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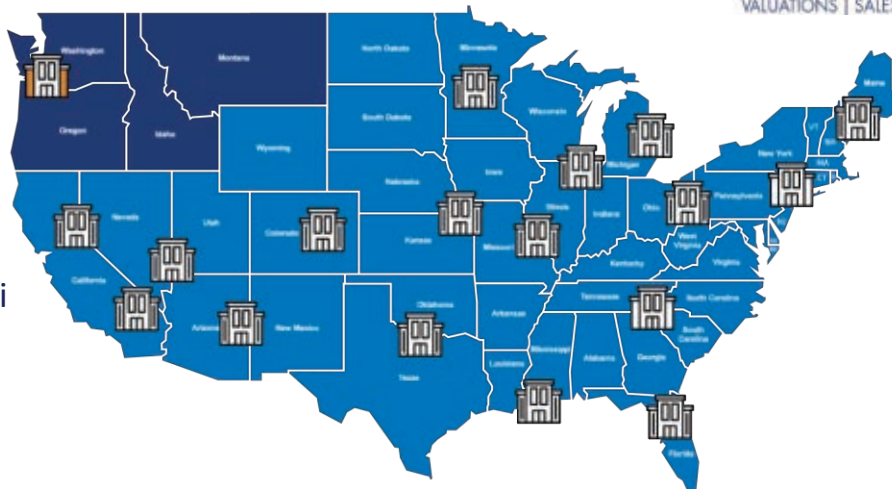
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Membership Matters is an official publication of the Oregon Dental Association in support of its core purpose to advance the dental profession and promote the highest standard of oral health and oral health care.

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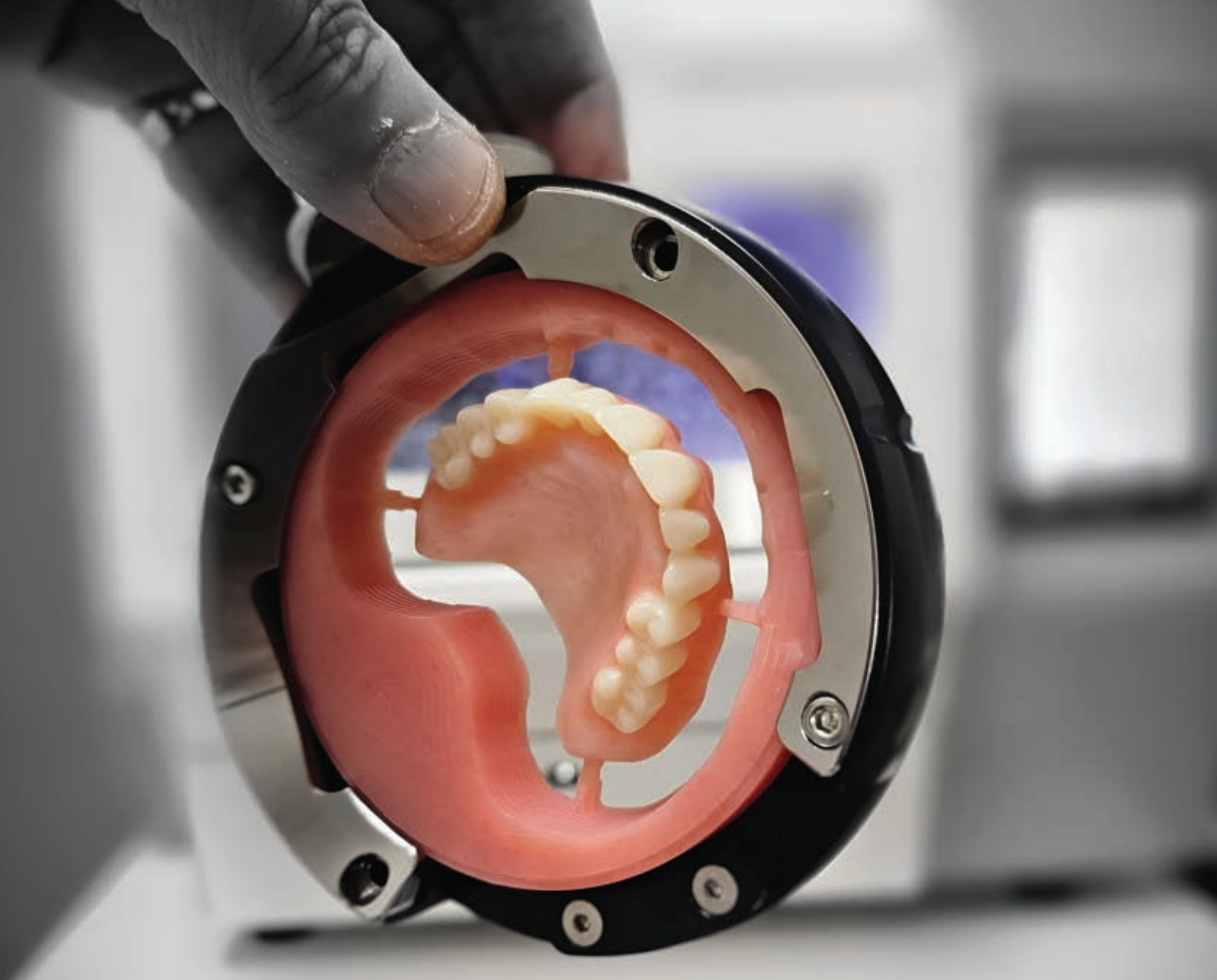
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FROM THE
EDITOR

A Rising Tide Lifts All Ships



By Alayna Schoblaske,
ODA Editor

THIS MONTH'S ISSUE IS ALL ABOUT DENTISTS who own their own practices. It's about owning a small business and being an entrepreneur. I admit that when I first became Editor back in 2018, I might have ruffled some feathers over an issue that focused on small business. You see, I practice in a federally qualified health center and have my entire career. I feel very strongly about organized dentistry's role in promoting and supporting all of the career paths available in dentistry – from academia to uniformed services to mobile dentistry and, yes, private practice. And so, 2018 Alayna would have argued that, if we had a small business issue, we should also dedicate an issue to all of the other career paths. I'm proud to say that over the past eight years, *Membership Matters* has highlighted dentists who practice in a variety of practice settings. From issues featuring students and faculty at OHSU in March 2023 and September 2024 to an issue highlighting career paths in April

2024 and another issue discussing the whole dental workforce in May 2025, we have told stories of dentists across the state.

At the end of the day, though, a majority of our members are small business owners and work in private practice. According to our most recent ODA member survey, 56% of our members practice as a solo private practitioner. Additional research from the ADA Health Policy Institute shows that, 10 years after graduation from dental school, 58% of dentists own their own practice nationally. (This number is only 21% at the five-year mark, so we can surmise that a lot of dentists buy a practice between five and 10 years after graduating from dental school.)¹

So, yes, this issue is targeted at the majority of our members who own their own practices. And here's the even better news – what is supportive and relevant for practice owners is often also supportive and relevant for all career paths. The resources that Dr. Pham references on pages 11 and 12 – ADA Find-A-Dentist and ODA peer review, for example – are available to all member dentists and support the growth of our practices and care of our patients. Additionally, the ODA just finalized our legislative agenda for 2027, and the focus areas – dental insurance reform for noncovered services, AI and dental insurance, and corporate practice of medicine – are subjects that impact all

practice modalities. While a practice owner might be more closely tied to billing and third-party payments than I am in my clinic (we have a whole billing team dedicated to that work), my patients – and all patients – still benefit when I get to choose the frequency of care based on clinical need instead of deferring to a fixed plan limit. I used to think that different practice modalities had different advocacy priorities. While that is sometimes true in certain cases, it is most often the case that what is good for one dentist in Oregon is good for all dentists in Oregon. As they say, a rising tide lifts all ships!

And, of course, when we all gather together at our component events (check out pages 26 and 27 for some great pictures) and larger regional events (I'll see you in Sunriver – check out page 28 to learn more), we have important lessons to learn from each other no matter our practice style. Maybe the practice owner can teach the new dentist working at a DSO about leading a team. Or maybe the dentist working in academia can teach a public health dentist about the latest materials research. At the end of the day, we are all dentists, and we are stronger together. 🌊

Reference

Vujicic, Marko, and Rachel Morrissey. "A New Path to Ownership." *The LEAD Magazine*, Oct. 22, 2025. <https://theleadmagazine.com/a-new-path-to-ownership/>



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Board of Trustees July 2026 Meeting Highlights

- The Board approved the 2027 ODA Legislative Agenda.
- The Board approved Dr. Todd Carris to the ODA Board of Trustees.
- Four resolutions passed to move on to a vote at the 2026 Annual Business Meeting.
- Debbie Douglas, ODA Membership & Component Coordinator, presented the 2026 Component Audit.
- Alisha Santoyo, ODA Education & Events Director, presented an update on the 2026 Regional Event and the 2027 Oregon Dental Conference.
- Josh Finkle from West Bearing Investments gave a report on the Board Designated Fund providing an overview of accounts. 📺

ODA LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The Leadership Academy was a wonderful way to continue growing in my leadership skills. Over the course of the program, I had a chance to look in the mirror and see the blind spots I had in my toolbox and become more confident in myself and learn how to strengthen those areas to minimize my weaknesses. **The ODA cares about developing future leaders of the dental community and setting its members up for success in the workplace**, and there is no better setting than a hands-on approach to learning what you could be great at with a group of people just like you.

Dr. Cameron Schwab

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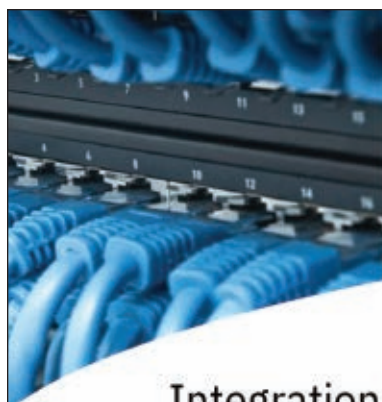
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Dr. Hieu Pham Discusses Benefits, Challenges of Owning, Running Start-up Practice

FEATURE

By Melody Finnemore

HIEU PHAM, DMD, WAS INTRODUCED TO THE oral health profession by his aunt, a practicing dentist who mentored him in the opportunities the work could offer. He also was attracted by the possibilities to combine his interests in art and science.

“Being able to build relationships with patients was something that enticed me,” added Dr. Pham, who earned his degree from the Oregon Health & Science University School of Dentistry.

He worked for multiple offices, people and structures, including corporate and emergency dentistry

and private practice, before the artist in him wanted to create something of his own. He and his wife, Sereyneth Keng, established the start-up Atlas Dental in Southeast Portland in late 2018.

“It’s essentially a blank canvas to create an experience from scratch, including being able to design everything from my own floor plan,” Dr. Pham said. “We were able to create a patient experience that is unique to us.”

After spending time to do extensive research and taking continuing education courses to prepare, Dr. Pham and Keng did a demographic analysis before selecting their site, looked at multiple options and, as he

describes it, were very picky with every decision along the process.

“They say it takes a village and doing a start-up is no different. It requires putting together a team, a banker, lawyer, contractor, CPA, and equipment specialist. The benefit is you get to do it exactly the way you want it, but that’s also the con,” he said. “There are literally millions of decisions you need to make prior to seeing your first patient. At the end of the day, it’s the right path for a specific dentist. People won’t believe in you and will think you’re crazy, so it’s important to believe in yourself.”



DR. HIEU PHAM



Among the challenges of running his own practice, he has had to learn how to juggle multiple hats as a business owner and clinician. He must ensure the professional well-being of his 20 team members, including opportunities for growth and the chance to develop new skills.

In addition, dentists are perfectionists by nature and meeting patient expectations – and their own – can be difficult at times, he said. One of the most important lessons Dr. Pham has learned about being a business owner is to “take ownership of your situation, be flexible, and take care of your team and your patients.”

Dr. Pham noted that the rewards of owning a practice far outweigh the challenges. “What I enjoy most about it is to be able to create opportunities for my team members and take care of patients, whether they come in to be treated for pain or being able to restore their smile and give them their confidence back,” he said.

The ODA has been an important partner in the success of Dr. Pham’s practice through the many resources and tools it offers its members, and he said the organization’s support was essential during the COVID pandemic.

“Before then I was paying the dues and it was kind of just going through the motions, or something I did without really thinking about it,” he said. “Once COVID hit, there was support from the ODA on multiple levels, like being able to pick up supplies we didn’t have. Then I saw the value in paying my dues.”

Legislative advocacy on issues such as the shortage of oral health professionals, participation in insurance programs, and the role of dental assistants and dental therapists also have solidified the importance of being an ODA member for Dr. Pham.

“I was also part of the Oregon Academy of General Dentistry board

and all of that really matters to me. It’s a voice for the dentists,” he said.

ODA Supports Small Businesses with Myriad Resources Programs

In addition to providing supplies and other resources during emergencies, legislative advocacy and regulatory information, the ODA’s support for small practice owners like Dr. Pham includes the ODA Dental Career Connect. This page on its website allows employers to post jobs, search profiles and resumes, and create a resume search agent.

The ODA can help practice owners attract new patients through its Find a Dentist tool that is available to the public. Its website also features a full page of endorsed programs and services that employers can refer to when making important administrative decisions.

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have received, ODA members are required to participate in a peer review process for equitable resolution of patient complaints specifically about dental treatment and care. While most disputes are simple misunderstandings that can be easily resolved if both parties are willing to look for an amicable solution, sometimes those efforts are unsuccessful. ODA members facing these situations are eligible for the ODA's Peer Review Process, a free dispute resolution system that often results in solutions that are satisfactory for both parties.

Help also is available through the ADA Center for Professional Services, including videos that provide guidance on matters such as how practice owners can terminate contracts that are not working for them. To learn more, please visit **Practice | American Dental Association** at <https://www.ada.org/resources/practice>. 📺

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ODA Supports Legislation Decreasing Corporate Activity Tax Burden for Members

By Dr. Barry Taylor, ODA Executive Director

WHILE THE ODA WAS PROUD TO SUCCESSFULLY pass dental insurance reform policies in the 2026 Legislative Session and many others in previous sessions, there were hundreds of other bills and policy proposals that we have worked on behalf of our members, most of which was done behind the scenes by our skilled lobby team and member advocates.

One of those bills from the 2025 Legislative Session was SB 125, which would have exempted medications dispensed in clinics and public payer receipts from Oregon's Corporate Activity Tax.

The Corporate Activity Tax (CAT) went into effect in 2020 and requires businesses to pay \$250 plus 0.57 percent more than the \$1 million threshold for the CAT. Tax revenue from the CAT goes to funding education in the state. Hospitals and long-term care facilities are exempt from the tax because they participate in another tax structure, but other health care facilities and businesses – such as dental offices and clinics – are subject to the CAT.

One of the biggest challenges ODA members have had with the CAT is that public payer receipts (i.e. Medicaid reimbursements) are subject to the tax, even though these receipts are often reimbursing at a fraction of the cost of care. This means that many dentists who serve Medicaid patients are often not getting adequately reimbursed for their services, then are also taxed on that income.

SB 125, introduced in the 2025 Legislative Session, would have

exempted the revenue dentists received from public payer receipts as counting as taxable income under the CAT. ODA's lobby team worked closely with a coalition of medical and dental advocates in Salem to lobby on behalf of the bill, which spurred many conversations about the need to exempt these receipts from the tax.

Thanks to the work of our advocates, these conversations led to significant progress, but due to unrelated politics, the bill died in the final days of the Session.

The ODA joined the other members of the coalition supporting the bill in reiterating that our members support the goals of the CAT and the education revenue it raises for the state, and are willing to pay their fair share. Dentists also want to continue to promote access to care for Medicaid patients, which is why it's important that providers are not penalized for serving those patients through inadequate reimbursement rates and excessive taxation on those inadequate reimbursements.

The policy proposal included in SB 125 is expected to be reintroduced in the 2027 Legislative Session, particularly as the Governor's Oregon Prosperity Council released recommendations in June 2026 that included adjustments to the CAT that would reduce administrative and financial burdens on Oregon businesses. The Prosperity Council recommended raising the CAT



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threshold from \$1 million to \$2 million, as well as allowing businesses to deduct the cost of creating or providing a service or product. While it remains to be seen whether those recommendations will be acted upon, they have reinvigorated the conversation around how the CAT impacts businesses in Oregon and the state's broader business climate.

The ODA will continue to prioritize this issue on behalf of our members going into the 2027 Legislative Session. If you are interested in weighing in on this issue or sharing your practice's individual challenges with public payer receipts and the CAT, please reach out to ODA's Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs, Brett Hamilton, at bhamilton@oregondental.org.

If you're interested in learning more about ODA's advocacy work going into the 2027 Legislative Session or have suggestions for policies the ODA should prioritize in support of our members, please don't hesitate to reach out to the ODA team. ●

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

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dental

We provide routine and specialty care for Medicaid and private insurance members throughout Oregon, **with locations in:**

- Astoria
- Clatskanie
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- Portland
- Salem
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Join a team dedicated to improving the dental health of all Oregonians.

Benefit from employee perks such as:

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- 401(k) plan with employer match
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- Continuing Education allowance each calendar year
- Professional membership reimbursement for ADA tripartite
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for personal support
- Our clinics are approved for the loan repayment program

Scan the QR code or visit **ArrowDentalClinic.com/careers** to explore and apply for open positions. Bookmark this page to easily return for future job openings.



ArrowDentalClinic.com

YOUR ODA SCARF HAS A STORY – SHARE IT!

Now it's your turn! Where's your ODA scarf?

Dig it out, wear it proudly, and show us where your ODA spirit takes you. Whether you're at the office, exploring Oregon's great outdoors, or traveling somewhere new, we want to see your scarf in action.

Send us a photo and share your story. Selected submissions will be featured in *Membership Matters* and across ODA social media channels.

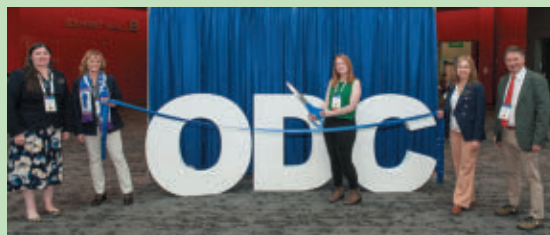
Include a brief caption with your photo and email it to **Melissa Juenger at mjuenger@oregondental.org**, or tag **@oregondental** in your social post.

Your scarf has been places – let's see where it goes next! Join your colleagues in celebrating the connections, pride, and community that make the ODA more than a membership.

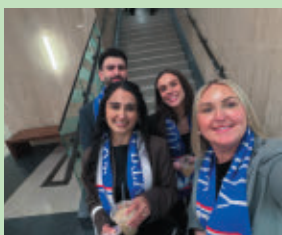
Wear it. Share it. Be part of the story. 📷



Dr. Mark Mutschler in the great outdoors



2026 Oregon Dental Conference (ODC) Exhibit Hall Grand Opening



2026 ODA Dental Day in Salem

A Big Win for Give a Grin!

Giving Back With Dr. Dowsett and the Tooth Taxi

By Gus Clevenger

HOW OFTEN HAVE YOU SAID THAT the mouth is the gateway to health?

For dentists, the phrase may be common sense, but for most children, it's brand new.

The importance of children's mouth care was central at the 2026 "Give a Grin," held in late June at Complete Health Dentistry in northeast Portland. The private dental office, owned by **David Dowsett, DMD**, partners with The Dental Foundation of Oregon and its Tooth Taxi annually to raise funds for children's free dental care.

"Give a Grin" in 2026 was the 20th year Dr. Dowsett, staff, and volunteers coordinated the fundraising event! This year, Dr. Dowsett and team cared for 15 patients, donating nearly \$4,000 from care to the Tooth Taxi.

"Decay and gum disease are preventable, communicable diseases that impact our entire body," said Dr. Dowsett. "It affects our systemic

health, our emotional health, our ability to have relationships, get a job, have a career, feel good about ourselves, and not suffer in pain.

"When proper dental care starts as a child – including learning the skills and understanding why it's important to care for yourself – it carries on throughout the rest of your life, and your health span becomes so much better."

"Give a Grin" began from a deep sense of purpose, said Dr. Dowsett.

"It started in memory of **Betsy Burton**, my best friend from college, who was a gifted grade school teacher in Daly City just south of San Francisco," said Dr. Dowsett. "Sadly, she struggled with mental health and ultimately lost her battle with depression, committing suicide in 2006.

"Before her passing, I visited Bets's classroom a couple of times

and saw so many kids who didn't get dental care," Dr. Dowsett said. "They didn't know what oral health was all about and they were really suffering because of it.

"Give a Grin started because I wanted to figure out a way to honor her, help kids, and pay forward the gift that she kept on giving."

Patients scheduled with Complete Health Dentistry on June 26 were cared for on the Tooth Taxi, with assistance from Dr. Dowsett, his staff and volunteers, and two Tooth Taxi dental assistants. Then proceeds from care on "Give a Grin" were donated to the Tooth Taxi.

"Living healthier starts with education and understanding of how to really take care of your own health," said Dr. Dowsett. "We don't want to just live longer, we want to live better." 🦷



David Dowsett, DMD, (far right), staff, and volunteers, raised almost \$4,000 for the Tooth Taxi in late June during the 20th annual Give a Grin. (Photo: Barry Taylor).



Dr. David Dowsett chats with a young patient during Give a Grin at Complete Health Dentistry in northeast Portland. (Photo: Gus Clevenger).

Help Kids Get Free Dental Care!

By registering for the



Floss & Run

October 18, 2026 • Rock Creek Country Club

5100 NW Neakahnie Avenue, Portland, OR, 97229



1K Run

for Kids 11 and under
Start Time at 8:30 a.m.

5K Run

Start time at 9:10 a.m.

5K Walk

Start time at 9:40 a.m.

Crown Sponsors:



Molar Sponsors:



Root Sponsors:



Tooth Sponsors:





April 29 – May 1, 2027
PORTLAND, OREGON

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an event for the
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April 29 – May 1, 2027
PORTLAND, OREGON



Leading with Excellence: Dr. Ronald Sakaguchi Honored by Two Prestigious International Dental Organizations

By Barry Taylor, DMD, CAE, ODA Executive Director

THE OREGON DENTAL COMMUNITY IS CELEBRATING

a remarkable achievement by **Dr. Ronald Sakaguchi**, dean of the OHSU School of Dentistry, who was inducted as a Fellow of both the **International College of Dentists (ICD)** and the **Pierre Fauchard Academy** during a ceremony held at the Oregon Dental Association Conference on April 9 in Portland.

Receiving fellowship in either organization is a distinguished honor. Being recognized by both reflects a career dedicated to advancing dentistry through leadership, education, research, and service.

Dr. Sakaguchi is internationally recognized for his expertise in restorative dentistry and dental materials. Throughout his career, he has made significant contributions to dental education, clinical innovation, and scientific research while mentoring generations of future dentists. As dean of the OHSU School of Dentistry, he continues to champion excellence in education and strengthen the school's role in preparing oral health professionals to meet the evolving needs of patients and communities. Dr. Sakaguchi has also been an outstanding advocate for membership in the ODA and has fostered a great relationship between the two entities.

Being recognized by both reflects a career dedicated to advancing dentistry through leadership, education, research, and service.

The **International College of Dentists** recognizes dentists who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement, service, and dedication to advancing the profession worldwide. Fellowship is extended only to those whose careers exemplify exceptional leadership, integrity, and commitment to improving oral health.

Equally prestigious, the **Pierre Fauchard Academy** is an international honorary dental organization founded in 1936 and named after Pierre Fauchard, the 18th-century French dentist widely regarded as the "Father of Modern Dentistry." The Academy is dedicated to recognizing and developing outstanding leaders in the dental profession while promoting the highest standards of ethics, professionalism, integrity, and public service.

Membership in the Pierre Fauchard Academy is by nomination and invitation only. Fellows are selected for their demonstrated leadership, contributions to dentistry, commitment to education, and dedication to improving oral health locally and globally. Beyond honoring distinguished careers, the Academy invests in the future of the profession through scholarships, leadership development, and initiatives that foster excellence in



Picture courtesy of OHSU/School of Dentistry

dental education and patient care around the world.

Dr. Sakaguchi's induction into both organizations underscores the profound impact he has made throughout his career. His commitment to advancing dental science, mentoring future practitioners, and leading one of the nation's premier dental schools exemplifies the qualities celebrated by these internationally respected organizations.

The Oregon Dental Association proudly congratulates Dr. Ronald Sakaguchi on these well-deserved honors and thanks him for his continued leadership and dedication to the advancement of dentistry. His achievements serve as an inspiration to dental professionals across Oregon and beyond. 🌐

2026 OHSU School of Dentistry Graduates



We celebrate you!

THE ODA WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THE

2026 OHSU School of Dentistry graduates on your significant accomplishment! We look forward to supporting you and being a part of your individual journeys.

Jaafar Alwindawi
Hussein Amiri
Sydney Baker
Aaron Bell-Cares
David Brown
Owen Cherry
Jordan Chopra
Christopher Clairmont
Dominic Delgado
Alexander Doan
Taylor Dobbeck
Avery Esau
Jillian Frampton
Luke George
Joelle Hakoum
Mark Hartley
Jennifer Havens
Caroline Hoang
Dominic Hortaleza
Angela Hung
Emily Jacobson
Sydney Jones
Chris Kim
Jack Klar
Ryan Knapp
Vivian Le
Jessica Lee
Kelsey Lee
Jessica Li
Crystal Ly
Benjamin Manley

Sydney Mansour
Molly McCoy
Jackson Mitchell
Kevin Murray
Justin Myler
Narita Narkhede
Hogan Nguyen
Jonathan Nguyen
Katherine Ouda
Sehoon Park
Rishi Purohit
Katheryn Rapson
Kathryn Ristuben
Jessica Robinson
John Rutledge
Noor Saeed
Nidhi Satasia
William Schaefer
Oveyseh Shaban
Joy Sigurdson
Riley Smart
Austin Smith
Gregg Smith
Aleya Steckel
Tami Suenram
Vivian Tran
Valerie Truong
Kendra Vaughn
Jaime Viramontes
Thanh Vo
Lyndan Walle
Whitney Warth
Hannah West
Spencer Wilson
Sarah Wiskoski
Jeongi Won
Grayson Wong
Lewis Wright
Christopher Yoon

OHSU Advanced Degree Graduates Endodontics

Dr. Ben Lively
Dr. Faisal Shakir
Dr. Edward Tran

General Practice Residency

Neusha Javad
Irene Lee
Anjali Mistry
Hanna Nguyen
Neekita Saudagar
Minh Vu

Oral Maxillofacial Surgery

Mariah Aron
Marcus Hwang

Orthodontics

Bryce Bothwell
Christopher Elkhall
Gayeong Lee
Madeline Stein

Pediatrics

Shelby Cansler
Esther Gao
Sara Henry (Boson)
Yoselin Vidrio

Periodontics

Josh Huber
Justin Kim
Allison Liu

VA Advanced Degree Graduates General Practice Residency

Dr. Hannah Kim
Dr. Caroline Miller
Dr. Helia Mohseni
Dr. Keaton Zimbelman



2026 ODA STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

Congratulations to this year's Oregon Dental Association's Student Leadership Award recipient, Dr. Aaron Bell-Cares. Dr. Bell-Cares served as the ASDA Student Liaison to the ODA Advocacy team in 2024-2026. During this time he participated in ADA Lobby Day and provided invaluable insight to the ODA. Thank you for all your hard work, and congratulations on the 2026 ODA Student Leadership Award!



Coastal Cascades Dentist Society Update

COMPONENT HIGHLIGHTS

By Nissa Newton, Coastal Cascades Dentist Society Executive Director

AT THE END OF MAY, CCDS

ENJOYED a Continuing Education Course on Sleep Apnea with Dr. Erin Elliot, DDS. She was a very vibrant speaker with a lot of experience treating sleep apnea patients. She had courses in Albany, which was also on Zoom, and a follow-up course in Eugene. The next continuing education class is on September 8th in Eugene with Max Thomas. He will be presenting “3D printing in Dentistry, the good, the bad, and the printed.”

A retiree luncheon was held on the second Tuesday in June. This year, it was at Roaring Rapids Pizza in Eugene. Attendees included Dr. Bob Carmicheal, Dr. James Gant, Dr. John Robinson, Dr. Cedric R. Hayden, Dr. Cedric L. Hayden, Dr. Lohring Miller, and Dr. Lawrence Raugh. Another retiree luncheon will be held on the second Tuesday in December, in Corvallis. We will have two luncheons a year so retirees can have two

opportunities to connect with old friends and make new ones! We are hoping to make this a very special event and look forward to sharing more information soon.

CCDS started “meetups” in June. Meetups are an informal way to gather, where RSVPs are welcome but not necessary. You can just show up, and if there is a cost, you would pay your own way. Our first meetup was on June 13th and was at Mt. Pisgah. Hiking Dentists and Staff gathered and hiked up the mountain. Our next meetup is at PLAY arcade in Eugene on August 11th. Dentists are welcome and bring staff and/or family, hang out and have fun with other people in the dental community who enjoy games. There is also Bingo on Tuesday nights, so you could get lucky! We also have another hike scheduled for October 10th. We will have more details about that event coming soon.

September 17th will be our 3rd Social at Lane Community College

in the Healthcare Professionals Building. This gives dentists the opportunity to mix and mingle with dentists and with dental instructors at Lane Community College. The Lane Community College Foundation cohosts the event.

There are two LCC dental program scholarships that are set up and can be donated to through the LCC Foundation. The Jan Malone Dental Assisting Scholarship was established in 2004 in honor of Jan Malone, who served as the Executive Secretary for 27 years. This scholarship covers the cost of national certification exams for LCC Dental Assisting students. The Jen Helling Memorial Scholarship was established after Jen, a LCC dental hygiene graduate. She was diagnosed with melanoma during her second year in the program. Cancer claimed her life three years after she graduated. This scholarship is for dental hygiene students in their second year. 📷

PICTURES BY NISSA NEWTON



Washington County Dental Society Annual Meeting Recap

By Lora Mattsen, Washington County Dental Society Executive Director

THE WASHINGTON COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY (WCDS)

HOSTED its Annual Meeting and Table Clinics on May 6 at the OAGD Building, bringing together members, dental students, and colleagues for an evening of education, networking, and celebration.

A highlight of the event was the participation of several OHSU School of Dentistry students, who presented clinical cases and research projects during the table clinic session. Attendees were impressed by the quality and

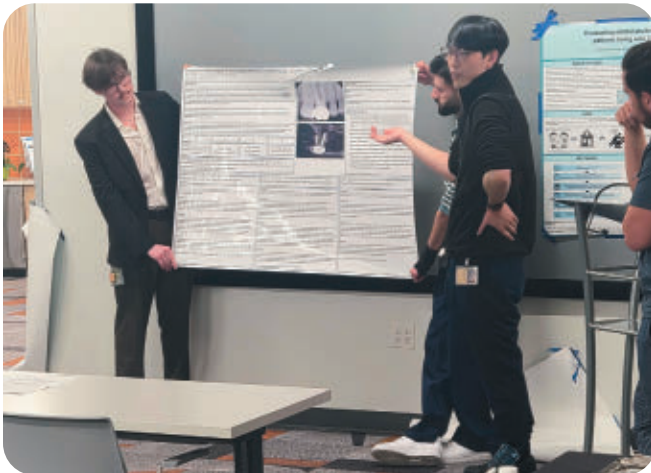
professionalism of the presentations and enthusiastically engaged students in meaningful discussions about their work. The top three presenters were recognized with Powell's Books and Starbucks gift cards. Based on the overwhelmingly positive response from members, WCDS hopes to make student presentations a regular feature at future component meetings.

The evening also included elections for the 2026–2027 WCDS Board of Directors. Congratulations to the newly elected officers:

- **Dr. Travis Baskerville**, President
- **Dr. Kyahn Daraee**, Vice President
- **Dr. Jennifer O'Connor**, Secretary-Treasurer

Members enjoyed a complimentary dinner and wine reception, providing ample opportunity to connect with colleagues and celebrate the accomplishments of the society. The event concluded with raffle drawings and prizes, capping off a fun, engaging, and memorable evening for all in attendance.

WCDS extends its gratitude to everyone who participated and helped make the Annual Meeting a success. 📸



PICTURES BY LORA MATTSSEN

ODA Regional Event

October 2nd-3rd, 2026

Sunriver Resort

JOIN US FOR TWO DAYS

OF CLINICAL CE, meaningful connections, and stellar energy! ODA's Annual Regional Event is designed to be intimate and interactive. It features engaging speakers, family-friendly events, and plenty of time to connect with local suppliers. Each year the theme changes, but the goal remains the same: foster connections across the dental community and create a high-quality experience outside of the Portland metro area.

A Weekend For Everyone

Bring the family! The 2026 Regional Event isn't just for learning – it's an experience the whole family can enjoy. Set in the beautiful surroundings of Sunriver, the event offers the perfect balance of professional development and quality time with loved ones. While you attend courses, your family can explore, relax, and take in everything the resort has to offer. From outdoor adventures to evening celebrations, it's a chance to turn your conference trip into a memorable getaway for everyone.

Bring the team! The 2026 Regional Event is the perfect opportunity to bring your entire dental team together for a shared learning experience. With courses designed for dentists, hygienists, assistants, and administrative staff, everyone can gain valuable insights while aligning on best practices. Beyond continuing education, the event offers time to connect, recharge, and strengthen your team, making it a meaningful investment in both professional growth and office culture.

Speakers

The Oral Microbiome: A Powerful Driver of Health and Disease

Friday, October 2nd, 2026

1:00 PM–4:00 PM

Credits: 3

Audience: Dentists, Hygienists, Assistants, Administrative Staff, Dental Students

Teaching Methods: Lecture

Prerequisites: No prior level of skill, knowledge, or experience is required for participation in this course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: What we eat profoundly impacts our oral health, including the risk of dental caries, dental erosion, and periodontal disease. Compelling and emerging research also shows a strong link between the

health of the oral microbiome and our risk of disease, including heart disease, diabetes, cancer, respiratory disease, dementia, depression, arthritis, and more. This science-backed, insightful, and engaging presentation is about the importance of consuming a less processed, anti-inflammatory diet to optimize oral health, as well as overall health. It also covers the harm caused by sugary drinks, around-the-clock snacking, and ultra-processed foods.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Participants will be able to:
- Understand how profoundly oral microbiome health impacts dental health and overall health (heart health, brain health, liver health, & more).

Schedule

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2ND, 2026	
Time	Event
12 pm–7 pm	Registration & Sponsor Tables Open
1 pm–4 pm	<i>The Oral Microbiome</i>
6 pm–8 pm	All Systems Go: Welcome Dinner

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD, 2026	
Time	Event
7 am–8 am	Meet the Sponsors Breakfast
8 am–11 am	<i>Treating Caries Chemically</i>
9:15 am–9:45 am	AM Snack Break
11 am	Lunch
11:30 am–1:30 pm	Annual Business Meeting
2 pm–5 pm	<i>Minimally Invasive Dentistry</i>
3:15 pm–3:45 pm	PM Snack Break
6 pm–9 pm	Night of Stars Party & Dinner



- List specific foods and drinks that are most harmful and most protective to oral health
- Describe updated guidelines for sugar intake and sugar alternatives, including stevia, xylitol, and erythritol
- Describe the importance of an anti-inflammatory diet for optimizing oral health, including periodontal health

SPEAKER: Liz Pearson

Liz Pearson is a Registered Dietitian with a passion for peanut butter sandwiches and an undying love for chocolate. She delivers engaging, science-based nutrition information to health professionals, educators, and corporations across North America and is highly respected in the dental field. Liz is also the author of four books, including two award-winning bestsellers. Her most recent book is called "Broccoli, Love & Dark Chocolate... Because food, love, and life should be delicious!"

(Liz's website: www.lizpearson.com)

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE: Liz has received previous honorarium support from BioGaia.

Treating Caries Chemically (Without The Filling)

Saturday, October 3rd, 2026

8:00 AM–11:00 AM

Credits: 3

Audience: Dentists, Hygienists, Assistants, Admin Staff, Students

Teaching Methods: Lecture

Prerequisites: No prior level of skill, knowledge, or experience is required for participation in this course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Clinical practice today uses scientifically sound evidence-based approaches. There is a noticeable shift to the caries treatment paradigm by better preventing and managing caries as a disease at the patient level. Person-centered care is an approach where the individual in your dental chair is treated as a person rather than a patient; where their personal preferences

and shared decisions drive clinical treatment options.

This course will address current trends in caries risk management at the patient level utilizing an evidence-based, person-centered methodology.

The presentation provides an excellent update relevant to clinical applications for the dentist, hygienist, assistant, and front office.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

At the conclusion of this course, attendees will be able to:

- Properly perform a caries risk assessment
- Propose evidence-based treatment options using products to the patient
- Understand the biological, chemical and mechanical aspects of caries disease

SPEAKER: Douglas Young, DDS, EdD, MS, MBA

Dr. Young is a professor emeritus at the University of the Pacific where he is an active and ardent educator in the field of minimally





invasive dentistry and cariology. He was one of the founders of the CAMBRA (Caries Management By Risk Assessment) Coalition, American Dental Education Association Cariology Section, and the American Academy of Cariology. Dr. Young has served on the ADA Council of Scientific Affairs and is currently a cariology consultant for the ADA. He has presented at congresses and universities around the world and published in numerous peer-reviewed dental journals and textbooks on caries management using minimal invasive dentistry, silver fluoride, and glass ionomer restoratives.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE:

Dr. Young is a shareholder at Oral Biotech. He has received previous honorarium support

from GC America, Oral BioTech, and Elevate Oral.

Minimally Invasive Dentistry (SDF, GIC, and SMART)

Saturday, October 3rd, 2026

2:00 PM–5:00 PM

Credits: 3

Audience: Dentists, Hygienists, Assistants, Admin Staff, Students

Teaching Methods: Lecture

Prerequisites: No prior level of skill, knowledge, or experience is required for participation in this course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Dental caries is a site-specific disease in which the microbiology and chemistry will differ depending on location and local environment.

This course will review the current ADA caries classification system to address these different sites and include a mechanism to track all stages of a caries lesion. New terminology, treatment thresholds, and use of silver diamine fluoride (SDF), glass ionomer cement (GIC) restoratives, and the silver modified atraumatic restorative treatment (SMART) will be presented. Only then will the clinician be able to use minimally invasive restorative approaches to managing this disease chemically at the tooth level. Actual clinical cases will be used to illustrate these concepts. The presentation provides an excellent update relevant to clinical applications for the dentist, dental therapist, hygienist, assistant, and front office.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2026 REGIONAL EVENT SPONSORS



LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

At the conclusion of this course, attendees will be able to:

- Properly classify all stages of caries lesions based on location, extent, and activity
- Understand when to treat chemotherapeutically and when to treat surgically
- Be aware of the use of glass ionomer and silver diamine fluoride to treat a caries lesion chemically

SPEAKER: Douglas Young, DDS, EdD, MS, MBA

Dr. Young is a professor emeritus at the University of the Pacific where he is an active and ardent educator in the field of minimally invasive dentistry and cariology. He was one of the founders of the CAMBRA (Caries Management By Risk Assessment) Coalition, American Dental Education Association Cariology Section, and the American Academy of Cariology. Dr. Young has served on the ADA Council of Scientific Affairs and is currently a cariology consultant for the ADA. He has presented at congresses and universities around the world and published in numerous peer-reviewed dental journals and textbooks on caries management using minimal invasive dentistry, silver fluoride, and glass ionomer restoratives.

Social Events

All Systems Go: Welcome Dinner

Friday, October 2nd, 2026
6:00 PM–8:00 PM

Kick off your Regional Event experience with All Systems Go, our high-energy welcome party designed to bring attendees together before liftoff. Join us for an evening of connection, conversation, and a touch of cosmic fun. Enjoy a hosted dinner while we set the tone for an out-of-this-world weekend.

Night of Stars Party & Dinner

Saturday, October 3rd, 2026
6:00 PM–9:00 PM

As the sun sets over Sunriver, prepare for an unforgettable evening at our Night of Stars Party. Enjoy a delicious dinner before stepping outside to experience the night sky like never before. With telescopes provided by the Sunriver Nature Center & Observatory, you'll have the opportunity to explore constellations, planets, and galaxies...bringing our "Final Frontier" theme to life! Back inside, we'll just be getting ready for takeoff. With music and dancing to keep energy high, the 2026 Regional Event will come to an end on a stellar note.

Pricing

Dentists:

- ODA Dentist: \$400
- ODA Early Career Dentist: \$350
- ADA Member: \$450
- Non-ADA Member: \$500

Dental Team Members:

- Hygienists: \$250
- Dental Assistants: \$250
- Lab Techs: \$250
- Administrative Staff: \$250

Guests:

- Guest (13 & Up): \$125
- Child (5–12): \$75
- 4 & Under: Free

Accommodations

Sunriver Resort is a premier, high desert resort known for its scenic setting along the Deschutes River. The resort offers a blend of outdoor adventure and relaxation, with amenities like golf courses, biking trails, spa services, dining, and family-friendly activities.

Address

17600 Center Drive, Sunriver, OR 97707

How to Book Your Room

Attendees can make their reservations directly through Sunriver Resort Reservations at **855-420-8206**. 📞



2026 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.

Submit your nominations to
leadership@oregondental.org by December 1, 2026.



Registration now open!

October 2 & 3, 2026
Sunriver Resort

Register & Learn More Here



Continuing
EDUCATION

Building Community
CONNECTIONS

ODA REGIONAL EVENT

Annual Business
MEETING

Family Friendly
SOCIAL EVENTS

Annual Business Meeting

Saturday October 3rd 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
Join in person or virtually via Zoom
All ODA members encouraged to attend!

Events & Education Component CE Calendar

Calendar provided by Mehdi Salari, DMD

This calendar is current as of August 20, 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
09/08/26	Coastal Cascades	3D Printing	Max Thomas	2	Eugene – LLC	Info/Register: www.bit.ly/CCDSEVENTS
09/10/26	Marion Polk	Surgical Distractions: Pearls & Pitfalls	Dr. Allen Cheng	1.5	Broadway Commons	Info/Register: www.MarionPolkDental.org
09/12/26	Coastal Cascades	Corvallis Oregon Oral Cancer Walk	-	-	Willamette Park, Corvallis	Info/Register: https://ocf.donordrive.com/oregon
09/17/26	Tri-County	Fall Kick Off/Tailgate Event	-	-	ODA Parking Lot	Info/Register: www.multnomahdental.org
09/17/26	Coastal Cascades	Dentist Social at Lane Community College	-	-	LCC Healthcare Professionals Building, Eugene	Info/Register: www.bit.ly/CCDSEVENTS
09/18/26	Coastal Cascades	Dental Office Manager Summit	Healthcare Compliance Associates	-	Camp Harlow – Springfield	Info/Register: www.bit.ly/CCDSEVENTS
09/24/26	Central Oregon	TBD	TBD	2	Bend – Currents Restaurants Riverhouse	More info to come
10/2-3/26	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	5 Mar	Eugene – LLC	Info/Register: www.bit.ly/CCDSEVENTS
10/16/26	Marion Polk Dental Society	Social		-	Broadway Commons	Info/Register: www.MarionPolkDental.org
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
11/05/26	Coastal Cascades	Dinner with Solventum	TBD	-	TBD	Info/Register: www.bit.ly/CCDSEVENTS
11/12/26	Tri-County	New Dentist Social	-	-	Dave and Busters (Clackamas)	Info/Register: www.multnomahdental.org
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: www.MarionPolkDental.org
11/19/26	Coastal Cascades	Dental Marketing and AI Topics	Kayla Mauldin	2	Webinar	Info/Register: www.bit.ly/CCDSEVENTS
12/03/26	Central Oregon	TBD	TBD	2	Bend – Currents Restaurants Riverhouse	More info to come
12/05/26	Coastal Cascades	Game Night, Hot Cocoa, Holiday Gathering	-	-	Florence Dental Clinic	Info/Register: www.bit.ly/CCDSEVENTS
12/08/26	Coastal Cascades	Retiree Luncheon	-	-	Corvallis Location TBD	Info/Register: www.bit.ly/CCDSEVENTS
12/17/26	Coastal Cascades	Implant Topic	Dr. Kimberly Schlam	2	Webinar	Info/Register: www.bit.ly/CCDSEVENTS
01/12/27	ODA	Winter Webinar: Cultural Competency	TBD	2	Webinar	More info to come
01/15/27	Tri-County	Medical Emergencies/DEI Training	TBD	6	ODA Building	Info/Register: www.multnomahdental.org
02/09/27	ODA	Winter Webinar: Infection Control	TBD	2	Webinar	More info to come

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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