

DENTAL

DIMENSIONS

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FALL
2022



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MAKE IT A BETTER PLACE

A PUBLICATION OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY DENTAL SOCIETY



Dental Assistant Training Curriculum, just for CDA members

Access affordable, easy-to-implement resources to support in-office training

Build a dental team that fits your practice's needs with CDA's new Dental Assistant Training Curriculum.

The curriculum is designed to provide dentists with a quicker and more efficient way to train inexperienced team members. It can be easily implemented in the dental office and blends on-the-job training with online learning.

In 12 weeks, trainees can develop the skills needed to become a dental assistant, even if they have no prior dental experience.

The training curriculum builds the DA skills needed to work chairside and includes:

- Interactive activities based on real scenarios that occur in the dental office.
- Quizzes and exams throughout each lesson to test the trainee's understanding.
- A comprehensive dental glossary so trainees can learn new terms and easily follow along.
- A course calendar to keep track of course events and assignment due dates.

To support members' staffing needs, the online curriculum is offered at a nominal cost.

Additionally, members have access to more staffing resources and support:

- **The Dental Assistant Training Roadmap:** A downloadable set of in-office recruiting, hiring, onboarding and training materials developed just for CDA members.
- **The Smile Crew of California Bootcamp:** A hands-on training program that teaches participants the necessary skills to become a dental assistant.

See how CDA can help you build your practice team.
Learn more at www.cda.org/DAttraining



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Do you have an unusual case study or an interesting article you would like to have published? Dental Dimensions is looking for articles from our members so we can share our collective knowledge. Articles should be 500-1000 words with references where applicable and photos if possible. Send your submissions to: exec.sfvds@sbcglobal.net or contact the dental society office at 818-576-0116.



Academy
of General Dentistry



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FALL
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DISCLOSURE

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EDITOR'S NOTE

As dentists we get to play “healers” for our patients. We play a role in not only healing their oral health, but also helping them modify their lifestyle and habits which eventually help heal their bodies and their minds. Isn't that a wonderful feeling to be able to change lives in a meaningful manner on so many levels? We can translate that healing touch to ourselves in the form of self-care and we can work wonders with staying healthy, fit and agile for our families, our patients and most importantly for us. Common-sense practices like mindfulness, meditation, regular exercise and making sensible choices with our diet require a lot of self-discipline but the rewards are manifold as we all know it. It is a matter of cultivating habits that stick and like anything else that comes with repetitions (example- a class 2 on the upper 2nd molars!!), these practices eventually become an integral part of our lives.

What if humanity as a whole could translate this healing touch approach to our only home, the planet earth? From the food we eat, the water we consume, the clothes we wear, the way we travel from point A to point B, the things we use on a day-to-day basis, the way we manage our waste and pretty much every action imaginable has an impact on the Ecological Footprint. The Ecological Footprint is the metric that measures how much nature we have and how much nature we use. Ecological Footprint accounting measures the demand on and supply of nature. It helps countries improve sustainability and well-being. It helps local leaders optimize public project investments. And it helps individuals understand their impact on the planet. How can we fit in the way we practice dentistry into this environmental protection and sustainability equation?

Let's brainstorm and research this question jointly, dear SFVDS members. We would love to get your point of view, insights, comments and suggestions about this important question and share it with the membership in the next publication of the Dental Dimensions. Please email your responses to our ED, Curt Thornton at exec.sfvds@sbcglobal.net.

Shukan Kanuga, DDS, MSD



FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

PHILOMENA OBOH, DDS

DRIVING CHANGE CHANGE IS INEVITABLE IN LIFE!

Change is an important work and life component that cannot be done away with. Those who have been in dentistry in the last 25 years can attest to the number of changes they have gone through or navigated. Those who choose to avoid change are always left behind.

At the San Fernando Valley Dental Society, we are driving change. We are at the table in helping solve the auxiliary shortage, and we are working behind the scenes with CDA and ADA in finding ways to abate the effects of inflation. We are working on new ways to provide mentorship for our new dentists, so they don't feel alone or lost after dental school.

A recent survey of our membership regarding our in-person CE meetings shows that most members now prefer a hybrid form of attendance. As such, we will be adjusting the way our continuing education courses will be provided to our membership in 2023.

As we are all aware, change takes time. We indulge your patience as we work to resolve and alleviate these issues.

Dr. Philomena Oboh, DDS

President





FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CURT THORNTON, MBA



I cannot believe how fast this year is going by as the summer months are coming to an end! And September has been one of the HOTTEST months this summer, breaking many records, while managing our daily Flex Alerts! Despite the extreme weather, we are having a fun and busy summer!

Thank you to the many SFVDS members, and dental assistants, that volunteered over the summer to help our partners at Healing California (www.healingca.org)!! The SFVDS Foundation supported three different events focused on our homeless and at-risk veterans in the Antelope and Santa Clarita Valley's. It was a huge success, and we will be doing it again on November 11 for Veteran's Smile Day! Check out our flyer [here](#) for more details!

Also, in July I had the privilege of traveling with three of our SFVDS board members to Chicago for ADA's Leadership & Membership Conference. I was joined by our President Dr. Philomena Oboh, President-Elect Dr. Emad Bassali, and our Membership Committee Chair Dr. Anette Masters. We had two full days of intense, immersive, interactive sessions with other components and constituents from around the U.S. It was an awesome experience as this was my first trip to ADA, and I was able to meet many of the key ADA leaders. And I can tell you firsthand that the ADA has a huge vision for organized dentistry, being led by ADA Executive Director Dr. Raymond Cohlmiia. His Vision? Drive Change! Yes, I am excited about our future!

>> ATTENTION! ATENCIÓN! READ THIS! <<

Now, that I have your attention, I wanted to share with you that SFVDS has two very special events planned for you in October, and you must check them out! First, our 1st in-person live [General Meeting](#) is on Wednesday October 19, and it's only \$49! Second, our [2022 Family Picnic](#) at Magic Mountain is on Sunday October 23, and it's only \$25 for member dentists! We have a very full calendar of events for the remainder of 2022, so we are far from done! As usual, we are having another CPR class (Chatsworth), our last Shlep & Shred event (Glendale), and many more continuing education events. Please check out our entire remaining calendar of events in this issue of Dental Dimensions.

I would also like to remind you that one of our many member benefits is the SFVDS [Career Center](#). It provides many ways to help you recruit the top dental professionals for your organization. You can read more about it in this issue of Dental Dimensions.

If you are not on our mailing list, please send me an email at exec.sfvds@sbcglobal.net. And lastly, we would like to ask you to support all our sponsors and partners of the SFVDS - you'll find them all throughout this edition of Dental Dimensions!

Enjoy the next few months' activities and I hope to see you very soon at one of our in-person events or live interactive webinars!



Curt



FROM THE NEW DENTIST COMMITTEE SEAN SAKHAI, DDS

The New Dentist Committee would like to extend an invitation to join us for a lecture by Dr. Sarah Aylard on October 27th. The zoom lecture will discuss myofascial and atypical dental pain management in a clinical setting. Watch for our email containing all the details!



We would also like to invite you to our 2022 Family Picnic on Sunday, October 23rd, at Magic Mountain in Valencia. You can purchase tickets on line [HERE](#). Member Dentists are \$25! We hope to see you there! Sean Sakhai, DDS.



SPECIAL INVITATION

Only **\$49**
Limited Time Offer!

SFVDS Live in Person Meeting
October 19, 2022, Wednesday, 2PM-9PM
@Encino/Balboa Golf Course Banquet Room

Limited Space
Register Now!

ONE TIME Discounted FEE for the first 60 member registrants



Ashley Clark, DDS, FACD, is a Board-Certified Oral Pathologist currently serving as Associate Professor, Division Chief, and Laboratory Director at the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry. She has published over 40 papers and abstracts, authored the oral pathology sections of both Dental Decks and Dental Hygiene Decks, and is on the professional board for Digital Dental Notes and Oral Cancer Cause.

The Daily Grind: Practical Oral Pathology for Your Practice Ashley Clark, DDS, FACD



Matthew Burton, DDS has worked as an established dental practitioner in Illinois since 2008. Like most dentists, his schedule was filled with one of the most common procedures: the Class II composite restoration. After several years in his practice working on hundreds of fillings, Dr. Burton became frustrated with the available Class II matrix systems. He tried nearly every system, but none of them provided the efficiency and consistent results he was seeking. Dr. Burton began contemplating new ideas to make his chair-side time more efficient. He discovered that he could simplify & streamline the Class II restoration process by simply re-designing the wedge to "split" down the middle. He came up with the flexible "Split Wedge" which allows for proper gingival seal, perfect matrix contour, while greatly minimizing flash. This design wedge played a critical role in achieving excellent outcomes in an incredibly efficient way.

Cutting Wedge Technology: An in Depth Look at The Importance of Wedges in Direct Composite Restorations Matthew Burton, DDS

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\$99

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\$100 Members, Auxiliaries, Students and Residents

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Limited Spots Available!

REGISTER TODAY

DON'T WAIT!



JORGE ALVAREZ, DDS

BCR TRUSTEE REPORT

By the time you will read this article we will be in the second semester of 2022, a different year in comparison to 2021. We have the highest inflation rate in the last 41 years, 9.1%.

No doubt our dental offices are being affected by higher costs to dental supplies, dental laboratory fees, the need to pay higher salaries to dental offices auxiliaries, more government regulations fees, among other factors. If this trend continues, it could affect the way we deliver our service to our communities.

Among the main priorities our profession has, is how to approach the third-party payers, to actualize the reimbursement fees for dental services rendered to the public. Our profession faces legal challenges due to the antitrust laws, to mention the Sherman Act of 1890, the Clayton Act of 1914, the Federal Trade Commission Act of 1914, and the McCarran-Ferguson Act in 1945.

Finally, after years of pursuing to overturn the McCarran-Ferguson Act, in 2021 the U.S. government adopted the Competitive Health Insurance Reform Act officially repealing the McCarran-Ferguson Act of 1945 which exempted the business of insurance for most federal regulations, including federal antitrust laws. This achievement was done in great part by the ADA and dentists. I invite our readers to read the briefing of this Reform act.

The San Fernando Valley Dental Society is 100% proactive in this issue, since our members had been affected by the Covid19 pandemic, 9.1% the rate of inflation and the reimbursement rates from third party payers.

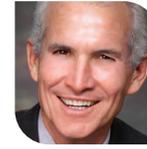
It is recommended to periodically review your fees and the agreements with the third-party payers, if you have a third-party issue do not hesitate to consult with the San Fernando Valley Dental Society central office, CDA and ADA.

The ADA and CDA have available tools to all members in their web sites to answer questions regarding this issue.

The July 2022 issue of the CDA Journal is dedicated to Dental Benefits, it has valuable information.

Finally, in the last two meetings of the CDA Board of Component Representatives, the main priority has been dental staff shortages issues, as a result CDA has created different tools to recruit and retain members of the public interested in dental careers, these tools are available upon request to our members.

Wishing all our members good health, until the next Dental Dimensions issue.



GIB SNOW, DDS

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Listed below are actions taking place on the state level. I am not aware of any actions taken by local jurisdictions that would have a direct impact on our profession. We are all aware of what is happening on the national level. If you are aware of any regulations or laws that need attention on any level, please contact Curt at headquarters. He can pass the information along to the legislative committee.

AB457 was passed and signed. It provides that telehealth medicine must give full disclosure to patients that use telehealth the effect telehealth has on the patient's health benefits. Dentistry was left out of this bill. Now, AB1982 includes dentistry. This would allow the dental patient full disclose regarding the effect of dental benefits when using teledentistry. Right now, the bill is in committee.

CDA is working with the state to help spend the surplus tax funds held by the state towards dental care. CDA sponsored AB2276 will allow Dental Assistants to perform coronal polishing and placement of sealants under direct supervision after obtaining certification. The bill is in the appropriations committee. \$50 million has been earmarked to build dental clinics and outpatient surgery centers. These centers will be built to provide for those unable to undergo dental procedures in traditional offices. \$10 million will be used to establish clinics for dental students who will provide care to the underserved. Revenue from these clinics will be used to finance the maintenance of these facilities.

A work force group will be established to provide a pipeline of dental assistants to the dental assisting work force. The lack of team members and higher wages has had a deleterious impact on our profession. The principle of supply and demand has driven up wages. The facilities for this provision will possibly be located one in the San Fernando Valley second in the Santa Clarita Valley, and third in the Antelope Valley. We are actively pushing for this to happen in our three valleys. This proposed program will provide the instructors for the dental assistant students. The proposed program will most likely outsource some of the training like x-ray instruction etc. For "on the job" part of the training the student will be placed in dental offices that decide to participate. The student will be required to work in the office a minimum of 32 hours per week. The program will pay one half of the students' salary and the dentist will pay one half. Training in the dental office will be for a period of three to six months. Each participating office will then be able to hire, if desired, the student after the training period. CDA has been collaborating with the State through its newly formed program called Smile Crew. You can learn more about that program from the website www.smilecrewca.com.

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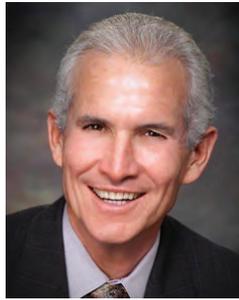
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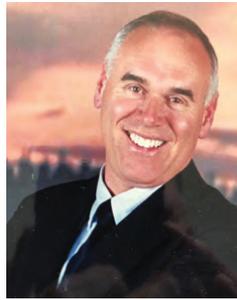
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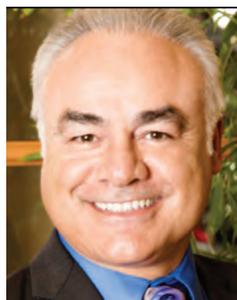
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HOW TO UNLOCK OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY & SAVE ON ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

Dental practices have not escaped the rapid shift in consumer expectations toward digital engagement. Payment and communication options that are standard when ordering groceries or paying a wireless bill are now must-haves for today's modern dental practice.

The upside for your office is that the same technology that can enhance the patient experience can also help streamline office workflows and give you and your staff more time to focus on other priorities, each day. Whether you're struggling to find time to finish up lingering projects, taking a professional development course, or just eating lunch, automated solutions can help.

SHORT-STAFFED AND OVERWORKED

According to the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), people are quitting their jobs in record numbers. Across all industries, the U.S. is averaging over 4 million resignations every month. The healthcare sector lost 2.7 million workers through May 2022 at a devastating rate of about 2.7% per month.

The dental industry has been equally hard hit by the Great Resignation. A [poll](#) conducted by the American Dental Association (ADA) Policy Institute in March 2022 found that 26.5% of dental practice owners are recruiting administrative staff. This percentage is higher for larger practices – 35.3% of practices with two to nine dentists and 57% with 10 or more dentists are recruiting administrative staff. Nearly half of all dental practice owners are reporting that hiring administrative staff for their practice is “extremely challenging” in this current environment.

If you're operating short-staffed and feeling overworked, finding more time in a day has never been more critical. Here are three ways technology can enhance office efficiency and help you reclaim control of your day.

TIMESAVER #1: AUTOMATED PAYMENTS

Administrative costs are a continuing burden to the U.S. healthcare system. [The Brookings Institution](#) estimates that the healthcare industry spends up to one-third of its costs on administration. Billing and insurance processing is a significant portion of these costs.

Automated payments are one way to reduce the time you spend chasing down patient payments. Best practices for automated payment

processing include:

- Card on file [stores payment information](#) so you can automatically process payments at the time of visit or when insurance balances become due.
- Contactless payments such as digital wallets and mobile wallet apps offer convenience, efficiency, and security.
- Flexible payment plans help patients settle their balances with more manageable payments.
- Online and mobile payments are fast, convenient, and [automatically post](#) to the ledger.
- Patient financing allows patients to receive the care they need now and [pay for it over time](#).

And if you need another reason to embrace automated payment processing, patients also prefer it:

- A CWH Advisors [survey](#) found that payment preferences are shifting toward online and digital wallet options. Among respondents aged 18 to 34, 57% prefer using debit cards or digital wallets like Apple Pay.
- A [survey](#) by PYMNTS and Rectangle Health found that 56% of healthcare consumers would like their providers to offer payment plans.

These survey results show that the dental industry is moving towards digital options as a primary source of payment.

TIMESAVER #2: DIGITAL REGISTRATION FORMS

If you're still using paper forms and typing in patient information manually, you're not as efficient as you could be. [Digital registration forms](#) can be a real timesaver.

Consider this streamlined workflow:

- You text or email your patients a link to your registration forms from your workstation. Whether you send forms out via email or have patients complete them in the office, this step bypasses paper packets entirely.
- Patients complete the forms at their own pace instead of being rushed at the office. This improves accuracy and allows you to collect insurance information and payment preference before their first visit.

- You upload the information directly into your practice management system. There's no need to key in data or scan in stacks of forms.

For a busy dental office manager struggling to keep up, digital registration forms are an easy win for your staff and patients.

TIMESAVER #3: CUSTOMIZABLE MESSAGES

How much time do your office staff spend on the phone – leaving messages, retrieving messages, or listening to a chatty patient's weekend plans? Text communications are a reliable and efficient way to communicate with patients about:

- Appointments
- Bills and payment options
- Important practice announcements

You can also combine communication and payment solutions for additional time savings. By including a [payment link to the text](#), you eliminate the need for paper statements and manual posting of payments. Because patients can access these online capabilities when it's convenient for them, your office is essentially functioning 24/7.

Organizations that have adopted digital communication tools [attest](#) that their patients have responded positively. According to Daniela Borello, Patient Relations and Treatment Coordinator at Lerner & Lemongello Dentistry, their patients "have really loved the fact that we've put all these consent forms digitally and then can text back and forth with us."

LET RECTANGLE HEALTH HELP YOU GET MORE DONE

As a leader in [patient technology solutions](#), we understand the friction points in your administrative processes that drain valuable time out of each day. We've designed our innovative work and cash flow platform, [Practice Management Bridge®](#), with ease and efficiency in mind.

By modernizing and simplifying practice operations, our system saves your staff time while helping you achieve faster payments, higher revenues, and improved patient

satisfaction. [Contactless payments](#), text to pay, [online payments](#), and card on file gives patients the payment options they want while eliminating the need for checks and paper statements. Other features include digital registration forms, [custom text messages](#), automated payment posting, streamlined workflows, and creating an effortless user experience for both staff and patients.

We know that [security and compliance](#) are some of the top concerns in healthcare practices. With that in mind, our software uses

standard web protocols with the highest level of security to safeguard your patients' health and financial information, making sure you meet today's standards of healthcare compliance requirements. We take care of compliance so you don't have to.

To learn more, [contact us](#) today.

Disclaimer - While there are multiple practice management solution options out there for dental practices to choose from, we thank Rectangle Health for this information.



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Jack Fogelson

With over 25 years experience in the dental industry as a Broker, Agent or Technology Specialist, I have a unique combination of skills. Those skills include understanding the management of a dental office, equipment, software and staff. As a proven sales leader, I understand the delicate nature of a sale or purchase of a practice. This experience contributed to the development of custom software designed to improve the process for the Buyer and Seller.

3



WAYS PRACTICES CAN OVERCOME ADMINISTRATIVE STAFFING SHORTAGES

In addition to the abundance of pandemic-related challenges over the past two years, staffing shortages continue to bring a new level of difficulty for healthcare practices across the country. [According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), the “great resignation” is slightly worsening in the healthcare sector, with a quit rate ticking up from 2.4% in March to 2.7% in April.

[Medical Economics reports](#) that many practices are specifically seeing shortages of administrative roles. One doctor told the publication, “About 60% to 70% of the people who respond and make an appointment for an interview no-show the interview.” Practices are forced to do more with fewer resources as they struggle to hire office managers, and many processes and tasks can fall by the wayside or face lengthy delays as a result.

Meanwhile, patients’ expectations are changing to include easier access to appointment booking and their medical information, [digital communications](#), and [convenient payment options](#). This can seem overwhelming for practices as challenges continue to take a toll on staff and affect patient experiences.

There are ways that practices can lean on technology and tools to alleviate the burden on an overtaxed administrative staff. Let’s look at three ways you can use [automation](#) to make every day a little easier.

DIGITAL REGISTRATION FORMS

Patients can avoid the traditional pen and clipboard and you can steer clear of paperwork with a contactless check-in process. By offering [digital registration forms](#), you can save time and keep patient wait times low.

[Practice Management Bridge®](#) empowers you to email or text patients a link to registration forms they can fill out before their appointment. These HIPAA-compliant forms eliminate the need to look up insurance information in the waiting room or to rush through paperwork before the doctor sees the patient.

ONLINE PAYMENTS

Automatically posting payments to the patient ledger is a great way to free

up administrative staff for other tasks. Patients can easily navigate the platform to pay their bills and you can manage payments and streamline billing workflows.

[Practice Management Bridge’s online payment](#) automation works with your existing practice management system or electronic health record to make paying more convenient for patients and easier to manage for your practice.

CARE NOW, PAY LATER™

Recent [polling from the Kaiser Family Foundation](#) found that 51% of adults put off medical services in the last year due to the cost. However, there’s a better approach than avoiding the care they need. A [study last year by Rectangle Health and PYMNTS.com](#) revealed that 56% of patients show strong interest in payment plans for their medical bills, with increased interest (73%) among bridge millennials (ages 33-43) and younger patients.

A new integration between Rectangle Health and Healthcare Finance Direct (HFD) allows you to offer flexible payment options to patients within [Practice Management Bridge](#).

A PROVEN WAY TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY AND REVENUE

Practices need solutions as managing an office becomes more complicated due to staffing shortages. [Practice Management Bridge](#) is proven to find efficiencies so that you can reduce the burden on your administrative staff.

An [executive report prepared by Hobson & Company](#), a leading research firm focused on return-on-investment (ROI) studies, highlights the benefits that Rectangle Health customers have already enjoyed and quantifies their return on investment.

[Calculate your ROI today!](#) And, to learn more, [contact us](#) today.

Disclaimer - While there are multiple practice management solution options out there for dental practices to choose from, we thank Rectangle Health for this information.



USING HEALTHCARE TECHNOLOGY TO ACCELERATE REVENUE CYCLE MANAGEMENT

Revenue cycle management (RCM) is a key factor in the financial success of any healthcare practice. Effective RCM makes it possible for healthcare practitioners to provide services that help protect the health and well-being of their patients and communities.

At its core, RCM encompasses all the actions you take to receive payment for the care you provide. The revenue cycle starts when a patient schedules an appointment and continues through registration, care delivery, claim submission, insurance adjustment, and balance billing.

BARRIERS HEALTHCARE PRACTICES FACE TO IMPROVING RCM

Optimizing RCM is an ongoing pursuit for most healthcare leaders. But it's no easy task. The revenue cycle is unwieldy. Staff and patients' experience of the healthcare revenue cycle is often:

- **Decentralized:** RCM activities touch nearly every part of a healthcare organization but there is often a lack of communication and coordination between siloed departments.
- **Manual:** Inefficient, manual processes still dominate many areas of the revenue cycle.
- **Transactional:** Healthcare should be a relationship between the patient and provider, not just the purchase of a service.
- **Unbalanced:** Healthcare organizations have historically emphasized insurance reimbursement, neglecting the pre-care and post-care aspects of RCM.

Adding to these challenges, recent years have seen unprecedented disruptions to the healthcare industry, including:

- **Falling revenues:** A [survey](#) of primary care physicians in August 2021 by the Green Center and Primary Care Collaborative found that less than 30% of practices are financially healthy.
- **Increasing out-of-pocket costs:** Insurance companies are shifting more costs to patients through higher deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance. The Kaiser Family Foundation [reports](#) that deductibles for employer-sponsored health plans

have increased 92% over the last decade. Collecting patient payments is more important than ever.

- **Limited staff:** You're being asked to do more with less support. Over half of practices are unable to hire staff for open positions, according to the Green Center and Primary Collaborative survey.
- **Shifting patient expectations:** People want digital options for managing their healthcare expenses. A [survey](#) by PYMNTS and Rectangle Health found that 60% of healthcare consumers want text or email notifications about payments. More than half want access to payment plans and digital payment options.

RCM REIMAGINED

If your healthcare practice is struggling to modernize its current RCM practices, technology can help. Today's automated solutions offer a more streamlined, holistic experience that promises to:

- Boost patient collections
- Improve patient satisfaction
- Reduce workflow inefficiencies

Digital strategies that can help revolutionize your revenue cycle include:

ONLINE REGISTRATION FORMS

For many offices, new patient registration is a labor-intensive process. Are you still relying on packets of paper? Wouldn't it be easier to text or email new patients a link to the registration forms so they can complete them online at their convenience?

With such forms, information patients provide on their digital registration forms automatically populates the electronic health record. And the forms upload automatically, eliminating the tedious task of scanning forms by hand.

Not only does online registration save your office staff valuable time, it reduces check-in time – something all patients want. Digital registration also captures important payment information you need to

collect future payments.

CONVENIENT, CONTACTLESS POINT-OF-CARE PAYMENTS

A best practice in healthcare billing is to collect payment while the patient is in your office. This reduces the need to chase payments later. Does your practice collect upfront payments? If so, do you offer patients the payment choices they want?

Payment trends are shifting, especially for younger patients. A CWH Advisors [survey](#) found that 57% of respondents between 18 and 34 prefer to pay using debit cards and digital wallets, such as Apple Pay. eMarketer [reports](#) that there were 43.9 million Apple Pay users in 2021 and estimates that over half of all smartphone users will use mobile wallets by 2025.

Most patients want to pay their healthcare bills. Digital wallets, touch-to-pay cards, mobile wallet apps, and QR code options make it faster and easier than ever to collect payments at the point of care.

BALANCE BILLING

RCM managers know that collecting patient balances is a challenge and is only marginally effective. Healthcare practices collect only a fraction of payments owed.

This lost revenue weighs heavily on healthcare practice owners, especially those with fewer than five practitioners. According to a Black Book survey, 83% of small physician practices report that their top collection challenge is slow payments from high-deductible plan patients. What's more, the patient component of the Black Book [survey](#) found that:

- Approximately 60% of healthcare bills are paid online, but nearly 100% of patients would pay online if they could.
- More than 70% of patients say mobile pay and billing alerts have improved satisfaction with their provider.
- Nearly 60% of patients prefer an online payment method that eliminates the hassle of registration and passwords.

It's clear from this data that balance billing needs to change. Indeed, balance billing is high-touch, manual work that's ripe for automation. Consider a workflow that includes:

- **Text or email billing statements,**

instead of paper statements

- **Online and mobile payment options,** instead of checks, cash, or payments over the phone
- **Automatic patient payment posting,** instead of manual data entry

The elimination of paper and manual tasks is better for staff and can lead to a [shift in your company's culture](#). It's also better for patients who are primed and waiting for healthcare organizations to join the rest of the digital economy.

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Disclaimer - While there are multiple practice management solution options out there for dental practices to choose from, we thank Rectangle Health for this information.

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UPGRADING YOUR PATIENT EXPERIENCE WITH NEW TECHNOLOGY

**BY CHRISTIAN DOROJA, CIO/COO
METALLIC IT**

Dentistry is well-positioned to take advantage of a wave of growth after being throttled by COVID-19. More than half of all Americans admit to putting off their dental visits and the result is a surge of patients trying to catch up. The transition to a remote work environment led many to relocate, with more than 30% of people saying they have either moved since the pandemic or plan to in the next 12 months. As a result, dentists have a unique opportunity to bring in new patients.

In the past, an outstanding reputation may have been enough for prospects to give your practice a try. Unfortunately, in a state that has more dentists than any other, technology will be the factor that determines which businesses flourish and which don't.

You may leverage state-of-the-art solutions for exams and treatments, but patients expect innovation to play a role in all aspects of their experience from scheduling to follow-up care. This isn't limited to new visitors, multiple surveys have found that patients have no problem switching providers if they feel someone else is utilizing the latest technology.

BETTER PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

A recent survey by NexHealth found that only about half of all U.S. dental practices have implemented a practice management solution. If you're part of that half, now is the time to reconsider. Utilizing this type of software empowers you to more efficiently communicate with your staff and your patients, as well as manage records, process insurance claims and handle payments.

Additionally, it allows you to implement critical features for improving the patient experience. For example, HealthGrades found that 77 percent of patients would prefer to schedule appointments online. In fact, when presented with the choice between two dentists with similar experience, availability, ratings and proximity, but only one offers online scheduling, the majority will make a decision based on that alone. Despite this, NexHealth found that only 26% of dental practices offer this service.

Furthermore, practice management software can provide valuable

insights into patient behavior and trends. By understanding the needs and demands of your patients, you can be better prepared to meet their needs.

IMPROVED DATA SECURITY

Given the value of patient data, cybersecurity must be at the forefront of all technology decisions. Maintaining compliance and protecting your patients requires regularly caring for your IT. Not doing so can be the downfall of your practice through costly fines, operational disruptions and reputational damage that could come with a data breach. Many dentists are turning to the cloud, as it is a cost-effective, secure way of storing information.

The cloud offers greater flexibility when accessing data, ensuring that regardless of what is happening on-premises, PHI remains private and accessible. Additionally, you can allow patients to access their records via a secure portal, another feature that's highly in-demand. It also facilitates collaborative care by allowing you to share records with other providers in a way that is secure.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Before investing in any new solutions, there are a few things you should keep in mind. The first is compatibility. Will it work with the hardware and software your office is already using? Not double-checking could cost you a lot of time and money in the long run.

Second, consider support. Some people opt for older versions of solutions because they may be more affordable, however, this is typically due to the fact that they have met their 'end of life,' and are no longer being supported. Although it may seem more cost-effective, going for an unsupported solution can lead to vulnerabilities that provide cyber attackers with access to your systems. Plus, if something goes wrong, you'll want to know that someone is available to help you troubleshoot the problem.

It is also important to consider scalability. Don't opt for software that will meet your needs today - choose something that will continue to meet them for the foreseeable future. As your practice grows, you'll want to be able to add additional users and features without having to start from scratch.

IN CONCLUSION

In order to maximize your practice, technology is essential. Remember that if you're struggling to determine what type of solution you need, there is no harm in seeking professional help. Just as you've received extensive education into the intricacies of the human body, IT experts have in-depth knowledge related to cybersecurity and technology. The majority of us who specialize in healthcare and dental are more than happy to take the time to answer questions because we care about protecting your patients, too.

ABOUT CHRISTIAN DOROJA

Christian Doroja has spent more than 25 years working in IT and is passionate about supporting dental professionals in their efforts to provide excellent patient care. He is the CIO/COO of Metallic IT, an MSSP specializing in cybersecurity for dental and healthcare practices. Prior to his current role, Christian worked for companies such as IBM, Universal Health Network, Sony and International Credit Experts. Outside of work, Christian enjoys coaching martial artists and holds a 6th, Dan WT Blackbelt.



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SFVDS Membership Diary

The Changing World of the Dentist

Anette Masters, D.D.S.

The volatility of the market has affected everyone especially dental practice owners. We have succumbed to the instability of the effects of Covid pandemic and now we are dealing with lack of office staff and erratic patient scheduling.

As a dentist, we want to be in control of our office environment. We make sure that everything is running smoothly, patients are seen on time, accounts receivables are taken care of, insurance is billed, and supplies are replenished promptly. And any changes around us can be at times overwhelming.

Summer is almost over, and we are seeing the slow change around us. Stage 3 DDS are preparing for their retirement while Stage 1 DDS are getting ready to find the practice of their dreams.

And as the year ends, we too are scrambling to meet our new Continuing Education requirements to renew our dental license. I may be biased, but SFVDS has given the most educational and informative Continuing Education lectures compared to almost all the dental societies in CA. Up until July, we have provided 44 CE credits to our members, and we have more upcoming lectures and events from September through December.

It has been a roller coaster ride for a lot of dentists, from the constant change of our schedules to change of staff, newly implemented technology and procedures, additional state regulations and new landlord, we have been resilient through it all. Although change is inevitable, we have learned to roll with the punches and our patients have been understanding of these changes.

Personally, change is difficult at first but when you take that one step forward, you will learn that once you start, you will just keep moving forward, progress and learn more. One of the things that I quoted at my LLU PBS interview was when asked about what Dentistry is, my answer was "Dentistry is a lifelong education."

I am still learning and will continue to do so; I want to make sure that I can still answer my kids' dental questions and even my future grandkids (not anytime soon I hope). There is a lot to absorb in this tiny brain, but we can be sure that this will keep us smarter, more engaged, and more informed on how oral health is affecting our overall health.

I challenge you to not be complacent and as a dentist, use your name, your title, and your years of education to make a difference in your own world, your family, and your community.

Be the change that you want and see your future through your lens. Let's get out of our shell and learn from others that have embraced the change. Maybe you too, can help someone else.

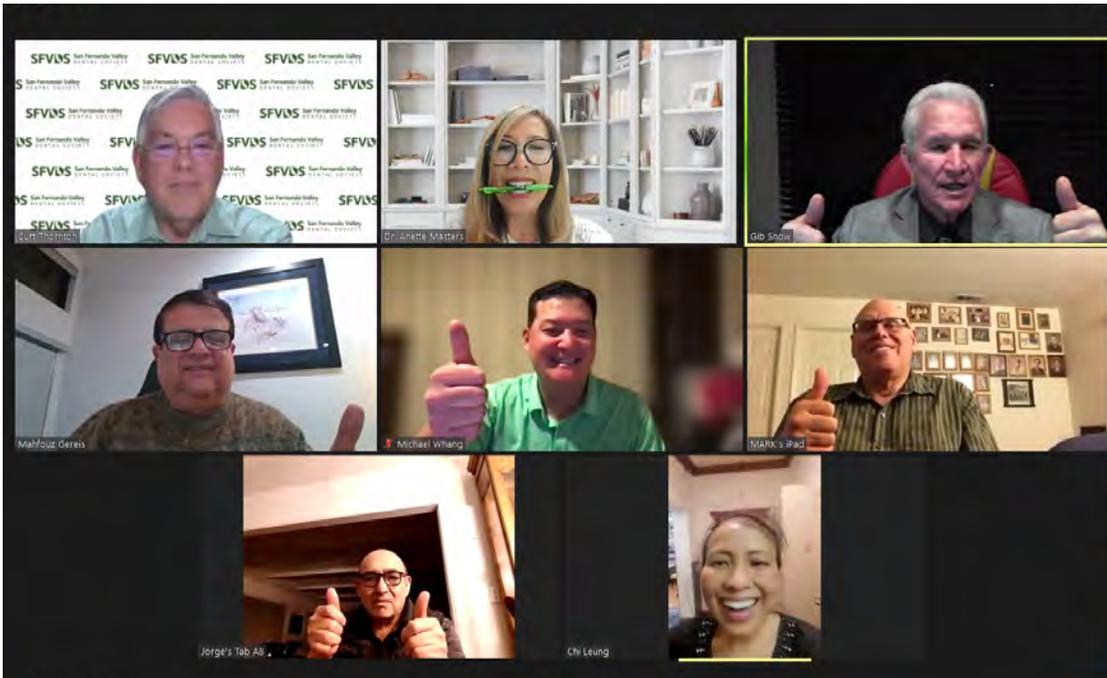
SFVDS 2022 Spring & Summer Membership Diary

ADA Health Policy Institute - The Changing Dentist Workforce – See the Newest Data from HPI
 March 9, 2022, presented by Jennie Chen, Nisha Gandhi, Alan Hendrickson & Blanca Corona

March 10, 2022- Zone Meeting 3 Next Gen of Teeth Whitening presented by Marti Santizo RDH, MPH

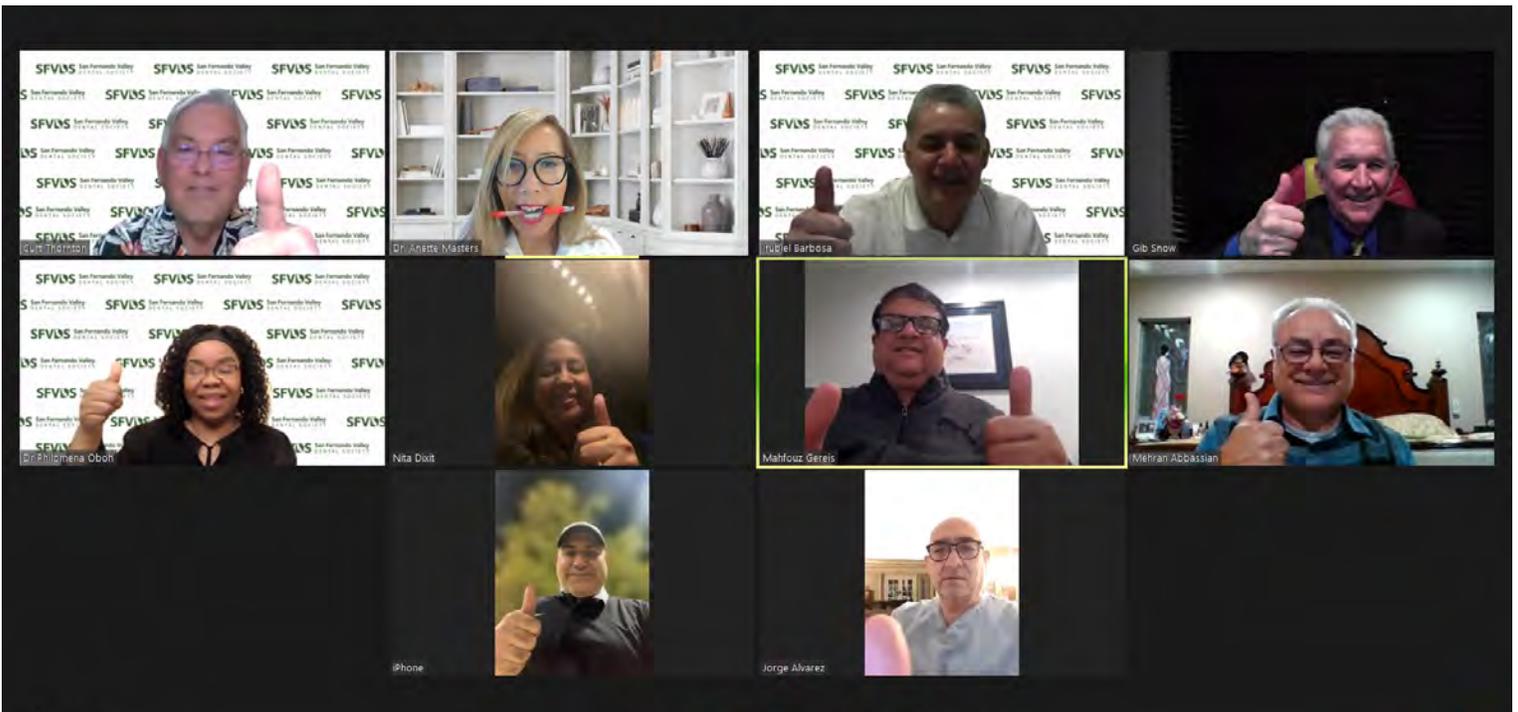
March 8, 2022, SFVDS Board of Directors first In Person Meeting for 2022 headed by President Philomena Oboh





March 15, 2022,
SFVDS Foundation Board Meeting

March 18, 2022, Council of Dental Health Committee Task Force Meeting



March 23, 2022, General Meeting 3 Implementation of Vital Pulp Therapy in Endodontics presented by Dr Beth Ann Damas

IMPLEMENTATION OF VITAL PULP THERAPY IN ENDODONTICS

Beth Ann Damas DDS MS
Diplomate American Board of Endodontics
Private Practice-Orland Park, IL

Southwest Endodontics
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March 23, 2022 General Meeting 3, Non Surgical Endodontics from A to Z presented by Dr Ove Peters

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March 27, 2022 "The Boss Lady" Sunday Brunch at the Marmalade Café with Dr's. Mahrouz Cohen, Anette Masters, Philomena Oboh, Karin Irani, Nita Dixit and Chi Leung





April 13, 2022, SFVDS Foundation Dental Assisting Program Part 2





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<https://doi.org/10.1111/joor.13144>

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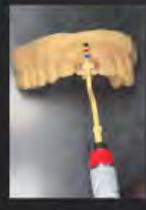


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Dental Implants: What we have learned What are the issues?




DR. LOU GRAHAM

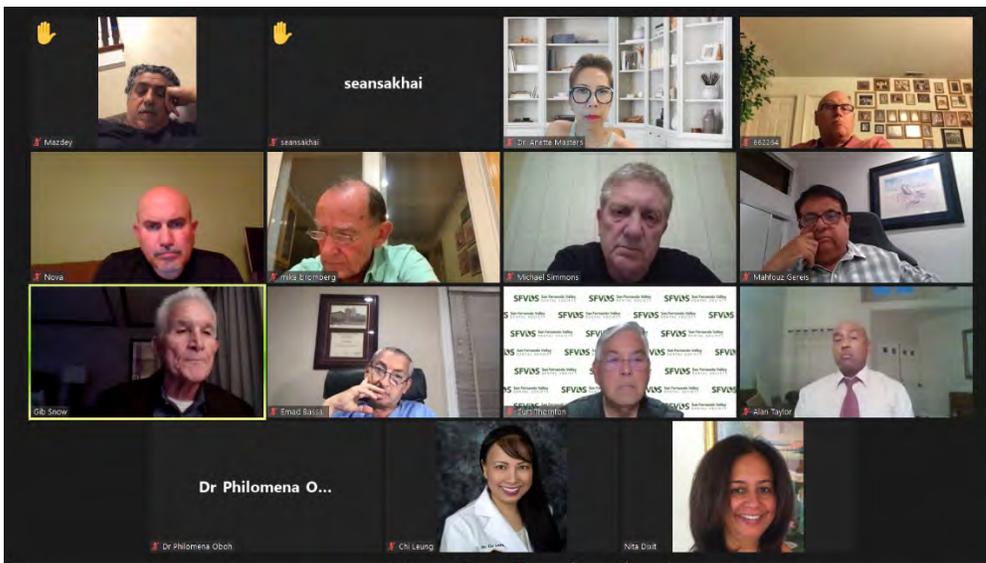


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May 3, 2022, SFVDS BOD Meeting and Meet and Greet with Assemblyman Paul Koretz. Dr. Alan Taylor standing next to A. Paul Koretz as he introduced him to the whole Board of Directors.





May 5, 2022, SFVDS Financial Advisory Task Force meeting including MICRA discussion

May 13-15 CDA Presents Anaheim was well attended with Speaker Dr. Nathaniel Lawson, SFVDS Board of Directors Dr's Barbosa, Leung and Gereis, New Member Dr. Debbie Chen, SFVDS Past president Dr. Courtney, LLU Dean Dr. Handysides (in blue) along with other LLU alumni.



May 19, 2022, Speed Pairing Event Presented by Atty Robert Olsen and sponsored by Provide.





July 19-20, 2022, ADA Chicago Membership Conference. The SFVDS BOD headed by SFVDS President-Dr. Oboh and President-Elect Dr. Bassali and Membership Chair- Dr. Masters accepted the award on Membership on behalf of CA. ADA Executive Director Dr. Cohlmia, ADA President Dr. Sabates and President Elect Dr. Shepley were in attendance during the conference.







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Healing California

BY ALAN B TAYLOR D.D.S.

Healing California is a program that provides medical, dental and vision services to economically disadvantaged populations including homeless veterans at pop-up clinics throughout California. This program partners with other non-profit and community groups to provide these services. Healing California relies on individual and institutional donations to fund the program where professional volunteers provide the services free of charge. Recently, I had the opportunity to volunteer in Lancaster and in Santa Clarita. In Lancaster, around 100 patients and in Santa Clarita about 50 patients were provided with dental services. In all, about 15 dentists, 15 hygienists and 20 dental assistants volunteered at the 2 locations. Dental services provided were fillings, cleanings, extractions and other emergency procedures. It was a pleasure that we had the opportunity to give back to the community.

You can learn more about Healing California at www.healingca.org.





A GUIDE TO ECO-FRIENDLY DENTISTRY

LEIPZIG, GERMANY: Sustainability in dentistry is more than a trend. It is a reality that businesses of all sizes have to face and find ways to adapt if we are to sustain a livable planet for generations to come. At first glance, this may seem like an impossible task, because there is so much to consider. What should one do? Where should one start? How much time and money will it cost? There is much to do. But there are many positive changes towards a greener future that can be put in place almost immediately which are inexpensive and sometimes even free. Besides an initial discussion on the topic, this article provides some easy-to-implement hands-on tips and a focus on practice owners who are already successfully practicing environmentally friendly dentistry.

Before considering how dental professionals can take action, let's take a quick detour into the history of eco-friendly dentistry, figure out what that actually means, and look at some facts and figures. Broadly speaking, the main goal of eco-friendly dentistry (also called environmentally friendly dentistry, green dentistry, or sustainable dentistry) is to do the least possible damage to the environment while ensuring infection control and quality of care. [FDI World Dental Federation](#) regards sustainability as a core principle of dentistry, which "must be practiced ethically, with high levels of quality and safety, in the pursuit of optimal oral health". It expands on this: "Sustainability integrates a broader commitment of the oral health professional to

social and environmental responsibility. The right of future generations to a world with adequate natural resources must be respected". However, how this should be implemented in the dental office is not regulated—at least not yet.

The environmental movement started in the 1960s and 1970s in the Western world and is a way of living still today. What used to be considered a hippy lifestyle is now more mainstream, as environmental awareness is continually increasing, especially through movements such as [Fridays for Future](#), which was founded by Swedish pupil Greta Thunberg in 2018. [Statistics provided by YouGov](#) (an international research data and analytics group) showed that, in the past ten years alone, environmental awareness has more than doubled among young Britons. According to the data, 45% of 18- to 24-year-olds say environmental issues are one of the nation's most pressing concerns. Moreover, environmental protection and climate change are top public policy priorities for adolescents living in the US, as a recent [poll carried out by Statista](#) (a German provider of market and consumer data) confirmed. The trend is similar across the globe and translates to action taking in international politics. Climate change acts, such as the [United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), force countries to look into greenhouse gas emissions and ways to reduce them.

WHAT ROLE DOES DENTISTRY PLAY?

Of course, not only one industry sector is to

blame for climate change. The collective exploitation of the planet and its resources by our society, especially in the last 50 years, has meant that everyone must now cooperate to stop or reverse the damage. As FDI suggests, dental professionals should accept and act on an ethical responsibility towards their profession's contribution to climate change.

When looking at figures that concern the dental industry's carbon footprint, one thing stands out: patient and staff travel to and from practices make up the largest chunk. In [England](#), travel makes up over 60% of the dental carbon footprint, energy consumption ranks second, contributing 14%–21% of the greenhouse gas emissions, and procurement comes in third at 19%. A [study](#) conducted in Scotland has found that patient and staff travel to and from dental offices account for 45.1% of carbon dioxide emissions.

One of the co-authors of that study is Dr Brett Duane. He is a specialist in dental public health with a strong passion for healthcare sustainability and has contributed dozens of publications on the topic. Together with his colleagues, he released a [series](#) of articles for the [British Dental Journal](#) about environmental sustainability in the dental practice. One of the [papers](#) particularly concerned travel and recommended the following: reducing appointment times by combining visits for family members or combining operative procedures or reducing appointment frequency based on patient risk; implementing telemedicine and

teleconferencing for patients; as well as encouraging cycle to work schemes or car-pooling for staff. However, reducing on staff and patient travel is just one area to consider among other contributing pollutive factors.

WHAT CAN DENTAL PROFESSIONALS DO?

The four Rs—reduce, reuse, recycle and rethink—are essential pillars in guiding environmental responsibility for the dental office.

REDUCE:

- Go paperless and switch to digital (e.g., patient records and radiography).
- Make improvements to water and electricity management (e.g., buy green energy or generate your own power).

REUSE:

- Invest in reusable products (like stainless-steel trays).

RECYCLE:

- Recycle materials (such as paper and aluminum).
- Invest in autoclavable items (e.g., metal air/water suction tips).
- Take control of waste management.

RETHINK:

- Switch to biodegradable single-use products (such as refuse bags and washable bibs).
- Educate patients on alternative options (e.g., bamboo toothbrushes and biodegradable floss and picks).
- Encourage patient and staff travel via public

transportation or sign up for a cycle to work scheme.

- Employ teledentistry in some form.

This list is already rather extensive for dental practice owners who are just starting out on their sustainability journey. More detailed ideas and inspiration can be found in this guide released by UK non-profit the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare. In addition to that, the FDI Dental Practice Committee, which is currently focused on the issue of sustainability in dentistry, has developed an infographic for dental teams to help illustrate the real and achievable goals that can be implemented in their offices.

These examples are intended to demonstrate that there are many ways to take things into one's own hands. Changes on a small scale are an important start and the only way for long-term change towards a greener future. But, of course, these measures are only one part of a greater puzzle that needs to be solved.

ASSOCIATIONS AND INDUSTRY VALUE SUSTAINABILITY IN DENTISTRY

There are no official governing agencies that control or certify an office as meeting eco-friendly standards. The Australian Dental Association's spokesperson on sustainability, Prof. Neil Hewson, recommended referring to the resources of one's respective association (like the Australian Dental Association's policy statement and guidelines on dental amalgam waste management) and to find ways to self-regulate.

In an interview with Dental Tribune International (DTI), Dr James Zenk, chair of the FDI Dental Practice Committee, said: "In Minnesota [where he practices], we are regulated by federal, state, and local government agencies on how to be more sustainable and energy-efficient to help reduce our carbon footprint. [...] The latest example of this concerns a voluntary program to install amalgam separators in our offices to reduce the amount of mercury released into wastewater systems." Zenk explained that he is in favor of voluntary programs because, in his experience, "dentists respond much better to voluntary programs rather than heavy-handed regulatory bodies".

This means that dentists and associations voluntarily working together and supporting each other is a key factor for positive change. But what about the wider industry? Manufacturers and other companies dictate what is available on the market and what kind of sustainable options are produced. DTI spoke to the managing director of British company Trigiene Dental, Matthew Evershed, which launched a new range of eco-friendly products in March 2020. These include biodegradable nitrile gloves, paper cups with a waterproof natural starch lining and a range of paper hygiene products made from recycled Tetra Pack cartons. Evershed explained that "Trigiene Dental is very conscious of the usual amount of single-use plastics and unsustainable consumables in daily use in dental practices."



This inspired the company to think of ways that it could reduce or mitigate this, because “we all have a responsibility to implement waste reduction measures wherever possible.”

According to Evershed, there has been a great deal of interest in and a positive response to the use of reusable and sustainable products; however, there are two main considerations that hinder change. One is prohibitive pricing. “If people can make a change to more environmentally friendly products without it hurting their wallets, they will give it serious consideration,” he said. The second one is concern of compromise regarding decontamination or sterilization protocols.

This is a valid point and a rather problematic one, since sustainability is about more than swapping plastic for bamboo or other materials; it is mostly about using less resources in general. Dr Sanjay Haryana is responsible for the internal and external education program at TePe Nordic—a company that has taken on the challenge of achieving carbon neutrality in its products and packaging by 2022—and for quality control at the Nordic subsidiary and gives lectures on topics connected to oral hygiene, sales psychology and sustainability. He does not believe that a drastic reduction in plastic is possible today, nor does he believe that this is the answer.

Instead, Haryana says that there are two vital factors: moving from linear to circular consumption (recycling) and using plant-based raw materials to produce plastics. He explained: “Recycling is challenging today because most medical waste is considered hazardous, but chemical recycling is taking impressive steps forward. Chemical recycling is a process through which you can restore plastic to its original state, clean and with its initial properties. Of course, green energy must be used throughout this process.” The result of

combining these measures is “a huge reduction in the carbon dioxide footprint” while still being able “to use the best materials for medical and dental practice”, according to the expert.

PRACTICE OWNERS SUCCEEDING AT GREEN DENTISTRY

In an [article from summer 2020](#), DTI interviewed Dr Robert Panjkov, the founder of an award-winning dental practice based in Melbourne in Australia. His business, Beaconsfield Dental, “uses biodegradable barriers and plastics as well as environmentally friendly chemicals for dental treatments that involve suction, cleaning and washing. The oral hygiene products used in the practice are sustainable, and the staff undergo regular training on waste minimization. They also take part in plogging, an activity that combines jogging and picking up litter, in order to clean up the nearby park and surrounding streets,” reported editor Iveta Ramonaite.

Sustainability is also a priority in the practice run by Drs Stefan Dietsche and Reiner Wichary in Cologne in Germany. A blog post reported how the dentists are implementing environmentally friendly dentistry in their office: corn flour cups have replaced plastic cups, paper tape is used instead of the usual material, and the practice’s electricity has been generated by regional hydroelectric and wind power plants for years. Just because something has always been done a certain way does not mean it is the right way, Wichary wrote.

Dr Ali Farahani from Stratford in Ontario in Canada has been [practicing eco-friendly dentistry in his office since 2007](#). He and his team state that the absence of toxic odors in the air and a holistic approach are reasons to choose their sustainable clinic, which aims to protect water and landfill resources in the long

run. Farahani’s contribution goes beyond his everyday work. For many years, he has been involved in the Eco Dentistry Association and is an accredited member of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology—an organization of dental and medical professionals and scientists who research the biocompatibility of dental products.

THE GREATER PICTURE

These three dental offices are just a few of many examples of those around the world that encourage, inspire and practice environmental consciousness in dentistry. Sustainable dentistry is not necessarily about investing in expensive equipment or transforming the office into a self-sufficient building that produces no waste, generates its own electricity, and treats wastewater from one day to the next. It is more about making conscious decisions that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Running a successful business is difficult enough as it is and making some better choices here and there should not take away from the main tasks at hand, nor should they be daunting or demotivating. One can start small—even minor improvements can have a positive impact on the environment over time—and work one’s way up to more complex changes.

The fact is that there is no time to be wasted in waiting for national governments to implement legal sustainability requirements that a dental office has to meet in order to continue practicing. Climate change is a very real threat to the world we live in. For the sake of our future, it is crucial that dentists, associations, and the wider industry keep tackling these issues in a joint effort.

By Monique Mehler, Dental Tribune International

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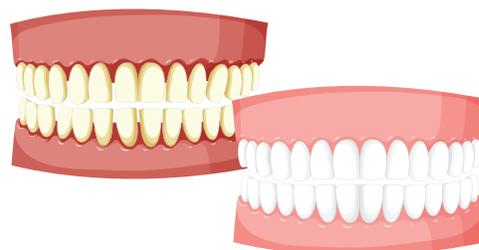
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Anahita Behshadpour, DDS	14435 Hamlin St Ste 205, Van Nuys, CA 91401-6205	(818) 997-6300
Moshe Benarroch, DMD	27421 Tourney Rd #250, Valencia, CA 91355-2190	(661) 222-7762
Richard Benveniste, DDS	19231 Victory Blvd Ste 256, Reseda, CA 91335-6347	(818) 881-7337
Stanton Canter, DDS		
Soma Esmailian Lari, DDS		
Steven Exler, DDS	16311 Ventura Blvd Ste 1005, Encino, CA 91436-4344	(818) 907-1780
Gordon Fingerman, DMD		
Rodica Grasu, DDS	16055 Ventura Blvd Ste 405, Encino, CA 91436-2608	(818) 990-5090
Gary Green, DDS	16133 Ventura Blvd Ste 1040, Encino, CA 91436-2423	(818) 995-0294
Marc Gross, DDS	5400 Balboa Blvd Ste 315, Encino, CA 91316-5229	(818) 990-5220
Homan Hanasab, DDS	7239 Van Nuys Blvd # 6, Van Nuys, CA 91405-5863	(818) 785-2424
Tyler Hendry, DDS	411 N Central Ave Ste 220, Glendale, CA 91203-2020	(818) 240-4555
Bertram Henick, DDS	26560 Agoura Rd Ste 102, Calabasas, CA 91302-1949	(818) 871-9416
Taylor Hoang, DDS	3808 W Riverside Dr Ste 204, Burbank, CA 91505-4339	(818) 842-6162
Kalid Hosn, DDS	17945 Ridgeway Rd, Granada Hills, CA 91344	(818) 813-3337
Michael Imberman, DMD	18425 Burbank Blvd Ste 709, Tarzana, CA 91356-6669	(818) 345-5300
David Isaacs, DDS	4350 Woodman Ave, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423-3031	(818) 981-4508
S Khorsandi, DDS	4521 Sherman Oaks Ave Ste 201, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403-3807	(818) 981-4867
Ronald Lascoe, DMD	3808 W Riverside Dr Ste 204, Burbank, CA 91505-4339	(818) 400-5366
David Levine, DDS	3808 W Riverside Dr Ste 305, Burbank, CA 91505-4339	(818) 558-7454
Ori Levy, DDS		
Fariborz Matian, DDS	19900 Ventura Blvd Fl 200, Woodland Hills, CA 91364-2689	(818) 914-7484
Robert Merin, DDS		
Sanda Moldovan, DDS	5400 Balboa Blvd Ste 229, Encino, CA 91316-5213	(818) 981-7475
Sam Naim, DDS	16661 Ventura Blvd Ste 308, Encino, CA 91436-1919	(818) 336-1120
Franklin Niver, DMD	16311 Ventura Blvd Ste 1110, Encino, CA 91436-4354	(818) 788-6600
Matthew Okui, DDS	16055 Ventura Blvd Ste 820, Encino, CA 91436-2610	(818) 990-5222
Sohail Parham, DDS	4955 Van Nuys Blvd #520, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403-1801	(818) 990-5795
Alfred Penhaskashi, DDS	5363 Balboa Blvd Ste 226, Encino, CA 91316-2822	(818) 788-7091
Mark Rosenblatt, DDS		
Androush Safarian, DDS	1000 N Central Ave Ste 250, Glendale, CA 91202-2912	(818) 241-6860
Mahasti Saghizadeh, DDS	12423 Ventura Blvd, Studio City, CA 91604-2407	(818) 760-0333
Sean Sakhai, DDS	6342 Fallbrook Ave Ste 101, Woodland Hills, CA 91367-1613	(818) 887-7772
Roy Shellow, DDS		
Elisa Sin, DDS	4455 Deanwood Dr, Woodland Hills, CA 91364-5620	(617) 620-0873
Shalini Singh, DDS	44443 16th St W #103, Lancaster, CA 93534-2840	(661) 723-9414
Robert Sobel, DDS	16311 Ventura Blvd Ste 1110, Encino, CA 91436-4354	(818) 788-6600
Vivek Solanki, DDS	22287 Mulholland Hwy # 73, Calabasas, CA 91302-5157	(352) 216-4924
Sara Tanavoli, DDS	6325 Topanga Canyon Blvd Ste 202, Woodland Hills, CA 91367-2015	(818) 606-7871
Jack Wasserstein, DDS	27450 Tourney Rd Ste 100, Valencia, CA 91355-1829	(661) 254-8484
Aida Yashar-Matian, DDS	19900 Ventura Blvd Fl 200, Woodland Hills, CA 91364-2689	(818) 914-7484



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General
Midwestern University, 2020

NATHAN RABIZADEH, DDS

General
UCLA, 2018

ANOUSH YESSAIAN, DDS

General
International, 1992

JOSEF MAMALIGEN, DDS

General
International, 1981

MELISSA GUZMAN, DDS

General
Univ De La Salle, MX, 2017

GINA D. VUJOVIC, DDS

General
Ohio State University, 2021

RANA SADEGHI, DDS

General
New York College of Dentistry, 2021

CARRIE K. WONG, DDS

General
UOP, 2010

NINA RASTEGAR, DDS

General
USC, 2019

RAMY A. GARSDEAN, DDS

General
Loma Linda University, 2019

LEVY GABRIEL, DDS

General
UCLA, 2021

ELENA BIGUN, DDS

General
USC, 2019

DANIEL S. SUR, DDS

General
USC, 2003

MIRZA BAIG, DDS

General
USC, 2022

JORDAN MALINOFF, DDS

General
USC, 2022

ELISHA HAYKANI, DDS

General
UCLA, 2022

FERNANDA SILVA CELAYA, DDS

General
UCLA, 2022

DANIEL R. JORDAN, DDS

General
Loma Linda University, 2022

GREGORY G. POLYAKOV, DDS

General
UOP, 2022

KARAMBIR HAYHRE, DDS

General
New York College of Dentistry, 2015

STACEY DALLALZADEH, DDS

General
USC, 2021

VAZGEN KARAPETYAN, DDS

General
UCSF, 2022

RUBEN ZSIGMOND, DDS

General
USC, 2022

SARA K. FICKERT, DDS

General
Loma Linda, 2022

JULIA PARK, DDS

General
UOP, 2022

KIMIA AZIZI, DDS

General
USC, 2022

DAVID BABAJONI, DDS

General
USC, 2022

MARIAM, BAKHEET, DDS

General
USC, 2022

ADAM BASMA, DDS

General
USC, 2022

DORSA DACARI, DDS

General
USC, 2022

MICHAEL DAVIDSON, DDS

General
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LILIT GALSTYAN, DDS

General
USC, 2022

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General
USC, 2022

LILIAN HAGHVERDIAN, DDS

General
USC, 2022

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USC, 2022

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General
USC, 2022

BRANDEE T. MA, DDS

General
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General
USC, 2022

ARMANEK SHAHNAZARYAN, DDS

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USC, 2022

GLORIA UMUTANGANA, DDS

General
USC, 2022

VAREN YOUSEFIAN, DDS

General
USC, 2022

ABRAHAM M. ZILBERSTEIN, DDS

General
USC, 2022

RONNEL AZIZOLLAHL, DDS

General
UCSF, 2022

ASHLEY BAKSIAN, DDS

General
Loma Linda University, 2022

ARSHAK SARGSYAN, DDS

General
USC, 2022

ARTYOM MELKONYAN, DDS

General
Loma Linda University, 2022

ALI POURKHAYAT, DDS

General
USC, 2022

CHANG H. LEE, DMD

General
Case Western Reserve University,
2020

RAMON CASTILLO, DDS

General
Univ. De La Salle, MX, 2017

MARIYA PILTSEY, DDS

General
New York University, 2004

ATIYA BAHMANYAR, DDS

General
New York University, 2017

SANDY AMINI, DDS

General
USC, 2022

DAMARIS ARRIOLA ZARATE, DDS

General
UCLA, 2022

KELSEY LOMEN, DDS

General
UCLA, 2022

CLAIRIS PEREZ, DDS

General
UCLA, 2022

NILOOFAR MOZHGANI, DDS

General
UCSF, 2022

RIPSIME KHAZHAKYAN, DMD

General
Western University of Health Sciences
College of Dental Medicine, 2022

NILOUFAR KOSARI, DDS

General
UCLA, 2022

JOSEPH PONCE, DDS

General
UCLA, 2022

KATHERINE OGANIAN, DDS

General
UOP, 2022

HYKAL KHOSRAVIBABADI, DDS

General
Loma Linda University, 2022

SAVE *the* DATES

SFVDS UPCOMING EVENTS 2022 – FALL 2022 EDITION

OCTOBER

13th – 15th ADA SmileCon: Houston Texas

19th – General Meeting #7: Cutting Wedge Technology: An In Depth Look at the Importance of Wedges in Direct Composite Restorations – Dr. Matthew Burton;
AND The Daily Grind: Practical Oral Pathology for your Practice – Dr. Ashley Clark

23rd – Family Picnic at Six Flags Magic Mountain

27th – Zone Meeting #8: Introduction to Orofacial Pain – Dr. Sarah Aylard

NOVEMBER

11th – Veterans Smile Day: Central Office Chatsworth

12th – Schlep & Shred: Glendale Location

16th – General Meeting #8: Laser, Minimal Dentistry AND Smile Design for the Dental Team – Dr. Ron Kaminer & Dr. Hugh Flax

18th – 19th – CDA House of Delegates: Sacramento

DECEMBER

7th – CPR class: Chatsworth



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SFVDS San Fernando Valley DENTAL SOCIETY

2022 Family Picnic

Sunday, October 23rd, 2022

MEAL HOURS

11:30am-12:30pm

PICNIC HOURS

11:30am-1:30pm

PARK HOURS

10:30am-11:00pm

-This is a "private corporate picnic event"

-Fright Fest Mazes passes are a separate purchase Online at <https://www.sixflags.com/magicmountain> or at the park day of.

-For tickets, Call SFVDS office at 818-576-0116 or go Online at www.sfvds.org

PRICE OF ADMISSION

- Member Dentists- \$25 ea.
 - Member dentist family member(2 max)-\$50 ea.
 - Member dentist family member(3+)- \$75 ea.
 - Non-members and dental Staff- \$75 ea.
 - Infants (0-2yrs) FREE
- Price of admission includes: **PARKING**, Theme Park, picnic games, prizes, sports activities and buffet luncheon. PLUS 6x8 souvenir photo!

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