious grooves to “prevent future caries” had been discouraged for many years.

In that moment it became crystal clear to me why continuing education and peer networking among dentists is so important. Our profession is advancing at an accelerated rate, and to avoid using outmoded or disproven techniques, it is absolutely necessary to keep up on continuing education and talk to other docs about what they’re doing in their practices. The Oregon Dental Conference (ODC) is an invaluable resource for exactly these activities.

As the recently elected Chair of the ODA Annual Meeting Committee (AMC), which plans the ODC, I am so happy to bring you news of the continuing improvements to our conference. Dr. Todd Carris, our outgoing AMC president and current committee member, and Alisha Santoyo, ODC Director of Education and Events and all-around meeting planning rockstar, have put us in the perfect position for

continued growth. Our priority is to create the best possible experience for our attendees, and we have heard your feedback loud and clear. Yes, we actually read everything written on those evaluation forms! We are focusing on three things: meeting dates, speaker quality, and exhibitors.

Meeting Dates

“I need all these hours of CE to renew my license, but the ODC always happens after the license renewal period – what gives?” Many factors went into the previous decision to hold the ODC in April, including the availability of the Oregon Convention Center. Their calendar is determined many years in advance, and we are intentional about the dates we request so that our best speakers, exhibitors, and attendees can fully engage without competing commitments. **The 2027 ODC will be held April 29th-May 1st, 2027.** However, starting in 2028, we will be holding the ODC in March to allow us all to get our required hours in before license renewal is due.

Speaker Quality

The AMC has a new position this year: Vice Chair of Scientific Programming. Dr. Yashar Sekhvatmandi has stepped up to be the first to hold the position. The AMC is focusing on scouting other conferences for excellent speakers this coming year, and Dr. Sekhvatmandi will be spearheading and organizing

our scouting results to assure we are bringing you the best speakers from around the country. We are also working with outside organizations to identify and attract top-quality talent. The feedback we receive from attendees and conversations with a variety of dental professionals help us select relevant, exciting topics. We have recently had big names like Gordon Christiansen (ODC 2025) and rising stars like Ashley Kear (ODC 2026), and the lineup for 2027 will be more impressive than ever.

Exhibitors

We have reestablished many of our exhibitor relationships from prior to 2020. Dental suppliers, oral hygiene product companies, AI companies, equipment manufacturers, staffing agencies, and more have all returned to our exhibit hall and have committed to returning next year. We have plans to keep the exhibit hall experience fresh and exciting throughout the ODC.

The AMC is fully engaged with making the ODC the first choice for continuing education and camaraderie for our vibrant community of dental professionals. We are creating a space for us to reconnect with our colleagues, learn new skills, and have fun as only dental folks can. Our committee is tackling numerous other improvements such as streamlining the check-in process, making finding your classes easier, and providing exciting after-hours events. I am so excited to help bring this vision to life next year. We are listening and we are working hard to ensure that your 2027 ODC experience keeps you coming back year after year. ●



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Dr. Lisa Bozzetti Brings Creative Solutions to Modern Dentistry Challenges

By Jennifer Sitton

DR. LISA BOZZETTI'S INTEREST IN DENTISTRY MAY have stemmed from a traumatic dental injury when she was a child, but after two decades in the industry – including 18 years working as a public health dental director – her passion has shifted today to focusing on how dental practices can support the whole health of their patients.

Introduction to Dentistry Through Oral Trauma

Growing up in Southern California, Dr. Bozzetti didn't have any dental ties. Her father was a physician, but her first introduction to dentistry came as the result of a T-ball incident when she was 12 years old.

"A friend of mine was getting ready to swing the bat at the ball

and I kept encouraging her to swing it harder," said Dr. Bozzetti. "She did. And just as she swung the bat, I happened to walk behind her, and the bat struck me right across my front teeth."

Dr. Bozzetti had braces at the time, which helped protect her teeth, but ended up receiving care from an ER dentist and a number of local dental schools that offered second and third opinions.

"Everywhere I went, they took me and showed me the dental lab and I was fascinated by it all," said Dr. Bozzetti. She later planned to build on her love of science by earning a PhD in neuroscience but ultimately pivoted and chose dentistry, deciding the lifestyle of a research scientist wasn't for her.

Expanding her Skills in the Pacific Northwest

After graduating from dental school, she joined many of her classmates in moving to the Pacific Northwest, where full-time jobs were more readily available. Her first job out of dental school was at La Clinica Del Carino, which is now One Community Health, a community health center in Hood River. She later moved closer to Portland and took a position at Willamette Dental Group, where she was able to get a lot of hands-on experience working with patients in a more fast-paced environment.

"That's the place where I increased my speed, felt greater comfort treating more complex patients, and learned to practice a broader scope of dentistry," said Dr. Bozzetti,



DR. BOZZETTI



Dr. Lisa Bozzetti
Dental Director
Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center

who was promoted to the position of Managing Dentist after just a few years. “I am grateful for the opportunity to learn management skills at Willamette Dental. Because of that, I was well-positioned to take on the Dental Director position at Virginia Garcia.”

Dr. Bozzetti says she was originally encouraged to apply for the Dental Director role at Virginia Garcia by her co-worker and colleague Dr. Mike Plunkett, who was being recruited for the job, but felt that it wasn’t the right timing for him.

“I remember at the time I wasn’t sure if it was something I was interested in, but my now husband suggested I at least interview for the role and I discovered I really wanted it. The mission of the organization aligned with my own values, and I found myself excited about the role,” said Dr. Bozzetti. “The organization had recently expanded from one dental clinic to three, so they needed the right person to help them through that expansion.”

Finding a Home in Public Health

Dr. Bozzetti says that she didn’t necessarily set out to find a position in public health but knew that the traditional private practice dental office wasn’t the right fit for her.

“I was one of those dentists who didn’t know where I was going to find

myself in dentistry because private practice didn’t necessarily appeal to me,” said Dr. Bozzetti. “In dental school, we mostly learned about private practice models of care. I was trying to figure out where in this world I was going to fit – and I didn’t know where that was for a long time.”

Eighteen years later, she has found her place as the Dental Director at Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center that provides comprehensive, culturally appropriate health care in Washington and Yamhill Counties, with a special emphasis on migrant and seasonal farmworkers and others with barriers to receiving care.

Dr. Bozzetti says that her job is very fluid, but what she enjoys most is that they’re taking care of people who may not otherwise have access to dental care.

“Even on the most challenging days, it’s a great feeling that we’re making a difference in someone’s life and that we are providing kindness, respect and the best possible care for patients who are marginalized in the community,” said Dr. Bozzetti.

A Focus on Wraparound Services

While Dr. Bozzetti’s work was originally about half clinical care and half administrative, it has shifted more toward administrative these

days, giving her the opportunity to focus on continued expansion of access to oral health through the addition of now seven dental clinics, amplifying additional services such as the clinic’s sealant program, HeadStart program, and mobile dentistry, and continuing dental program development.

“What’s really amazing about the work we do is that we approach it by how we can best treat our community, looking at innovative ways to do that,” said Dr. Bozzetti. “Instead of only looking at treating the patient in the chair, we look at meeting our patients where they are. This can mean group visits for young children, serving our patients through mobile dentistry, prevention to elementary and middle schoolers through a school sealant program, prevention in HeadStart programs, offering tele-dentistry, and managing patients who are assigned to us.”

In recent years, Dr. Bozzetti has focused more on improving patient care by expanding access to wraparound services and enhanced treatment for patients who come through Virginia Garcia’s dental clinic.

“One of the things I’ve been doing in the past few years is understanding how medical services work and how we can integrate seamlessly with our medical colleagues to provide additional services for our patients,” said Dr. Bozzetti.

“My hope is that patients can use the dental clinic as an entry point for access to other services. For example, if a patient shows up in a dental clinic that may have a mental health need, we can connect them to those services, or if we learn that a patient is food insecure, we can connect them to our events with the food bank. The beauty of being in a community health center is that we can make sure that our patients have access to these services.”



Medical-Dental Integration

A related passion of Dr. Bozzetti's is medical-dental integration and how Virginia Garcia can best serve their patients when they have someone already in their care. A bill championed by the Oregon Dental Association in 2019 that passed out of the Oregon Legislature allows dentists to administer vaccines. That successful legislation has allowed dentists to expand access to more whole-health care for patients already in the dental chair.

"The bill passing in 2019 was serendipitous timing right before the pandemic, and we decided at Virginia Garcia that our dentists would help vaccinate patients," said Dr. Bozzetti. "That started conversations with our medical teams about how we could provide other vaccines, particularly the HPV vaccine because they were struggling to get the series completed for adolescents. It also made sense to focus on HPV vaccines due to the oral health implications, as 70 percent of oropharyngeal cancers are in patients who are HPV positive."

Today, dentists in Virginia Garcia's co-located medical and dental clinics are able to vaccinate patients for HPV, something that Dr. Bozzetti is particularly proud of. She says they have found success particularly in administering additional doses, because once patients have

committed to starting a vaccine series, they seem more accepting of receiving the second dose from a dentist.

Virginia Garcia has also worked to expand the whole health dental model to working with patients who have diabetes and those who do not have a primary care provider (PCP) and have concerning signs of systemic disease upon oral exam. The dental team began administering HbA1cs last year, a simple blood test showing the average blood sugar level over the past 2-3 months which is used to screen, diagnose and manage patients with diabetes.

"We use our shared electronic health records to see whether a patient is due for an HbA1c, and we can administer this simple test and document the results in the health record. If a patient doesn't have a PCP, we can refer them to be seen in primary care, a service line represented within the organization, and provide needed follow-up," said Dr. Bozzetti. "There's a lot of value in the dental team being an extension of the medical team. Getting regular HbA1cs for patients with diabetes is an ongoing challenge for our medical colleagues, so this is yet another way the dental team can provide a meaningful service to the patient while they are in the dental chair."

The medical-dental integration doesn't stop here; medical providers

also apply fluoride varnish as part of well child visits and make referrals into the dental clinic. A dental hygienist is embedded in two of the Virginia Garcia's primary care clinics, fostering bidirectional communication and streamlining referrals and coordination into dental care.

Prioritizing Workforce Development

Another way that Dr. Bozzetti and Virginia Garcia have worked to expand access to care is through workforce development, including by participating in Pilot Project 300, which trained two of the clinic's dental hygienists as dental therapists.

"Dental therapy is a game changer particularly for our school-based health clinics," said Dr. Bozzetti. "The dental therapy scope of practice is perfect for children; we can often keep most of the dental care in the school-based health centers instead of having to refer patients to dentists in our larger clinics."

Virginia Garcia has also found other unique solutions to the dental support team workforce shortages that have challenged the industry, including working with the Portland Community College (PCC) Integrated Community Dental Assisting Program (ICDA) program to support their existing staff and community members to become dental assistants. Since the initial cohort in 2018, Virginia Garcia has trained 21 students, of which 14 remain employed at the clinic today.

"We started looking at pathways to grow our own dental assistants internally, but we found that the majority of the people who had interest in becoming a dental assistant couldn't go to school for nine months without a source of income," said Dr. Bozzetti, who says that the PCC program allowed students to work full time and go to school in the evenings and weekends.

"It's really important to me and to our organization that we



have employees who represent the community we serve, and this allowed us to provide opportunities for our community to become dental assistants,” said Dr. Bozzetti. She notes that initially they sought out receptionists, call center employees, and other existing staff who expressed an interest in becoming a dental assistant and later opened the opportunity up to community members and patients.

While the PCC program is currently on an indefinite pause with the last cohort graduating last year, Virginia Garcia also had an opportunity arise to work with high schoolers to train dental assistants.

“Due to our school-based health centers, we were invited to join the career and technical education (CTE) advisory board for the Hillsboro School District,” said Dr. Bozzetti. “We were able to share what positions we had the greatest need for that could be part of training at the high school level. There was initially work done around programs for medical assistants, which led to a conversation about pharmacy technicians and dental assistants.”

Dr. Bozzetti and Virginia Garcia worked with Melanie Lewis, a health sciences teacher at Glencoe High School in Hillsboro, to develop curriculum for a dental assisting program. Most of the didactic training for the program occurs at the high

school and the hands-on training and skills labs are provided through Virginia Garcia’s dental assistant trainer, Melinda Pedroza.

That program is now in its third year and prepares students to graduate from high school with many of the certifications they need to take a dental assisting job right out of high school. Many of the program’s recent graduates have been able to get their expanded functions dental assistant (EFDA) certification upon graduation. Of the 14 that have been trained so far through the program, four are currently working at Virginia Garcia and many are continuing their education to pursue goals to become dental hygienists or dentists.

“We’ve been able to hire some of these students at Virginia Garcia, which has been really amazing,” said Dr. Bozzetti. “Some are on-call and some are regular employees. It’s been really rewarding to see how impactful the program has been for these students and on our program.”

A Voice for Public Health in Organized Dentistry

Dr. Bozzetti’s efforts to expand the dental support staff workforce go hand in hand with many of the conversations happening at the ODA. Workforce development is one of the reasons why she has reengaged with the ODA in recent years, in

addition to her work with other dental organizations.

“A lot of my work in organized dentistry has been through the National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA), an organization formed thirty-five years ago by FQHC dental directors who saw the need for support and collaboration for the dental safety net.

“NNOHA provides a way to improve oral health access through peer support, leadership, advocacy and support for dental safety net providers,” said Dr. Bozzetti.

As president-elect of NNOHA, she says that one of her priorities moving forward is expanding partnerships with organizations like the ODA, the American Dental Association, and other organized dentistry groups, a partnership and value that is reflected in current ODA priorities.

“I appreciate that over the last five to six years, the ODA has been intentionally more inclusive and supportive of public health dentists,” said Dr. Bozzetti. “What’s powerful to me as a NNOHA member and an ODA member is I feel like the ADA has really opened their arms to public health dentists and there’s definitely an emphasis on us working together ensuring broader representation of all dentists.”

Whether she is scaling the dental workforce, expanding the scope of integrated care at Virginia Garcia, or unifying public health voices on the national stage, Dr. Bozzetti is doing more than adapting to the future of dentistry – she is actively shaping it. Driven by a steadfast optimism and a deep commitment to stewardship, her work ensuring that our most vulnerable neighbors receive dignified, whole-person care is moving the entire industry forward. Together with the teams she champions, Dr. Bozzetti proves that when we remove barriers to care, we multiply the health of our entire community. Voices like hers are critical to dentistry today and into the future. 🌱

Four ODA Members Receive OHSU School of Dentistry Alumni Awards

By Nataly Paoli, Associate Director of Alumni Engagement OHSU Foundation

EVERY YEAR, THE OREGON HEALTH & SCIENCE University (OHSU) Alumni Association recognizes a select group of alumni for outstanding contributions to health and science. Chosen by their peers, the alumni award winners exemplify the excellence of the OHSU alumni community.

All four of the 2026 OHSU School of Dentistry alumni award winners are also ODA members. Their leadership, service, and commitment to the dental profession are undeniable.

Here's a look at this year's honorees and the work that earned them the OHSU Alumni Association's highest recognition.

Scott Dyer, D.M.D. '00, M.S., Ph.D., recipient of the Agent of

Change Award, is a renowned expert in prosthodontics whose distinguished career blends clinical excellence, teaching and global service. A widely respected clinician and scientist, he is among a select group of prosthodontists who have earned both a Ph.D. in dental materials science and certification by the American Board of Prosthodontics.

Dyer is a devoted educator and mentor who is passionate about training dentists to become expert diagnosticians and treatment planners. He leads prosthodontics study clubs, treatment planning sessions, and lectures nationally and internationally on the subject.

In 2007, he co-founded Wide Open Humanitarian, Inc., a nonprofit

organization dedicated to expanding access to dental care and oral health education in underserved communities worldwide. For nearly two decades, Dyer has led teams to remote regions of Central and South America, Samoa and India, providing essential oral health care to those who need it most.

Susan Rustvold, D.M.D. '85, Ed.D., was awarded the John C. Peterson Distinguished Alumni Award. Rustvold has dedicated more than 40 years to advancing dental education, oral health literacy and patient care. A longtime OHSU faculty member, she has helped shape the professional journeys of generations of dental students.

Rustvold's impact extends beyond the classroom, bringing care to communities often overlooked. She



The 2026 OHSU School of Dentistry Alumni Award winners were honored during Bite, an annual celebration for OHSU dental alumni held alongside the Oregon Dental Conference. From left: Scott Dyer, D.M.D. '00, M.S., Ph.D., Susan Rustvold, D.M.D. '85, Ed.D., Bryan Guthrie, D.M.D. '83, and Amberena Fairlee, D.M.D. '17.



has served as a dental officer with the Oregon Department of Corrections and built a robust record of volunteer service in the United States and abroad. She developed an oral health literacy presentation for women in residential substance use disorder treatment programs, and research on its outcomes contributed to her doctoral dissertation. Internationally, she has served in Guatemala, China, Indonesia, Haiti and Uganda, treating patients and supporting local providers with equipment and education. Rustvold's research on dental anxiety has removed barriers to care for many patients who would have avoided or postponed treatment. Together, her patient care, teaching and volunteer service

amount to a legacy that has touched thousands – and will continue to do so through those she has trained. Less than a decade into her dental career, **Amberena Fairlee, D.M.D. '17**, is already leaving a meaningful mark on the profession, making her a natural fit for the Early Career Achievement Award. An engaged and influential leader in organized dentistry, Fairlee is the current president of the Oregon Dental Association (ODA). She also serves on the Oregon Board of Dentistry's Dental Assistant Workforce Shortage Advisory Committee, the Oregon Health Authority's Health Care Workforce Committee and as Oregon's American Dental Association Workforce Ambassador.

As a student, Fairlee's aptitude for leadership was clear. She served as class president and held significant roles with the American Student Dental Association and the Delta Sigma Delta Psi Chapter. Since graduating from OHSU, Fairlee has navigated multiple career transitions and the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic with professionalism, integrity and purpose – all while raising three children.

In January 2026, she became owner of Cascadia Family Dental in Bend, Oregon, marking the beginning of a new chapter in a promising career.

Bryan Guthrie, D.M.D. '83, received the President's Award in recognition of his commitment to teaching, leadership and service. After many years in private practice, Guthrie joined the OHSU School of Dentistry faculty, where he serves as assistant professor of restorative dentistry and leader of the Sellwood Bridge Practice Group. His dedication to mentoring and advocating for students has had a transformative impact on the next generation of dentists.

A Fellow (1991) and Master (2003) of the Academy of General Dentistry, Guthrie's deep commitment to the dental profession is reflected in his long history of leadership roles in both state and local dental societies. He has devoted his time and talents to dental and community organizations, including the Clackamas County Volunteer Dental Clinic, Medical Teams Northwest, Give Kids a Smile, and the Oregon City Rotary – a further testament to a career defined by excellence and generosity.

Collectively, these four dentists have touched countless lives – as clinicians, mentors, advocates, and leaders. Their contributions are a testament to the impact of OHSU alumni throughout Oregon and beyond.

Do you know an OHSU alum who deserves to be seen and celebrated? Help shine a light on their impact – nominate them for a 2027 alumni award here. 📢

Events & Education

Component CE Calendar

CONTINUING
EDUCATION

Calendar provided by Mehdi Salari, DMD

This calendar is current as of August 1, 2026

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
9/8/26	Coastal Cascades	3D Printing	Max Thomas	2	Eugene - LLC	Info/Register: www.bit.ly/CCDSEVENTS
09/10/26	Marion Polk	Complex Surgical Extractions	Dr. Allen Cheng	1.5	Broadway Commons	Info/Register: mariopolkdental.org/education
9/12/26	Coastal Cascades	Corvallis Oregon Oral Cancer Walk	-	-	Willamette Park, Corvallis	Info/Register: https://ocf.donordrive.com/oregon
9/17/26	Tri-County	Fall Kick Off/Tailgate Event	-	-	ODA Parking Lot	Info/Register: www.multnomahdental.org
9/17/26	Coastal Cascades	Dentist Social at Lane Community College	-	-	LCC Healthcare Professionals Building, Eugene	Info/Register: www.bit.ly/CCDSEVENTS
9/18/26	Coastal Cascades	Dental Office Manager Summit	Healthcare Compliance Associates	-	Camp Harlow - Springfield	Info/Register: www.bit.ly/CCDSEVENTS
9/24/26	Central Oregon	TBD	TBD	2	Bend - Currents Restaurants Riverhouse	More info to come
10/2-3/2026	ODA	ODA Regional Event and Annual Business Meeting	TBD		Sunriver	Info/Register: www.oregondental.org
10/10/26	Coastal Cascades	Hiking Meetup	-	-	Location TBD	Info/Register: www.bit.ly/CCDSEVENTS
10/15/26	Tri-County	Women in Dentistry-Wine and Paint Night	-	-	ODA Building	Info/Register: www.multnomahdental.org
10/16/26	Coastal Cascades	Anatomical Endodontics with optional Hands-On Workshop	Dr. Alex Fleury	3-5	Eugene - LLC	Info/Register: www.bit.ly/CCDSEVENTS
10/16/26	Marion Polk	MPDS Social	-	-	Broadway Commons	Info/Register: mariopolkdental.org/education
10/18/26	DFO	Floss and Run		-	Rock Creek Country Club	Info: www.smileonoregon.org
10/20/26	Clackamas County	AI Topics	TBD	2	Providence Willamette Falls Community Center	Info/Register: www.clackamasdental.com
11/5/26	Coastal Cascades	Dinner with Solventum	TBD	-	TBD	Info/Register: www.bit.ly/CCDSEVENTS
11/12/26	Marion Polk	What is OMF and When to Refer	Leisha Vogl, M.S. CCC-SLP, COM®	1.5	Broadway Commons	Info/Register: mariopolkdental.org/education
11/12/26	Tri-County	New Dentist Social	-	-	Dave and Busters (Clackamas)	Info/Register: www.multnomahdental.org
11/19/26	Coastal Cascades	Dental Marketing and AI Topics	Kayla Mauldin	2	Webinar	Info/Register: www.bit.ly/CCDSEVENTS
12/3/26	Central Oregon	TBD	TBD	2	Bend - Currents Restaurants Riverhouse	More info to come
12/5/26	Coastal Cascades	Game Night, Hot Cocoa, Holiday Gathering	-	-	Florence Dental Clinic	Info/Register: www.bit.ly/CCDSEVENTS
12/8/26	Coastal Cascades	Retiree Luncheon	-	-	Corvallis Location TBD	Info/Register: www.bit.ly/CCDSEVENTS
12/17/26	Coastal Cascades	CE TBD	TBD	2	Corvallis Community Center/Webinar	Info/Register: www.bit.ly/CCDSEVENTS
1/12/27	ODA	Winter Webinar: Cultural Competency	TBD	2	Webinar	More info to come
1/15/27	Tri-County	Medical Emergencies/DEI Training	TBD	6	ODA Building	Info/Register: www.multnomahdental.org
2/9/27	ODA	Winter Webinar: Infection Control	TBD	2	Webinar	More info to come
2/17/27	Multnomah/Washington County	AI in Dentistry	TBD	2	TBD	Info/Register: www.multnomahdental.org
3/13/27	ODA	Winter Webinar: Medical Emergencies	TBD	4	Webinar	More info to come
3/18/27	Tri-County	Pub Crawl	-	-	TBD	Info/Register: www.multnomahdental.org

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. 📺

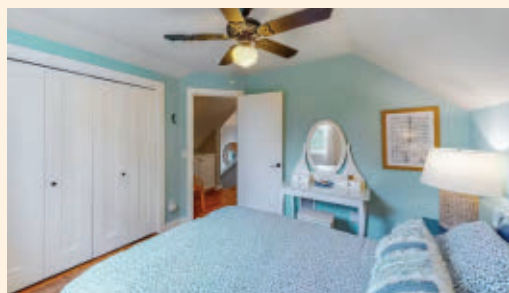
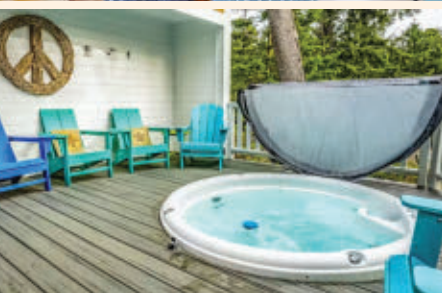
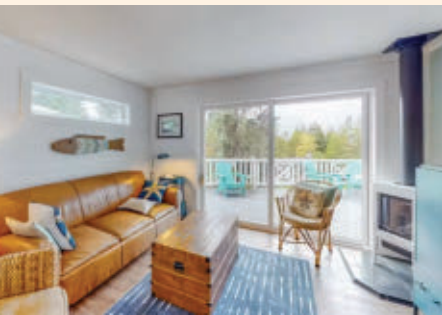
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Clackamas County Dental Society Annual Meeting and Suture Clinic Success

By Lora Mattsen, Clackamas County Dental Society Executive Director

THE CLACKAMAS COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY (CCDS)

CONCLUDED its final meeting before the summer recess on April 28 at Providence Willamette Falls Community Center with an evening that combined governance, education, and meaningful member engagement.

Following CCDS business proceedings and the election of new officers and directors, attendees participated in an interactive, hands-on clinical course, *Suture*

Like a Surgeon, led by Dr. Akshay Govind. The session provided participants with the opportunity to refine their suturing techniques using pig jaws, guided by Dr. Govind's practical instruction and expertise. This marked CCDS's first hands-on component meeting of this kind, and its success underscores the value of experiential learning opportunities within organized dentistry. Plans are already underway to expand similar clinical offerings for members in the future.

The Society also welcomed its 2026-2027 leadership team:

- Dr. Natalie Hardin, President
- Dr. Ashish Bandhari, Vice President
- Dr. Alexa Brightman, Secretary/Treasurer
- Dr. Katherine Sonada, Director at Large

The evening reflected CCDS's ongoing commitment to professional development, innovation in continuing education, and fostering strong connections among its members. 🌟

IMAGES FROM LORA MATTSSEN



Coastal Cascades Dentist Society Hosts Green Dentistry Event at Oregon Coast Aquarium

By Nissa Newton, Coastal Cascades Dentist Society Executive Director

AS COASTAL CASCADES

CONTINUES TO REACH OUT to dentists in more remote areas, it has also reached out to another group, pre-dental students. University of Oregon Pre-Dental Students excitedly traveled to the Oregon Coast Aquarium on May 9th, not only to enjoy exhibits, but to learn about sustainable strategies they can use in their future practices.

Dr. Lohring Miller, who lives near Newport, enjoyed interacting with the students and sharing his knowledge throughout the course.

Brittany Cox, MA, RDH was the speaker on Green Dentistry. She has worked with dental practices and manufacturers to set new eco-friendly standards that can improve oral health outcomes. During the presentation, she not only discussed

how important it is to minimize waste and pollution in dental practices, but also how doing so by using sustainability concepts can optimize operations and reduce costs. Some of these concepts involve inventory management and preferences for eco-friendly care.

The classroom was set inside the Aquarium and had a glass wall that looked into the shark tunnel exhibit.

Throughout the presentation, sharks swam in the background, reminding attendees of the importance of our oceans and the animals that live there. After the class, everyone was able to enjoy the rest of the aquarium.

The University of Oregon Pre-Dental Students are discovering the importance of dental societies in connecting with dentists, developing mentorship relationships, and

learning more about their chosen profession. Coastal Cascades appreciates the enthusiasm and energy they bring to our events when they participate or volunteer. 📍



IMAGES FROM NISSA NEWTON

Multnomah Dental Society Annual Meeting Recap

By Lora Mattsen, Multnomah Dental Society Executive Director

THE MULTNOMAH DENTAL SOCIETY (MDS) HOSTED ITS

Annual Meeting and Table Clinics on Thursday, April 23, at the McMennamins Kennedy School, delivering an evening marked by energy, innovation, and strong member engagement.

The event featured a dynamic lineup of activities, including vendor bingo, a dental student research competition, and opportunities for meaningful connection among attendees. Ten dental students presented their research projects, showcasing impressive depth and professionalism. Attendees participated by voting for their top presentations, with awards presented to the top three finalists in what proved to be a highly competitive field.

Throughout the evening, members engaged with industry partners through an interactive vendor bingo experience. By visiting booths and collecting





stamps, participants worked toward a “blackout” bingo card to earn raffle entries. The evening concluded with prize drawings that included items such as a \$100 Amazon gift card, curated gift baskets, and electronic accessories.

MDS also conducted elections for its 2026–2027 Board of Directors. Dr. Cameron Schwab

and Dr. Ian Dickensen were sworn in as President and Vice President, respectively. In a forward-looking move to strengthen student engagement, the Society approved the addition of a dental student representative to the board. Isabella Sandgren was elected to serve as the inaugural OHSU dental

student liaison, bringing a valuable perspective to the leadership team.

The evening served as a fitting conclusion to a successful year for MDS celebrating professional excellence, fostering connections, and reinforcing the Society’s commitment to supporting the next generation of dental professionals. 📸



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- Desirable Lake Grove Community, OR Dental Practice for Sale (Practice ID: ORD193)
- NE Portland, OR Dental Practice Deal of the Year (Practice ID: ORD190)
- Ideal South Salem, OR Practice and Building for Sale (Practice ID: ORD188)
- Gorge, OR Profitable Dental Practice & Building for Sale (Practice ID: ORD187)
- Vancouver, WA Practice and Potential Building for Sale (Practice ID: WAD675)
- Lincoln City, OR Associate Dentistry Position Available (Practice ID: ORD185)

Contact Megan Urban to learn more about these opportunities!