

# 8<sup>th</sup> District Bulletin

Volume 59 | Number 2 | Summer 2023

## IN THIS ISSUE

- \* ECMC NEW DENTAL CENTER
- \* BUSINESS SIDE OF DENTISTRY
- \* 2024 EDDS NOMINATIONS REPORT



## 8th District BULLETIN

### Eighth District Dental Society of the State of New York

3831 Harlem Road, Buffalo, NY 14215  
(716) 995-6300 FAX (716) 995-6305

American Dental Association 800-621-8099  
New York State Dental Assoc 800-255-2100

#### EDITORIAL STAFF

Kevin Hanley, Editor 716-871-7443  
John D. Craig, PhD, Assoc. Editor 716-995-6300  
Kari Hicks, Assoc. Editor 716-995-6300

#### 2022 OFFICERS

Joshua Hutter	President
Robert Bochiechio	President-Elect
Joseph Rumfola	Vice President
Michael Ehlers	Secretary
Joseph Modica	Treasurer

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

John D. Craig, PhD



#### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Kevin Apolito	Kevin Hanley	Joseph Modica
David Ball	Nicole Hinchey	Laura Picano
Frank Barnashuk	James Hoddick	Stefan Ruhl
Mark Barone	Joshua Hutter	Joseph Rumfola
Aaron Baumler	Elizabeth Kapral	Joseph Salamon
Robert Bochiechio	Tyler Laurel	Eugene Sibick
Amy Bryan	Andrew Lawson	Alex Sikora
Dominic Colarusso	John Lazarus	Frank Sindoni
Joseph Craddock	John LePore	Susan Soja
Peter Davidow	Ronald Lowe	Evan Conley
Joseph Deluca	Ashleigh Maciejewski	John Tibbetts
Brendan Dowd	Hannah Marchese	Jacinta Tracy
Michael Ehlers	James Matteliano	Alyssa Tzetzo
Jennifer Frustino	Raymond Miller	Aaron Baumler
Joseph Gambacorta	Julie Mills	Matthew Walla

#### Member Publication

##### American Association of Dental Editors

The Bulletin of the Eighth District Dental Society (USPS 909-900) is published four times a year by the Eighth District Dental Society for its members. Unless officially adopted by the Eighth District Dental Society and so indicated, opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of the association. Address all communications pertaining to this Bulletin to the Editor, Eighth District Dental Society, 3831 Harlem Road, Buffalo, New York 14215.

The Dental Society is organized for the purpose of encouraging improvement of the health of the public, to promote the art and science of dentistry, and to represent the interests of the members of the profession and the public which it serves.



## Content

From The Editor	2
From The President	5
Executive Director's Notes	6
ECMC New Dental Center	8
Lessons Learned From COVID-19	10
ADA Sign-Up Day	16
2024 EDDS Nominations Report	18
A Letter from Our ADA Trustee	19
Calendar	20
Outreach for WNY Veterans	21
Business Side of Dentistry	26
Fortress Liability Insurance Checks All the Boxes	27

## From The Editor

Since June 2015, the city of Buffalo has not had fluoride added to its water supply. This was due to the hesitancy of the city Water Board to add fluoride as it was changing the system by which fluoride is added to the water supply. They were switching from adding fluoride by a powder mixture to adding it through

a liquid. Because of the Flint, Michigan situation of having lead in its water, the Water Board was concerned that adding fluoride in liquid form, it may cause leeching of lead from the lead pipes much of the water in Buffalo flows through, thereby increasing the concentration of lead in Buffalo's water to unhealthy levels. The Water Board partnered with the University at Buffalo to study if this would be the case when they converted to a new system.

Originally, this study was to take one year. However, results of the tests were not available until 2019. The study showed the new system would not increase any leeching of lead from the pipes and the new system was safe to use. The Water Board

(Continued on Page 3)



# From The Editor

(Continued from Page 2)

decided to go ahead with improvements to allow the new system to be installed. Then COVID hit which put everything on the back burner.

The Water Board publishes a water quality report yearly indicating the fluoride concentration in the water. Since 2015 it showed the fluoride level in the water was not optimal. It sent this report to all Buffalo residents. Of course, no one probably read the report indicating there was minimal fluoride in the water. The concentration of fluoride in the water was .17 ppm after 2015. The CDC states the optimal level should be .7 ppm. Buffalo's water was significantly less than optimal, actually a five-fold decrease.

In January 2023, the Buffalo News published a story about the lack of fluoride in Buffalo's water. Hearings were held by the Buffalo Common Council concerning this. Everyone on the Council was astonished and amazed at the lack of fluoride in Buffalo's water. However, as previously stated, the Water Board publishes a yearly report concerning the quality of Buffalo's water, indicating the lack of fluoride in its water. This report was mailed to every resident of Buffalo until 2018, when the Water Board decided to publish the report electronically, which it has done each year since. It seems no one on the Common Council read these reports. If they had, they would have known about the lack of fluoride in the water. However, even if they had read the report, they would have seen there was some fluoride in the water, just not the optimal level. Not being dentists, they may not have realized the level was not optimal.

When the news broke, the Eighth District Dental Society and the New York State Dental Association became involved immediately. They provided testimony about the lack of fluoride in the water supply and the detrimental effects of this lack. I happened to mention this to a dentist one day, and his reaction was, "So that explains it". He related he had seen a significant uptick in caries experience in his younger patients.

The Water Board is now working on reintroducing fluoride into the water supply. They expect this to occur by the end of this year. It is important to note, this situation only involved the City of Buffalo's water supply. Most municipalities in Erie County are fluoridated. With Buffalo, there are seven municipalities not fluoridated. All municipalities are fluoridated in Niagara and Orleans counties. Chautauqua County has 16 municipalities not fluoridated, as do Cattaraugus and Allegheny Counties. Genesee County has one and Wyoming County has six municipalities non-fluoridated. That is a lot of real estate and people without the benefit of fluoridation. (WGRZ TV, February 2, 2023)

The situation in Buffalo should never have reached the level it did. Many people were asleep at the switch. Common Council members who received a yearly report on the quality of Buffalo water should have known back in 2015. All they had to do was read the report from the Buffalo Municipal Water Board. An enterprising council member who didn't know the optimal level of fluoridation should have asked their family dentist. The dentist would have known. If the council person didn't want to bother the dentist, I hear Google or other search engines can supply you with any information you need on any subject. It would have taken as long as 0.5 msec to get a page full of links to discover this tidbit of information.

We in dentistry have to do a better job spreading the word about fluoridation and the importance it plays in good dental health. We should be on the forefront of the battle to fluoridate the water supplies. When we learned about Buffalo's water supply, our representatives were there to teach the importance of fluoridation and those in power listened. That is the power of organized dentistry. It is there when needed, no matter

(Continued on Page 4)

# From The Editor

(Continued from Page 3)

what crisis it faces. It's why I have been a member my entire professional career. Early on, I learned an important lesson. Without organized dentistry to petition for us, we are just another anonymous voice shouting in a sea of anonymous voices.

Where do we go from here? We continue to lobby for fluoridation of community water supplies where none exists. As cited above, there are many municipalities in the Western New York area without community water fluoridation. We educate the residents of these municipalities about the importance and safety of water fluoridation. Fluoridation of water supplies has been around since the 1950's with no adverse effects on the population. It is an important part of preventing tooth decay in people. It is inexpensive and has a long track record of success.

The ADA, NYSDA, and the Eighth District Dental Society have sources to help you educate your patients and those in your community about fluoridation, its importance, and its safety. As crazy as it may seem, there is still strong opposition to community water fluoridation. There are still unfounded claims to the dangers of fluoridation and what it will do to your health. These claims are easily refuted if you just “follow the science”. Recently, that has been a statement fraught with contention. However, in the case of fluoridation, there should be no contention, as it has been proven decades to be safe and effective.

When your municipal water authority sends out the yearly report about the safety of your water, read it over to see what the concentration of fluoride is in your water. If it is not optimal, contact the water authority and ask why. If your community does not have fluoridated water, start a campaign to have fluoridated water. Discuss the importance of water fluoridation with your patients. Get them on your side to support community water fluoridation. Get involved. Remember, this is best for your patients' dental health. And that is our true goal here. Optimizing the dental health of our patients.

**Disclaimer: The views expressed here are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the views of the Eighth District Dental Society.**

# Infection Control

The EDDS held another successful Infection Control in Dentistry seminar recently at Creekside Banquet Center. Presenter Dr. Alyssa Tzetzio made sure those in attendance understood the responsibility a dentist has to monitor office infection control practices, how pathogens may be transmitted in the work environment, and how to properly apply scientifically accepted infection prevention and control principles as appropriate for the specific work environment. The EDDS offers this in person seminar annually.





# From The President

Friends and Colleagues,

Nowadays, it seems that paradigm shifts are occurring all over the place. We can look at the advent and usage of various technologies in our lives that weren't as sophisticated as they are today. I'm certainly thrilled I can have my floors mopped and vacuumed before I come home. And once there, I can use my voice to turn on my lights and TV by my best friend, Alexa. Granted, such technology might seem to be always watching or listening to us, but rest assured, the only classified information Alexa gets out of me is my usual nighttime snoring. Our friend Bob Dylan was notorious for claiming, "The Times They Are A-Changin'."



Similarly, we have all seen a fairly seismic shift in involvement and membership of organized dentistry. There's no disagreement that there has been a downwards trend of less interest in the tripartite model as well as the congeniality and access of continuing education classes. Fortunately, the Eighth District Dental Society has seen a more conservative decline – and the efforts of the office itself and the dental volunteers who sit on the board have kept matters stable. But it is hard work. If there's ever a time to be reminded of the importance of organized dentistry, we can just look at the city of Buffalo's removal of fluoride from their drinking water. All facets of organized dentistry – from the very top to the most local level – jumped on the opportunity to address such a shocking discovery, and has worked to not only keep members, non-members and patients informed, but also work with the local and state health departments to reinstitute fluoride. This one, central, wide-representing and unified fight would be non-existent if it wasn't for organized dentistry. We clearly made our voices, concerns and demands clear from the start. And in representing nearly 1,000 dentists in Western New York, our constant fight has been strong and has led to results.

Interestingly, information from the ADA Health Policy Institute helps keep us members informed of the habits of the general public. Specifically, from the most recent data in 2021, national dental spending was actually higher than pre-pandemic levels. Private health insurance spending was up by 11% and out-of-pocket spending increased to 13%.

However, the trend of ADA (and therefore the tripartite model) shows a steady decline in membership. As of 2008, over 70% of active licensed dentists were members. A current forecast calls for membership to decline to less than 50% in 2027. One reason floated around is that a growing number of early career dentists (our newbies) might not be convinced of the value of membership in organized dentistry. Our new colleagues are much more diverse and bring a treasure trove of perspectives that we didn't have decades ago. They are not rookies to technology and are more self-sufficient. We must keep these attributes in mind as we try to include them. More patients are seeking care and following-up with treatment ... so that's not the problem.

The answers to reverse the trend are elusive. On one hand, I think it behooves us in all levels of organized dentistry to improve how we listen and respond to the evolving needs of our members. I also think each one of us has a particular onus to recruit the "new" generation of members. It's a very tall order to leave recruitment to just the ADA or just NYSDA or just Eighth District; rather, adding a more personal touch and reaching out to our new colleagues from a more personal and intimate approach would be really beneficial and much better than a generic email or traditional letter. We can clearly tout the benefits of organized dentistry (just read the weekly updates from our Executive Director, Dr. Craig) that are enumerated in every update. Collaboration is key.

With everything going on today in dentistry: legislative matters, insurance concerns, sky-high tuition and interest fees, patient demands, and staffing issues ... now is the most appropriate time to appreciate our membership in organized dentistry. And it's up to us on an individual level to rely these benefits to our future leaders in dentistry.

In congeniality,  
Joshua Hutter, DDS, FICD

# Executive Director's Note



By John D. Craig, PhD

The year is certainly moving along as we head into the summer! There has been a lot of activity and support on many fronts since January and into the spring. These include the City of Buffalo lack of Fluoridation since June 2015, membership engagement, participation in continuing education, outreach services, the return of Advocacy Day in Albany and the state of oral health in America and in our own region.

There are also things to bring better into focus. In my ED note in the Winter edition, I highlighted a focus on five important aspects of the office and management services. Those elements were: **New Dentist Engagement & Membership, Leadership & Diversity, Society Brand & Community Impacts, Business & Sponsorship Development, and finally, Philanthropic Development and Non-Member Revenue.**

Here is an update on some of those themes: The Executive Council appointed a New Dentist Chair, Dr. Evan Conley. He and I are working on new ideas to impact support from our new dentist cohort as well as residents and students, who will be making their way into the profession in the near future. We need to continue to market services and activities that they find attractive and eager to participate in. It has not been an easy process to navigate based on past program impact.

We have reached out to more businesses than in the past to bolster support for program services. The EAP program allows all members to get free support services from the provider as a membership value-added element. Making new connections with dental industry service and product suppliers will not assist only members with knowing more about new innovations, but gathers in new funding sources for keeping our expenses in check. There are new faces and people in positions that have shifted the support network. We need to keep abreast of those personnel changes and make sure we stay connected.

A big picture idea has been to utilize our Foundation as a means to gain grant revenue for new services and outreach. The EDDS WNY Veterans Dental Outreach Project is seeking to raise between \$500,000.00 to \$750,000.00 for WNY Veteran Dental Care. With the approval from UB's Provost and Interim Dean, I have crafted a fund development plan seeking support from as many as 15 regional and national foundations to support this outreach. Utilizing the UBSDM Give a Vet's a Smile campaign, this outreach will not only assist in keeping that going for years to come, but also provide additional engagement activities in other parts of WNY for veterans throughout the year. I firmly believe this accomplishes three of these elements – increases revenue that is non-member driven, provides a new brand awareness of what the Eighth District is and does for the community, and finally creates better dental impact overall.

While these are all wonderful strategies and goals, we still have concerns over program impact and the cost of doing business in providing them. For decades, this society has raised operational fiscal support through continuing education (CE) services. Participation in these activities is almost at all time low, meaning less operational support is being created. We also have been fortunate to have a solid endorsement with Fortress Insurance, in which policy holding members provide a means for the district to receive monetary support back through that relationship each year. However, with decreasing member policyholders, our foothold is not as strong as it once was. We need to maintain and bolster these relationships as membership revenue decreases to ensure these funds remain vibrant and allows us stay supportive, and competitive as a membership association.

As always, feel free to reach out, ask questions, and support the process [jcraig@8ddsny.org](mailto:jcraig@8ddsny.org)





# Let's make this viral!

See how Dentists are Getting in the Game by using Social Media to "Open Up" to a Larger Audience.

**Guest lecturer – Dr. Jason Olitsky**

Monday, June 12

Lockport Country Club

8:30 – 11:30 am

3 CE Credits

\$90 for dentists / \$30 for staff  
(breakfast included)

Register by calling: 716-995-6300

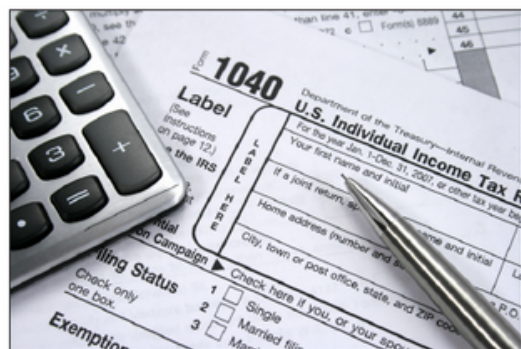


## PAYROLL PROCESSING

== THE LOCAL GUYS ==

For over 30 years, we have taken great pride in offering our clients a payroll service tailored to meet their individual payroll needs. We believe that a Payroll Service should be designed with you the client in mind.

- No contracts to sign
- No set up fees
- A variety of payroll delivery options
- Choice of Tax payment methods
- A variety of options for you to get your payroll information to us
- Worker's Compensation and Disability insurance available
- Choice of customized payroll reports



**We realize the choice of payroll services is completely yours to make, Make Payroll Processing, LLC. your first choice. We will help you with the rest.**



# ECMC Opens New Center for Dental Care

In what has been an historically tough time to construct any facility or building in the past three years, ECMC has opened a state-of-the-art all access dental clinic in Buffalo on the corner of Hertel & Elmwood, behind the Sonic Drive-In Restaurant in a hub of health care related businesses and access centers.

The Center for Dental Care boasts one of the only facilities in WNY that has a wheelchair access operatory as well as supporting equipment for those with special needs. Dr. Elizabeth Kapral, who heads up the clinic, is excited for the many facets of the new facility and what it means to the dental community and access.

“It’s been a long time in development, but we were able to move into this new space under the support of People, Inc. from the initial idea to house it at the flagship location, to bring new ideas of dental care to those who would otherwise struggle to find appropriate support,” she said.

Currently, a number of dentists, residents, hygienist’s and support staff make this facility a great option for those seeking support of their dental care utilizing some great new equipment and resources to assist in that process. This hub of community health related services certainly provides a wide variety of access points for the greater Buffalo region and all residents who may requires special circumstances to have their dental home meet them at.

This specially made device (right, below) allows those confined to a wheelchair, to roll into the lift and allow dental staff to assist them right in their chair without the need to move out of it.

“It’s manufactured in England, and there are a few minor parts we are waiting on, but it’s operational and in use,” says Dr. Kapral.

For more information or to seek any care, please call the Center at 716.218.7399.

The difference between healthcare and true care™



ecmc.edu

Center for Dental Care

800 Hertel Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14207

Phone:  
**716-218-7399**

Fax:  
**716-500-8387**

*Comprehensive dental care  
for adults and children  
of all abilities!*



Follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/8thdistrictdental>



# AAPHD President's Award

One of our very own was presented with the 2023 President's Award from the American Association of Public Health Dentistry. This award was given to Dr. Joseph Salamon due to his many contributions to not only improving the oral health of the nation's citizens, but also for his work and support of the AAPHD and AAPHD Student Chapter at the University of Buffalo School of Dental Medicine. Most recently, he was instrumental in establishing a new externship for general practice residents at the Jacobi Medical Center, allowing them to experience dental care delivery at Seneca Health. Such work contributes to broadening the horizons of dentists-in-training and encourages them to serve populations in need.

In 2019 he created the University at Buffalo micro-credential course Competency in Dental Public Health and he mentors student research in antibiotic stewardship. He serves on the executive council of the Eighth District Dental Society as chair of the Committee for the Underserved.

In 2017, Salamon co-founded the Native American Pre-Dental Gateway internship to encourage and support the application and enrollment of Native American undergraduate students to pre-doctoral programs.



## Get powerful practice **PROTECTION**

### Owned and operated by dentists.

Fortress professional liability coverage is designed with a deep knowledge of dentistry and includes valuable patient safety and risk management resources created to help you navigate day-to-day practice issues.

**FORTRESS**  
PROTECTION FOR DENTISTRY



ENDORSED BY  
THE EIGHTH DISTRICT  
DENTAL SOCIETY

\*The language contained in each policy of insurance establishes the specific terms and conditions of insurance, and will supersede any statements contained herein. 2023 Fortress Insurance Company. All rights reserved.

**GET YOUR QUICK QUOTE TODAY!**  
[dds4dds.com](https://dds4dds.com)

# Letter To The Editor

## Lessons Learned from COVID-19

By Donald Tucker, D.D.S.

Hopefully the COVID-19 pandemic will soon transition to endemic. Many of us have lost friends, family and patients to this scourge. Lessons are to be learned from this disease and the medical community and society's response to it. In 2005, officials at the United States Department of Health and Human Services developed a Pandemic Influenza Plan. This was updated in 2009 and 2017.

This planning helped our country/s response to COVID-19, as well as other disease outbreaks like Ebola, SARS, MERS, and Zika. Many lives were saved by preplanning. We did fall short in our response to COVID-19. **(1)** We didn't have enough hospital capacity in the early months of the pandemic. Unlike Korea and Australia, we were slow in producing and dispensing COVID-19 tests. **(1)** Personal protective equipment (PPE) was in short supply. Many hospitals had an inadequate number of respirators.

We have a problem with social media and online articles producing claims that are either false or misleading. **(13)** Dentists need to find accurate sources of information to disseminate to our patients. Sources of reliable health information are advisories posted by the Food and Drug administration (FDA), Center for Disease Control (CDC), and the New York State Health Department.

One example of inaccurate advice from social media is the use of ivermectin for the treatment of COVID-19. High doses of ivermectin have serious, and sometimes fatal consequences. **(2)** Many trials looked at by the FDA have failed to find a benefit from the use of ivermectin for the treatment of COVID-19. **(3,4,5)** Ivermectin is not approved by the FDA for the treatment of any viral infections. **(2)**

COVID-19 vaccines, especially the mRNA vaccines, are some of the most tested vaccines in existence. **(6)** There have been more than 673 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered in the United States. **(6)** "Reports of death after COVID-19 vaccination are rare." **(6)** "Death after vaccination does not necessarily mean that a vaccine caused a health problem". **(6)** You are at much higher risk of complications or dying from a COVID-19 infection than you are from the vaccines. **(6)** Commonwealth Fund, a non-profit that conducts independent health care research, has estimated that COVID-19 vaccination in the US prevented more than 3 million additional deaths, 18.5 million additional hospitalizations, and 120 million more cases from December 2020 through November 2022. **(7)**

It is estimated that 5 to 10% of COVID-19 infections result in lingering symptoms (long COVID). **(6)** This includes neurologic and cardiac damage. **(6)** The pandemic of 1918 produced lingering health care issues. **(8)** Severe viral infections can do this. Considering the number of people who have been infected with COVID-19 in the United States, there are millions of people who have experienced and are still experiencing lingering symptoms. Vaccination greatly reduces that risk.

There have been 715 diagnosed cases of myocarditis in teenagers and young adults out of 63,470,820 doses of vaccine. **(9)** Most cases resolved with medical care and monitoring.<sup>9</sup> "Studies have largely confirmed that the overall myocarditis risk is significantly higher after an actual COVID-19 infection compared with vaccination, and that the prognosis following myocarditis due to the vaccine is better than from infection." **(9)**.

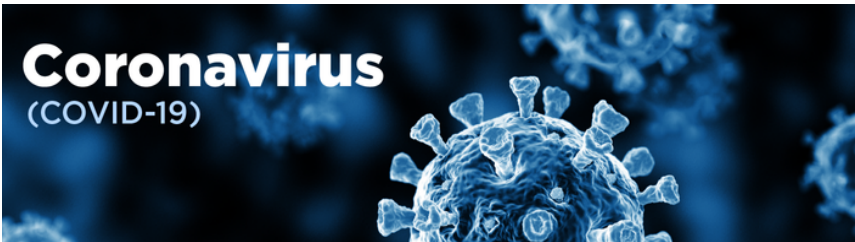
*(Continued on Page 11)*



People wonder why they should get vaccinated if they might get COVID-19 anyway. Data reported in December 2022 found people 18 and older and vaccinated with an updated booster (bivalent) had a 9.8 X lower risk of dying from COVID-19 compared to unvaccinated people and a 2.4 X lower risk of dying from COVID-19 compared to people vaccinated without the updated (bivalent) booster. **(9)** This does not include the reduced risk of long COVID in vaccinated people. **(9)**

There is a recent article in the Cochrane Library entitled “Physical interventions to interrupt or reduce the spread of respiratory viruses.” **(10)** This was published in January 2023. The editor in chief of the Cochrane Library, Karla Soares-Weiser, MD, PhD, MSc, issued a statement on March 10, 2023 concerning this article “Many commentators have claimed that a recently updated Cochrane Review shows that ‘masks don’t work’, which is an inaccurate and misleading interpretation.” Lucky Tran, PhD (a science commentator at Columbia University) said “out of the 78 papers analyzed in the review, only two studied masking during the COVID-19 pandemic.” “Both these papers found that masks did protect wearers from COVID-19.”

There is strong data “surgical masks or Kn95 respirators, even without fit testing, substantially reduce the number of particles emitted from breathing, talking, and coughing.” **(11)** “Our observations are consistent with suggestions that mask wearing can help in mitigating pandemics associated with respiratory disease.” **(11)**



It is important that health care professionals follow guidelines and recommendations from the CDC, FDA, NYSDOH. These organizations review current research and scientific literature to come up with guidelines for practicing health care providers. The NYSDOH released a notification to all New York State health professionals on 3/16/2023 that said health professionals should “promote prevention by encouraging patients to stay up to date with all recommended vaccines including influenza and COVID-19.” This is considered “promoting best practice”. This notification also said health professionals should “understand the effect long COVID is having on patients’ daily lives and functioning.”

Preparing for a future pandemic starts with lessons from past pandemics. We need adequate nonpharmaceutical interventions (NPI’s) ready to use before the pandemic begins (gloves, masks, gowns, disinfecting solutions, social distancing etc.) Accurate tests for the pathogen need to be developed as early as possible. **(1)** People need to be educated about the importance of NPI. If society doesn’t believe in NPI, there may not be enough time to produce a vaccine. **(8)** The science of vaccine fabrication needs more investigation.

The same way dentistry learned that wearing gloves protected dentists, staff and patients from blood borne pathogens (Hepatitis, HIV); dentists need to evaluate ways to protect staff and our patients from air borne pathogens by utilizing masks, air purification, air monitoring, and air exchanges. We should be encouraging vaccinations for the health and safety of our patients.

## Citations:

1. Scott Gottlieb, MD. Uncontrolled Spread. Why COVID-19 crushed us and how we can defeat the next pandemic. HarperCollins publishers. 2021
2. FDA advisory on ivermectin and COV-19. FDA.gov
3. Effect of early treatment with Ivermectin among patients with COVID-19. N. Engl. J. Medicine. 2022; 40 (5): 1721-1731
4. Naggie S., Boulware DR, Lindsell CJ, et.al. Effect of ivermectin vs. placebo on time to sustained recovery in outpatients with mild to moderate COVID-19: a randomized controlled trial. JAMA. 2022; 328 (16): 1595-1603.
5. Naggie S., Boulware DR, Lindsell CJ, et al. Effect of higher dose ivermectin for 6 days vs placebo on time to sustained recovery in outpatients with COVID-19: a randomized clinical trial. JAMA. 2023
6. CDC.gov. Covid tracker.
7. Megan C. Fitzpatrick, Sayed M. Moghadas, et. al., Two years of U.S. COVID-19 vaccines have prevented millions of hospitalizations and deaths. The Commonwealth Fund.org blog/ December 13, 2022
8. John M. Barry. The Great Influenza. The Story of the deadliest Pandemic in History. Penguin Books. 2021
9. About COVID Vaccines/CDC.CDC.gov/coronavirus/20. Updated 6/2/2022
10. www. CochraneLibrary.com. Tom Jefferson, Liz Dooley et. al. Physical interventions to interrupt or reduce spread of respiratory viruses. 30 January 2023
11. Sima Asadi, Christopher D. Cappa et. al. Efficacy of masks and face coverings in controlling outward aerosol particle emission from expiratory activities. Scientific Reports. 10, article 15665. 2020
12. NYSDOH notice to all NYS health professionals on 3/16/2023
13. Karolinska Institutet. How false vaccine rumors take hold. Published 06-03-2023 11:37 / updated 08-03-2023 11:20

## Suggested Reading:

John M. Barry. The Great Influenza. The Story of the Deadliest Pandemic in History. Penguin Books. 2021

Paul A. Offit MD. Vaccinated. From Cowpox to mRNA, The Remarkable Story of Vaccines. Harper Perennial. 2022

Peter J. Hotez, MD, PhD. Preventing the Next Pandemic. Johns Hopkins University Press 2021

Scott Gottlieb, MD. Uncontrolled Spread. Why COVID-19 Crushed Us and How we can Defeat the Next Pandemic. HarperCollins Publishers. 2021

**Business  
Technology  
Specialists**



**Managed IT Services - Computer Sales, Maintenance & Repair**  
**Virus/Malware Protection & Removal - Network and Cybersecurity**  
**Backup and Disaster Recovery**  
**VOIP Telephone Systems - Printer & Copier Sales, Service and Supplies**

**tctechwny.com**  
716.743.9900  
425 Fillmore Avenue, Suite 2  
Tonawanda, NY 14150

    **Lexmark**  **SHARP**  **xerox**





WALSH

Walsh Duffield

# ONE *Agency*

## All Your Insurance Needs Covered.

The dedicated team at Walsh Duffield has been insuring dentists and their families for over 45 years and is endorsed by the 5th, 7th, 8th District Dental Societies. Contact the team at Walsh Duffield today:

- Auto, Home, Life Insurance
- Medicare Consultations
- Business Insurance, Malpractice
- Cyber Liability Insurance
- Employee Benefits, Retirement
- Discount Programs Available for Dentists

Christine Garvelli | [cgarvelli@walshduffield.com](mailto:cgarvelli@walshduffield.com)  
716-362-7363 | [www.walshduffield.com/dentists](http://www.walshduffield.com/dentists)

“As a dentist and business owner, I’m often worried about something. Insurance, however, has never been something for me to be worried about, because I know Walsh Duffield is on top of it for me. They’ve always been incredibly helpful.”

- Eighth District  
Dental Society  
Member

# great home lending solutions under one roof.

Some of the most complex financial decisions you'll ever make involve your home. When you buy or refinance your home with us, you'll have experts on your side, armed with a wide range of solutions to fit virtually any need, and we'll be on your side



**John Whiting**  
Mortgage Loan Officer  
NMLS# 494447  
716-517-2990 office  
John\_Whiting@keybank.com



All credit, loan, and leasing products are subject to collateral and/or credit approval. Mortgage and Home Equity Lending products offered by KeyBank are not FDIC insured or guaranteed.  
©2023 KeyCorp. **KeyBank Member FDIC.** 220610-1607265-1251728055 NMLS# 399797

## Welcome New Members

Dr. Akber Ali	Dr. Elizabeth Patrick
Dr. Kelsey Bergeron	Dr. Olivia Reinlander
Dr. Lisa Chang	Dr. Yahya Sayed Suliman
Dr. Chad Froebel	Dr. Zachary Teach
Dr. Joseph Hayek	Dr. Francesca Velardi
Dr. Thomas Kenjarski	

## CLASSIFIEDS

**HELP WANTED** - Urgent Dental Care seeks a temporary part-time contract Dentist to join our dynamic team. Must be licensed and carry malpractice insurance. Ideal candidate must have an active Dental License, be able to deliver excellent patient care, great chairside manner, strong written and verbal communications skills, ability to keep detailed records, and computer skills. We are looking for Monday & Wednesday from 9 am - 1 pm and Tuesday from 6 pm-9 pm. Candidates may work all shifts are a combination of 2 shifts. Please call Nicole at (716) 427-7777 or email [nicolet@urgentdental.com](mailto:nicolet@urgentdental.com).



# PRINTED IMAGE

## COMMERCIAL & DIGITAL PRINTING

 **FULL SERVICE UNION SHOP**

**[716] 821-1880**

1906 CLINTON ST., BUFFALO, NY 14206

**CALL TODAY AND SPEAK TO A REPRESENTATIVE**

### DESIGN...PRINT...MAIL

- GRAPHIC DESIGN
- DIGITAL PRINTING
- POSTCARDS
- FLYERS
- BROCHURES
- NEWSLETTERS

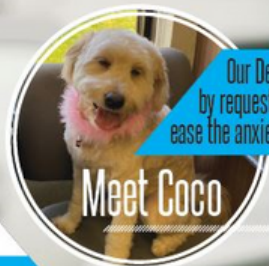
- BENEFIT TICKETS
- LETTERHEADS
- CATALOGS/BOOKLETS
- DIRECT MAIL SERVICES
- PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS
- BUSINESS STATIONERY

- POLITICAL PRINTING
- LAWN SIGNS
- RESTAURANT MENUS
- ENVELOPES

**AND MUCH MORE**

**VISIT US AT PRINTEDIMAGEOFBUFFALO.COM**





Our Dental Therapy Dog is here by request to cuddle and help ease the anxiety of patients!

Meet Coco

Dr. Aaron McCann

Dr. Ariyan Ravangard

## WHY CHOOSE US

- ✓ 100% Microscopic Non-Surgical and Surgical Endodontic Treatment
- ✓ 3D CBCT and Digital Radiography
- ✓ Live Microscopic Intraoperative Photos and Videos
- ✓ Digital Paperless Office
- ✓ Electronic Referral and Post-Op Reports
- ✓ Same Day Emergency Treatments



**PRECISION**  
Endodontics P.C.

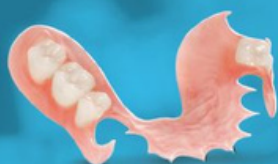


PrecisionEndodonticsWNY.com

19 Limestone Drive, Suite 2  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
(716) 675-6204

3615 Seneca Street  
West Seneca, NY 14224  
(716) 675-4828

# NOW ACCEPTING NEW REFERRALS



## A VITAL PART OF YOUR PRACTICE

### Full-Service Excellence from Your Dedicated Partner

Vital Dental Laboratory provides dentists in the New York-area and beyond with the finest restorations and most innovative products. Every case we fulfill is backed by a wealth of technical expertise, cutting-edge equipment, and a commitment to quality.



ADA-Approved  
Materials



Made in  
America



Full-Service



Accepts All  
Digital Files



Online Case  
Submission



Superior  
Quality

Visit Us Online at [Vitaldentallab.com](http://Vitaldentallab.com).



# 2023 ADA Sign-Up Day & Class Yearbook Handout

The Eighth District, along with the New York State Dental Association and the American Dental Association, made their way over to The Steer Restaurant in Buffalo to allow UB Dental School graduates a chance to collect their yearbooks and transfer their ASDA membership over to an ADA membership during "Sign-Up Day".

We want to ensure dental graduates have the vital resources available to them, and the ADA offers 18 months of membership at no cost! The remainder of 2023 and the entire calendar year for 2024 is complimentary to each of them while they are in a residency in NYS.

Regardless of where these graduates are - taking time off, continuing their education or going into practice - we want to ensure they all have the support, knowledge, and the voice to thrive as an oral health champion!

Please reach out to us if you have yet to sign up, or if you have any questions about membership.







# MVP Network Consulting Technology *That Works!*

**Serving Dental Offices  
All Over WNY For Over 20 Years**

- 24/7/365 Monitoring and Help Desk Support
- HIPAA & PCI Compliance
- Phone Solutions
- Industry Experts in Eaglesoft & Dentrix
- Cybersecurity Solutions & Staff Training
- Website Development



**716.630.1701**

**mvpworks.com**

# URGENT DENTAL CARE®

Helping patients with dental emergencies.

**HELPING PRACTICES CARE  
FOR THEIR PATIENTS**

**Call 24/7: (716) 427-7777**

1265 Center Rd • Buffalo, NY, 14224

**OPEN WEEKENDS, EVENINGS, HOLIDAYS**

# 2024 EDDS Nominations Report

Below is the 2024 slate of Executive Committee nominees as presented by the Nominations Committee.

<b>President</b>	Dr. Robert Bochiechio
<b>President-Elect</b>	Dr. Joseph Rumfola
<b>Vice President</b>	Dr. Michael Ehlers
<b>Secretary</b>	Dr. Jennifer Frustino
<b>Treasurer</b>	Dr. Joseph Modica

**NYSDA Alternate Delegates for 2023 NYSDA HOD:** Dr. Elizabeth Kapral  
**NYSDA Chemical Dependency** (replacing Dr. Amy Bryan): Dr. Timothy Mahoney  
**NYSDA New Dentist Committee** (replacing Dr. Erin Sweeney): Dr. Evan Conley

## WNY Baseball Hall Of Fame Inductee



The UB Dental Class of 1961 wishes to express great pride in announcing that their classmate Dr. John Vona was recently inducted into the WNY Baseball Hall of Fame. John was a hard throwing right handed pitcher whose three no-hitters were still UB records when UB discontinued offering baseball as an intercollegiate sport in the mid 1970s. He has been practicing general dentistry in Silver Creek for more than 50 years. Congratulations to Dr. John Vona!

### Volunteers Needed

The Dental office at Good Neighbors is in need of volunteer dentists and dental assistants to provide free dental care to the people of WNY.

The Dental Office operates on:  
Wednesday mornings from 8:30am - 11:00am  
Friday afternoons from 1:30pm - 4:30pm

The Dental Office at Good Neighbors  
175 Jefferson Ave, Buffalo, NY 14210  
Please call 716-856-2400 to volunteer

### Assistance for Dependencies Available

The Council for Chemical Dependency is in existence to help colleagues, staff or family who may have an issue with alcohol or other substance abuse. All inquiries are kept strictly **CONFIDENTIAL** and will be acted upon in a non-punitive, non-judgemental and caring way.

If you or someone you know has an issue, please call State Chairperson Dr. Bob Herzog @ 716-830-3055 or the Eighth District Chairperson Dr. Amy Bryan @ 716-433-7684



# A Letter from ADA Trustee to NYSDA Districts

## April 2023 Trustee's Corner

As everyone already knows, there is not a person out there who is enjoying the spring weather better than a citizen of Western New York. After a very difficult and at times dangerous winter, we are happy to experience the annual change of season. I hope all our members have had a successful first part of the year and wish for continued blessings to you and your families.

I want to begin this segment of my letter to you with the issue of membership. Unfortunately, membership in the ADA, and concurrently in our constituents and components, has been dropping for a number of years. At the present time, ADA membership is 57% of active and retired dentists. There has been a steady decline since 2007, with some up and down years before then. I firmly believe this is a multifactorial problem which requires a variety of solutions. I also believe there are component, state, and national answers. Many of our local components in New York are hard at work on initiatives tailored for their unique district needs or that can be shared with other components. Our constituent, New York, has developed a mentoring program under the leadership of our president, Dr. Jim Galati. The ADA is working on a variety of programs with dental schools (Signing Day, Lunch and Learns) and New Dentists (ADAPT, career path and wellness support) to promote membership with the latest generation of our profession. A culture of inclusion is being fostered at all levels of the Tripartite to help make prospective members of all backgrounds feel welcomed into our organization. It's going to take all of us to promote the advantages and benefits of membership to keep our organization and voice strong in the future. Membership is critical to the success and relevance of the American Dental Association. At the same time, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your many years of membership and your contributions to Organized Dentistry.

I attended the ADA Board of Trustee meeting from April 2nd through April 4th in Chicago. The beginning of the meeting was an evening social gathering with the New Dentist Committee, followed by a collaborative meeting the next morning. Discussions involved the tough issues confronting dentistry today, including the membership question. Many of the New Dentists pointed out some of the strengths and weaknesses they see in the American Dental Association. Strengths include advocacy at the federal and state level, continuing education, and the Strategic Forecasting Committee. Areas of improvement begin with communication to members, especially pursuant to social media. They also believe the ADA is taking steps to improve with key hirings of experts in this area. The ADA believes members will see better results in the very near future.

Also on the agenda, a group of DSO executives and the executive director of the ADSO organization met with the Board of Trustees for an open discussion on the current landscape of delivery of dental care. Each of the attendees discussed their background and history, delineated areas of agreement with the ADA, as well as offered examples of future opportunities for cooperation. Such opportunities could include the sharing of analytical data, solutions to workforce shortages, and collaborating on interprofessional education. A good discussion ensued on different modalities of patient care in dentistry and how there are many viable avenues for the future. It was agreed by all parties that it is in the best interest of dentistry to keep this conversation going, continue to find areas of common ground, and attempt to resolve disagreements.

As many of you know, the ADA is a membership organization that has a dental research entity, the American Dental Association Science Research Institute (ADASRI). The ADA Board recently approved switching ADASRI

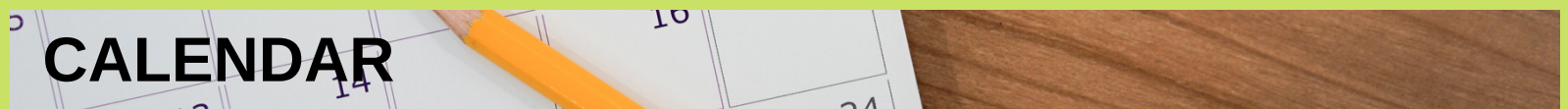
*(Continued on Page 20)*

to operate as a 501(c)(3), a change from its former status as a 501(c)(6) LLC. Under the ADASRI Operating Agreement, ADASRI has a 10-member Board of Directors, the appointment of each of whom is approved by the ADA. Currently, it has 44 employees with labs located in Maryland as well as the ADA building in Chicago. Much of the testing of the products to be considered for the ADA Seal of Acceptance takes place in the ADASRI labs in the ADA building. The ADA is the only dental membership organization in the world that has a scientific research arm directly affiliated with it. It has been very successful since its inception in 2018. In 2022, it had 753 citations, 25 peer-reviewed published manuscripts, and 27 abstracts presented. It is involved in applied research (AR), evidence synthesis and translational research (ESTR), as well as innovation and technology research (ITR). You will see many scientific articles in JADA and many other distinguished journals originating from ADASRI.

My next written correspondence with you will be in the fall before the ADA’s annual meeting in October in Orlando, Florida. In the meantime, the New York State Dental Association will be gathering in Saratoga Springs, New York, for its annual meeting from June 2nd to June 4th. The House of Delegates will meet to debate and decide on a group of resolutions presented to it by component societies, the NYSDA Board of Trustees, NYSDA councils, and individual members. There will also be two contested elections for Speaker of the House and Secretary-Treasurer. As you know, the House of Delegates is the supreme body of the New York State Dental Association.

Best wishes to all of you for a happy, healthy, and successful summer. As always, if you need to get a hold of me, you can reach me via email at [dowdb@ada.org](mailto:dowdb@ada.org) or [drndowd@gmail.com](mailto:drndowd@gmail.com), as well as on my cellphone at 716-510-3217.

Brendan Dowd DDS, ADA Second District Trustee



# CALENDAR

<u>June 2023</u>	<u>July 2023</u>	<u>August 2023</u>
Monday, June 12 Golf Tournament 8am, Lockport Country Club	Tuesday, July 4 Independence Day Office Closed	Monday, August 7 Basic Life Support 5pm, Eighth District Office
Monday, June 19 Juneteenth Office Closed		Tuesday, August 22 EDDS Foundation Board Meeting 7pm, Eighth District Office
Tuesday, June 20 EDDS Foundation Board Meeting 7pm, Eighth District Office		
Saturday, June 24 Member-Only Shred Day 10am, Eighth District Office		



# Eighth District Electronic Recycling in the Fall?



For the past three years, the Society Offices have supported a shredding event for patient records, office records and X-ray films as part of member services. For those years of support, it has been well received and recognized as a value-added activity. There is now perhaps interest in hosting an electronic recycling event in the fall of 2023 to take on any resources in your office and/or home that are deemed not necessary and in need to processing.

Sunnking of Brockport, NY is an agency that provides support for such services. Since the processing of these materials is different than shredding activities, we need to gauge the interest level of members to better understand how this might be accomplished. We would like to target a Saturday in September to host this event at our offices on Harlem Road. Here is the link to see what items qualify for this service: <https://www.sunnking.com/acceptable-materials>.

If you are interested, please contact the office via email [Admin@8ddsny.org](mailto:Admin@8ddsny.org) or call 716.995.6300 and express that support, so we can develop a better plan of engagement for the vendor.

---

## EDDS Embarking on new and expanded Dental Outreach for WNY Veterans

Since 2015, UBSDM has been working with WNY Veteran's on dental outreach through the Give Vets a Smile Day in November, which is an extension of the national ADA program. Over that time, hundreds of veterans without a dental home, and in need of care and evaluation, have been assisted in that work. Recently, it was learned that, while support has been consistent for this one-day event, the ongoing needs of veteran oral care is a never-ending process. We know all people need to see a dental professional at least twice a year, if not more as we get older and have concerns.



We have also learned most veterans don't qualify for support from the local VA Center, since standards of qualification for care are varied. Veterans have to be 100% disabled or have a combat related injury that requires attention. It's also been researched and reported that as many as 60% of all veterans don't register for the VA Center services for many reasons.

We intend to step forward to seek a funding model supporting WNY Veteran Dental care through outreach for support for the next five years through grant and funding development strategies to not only support the annual Give Vets a Smile Day at UB, but to offer services in an array of targeted activities and events throughout the region through 2028 and beyond.



## FELDMAN, KIEFFER LLP

Attorneys at Law

Providing Legal Services for Dentists in Western New York, Central New York and the Southern Tier

**WESTERN NEW YORK**  
14 Lafayette Square, 1000  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
Call 716.852.5875

**SOUTHERN TIER**  
8 Westwind Drive  
Dewittville, NY 14728  
Call 716.852.5875

**CENTRAL NEW YORK**  
5740 Commons Park East  
Syracuse, NY 13057  
Call 800.572.0179

[www.FeldmanKieffer.com](http://www.FeldmanKieffer.com)

### Comprehensive Legal Services for Dentists:

- Purchase and Sale of Practices
- Employment & Independent Contractor Agreements
- Office Leases
- Partnership Agreements and Dissolutions
- Corporate and LLC Formation
- Commercial Real Estate Transactions
- Office of Professional Discipline Representation
- Patient Dismissal Issues
- Medicaid
- Administrative Hearings

You take care of the **smiles**.  
We'll take care of the **business**.

CTBK is more than just a full-service accounting firm. We go beyond tax and attest services by offering a wide array of consulting and outsourced solutions tailored to meet the unique needs of your business. Learn how CTBK can help your business succeed by calling us today or visiting us online.



716-630-2400 | [ctbk.com](http://ctbk.com)

EIGHTH DISTRICT DENTAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

# MEMBER SHRED DAY 2023



MEMBERS CAN BRING THEIR PAPER FILES TO  
BE LOADED INTO RECYCLING BINS TO BE  
SHREDDED ON SITE. ITEMS CANNOT BE DROPPED  
OFF PRIOR TO THE EVENT.

DENTAL X-RAYS WILL BE ACCEPTED, BUT NEED TO  
BE SEPARATED FROM THE PAPER

THERE IS NO COST TO OUR MEMBERS

Saturday, June 24, 2023, 10am to 1pm  
EDDS Office, 3831 Harlem Road, Buffalo 14215

**DDSmatch.com**

# Are you Ready?

Transition on your Terms with **DDSmatch**

## Professional Guidance & Proven Processes for every step of your dental transition

### Services We Offer:

- ✓ PRACTICE SALES & MERGERS
- ✓ TRANSITION PLANNING
- ✓ ASSOCIATE PLACEMENTS
- ✓ PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS
- ✓ PRACTICE VALUATIONS

**Justin R. Baumann**  
DDSmatch NY & Western PA  
Phone: 855.546.0044  
Direct: 716.266.9707  
[jbaumann@ddsmatch.com](mailto:jbaumann@ddsmatch.com)



It's not too early to start a conversation.  
*Call today* to schedule your complimentary, confidential call.



# Dudley The Dinosaur Promotes Oral Health

February marked "National Children's Dental Health Month" and during the entire month of February, the American Dental Association honors and recognizes dental professionals and all who are passionate about children's healthcare.

One such way to get children engaged into their own dental health is by having them learn from Dudley the Dinosaur. Dudley had a busy month with some of our member dentists as they spoke in school settings to promote the message of healthy oral habits!

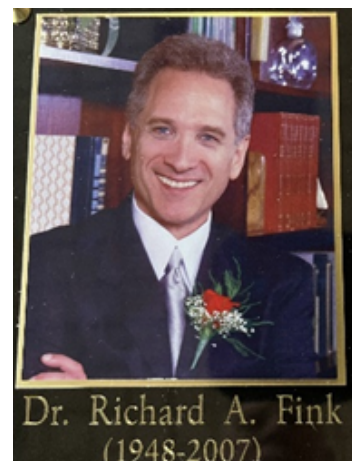
Even though February has come and gone, it's never a bad time to talk to kids and their caregivers about the benefits of brushing their teeth, preventing cavities, tooth crowding, and more. If a member dentist is interested in borrowing our Dudley the Dinosaur costume to use in this regard, please call our office at 716-995-6300 for more information.



## Seeking Riders and Donors For 2023

A Ride for Roswell team was formed in Dr. Richard Fink's honor in 2008. This will be the 15th year that the team will be participating. The team, Rick's Riders, averages around 20 riders each year and has collected approximately \$150,000.00 in the last 14 years! Dr. Kevin Hanley has been our most consistent team member with the most money raised!

The ride this year is on Saturday, June 24, 2023 at UB's North Campus. To join the team or donate, people can go online to <https://rideforroswell.org> and ask to join the team "Rick's Riders." We would love more riders! Please contact Dr. Donald Tucker, Team Captain at [doctucker1954@yahoo.com](mailto:doctucker1954@yahoo.com) for more information.



The EDDS also supports our fall All Day CE, known as the Dr. Richard Fink Memorial Lecture Series, which has been dedicated to his memory since 2008. A memorial fund was established in to support this programming with a foundation donation of close to \$30,000.00 from sponsors and dentists.

This year's event is Friday, December 1, 2023 at Salvatore's.





# November 1-3, 2023

## UPSTATE NEW YORK'S PREMIER DENTAL EVENT

Scan for more info!



**FREE**  
Park & Ride shuttle  
Available!  
(Thursday & Friday)  
Sponsored by  
Patterson Dental



### Featured Speakers:



**David Hornbrook, DDS, FAACD, FACE, FASDA**



**Michael R. Markiewicz, DDS '08, MPH, MD, FRCD(c), FACS**



**Miles Cone, DMD, CDT, FACP**



**Kay Huff, RDA**



**Benedict R. Miraglia, DDS '93**



**David P. Croglio, DDS '87**



**Alyssa V. Tzetzio, DDS '20**



**Nancy Dewhrist, RDH, BS**



**Daniel G. Pompa, DDS**

**OPENING NIGHT  
CELEBRATION**  
FREE event for all!  
Wednesday,  
November 1st  
5:30PM-7:30PM

*Follow us on social media!*



*Links on website!*

Major Sponsors

**ivoclar**



Buffalo Niagara Convention Center | 153 Franklin Street | Buffalo, New York



## Summary of Benefits

Life doesn't stop while you are at a work. EAP will help you manage both.

Call 716-681-4300 or 800-888-4162

### General Information

- 100% Confidential
- Employee sponsored benefit at no cost to you
- Available for anyone in your household



### Counseling and Coaching Services

- Available daytime or evening
- Offered in-person or via telehealth
- Up to 4 sessions per concern
- Solution-focused support
- Referrals to other professional resources

### Work-Life Services

Consultation and referral assistance

- Nutrition Services
- Child Care Consultation
- Elder Care Consultation
- Mediation and Conflict Resolution
- Financial Services
- Legal Consultation
- Tobacco Cessation



### 24/7 Crisis Counseling Hotline

If you are experiencing a non-emergency concern, call our general number to receive assistance from a Master's level counselor at anytime. **For emergencies, dial 911 directly.**

**Contact Us Directly!**

**Call 716-681-4300**

**Visit [eap.cfsbny.org](http://eap.cfsbny.org)**



# Business Side of Dentistry

The EDDS hosted a "Business Side of Dentistry" seminar for new dentists, residents, and students last month. This was a great exposure for those in attendance, as many take a variety of pathways in doing the work they were trained to do. Business professionals from Walsh Duffield Insurance, iSolved HR, Bank of America Practice Solutions, and Feldman Kieffer Law Offices were on hand to help our member dentists better understand issues they may face in their careers so they are better prepared to tackle concerns they may face in the future, including:

- Legal issues dentists face whether they work for themselves or others
- Insurance policies, products and services that support new and continuing business
- As a business owner or worker within a company, you will need to understand human resource processes and payroll services that exist in our ever-changing digital and online world
- Many younger dentists today think private practice attainment is out of reach due to high student loans and the ability to gather in enough personal and financial equity to purchase a practice. Some of this is false and misleading, but we do know that debt is real





# FORTRESS PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

## CHECKS ALL THE BOXES

By Chester J. Gary, DDS, JD

Dentists require adequate legal protection for our practice and personal assets. Fortress malpractice insurance coverage checks the following boxes to accomplish these goals:

**Offers a robust risk management program**  
**Provides technically competent legal services**  
**Meets dentists' needs with excellent service**  
**Maintains a financially sound company**

☒ **Offers a Robust Risk Management Program**

Fortress offers detailed advice both online and through periodic in-person risk management courses to assist policyholders in avoiding losses from malpractice or disciplinary actions. Dentists receive guidance that identifies specific areas of risk in their practice, techniques to reduce patient injury, and methods to reduce the risk of legal action in the event of patient dissatisfaction or injury. Insureds receive a credit toward their premiums for completing formal courses.

☒ **Provides Technically Competent Legal Services**

Fortress assigns a well-trained and effective claims analyst and, as needed, a skilled defense counsel to each case. They work as a team with the insured dentist to aggressively defend the defensible and, with the dentist's consent, settle the indefensible claims. Highly experienced internal reviewers provide valuable insight in the process.

☒ **Meets Dentists' Needs with Excellent Service**

Fortress is owned and operated by dentists and specializes in writing malpractice insurance specifically for dentists. Their representatives understand that guarding the reputation and the assets of the insured is their primary duty. This creates a supportive environment to minimize any collateral effects of the claims or litigation process on the dentist's personal and professional life.

☒ **Maintains a Financially Sound Company**

Finally, in the worst-case scenario, insureds must trust that the company will remain solvent to pay a settlement or adverse verdict. Fortress maintains an "A" (Excellent) rating for financial health. Rates reflect dental practice losses, not losses related to higher risk groups, such as physicians, medical surgeons, and hospitals.

I have been a long-time Fortress policyholder and served for over 20 years as a District Claims Committee and State Council Chair and member. As is true of all our endorsed insurance carriers, Fortress checks all the boxes.

