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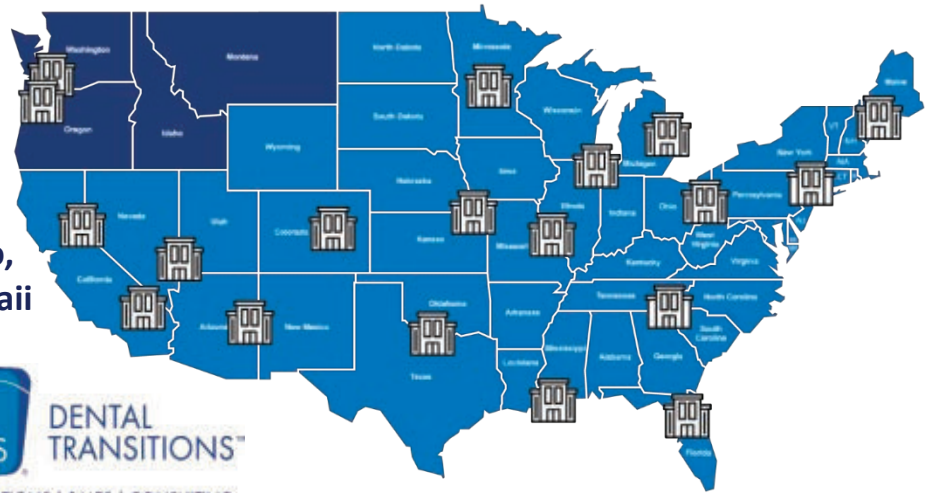
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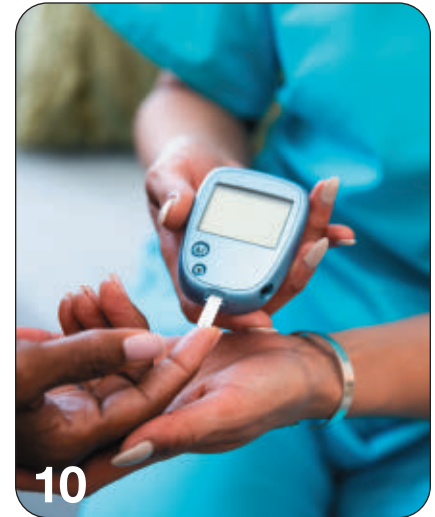
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Membership Matters is an official publication of the Oregon Dental Association in support of its core purpose to advance the dental profession and promote the highest standard of oral health and oral health care.

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PUBLISHED JUNE 2026/ODA-K0626 *Membership Matters* (ISSN 1082-4111) (USPS-905060) is published monthly (except January, July and October) by the Oregon Dental Association, 8699 SW Sun Pl, 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.

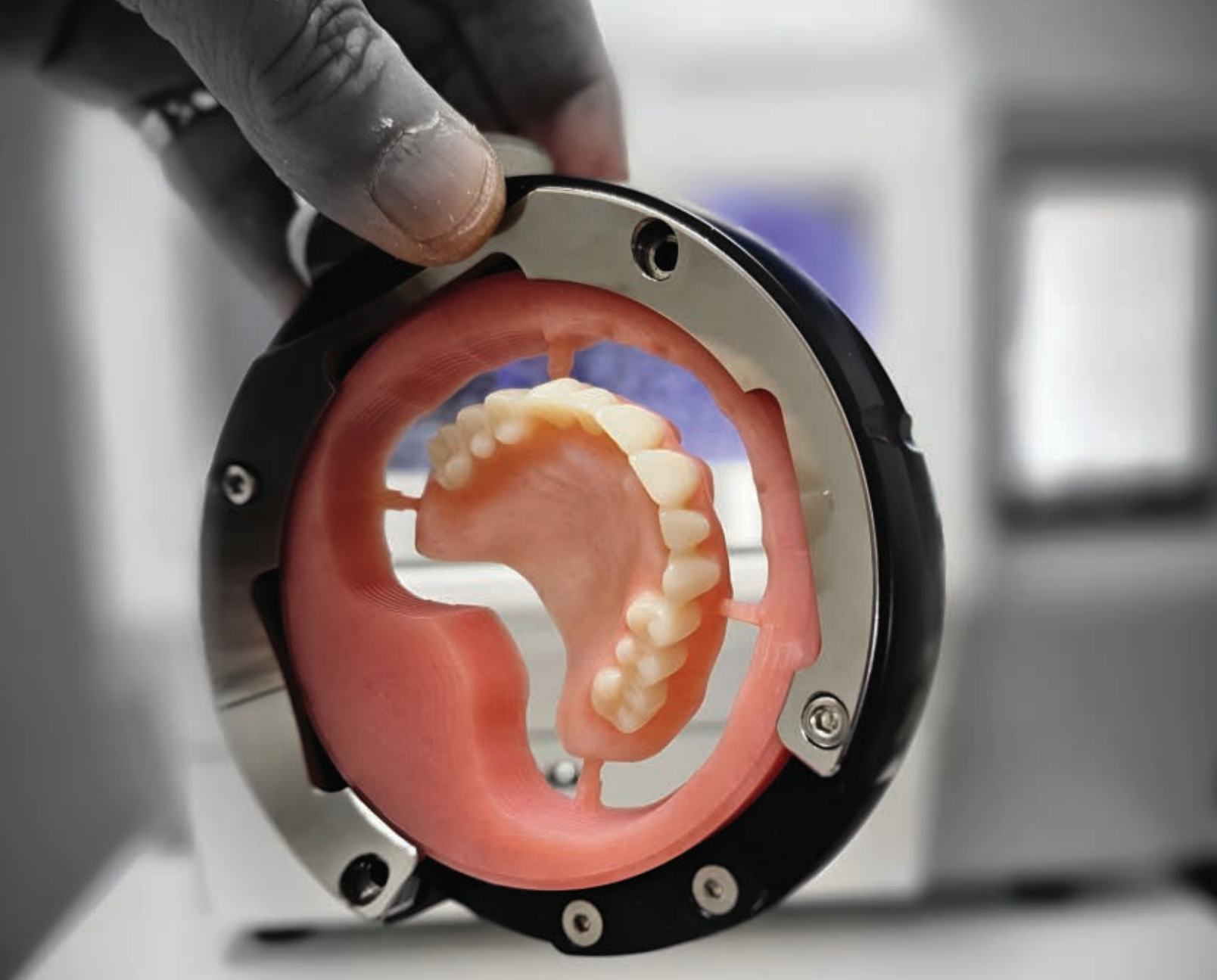
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Periodicals postage paid at Wilsonville, Oregon, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes and all correspondence to: 8699 SW Sun Pl, Wilsonville, OR 97070; 503-218-2010 or 800-452-5628 (toll-free in Oregon).

Published by  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** Manish Dutt Sharma

COVER IMAGE: EDIS JURCYS



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Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes!



By Alayna Schoblaske

IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK AT THE keyboard for my first editorial since starting maternity leave in February. I want to express my most sincere gratitude to Drs. Wright, Taylor, Spaniel, and Gates for writing guest editorials. And to the ODA staff – especially Melissa – for helping hold some of my editorial duties while I took time to recover and bond with my new family.

Sean and I welcomed our son, Conner, on February 11th and our world was turned completely upside down. Between mostly-sleepless nights, we have been enjoying toothless smiles, goofy faces, and the joy of watching a human discover the world around him. In 10 weeks of parenting, I have learned the importance of flexibility – we have had to learn Conner's cues quickly and respond to them. Hungry? Feed him. Dirty diaper? Change him. Cold ears? Put on another layer. Gas? Bicycle legs. Just about anything else? Walk around endlessly, pat his back, and shush into his ear. (Yes,

I am accepting gift cards for foot massages.)

And so it's fitting that, for my first issue back to writing editorials, the ODA is also demonstrating our own flexibility and rolling out a new format for *Membership Matters*. We heard feedback from members that they wanted more member photos, more opportunities for interaction, and wanted the main story to be closer to the front of the issue. We listened, and are excited to roll out some changes that you'll see this month and going forward. Here's a preview of what you'll find.

Question of the Month – Starting this month, you'll see a question of the month next to the editorial. We hope that you'll respond to the question so we can highlight your answers in a future issue!

The Traveling Scarf – We want to see all of the cool places you have taken your ODA scarf! Turn to page 35 to see previous submissions, and learn how to share your own picture!

More member pictures – We are going to be including more member pictures so you can see your colleagues in action. Check out 29-32 for over four pages of members at ODC!

And, while these last two changes won't show up in every issue, they are worth mentioning as we talk about change.

The Oregon Dental Conference is moving to March! Next year in

Question of the Month ?

This Month's Question

Does your practice have any fun summer traditions?
Bonus points for pictures!

Submit your answer to
mjuenger@oregondental.org

2027, we will make a brief stopover in May (May 13-15) before finding our new permanent home in March in 2028 (March 9-11). Our Annual Meeting Council heard that you want a chance to get your CE in before the March 31st Board of Dentistry deadline, so we are making that possible with this new schedule.

And, finally, the Dental Foundation of Oregon has a new leader in Sydney Clevenger. Sydney is working hard to promote the work of the DFO and make their operations more transparent. You can see all the work that she and the whole DFO team is doing in this year's annual report, featured on pages 15-26. ●



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Welcome New and Returning ODA Members

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Heather Campbell, DMD
Central Oregon Dental Society

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ADA Credit Union: A Financial Resource Designed for the Dental Community

THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION HAS ANNOUNCED THE launch of ADA Credit Union (ADA CU), a purpose-built financial resource created in collaboration with BCU. Developed with a member-first philosophy, ADA CU is designed specifically to serve ADA member dentists, their teams, and their extended families offering tailored financial solutions and personalized guidance to support both professional and personal goals at every stage of life.

ADA Credit Union distinguishes itself through competitive rates, reduced fees often eliminating them entirely and a suite of innovative financial products that reflect the unique needs of the dental community. Membership is complimentary and extends to ADA member dentists, their staff, employees of the ADA and its affiliates, as well as eligible family members.

Members have access to a comprehensive range of services, including personal checking and savings accounts, certificates of deposit, and personal and auto loans. In addition, ADA CU emphasizes long-term financial wellness through individualized coaching and a variety of educational resources designed to help members build and sustain financial health.

Backed by more than 45 years of experience from BCU in helping individuals achieve financial freedom, ADA Credit Union represents a meaningful expansion of member value bringing trusted financial expertise directly to the dental profession. For more information, members are encouraged to explore ADA CU's offerings or connect directly to learn how this new resource can support their financial journey. Contact ADA CU at 800-388-7000 or visit ADAcu.org.

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The Transforming Landscape of Diagnostic Testing

RECENTLY, YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED A TOPIC that appears to be getting more and more play: wellness. And while it might seem that's the case because you are a doctor and naturally more prone to topics of health and wellness appearing in your feeds and topics of discussion, you're not wrong in thinking wellness is everywhere.

It is estimated that in the United States alone, wellness represents a \$500 billion annual spend; and to match that staggering number, 84% of US consumers saw wellness as a "top" or "key" priority, according to the *McKinsey and Company Future of Wellness report*. And while some think wellness is about vanity and beating Father Time, most consumers across multiple generations report a connection to better health as the driving force behind their wellness focus.

This phenomenon could have many places of origin. The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly caused

people to examine health and lifestyle choices more. The increase in infectious and chronic diseases is also a driving force.

In an October 2025 Think Global article, lead author, Simon Hay, Director of Research Strategy at the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation said, "Noncommunicable diseases are by far the biggest thing that kills human beings on this planet, and they are getting worse." It's true, Type 1 diabetes is projected to have 500,000 new diagnoses each year. Lupus will see 16,000 new U.S. cases each year, and MS approximately 10,000 to 25,000 new cases each year.

These diseases cast a wide net of impact: from the patient, to family, friends, co-workers, and the overall health ecosystem. So, it is not surprising that an increase in their presence, combined with a surging wellness culture, means innovation for diagnosing and managing these disease states is also on the rise.

StartUs Insights reports there are more than 80,000 companies in their database described as diagnostic companies, and in the last five years, diagnostic start-ups globally have attracted \$24B in VC funding.¹

Three key things are driving the current diagnostic surge:

- 1. A shift from reactive management to proactive management.** When diagnosed earlier, positive health and economic impacts follow. Hospitalization rates go down, treatment costs go down, and patients can start disease management protocols earlier to slow the progression of the disease and leverage effective therapy treatments.
- 2. AI has enabled scaling of diagnostics to happen much quicker.** Local diagnostics leader, *Modality Dx* can now produce a Disease Signature in approximately three months. Before the AI enhancements, it would take them 12 or more months to produce. Signatures are a key element to early diagnosis and effective treatment. The AI advancements also mean more partnership opportunities. Given the speed of Signature development, *Modality Dx* can support pharmaceutical companies by creating unique Signatures to support the development of effective therapies.
- 3. Consumer demand.** Today's consumers are data driven and they like having data at their fingertips. This on-demand culture means the market has seen breakthroughs in home testing and point-of-care testing.



Meet Modality Dx – Pioneering a Quantitative Precision-Based Approach to Disease Diagnosis and Treatment

Right here in Oregon, we have a decade-old company leveraging diagnostics to redefine how diseases are detected, understood, and treated. Modality Dx, a member of the Moda family of companies, was founded by CEO Dr. Srinivasa Nagalla.

“We started the company driven by the desire to create something beneficial in the space of diabetes,” Nagalla said. “It was a growing problem in both developed and underdeveloped countries, so we wanted to try to make an impact.”

Today, the company has grown and expanded its focus beyond just diabetes. “Our goal is to change the approach to disease treatment,” said Robert Gootee, Moda Partners President & CEO. “Today, in healthcare, we focus on managing the disease *after* diagnoses, often after it is too late – what we are trying to do is move upstream to impact the beginning of disease vs. the end.”

A Spotlight on Diagnostic Tests

The company has pioneered rapid, point-of-care, finger prick, and saliva-based tests to screen for preeclampsia, diabetes (Type 1, Type 2, and gestational), and autoimmune diseases, including rheumatoid arthritis, Lupus, and multiple sclerosis.

The tests solve a few existing diagnostic challenges.

1. They are easy to transport.

The science is built right on the cassettes, meaning they can be administered in office, in the field, and other locations with ease and simplicity.

2. They are affordable. These tests were specifically designed by Nagallas and his team to be affordable. Today, these tests



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are 2-3 times more cost effective than labs.

3. Results are ready in as little as 15 minutes. Using ModalityDx’s QReader, providers can measure the quantitative level of a biomarker in a patient. This helps providers bridge the often long gap between diagnosis and management.

Diabetes Spotlight

Today, Type 1 diabetes is a health crisis in America and across the globe. More than 500 thousand patients are diagnosed each year, and those numbers continue to rise. The biggest challenge in treating diabetes is a timely and accurate diagnosis. Today, screening happens if there is a family history, or if the patient has symptoms. The challenge with that approach is 85% of children who develop Type 1 diabetes have no family history, and patients have diabetes for years before symptoms are present.

Modality Dx’s Type 1 diabetes test is helping transform diabetes diagnosis, treatment, and management from a multi-week journey for patients to one office visit.

A simple test – performed using either a finger prick or standard serum sample – can screen for early signs of Type 1 diabetes in as little as 15 minutes. The test detects autoantibodies associated with immune-mediated damage to insulin-producing cells, primarily those targeting insulin, GAD65, and IA-2.

The number of detected autoantibodies is strongly associated with disease risk, particularly in pediatric populations, where the presence of two or more indicates a significantly elevated likelihood of progression to clinical diabetes. In adults, GAD65 is the most commonly observed autoantibody in new-onset cases, though emerging evidence supports combined screening for both GAD65 and IA-2 to improve diagnostic sensitivity.

In addition to autoantibodies, the test can measure C-peptide levels, providing insight into remaining insulin production. To enhance accuracy, the assay uses optimized antigen targets – including proinsulin, a modified form of GAD65, and the intracellular domain of IA-2 – which have been shown to improve

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detection of antibodies associated with disease progression.^{2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9}

All this leads to the ability to detect disease levels in a patient, often 3-5 years before symptoms occur.

The test received European approval in 2016. Today, it is part of an active European study with **Eden1fi** – a global collaboration of 27 partners, across 13 countries, working to arrest Type 1 diabetes at the pre-clinical phase. To date, more than 100,000 participants have been screened. The study, which will continue throughout the year, has a goal of screening 200,000 children. The Modality Dx T1 rapid test is one of the tests they are using to understand if more diagnostic profiling is needed. The impact report from this global study is expected in Q3 2026.

Diagnosing diabetes early has positive economic and health impacts.

1. Reduced hospitalization: Each year, eight million people are hospitalized due to diabetes. Even a modest 5% decrease supports health systems and medical cost management. Early diagnosis also reduces DKA risk by 5-10 times, preventing hospitalization and acute complications.

2. Lower treatment cost: The average diabetes patient pays \$12,000/year managing diabetes. It is estimated that preventing DKA diagnosis could reduce lifetime costs by \$33,000.

Oral Health – The Connective Tissue

As we all know, oral health impacts overall health. And with 71%¹⁰ of adults visiting a dentist annually vs. just 25%¹¹ getting an annual wellness exam, the dentist's office just may be the most effective place for disease testing to occur. If the U.S. follows Italy's lead, legislation for nationwide diabetes screening of children ages 1-17 could be on the horizon. And with the overall prevalence of chronic disease on the

rise, more and more, the questions will be asked: how can we screen earlier and most effectively? The dentist's office is primed to be in an ideal position to lead, through strong patient relationships, frequent preventive visits, and an overall understanding of all aspects of the human body. ●

Endnotes

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2025 Annual Report



OUR FOUNDATION'S FUTURE

Hear from our Board Chair

THANK YOU, DONORS!

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Steps Toward Sustainability

WE ARE DECIDEDLY INTO 2026!

Last year was the first on the road with our second Tooth Taxi fully and consistently staffed – a welcome and notable achievement. Program Manager **Carrie Peterson**, and the care team led by **Travis Davis**, DMD, continued the respectful and dignified care of vulnerable children through our 18-year-old Tooth Taxi program, serving more than 1,200 individuals in 2025 across 32 unique schools and neighborhood centers.

The success of our program during 2025 gives us a terrific baseline as we move forward to funding sustainability. To support and maintain the incredible momentum of 2025, we are now strategically aligning our programming with fundraising opportunities. In February, the board met with an outside consultant to craft a three- to five-year strategic plan for The Dental Foundation of Oregon – a much-needed step after the care climate and philanthropy changes during the COVID era.

Our new strategic plan elevates our previous efforts, with an emphasis on financial sustainability and infrastructure, continued program excellence, and equity-driven site selection and community impact. Our goal is to ensure vulnerable children in Oregon continue to have access to the Tooth Taxi, and that we remain responsible stewards of our endowment, which was intended as a replacement fund for future Tooth Taxis, but in recent years has been used more for general operating expenses than desired.

Over the next few years, we intend to:

- Protect, strengthen, and grow the endowment, minimizing drawdown, diversifying and stabilizing revenue sources, and clarifying and modernizing core operating partnerships with key entities.
- Increase access for underserved children in rural zip codes, while preserving staff health and minimizing financial risk.
- Prioritize services in high-need communities, especially high-poverty schools, rural areas, and underserved populations, with a goal of increasing access for these groups.

We are so appreciative of all our devoted donors, particularly the continued loyalty of the Oregon Dental Association and Delta Dental of Oregon/Moda Health. We would not have a program without these two special entities!

In the coming year, we intend to grow and diversify our funding through state and private grants, as well as individual and corporate giving. We are actively applying for grants, and seeking sponsorships of all sizes in the communities where the Tooth Taxi cares for children. We are also open to partnerships with dentists and dental organizations who want to make a difference for young people, and give back to their communities.

Thank you for all of your support. Please let us know if you have ideas about how the Tooth Taxi can be more successful, and we hope to see you at a fundraising event soon!

Sincerely,



Phillip Marucha, DMD, PhD
Board President



Board Chair Phillip Marucha, DMD, PhD, catches up with Immediate Past President Teri Barichello, DMD (left) and Board Member Anthony Ramos, DMD.

The Dental Foundation of Oregon

Our Mission:

The Dental Foundation of Oregon is dedicated to advancing oral health education, providing charitable dental care, and coordinating resources for children and vulnerable communities in Oregon.

Our History:

Founded in 1982, the Oregon Dental Foundation, as it was called then, was charged with providing financial assistance for dental health awareness and education activities. It became the charitable arm of the Oregon Dental Association in 1983. From 1997 to 2007, the Foundation provided grants totaling more than \$366,235.

When the Oregon Smile Survey was published in 2007, revealing a cavity crisis among Oregon's children, the Foundation changed its name, and revised its mission to become a direct service provider through its mobile dental clinic, the Tooth Taxi. The Tooth Taxi hit the road in 2008, partnering with schools and neighborhood centers to offer Oregon's children access to dental care.

The first Tooth Taxi was retired in 2023 after more than 90,000 miles and over \$9 million in free services. A new, state-of-the-art Tooth Taxi began serving Oregon's children in February of 2024.

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Editor: Sydney Clevenger

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The Dental Foundation of Oregon's Annual Report is published by The Dental Foundation of Oregon, 8699 SW Sun Place, Wilsonville, Oregon, 97070.



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*On the cover:
Students in Washington County on the Tooth Taxi in 2025.*

Honoring Dr. Berg

One of The Dental Foundation of Oregon’s founding members, a widely respected dentist in the state, and a champion of children’s oral care and education, sadly passed away in September 2024.

Kenneth Berg, DMD, a key founder of The Dental Foundation of Oregon, which was initiated by the Oregon Dental Association board in 1982, was a faithful Foundation board member until his retirement in 2014, when he was appointed board member emeritus.

“The Tooth Taxi is an amazing development for the Foundation, and for the state,” Dr. Berg said in a 2005 Foundation *Annual Report*. “With the mobile dental clinic and its full-time dentist and staff, we’re able to make a big difference for thousands of children.”

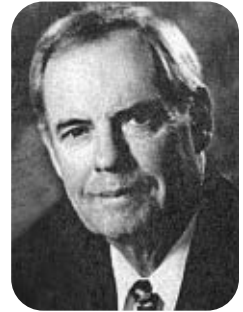
Dr. Berg said that it is “vital for every dentist to support the Foundation.” He said that dentists’ support helps promote the profession, while also alleviating the pain of those without regular access to dental care.

Dr. Berg noted that long-term solutions to oral care access – including oral health education in schools, promoting healthy eating habits, fluoridating community water, and encouraging dentists to work in rural areas – must be addressed.

Dr. Berg, and his wife, **Susan**, are members of the Foundation’s Cornerstone Society (please see page 26 for more information), helping to “secure the future of the Foundation, and improve the oral health of Oregon’s children for years to come.”

ODA Executive Director **Barry Taylor, DMD, CAE**, said Dr. Berg was one of the instructors in the OHSU School of Dentistry clinic while Taylor was a dental student.

“Dr. Berg’s gratitude for the profession, and appreciation for his blessings, were always evident in his time sharing his knowledge in the clinic,” said Taylor. “We thank Dr. Berg for his incredible vision, and loyal service to the Foundation, and the dental community.”



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A few of The Dental Foundation of Oregon’s board members gathered during Oregon Dental Conference, including (left to right) Jamie Smith, RN, MPH, Barry Taylor, DMD, CAE, Sarah Boylan, MBA, Michael Huynh, MBA, Thomas Pollard, DMD, Phillip Marucha, DMD, PhD, Anthony Ramos, DMD, and Teri Barichello, DMD.

Thank You, Generous Donors!

Dentists are known for their unparalleled loyalty and commitment to the communities they serve. We are so fortunate to have our dental community behind The Dental Foundation of Oregon and its Tooth Tax! Your support allows us to continue our mission of caring for vulnerable young people throughout Oregon, offering access to care right outside the doors of their school.

All gifts are important, and we appreciate the following supporters from the last fiscal year, January through December 2025. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of our supporter list, and we apologize in advance if an error has occurred. Errors do not reflect the depth of our gratitude for your gift.

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 Dan Nguyen, DMD
 Thao Nguyen, DMD
 Tony Nguyen, DMD
 Pablo Nicacio, DDS
 Benjamin Nielsen, DMD
 Luke Noble, DDS
 Roland Nomie, DMD
 Annika Nordmark, DMD
 Hadi Nouredine, DMD
 Jennifer O'Connor, DMD
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"The dental team has always been incredible. They are professional, organized, efficient, and have great rapport with our students. We hope to continue partnering with this superb organization for many more years to come."
 – Celeste Hamilton, administrative assistant, Tri City Elementary, Myrtle Creek

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 Larry Over, DMD
 Todd Oyama, DMD
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 Ronald Packham, DMD
 Kevin Packham, DMD
 Ronald Packham, DMD
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 Bradley Parker, DDS
 Stuart Parks, DMD
 Shane Parsons, DMD
 Ivan Paskalev, DMD
 Sheila Pastore
 Peter Pastrell, DMD
 Ashish Patel, DDS
 Mega Patel, DMD
 Dharmini Pathmanathan, DMD
 Anthony Paventy, DMD
 Veniese Pearia
 Annette Pearson, DDS
 Arielle Pearson, DMD
 Christina Pearson, DMD
 Drew Pearson, DMD
 Gregory Pearson, DMD
 Joseph Peck, DMD
 Megan Peck, DMD
 Melvin Pederson, DDS
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 Farzad Pirayesh, DMD
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 Bradley Poissant
 Jillana Pollard, DMD
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 Sparkle L. Portash
 Natalie Potter, DMD
 Bradley Powell, DMD

Robert Pratt, DMD
 Chris Primley, DMD
 Brian Prins, DMD
 Alice Price and Lonny Doi
 Jill Price, DMD
 Geoffrey Purcell, DDS
 Michael Purcell, DDS
 Boonyapa Purt, DMD
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 Adriana Repppell, DMD
 Joseph Restic, DMD
 Douglas Retzlaff, DMD
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 Bradford Rhodes, DMD
 Jessica Rice, DDS
 Joshua Rice, DDS
 Martha Rich, DMD
 Mellissa Richwine
 Sara Riechers, DDS
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 John Rosenthal
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 James Ruckman, DMD
 Kathleen Rueter, DMD
 Benjamin Russell, DMD
 Robert Russell, DMD

J. Roxanne Russell and
 Chester Hiatt, Jr.
 Brian Rust, DMD
 Douglas Rust, DMD
 Robert Rust, DMD
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 Karen Stolzberg
 Marcus Stones, DMD
 Rachael Strauch



Every student is walked to and from the Tooth Taxi before and after care.

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Blair Struble, DMD
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David Sullivan, DDS
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Kevin Sweeney, DMD
Mark Swensen, DDS
David Swiderski, DDS
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Andrew Timm, DMD
Ryan Timm, DMD
Amanda Tinkle, DMD
Aaron Tinkle, DMD
Camille Toloui

Elizabeth Tomczyk, DMD
Andrew Toms, DDS
Richard Tooke, DMD
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Harris Tran, DDS
Gabe Trejo
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Christina Vy, DMD
Robert Wagner, DMD
John Waite, DMD
Michaela Walker, DDS
Nathan Walker
Sue Walker, DMD
Jordan Walle, DMD
Neil Walle, DDS
Edward Ward, DMD
Jonathan Warmflash, DMD
Edward Warr, DMD
John Waschak, DDS
Neil Watanabe, DMD

Christina Waterman, DMD
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Keith Watson, DDS
Emily Weber and
Thomas Schwabel
Heather Weber
Austin Weichlein, DMD
Todd Weil, DMD
Susannah Weinberg, DMD
Gabrielle Weishoff, DMD
Fran Weiss
Sheryl Weissman, DDS
Leeann Welch, DMD
Timothy Welch, DDS
Aaron Welk, DMD
Samuel Wells, DMD
Laura Wendel
James West, DDS
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Sara Westermeyer, DDS
Brian Westover, DMD
Jay Wettstein, DMD
Carl Wheeler, DMD
Robert Whicker, DDS
Jamie White, DMD
Linda White
Neal White
Mimi Whittemore
William Whittemore, DMD
Ryan Wieseler, DDS
Tessa and Jem Wilde
John Wiley, DDS
Bryce Willcox, DMD
Grant Williams, DMD
Gregory Williams, DMD
Brian Wilson, DDS
Christopher Wilson, DDS
David Wilson, DDS
Leonard Wilson, DMD
Tyler Wilson, DMD
Wyatt Wilson, DMD
Kenneth Wiltbank, DMD

Kenneth Winokur, DMD
Jennifer Winslow, DMD
Nadia Winstead, DMD
Eliot Witscher
Thomas Wold, DMD
Ivan Wolthuis, DMD
Bermen Wong, DDS
Brian Wong, DDS
Christopher Wood, DDS
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Stephen Woods, DMD
Robin Woolman
Cameron Woolsey, DDS
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Jeffrey Work
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Kevin Wu, DDS
Michelle Wu, DDS
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Tributes to Our Loved Ones

Many of our donors choose to make their gift in honor or memory of a loved one. The following were tribute gifts made to The Dental Foundation of Oregon between January 1 and December 31, 2025.

It's easy to make a tribute! Just indicate with your \$10+ gift the person you wish to be recognized, along with their address, and we will send your honoree and/or their family a card letting them know of your kindness.

IN HONOR

Mike Goger, DMD
CJ and Jill McLeod

David Howerton, DMD
Robert Gootee

Abraham Nizel, DDS
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Thomas Pollard, DMD

Richard Turner and
Kimberly Ann Streuli

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IN MEMORY

Ken Berg
Barry Taylor, DMD, CAE

Lynn Ironside
Barbara Marquam

Richard "Dick" Rowell, DMD
Elisa Williams-Schofield

Fred Scott, DMD

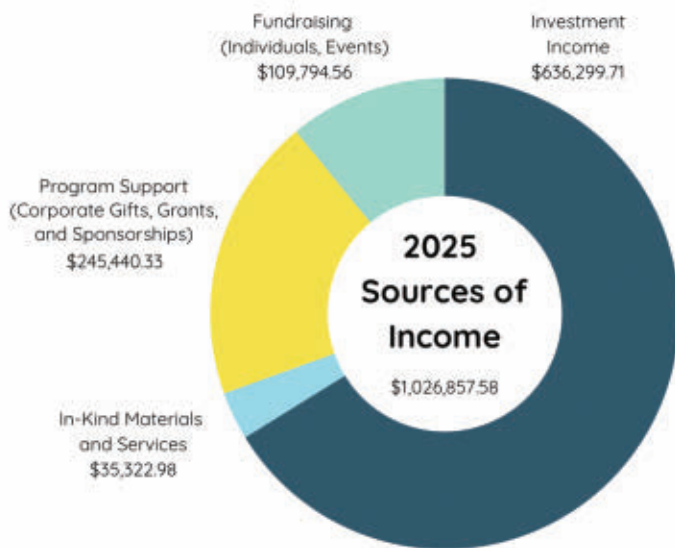
Myrtle Alice Scott

David Withers, DDS
Robert Rose, DMD

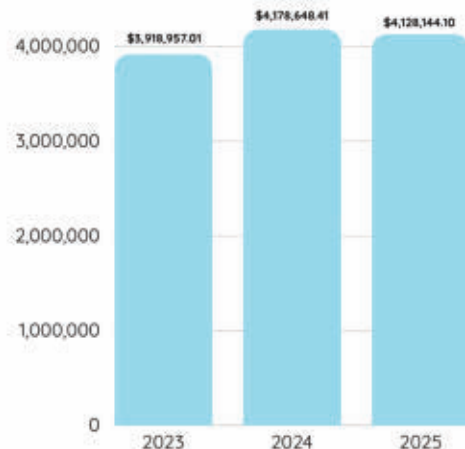
Steve Wohlford, DMD
Carron Lund

Statement of Financial Position

				2025
TOTAL ASSETS				\$4,651,945.42
	Total Liabilities			0
	Total Equity			4,651,945.42
Revenue				
	Program Support			245,440.33
	Fundraising			109,794.56
	In-Kind Materials/Services			35,322.98
	<u>Investment Income</u>			<u>636,299.71</u>
	Total Revenue			1,026,857.58
Revenue				
	Programs and Services			677,737.54
	Fundraising/Marketing			50,986.41
	General/Administrative			161,636.23
	Investment Expenses			26,804.02
	Total Expenses			917,164.20
	Increase in Net Assets			109,693.38



Investment Fund Year-End Value



Help Children by Joining the Cornerstone Society

Looking for a meaningful way to leave a lasting impact in Oregon? Please consider joining The Dental Foundation of Oregon's Cornerstone Society when making your will, trust, and other planned legacy gifts.

By including The Dental Foundation of Oregon in your will or trust, you create opportunities for generations of young people in poverty to access dental care for decades to come.

We are happy to provide sample bequest language, discuss restricted or unrestricted giving options, or work with you to ensure that any gift to our foundation aligns with your intentions. We also welcome the opportunity to meet with you to share more about our mission, impact, and long-term vision.

Already included The Dental Foundation of Oregon in your plans? We'd love to thank you, so please let us know!

Sincere thanks to the people below who have already remembered The Dental Foundation of Oregon in their estate plans:



Anonymous
Dr. Kenneth* and Susan Berg
Dr. G. Jim Darke
Dr. Rick A. Evans

Dr. Michael J. and Suzann C. Goger
Dr. Gary D. Lewellyn
Dr. Patrick Nearing and Barbara Zukin
Dr. Oscar and Delila Smith

Dr. Jeffery and Kimberly Spathas
Dr. William and Kathy Ten Pas
Dr. Renee E. Watts

*Deceased

We Appreciate Our Corporate and Foundation Sponsors!

Much gratitude to our generous corporate and foundation sponsors in 2025 who made a commitment to children's dental care in 2026 on the Tooth Tax:

- **Austin Family Foundation**, \$7,500 for children in Yamhill County;
- **Ferguson Wellman Capital Management**, \$2,500 for Community School students at Merlo Station Campus in Beaverton;
- **Howard Wallis Irwin and Doris Carolyn Hinton Irwin Foundation**, \$7,500 for children at Community Transitional School in northeast Portland;
- **Delta Dental of Oregon/Moda Health**, \$150,000+ including in-kind gifts, to care for children on the Tooth Tax;
- **OCF Joseph E. Weston Public Foundation**, \$5,000 for children at Community Transitional School in northeast Portland;
- **Zera Foundation**, \$12,000, for Community School students at Merlo Station Campus in Beaverton.



Tom Tucker Humanitarian Award – Kurt Ferré, DDS

KURT FERRÉ, DDS, MAY HAVE RETIRED IN 2008 after nearly 30 years with Permanente Dental Associates in Portland, but his work to promote oral health has only gained momentum since then.

A past-president of the Multnomah Dental Society, Dr. Ferré currently serves on the Oregon Dental Association’s Government Relations Council and said Aristotle’s quote, “The whole is greater than the sum of the parts,” captures why organized dentistry has long been important to him.

“I’ve had many individuals, dentists, hygienists and public health advocates who have been with me, encouraged me, if not even taken the lead and invited me to join a campaign or a project,” he said. “Over

the years I have been involved with three ODA-sponsored bills in Salem that involved fluoridation, and without their knowledge of protocols and professional lobbyists I would have been a total fish out of water.”

Dr. Ferré advocacy includes serving on the dental advisory board for Medical Teams International. He is a regular volunteer on a MTI mobile dental unit and was the president of the board. He also was volunteer dental director for the Creston Children’s Dental Clinic in Southeast Portland from February 2010 to October 2018.

“Sadly, PPS wanted the clinic space for another project and we were asked to cease operations. However, we proudly served low-income children in the school district with

a core group of volunteer dentists, hygienists, assistants and only three paid employees,” he said.

Dr. Ferré has been actively involved in the education, promotion and protection of fluoridation programs since 1999. In 2014, he was recognized by the American Academy of Pediatrics’ Campaign for Dental Health for his fluoridation advocacy and received a Community Water Fluoridation Determination Award.

In 2015, Dr. Ferré helped co-found the American Fluoridation Society (AFS), a 501(c)(4) nonprofit. Its mission is to educate and promote fluoridation as a sound public health measure, and to prevent rollbacks of existing fluoridation programs in the United States. In 2019, he helped co-found the American Fluoridation Institute (AFI), the AFS 501(c)(3) sister nonprofit that focuses on fluoridation education. Currently, Dr. Ferré is AFS board emeritus and the current treasurer and board member for the AFI.

“I am honored and humbled to have received this recognition,” he said of the Tom Tucker Humanitarian Award. “I just turned 75 years young, I have finished three quarters and am entering the fourth quarter where there is seldom an overtime in this game of life. My hope is to use this award to help find some younger dentists and hygienists who would like to become involved with fluoridation in the future.

“The ODA published an article a few months ago seeking ‘Fluoridation Ambassadors’ to fill this role. I would love to mentor future fluoridation ambassadors, which would make me



very happy and allow me to spend more time with my four young grandchildren, who call me 'Pa,'" Dr. Ferré said.

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 July 1 for the 2027 Tom Tucker Humanitarian Award. 📧

2026 ODA New Dentist Award Nominees

We're excited to celebrate new dentists (10 years or less out of dental school) who demonstrate excellence and inspire others in science, research & education, practice excellence, philanthropy, leadership, and advocacy. Congratulations to the nominees for the 2026 ODA New Dentist Award!

- Yashar Sekhvatmandi, DDS – Washington County Dental Society
- Bryan Schofield, DMD – Clackamas County Dental Society

Be on the lookout for the 2027 ODA New Dentist Award nominations to begin in January of 2027.

ODA New Dentist Award – Mikhail Bondarew, DMD

MIKHAIL BONDAREW, DMD, WAS INSPIRED TO BECOME a dentist after unexpectedly assisting in a dental surgery following a whitewater kayaking accident. He and a friend were paddling when the accident knocked four teeth out of his friend's mouth, a traumatic blow that required urgent care.

Dr. Bondarew reached out to a friend who was a dentist. She met the pair at her clinic after hours and asked him to assist her in the surgery. Dr. Bondarew said he was immediately struck by how interesting and engaging the work was, and that experience ultimately led him to pursue a career in dentistry.

He earned his DMD in 2017 from Virginia Commonwealth University and completed a general practice residency at the Department of Veterans Affairs at the Portland Health Care System. He now works with Wallace Medical Concern in Portland.

"I value the opportunity to contribute to my community by improving oral health and helping patients achieve a pain-free, functional quality of life," he said, adding he believes it's important to be involved in organized dentistry because it is essential for dentists to support and invest in the profession they rely on.

"Being part of an organized dental community fosters meaningful

connections, encourages collaboration and offers a level of shared understanding that's difficult to find elsewhere," he said.

As he celebrates receiving the ODA's New Dentist Award, Dr. Bondarew noted his appreciation for the community that has surrounded him throughout his career.

"Oregon is home to many talented new dentists, so I feel both surprised and deeply honored to have been nominated and even more so to have received the award. I also recognize that this achievement is not mine alone, and I'm incredibly grateful for the many people who have supported me along the way," he said. 📧



2026 Oregon Dental Conference

THE 2026 OREGON DENTAL CONFERENCE TOOK PLACE on April 9-11, 2026, at the Oregon Convention Center. Attendees enjoyed three full days of continuing education including the keynote *The Heart of the Matter* with Amber Auger, MPH, RDH, which focused on how dentistry plays a critical role in supporting cardiovascular health.

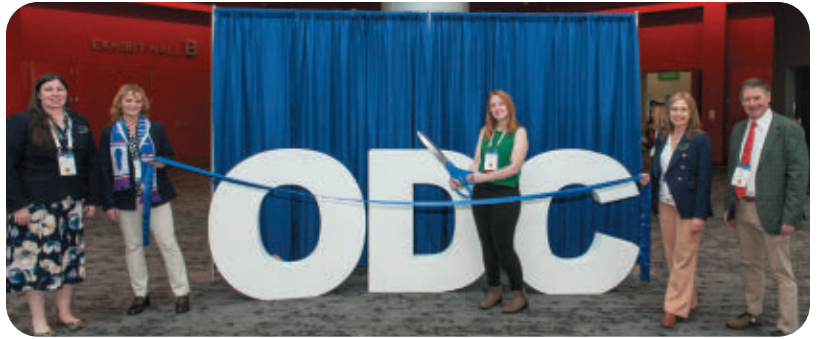
In the exhibit hall, attendees had the opportunity to meet over 100 exhibitors, take a free professional headshot, donate blood with the American Red Cross, grab lunch from a local Portland food truck, enjoy free massages and acupuncture in the Wellness Hub, and they had the opportunity to get an additional CE credit simply for voting on the OHSU School of Dentistry Research Posters showcase, CaseCATS.

Social events included the New Dentist Social, the Friday night ODC Party: *I Want My ODC!*, and a new event this year, Thursday's ODC Night Out: *Say Ahh-Haha*, a stand-up comedy show at Revolution Hall's Show Bar featuring Dr. Bert Walpack.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 2027 Oregon Dental Conference May 13-15, 2027! 🎯









Thank You, ODC Sponsors!

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Speaker Sponsors



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an event for the
Entire Dental Team

Dr. Kenneth Wiltbank Receives 2026 AAE Spirit of Service Award

THE ODA COMMUNITY IS PROUD TO CELEBRATE Dr. Kenneth Wiltbank of the Washington County Dental Society for receiving the 2026 Spirit of Service Award from the American Association of Endodontists (AAE). Dr. Wiltbank was honored during the AAE annual meeting held in April in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Spirit of Service Award (Career Dental Community Volunteer) recognizes individuals who exemplify leadership through service to both the profession and the community. Recipients are selected based on their dedication to volunteering time and expertise, building meaningful

partnerships within the dental community, strengthening dental organizations and improving access to care for underserved patients.

Dr. Wiltbank's commitment to service reflects the values that continue to strengthen organized dentistry and improve oral health outcomes throughout Oregon. Through his volunteer efforts and professional leadership, he has made a meaningful impact on patients, colleagues and the broader dental community.

This national recognition highlights not only Dr. Wiltbank's dedication to endodontics, but also his ongoing commitment to giving



back and supporting those in need through compassionate care and community involvement.

Congratulations to Dr. Kenneth Wiltbank on this outstanding and well-deserved honor. 🎉

oregon dental
CONFERENCE

A NEW ROADMAP FOR ODC

WE'RE ON THE MOVE TO MARCH!

ODC is moving to March! Join us in May 2027 before we settle into our new dates in 2028, which align with the Oregon Board of Dentistry licensure renewal deadline.

Year	Dates
2027	MAY 13-15, 2027
2028	MARCH 9-11, 2028*
2029	MARCH 8-10, 2029*

*Dates are tentative and being released for planning purposes. Please note they may adjust slightly.

ODA Scarf – Where’s Yours?

THOUSANDS OF ODA “FIGHT ENAMEL CRUELTY” SCARVES have made their way into the hands and around the necks of members across Oregon and beyond. More than just a scarf, it’s a vibrant symbol of our shared commitment to advancing oral health and strengthening the dental community throughout the state.

From local events to global destinations, ODA scarves have been spotted everywhere even alongside celebrities like Carrie Underwood. Each version tells a story, including the latest design by Dr. Michelle Bloemers created during her time at Oregon Health Science University School of Dentistry.

Whether you received yours in a new member box, at Dental Day in Salem, or while volunteering at the Oregon Dental Conference, it represents your connection to something bigger.

Now it’s your turn – where’s your ODA scarf? We invite you to rediscover it, wear it proudly, and share your story. Send us a photo of you showcasing your scarf whether you’re in the office, exploring the outdoors, or traveling afar. Selected submissions will be featured in *Membership Matters* and across ODA social media channels.

Be sure to include a brief caption with your photo and email it to Melissa Juenger at mjuenger@oregondental.org, or tag @oregondental in your post.

We’re excited to see the many places your ODA scarf has been and the community it continues to unite! 📷



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Events & Education

Component CE Calendar

CONTINUING
EDUCATION

Calendar provided by Mehdi Salari, DMD

This calendar is current as of June 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
06/09/2026	Coastal Cascades	Retiree Luncheon	-	-	Eugene – Roaring Rapids Pizza	Register: www.bit.ly/CCDSEVENTS
06/13/2026	Coastal Cascades	Mt. Pisgah Arboretum Hike – Coastal Cascades Dentist Society Meet Up	-	-	Mt Pisgah Arboretum, Eugene	Register: www.bit.ly/CCDSEVENTS
08/11/2026	Coastal Cascades	Arcade Meetup	-	-	Play Eugene	Info/Register: www.bit.ly/CCDSEVENTS
09/08/2026	Coastal Cascades	3D Printing	Max Thomas	2	Eugene – LLC	Info/Register: www.bit.ly/CCDSEVENTS
09/12/2026	Coastal Cascades	Corvallis Oregon Oral Cancer Walk	-	-	Willamette Park, Corvallis	Info/Register: https://ocf.donordrive.com/oregon
09/17/2026	Tri-County	Fall Kick Off/Tailgate Event	-	-	ODA Parking Lot	Info/Register: www.multnomahdental.org
09/17/2026	Coastal Cascades	Dentist Social at Lane Community College	-	-	LCC Healthcare Professionals Building, Eugene	Info/Register: www.bit.ly/CCDSEVENTS
09/18/2026	Coastal Cascades	Dental Office Manager Summit	Healthcare Compliance Associates	-	Camp Harlow – Springfield	Info/Register: www.bit.ly/CCDSEVENTS
09/24/2026	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	More info to come
10/10/2026	Coastal Cascades	Hiking Meetup	-	-	Location TBD	Info/Register: www.bit.ly/CCDSEVENTS
10/15/2026	Tri-County	Women in Dentistry-Wine and Paint Night	-	-	ODA Building	Info/Register: www.multnomahdental.org
10/16/2026	Coastal Cascades	Anatomical Endodontics with optional Hands-On Workshop	Dr. Alex Fleury	3-5	Eugene – LLC	Info/Register: www.bit.ly/CCDSEVENTS
10/18/2026	DFO	Floss and Run		-	Rock Creek Country Club	Info: www.smileonoregon.org
10/20/2026	Clackamas County	AI Topics	TBD	2	Providence Willamette Falls Community Center	Info/Register: www.clackamasdental.com
11/12/2026	Tri-County	New Dentist Social	-	-	Dave and Busters (Clackamas)	Info/Register: www.multnomahdental.org
11/19/2026	Coastal Cascades	Dental Marketing and AI Topics	Kayla Mauldin	2	Webinar	Info/Register: www.bit.ly/CCDSEVENTS
12/03/2026	Central Oregon	TBD	TBD	2	Bend – Currents Restaurants Riverhouse	More info to come
12/05/2026	Coastal Cascades	Game Night, Hot Cocoa, Holiday Gathering	-	-	Florence Dental Clinic	Info/Register: www.bit.ly/CCDSEVENTS
12/08/2026	Coastal Cascades	Retiree Luncheon	-	-	Corvallis Location TBD	Info/Register: www.bit.ly/CCDSEVENTS
12/17/2026	Coastal Cascades	CE TBD	TBD	2	Corvallis Community Center/ Webinar	Info/Register: www.bit.ly/CCDSEVENTS
01/15/2027	Tri-County	Medical Emergencies/ DEI Training	TBD	6	ODA Building	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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- ▶ 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!