



SAN ANTONIO
district dental society

NEWSLETTER

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Clinical Guidelines: FROM THE BENCH



Minimizing Shade Remakes Between You and the Dental Lab

by Robert Marbach, BA, CDT • President, Authentic Dental Lab

Selecting a patient's shade in the dental office can be a difficult task at times, because describing color is very subjective. There are many factors that influence and affect color in the operator. For example, the type of lighting, individual perception, metamerism, the age of your shade tabs and the ambient light in your room. Below are some tips we can use in the operator to help us take better shades.

Top Shade Taking Tips:

1. Take the shade at the beginning of the appointment before anesthesia.
2. Keep the teeth hydrated because as teeth desiccate they become lighter.
3. Avoid color distractions: Remove lipstick, use clear cheek retractors and always use neutral gray or light blue colored bibs.
4. Seat the patient upright and use a hand-held shade taking light that emits 5000° to 5500° Kelvin light temperature (Figure 1).
5. Turn off the overhead dental light.
6. Hold the shade guide to the patient's mouth and visually scan all the tabs using the process of elimination (Figure 2).
7. Do not stare at a shade tab for more than five seconds to avoid chromatic adaptation.
8. Alternate looking at the neutral gray or light blue bib to neutralize the rods and cones in the eyes and then look back at the tab again to check the shade.
9. Remember the Value is the most important factor to a great shade. This is the brightness or lightness of a shade. If the value is too high, the tab will appear too bright. If the value is too low, the tab will appear too dark (Figure 3).
10. If the patient is bleaching their teeth, wait two weeks before taking the shade. The patients tooth color needs to stabilize.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

"Hello, my name is Robert Marbach. I would like to personally invite you to participate in my lab's [special pricing for SADDs members](#), ask for Whitney."

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Happy New Year!.....	1
SADDS Officers & Directors.....	3
SADDS Job Fair/Networking Event.....	4
President's Message	5
Welcome Chief Dental Officer.....	6
Editor's Message.....	7
December Holiday Party.....	8-9
Member News.....	10
Board Member Profile - Dr. Taylor Cook.....	11
Alliance News.....	12
Diversity & Inclusion.....	13
New Dentist Corner.....	15
Pronouns by Dr. Mike Farmer.....	16-17
TDA Dental Concierge App.....	17
Reflections on a Career in Dentistry	18-19
Legal Update.....	20
In Memoriam.....	21
Classified Ads.....	25
Specialist Directory.....	26-29
Upcoming Meetings/Advertisers / SADDS New Members...30	
April 12 GM Meeting - In Person!.....	31

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SADDS Networking & Job Fair

December 11th at UT Health San Antonio



**A BIG Thank You to all the sponsors that helped make this
First Annual Job Fair a HUGE SUCCESS!**

Benevis, Partnerships for Dentists, Wallace Specialty Insurance, Sweet Dental, TDA Financial Services, Guia Practice Management, DDSmatch Southwest, Bank of America, ADAPT, Practice Transitions Group, Healthcare Compliance Readiness, Smart Training and UT Health San Antonio



President’s Message

Richard Potter, DDS

THE TIMES, THEY ARE A CHANGIN’

Well, I hope you are all heading full steam into 2022!! 2021, just like 2020, was a turbulent year for many still dealing with COVID-19 and the everchanging political landscape. But thanks to the ADA, TDA and SADDs, our ride was not quite as bumpy as it may have been for others. Dentistry remains one of the strongest professions during these uncertain times. We are now into February, and it is that time of the year to dig out that renewal statement that was sent by our TDA Office in Austin. We need you in our ranks so the ADA & TDA can continue be one of the loudest voices in healthcare. I encourage you to renew your dues so you can take advantage of all the tangible and intangible benefits available through your Tripartite membership. One of the biggest benefits will soon be coming out: Dental Concierge. This is an app that was designed by the TDA that will help you track your CE and alert you to classes you may be missing in order to renew your State License. Not only will it alert you, but you will also have access to courses that will satisfy all the different TSBDE requirements for renewal, like the Opioid and Human Trafficking requirements. Dental Concierge will help you unravel that tangled knot of confusing when it comes to these types of classes.

Personally, my most important benefit is an intangible benefit, ADVOCACY. The ADA and TDA had another successful year on the legislative front. The ADA’s grassroots letter writing campaign ensured that our voice was heard loud and clear concerning our reservations with dental benefits being included in Medicare Part B. Over 60,000 letters were written from dentists to their representatives (especially Senator Manchin from West Virginia) voicing our opposition to the dental benefit package included in the \$3.5 Trillion Reconciliation Package. As you know that bill has been significantly trimmed and dental benefits have been excluded. Our TDA Legislative Team also had a very good 2021, a legislative year in the State of Texas. We were able to help craft the bill for Teledentistry and are now involved with the TSBDE writing the actual regulation that will be ratified. This is a huge win for dentists in Texas and you!!

I hate to end on a sad note. However, it is with a deep sadness and hole in my heart that I inform you our Executive Director, Linda Shafer, has resigned due to health concerns. Linda has been the cornerstone of SADDs for almost 17 years. Linda started with SADDs as a part-time assistant in 2005 and quickly took the helm as the Executive Director in 2007. Her leadership and devotion to organized dentistry has made SADDs one of the leading component societies in TEXAS. I am honored to have worked with her over this period of time and to call her a friend. She is loved by all of us and will be sorely missed; she is leaving VERY BIG Shoes to fill! We have created a Kudo Board where you can leave a prayer for her your own personal thank you note! The website address is <https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/OLYgJ4cW> or you can scan the QR code below.

As the great Bob Dylan once said, “The times, they are a changin.” Just as SADDs heads into the future under new leadership, we will embrace the change coming to SADDs and we will continue to grow and lead to stay one of the leading component societies in the TDA. But for us to continue to build on the legacy Linda and Shannon are leaving, we need you to continue your membership by renewing today!! We need you to make this a bigger and better San Antonio District Dental Society.

Richard M. Potter, DDS, FICD, FACD
SADDs President
TDA Southwest Director



Scan QR Code for
Linda’s Kudo Board -
Leave Your own
personal thank you
note!

School of Dentistry Welcomes Chief Dental Officer

By Dr. Kelly Lemke, Editor

One of SADDs's newest members, Dr. Micaela Gibbs, is a transplant from Florida who has stepped into a unique role as the first-ever Chief Dental Officer (CDO) at UT Health San Antonio School of Dentistry.

As CDO, Dr. Gibbs is charged with enhancing and expanding patient care services at the School of Dentistry. The overall goal is to better serve patients and, more broadly, to improve the oral health of the community. Her role is closely tied to recent initiatives that are reframing how –and where – the school delivers clinical care.

One of her roles will involve the soon-to-be-constructed Hunke Special Care Clinic within the COHR, designed especially for patients with special needs. This unique clinic will be the first of its kind in an academic setting in South Texas. Area dentists can refer patients with physical or cognitive impairments that make dental care in a traditional practice difficult to provide. As CDO, Dr. Gibbs will strengthen ties between this clinic and UT Health San Antonio medical partners as well as special-needs stakeholders and advocates throughout San Antonio and South Texas.

Dr. Gibbs obtained her DDS from the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine, did a GPR and Head and Neck Cancer Fellowship at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, and received a Master of Health Administration from Ohio University. She was most recently an Interim Chair and clinical associate professor in the University of Florida in the Department of Community Dentistry and Behavioral Science, where she oversaw the UF Statewide Network for Community Oral Health.

With her documented success in maintaining UF's community outreach and encouraging cohesion with other academic groups within UF, it's easy to see why Dr. Gibbs was selected as the first CDO at UT

Health San Antonio.

Dr. Gibbs traces her involvement in organized dentistry to her early days as a practicing dentist.

Wanting to deliver volunteer care to low-income, uninsured, and under-insured people in need of dental services, she soon discovered that most such



“Organized dentistry allows large-scale change through advocacy. It marries the money with the mission”

opportunities were under the umbrella of her local dental society. Later, when she worked with the Howard Dental Center – providing care to indigent patients living with HIV – she found that its entire Board of Directors were involved in

organized dentistry.

With two key professional interests –the economics and policy of health care for marginalized populations and the integration of dental and medical care providers to improve health outcomes – Dr. Gibbs has her own perspective on organized dentistry and its systems. “Organized dentistry allows large-scale change through advocacy. It marries the money with the mission” she says. “Having your voice heard, regardless of your philosophy, is important.”

We couldn't agree more...welcome to the SADDs family, Dr. Gibbs!

Editor's Message: Protecting Our Profession

Kelly C. Lemke, DDS, MS



In the Nov-Dec 2021 issue, I wrote, “Membership in SADDs enables us to come together and improve ourselves professionally, meet other members of the local dental community, and ultimately strengthen our profession as a whole.”

I’d like to focus on that final phrase and the way that every SADDs member plays an important part in protecting our profession through the TDA’s political advocacy on our behalf.

“State government plays a vital role in setting guidelines for how you run your practice on a daily basis. From taxation and regulation to scope of practice and licensing, the Texas legislature makes decisions affecting every aspect of the dental profession.” ([TDA.org > Advocacy > DENPAC](https://www.tda.org/advocacy/denpac))

The TDA is the only organization that has the power to protect our interests – and to safeguard the public’s right to quality, oral healthcare. The same legislature that grants us our license can alter that license at any time. They can also implement laws that are counter-productive to our financial wellbeing.

Membership in our Association helps it work for legislation that helps you. During the 87th Legislative Session, these efforts have included:

- **prohibiting** insurers from requiring dentists to obtain preauthorization if they meet specific criteria (HB 3459)
- **exempting** dental billing services from sales tax beginning Jan. 1, 2022 (HB 1445)
- **protecting** dentists that use data processing services (merchant credit and debit card processing services) from being significantly burdened by extra sales and use taxes (SB 153)

Moreover, during every legislative session there are attempts to expand the scope of practice of non-dentists. The Texas Dental Practice Act – as it stands today – acknowledges **the dentist as the head of the dental team** – an important distinction that benefits both dentist and patient, and one that the TDA has worked diligently to maintain. During the 87th Legislative Session the TDA defeated all legislative proposals exposing Texans to a lower standard of dental care by non-dentists.

Getting back to how every SADDs member plays an important part in protecting our profession...consistently over the past few decades, the TDA has been one of the largest interest groups in Austin. We have a so-called ‘seat at the table’ at the state Capitol – an opportunity to be heard and to make a difference – thanks to the well-earned respect afforded the dental profession, but also **due to the size of our membership**.

It’s a hard truth that members and non-members benefit equally from the actions taken by the TDA to protect patients and the profession of dentistry through political advocacy. It’s also true that for interest groups like the TDA, there truly is power in numbers. But what if those numbers were to dissolve over time?

We can’t afford to be silent partners in decisions that affect our businesses, our practices, and our profession. Legislative proposals directly impact dentistry in Texas, and we need to have meaningful input. Political involvement – and membership in the Texas Dental Association – is just good business.

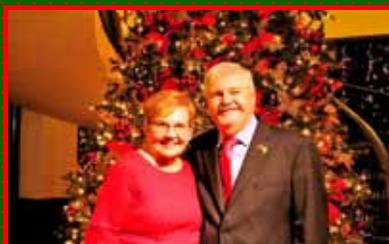
Kelly

DECEMBER MEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY

*SADDS Holiday Party at San Antonio Country Club
Featuring Dr. Bud Luecke's Band Morning!
December 9, 2021*



SADDS Members Holiday Cheer!



10 Dentists to Watch

They're new to the field but have already left their marks.

READ NOW



AKSHAY THUSU, DDS, FAGD, FICD
Advanced Smile Care, San Antonio, Texas

Akshay Thusu, DDS, FAGD, FICD, graduated from dental school in 2015 and has already built an impressive list of achievements, including earning his AGD and International College of Dentistry fellowships, serving as president of the San Antonio AGD, and receiving the 2021 Texas

New Dentist of the Year award.

Volunteerism is a pillar of Thusu's young career, and he has dedicated himself to serving the needs of San Antonio's most vulnerable populations through volunteering with the Texas Mission of Mercy, Dentistry from the Heart and Smiles for Hope Clinic.

"I aspire to continue progressing as a leader in dentistry and serving the public of San Antonio," Thusu said. "I hope to use my influence for a positive impact for the future of dentistry, including creating a nonprofit foundation with the goal of providing free dental care to those in need and education scholarships to support the next generation of leaders in dentistry."

Thusu and his family moved to the United States from India when he was 15 years old. Region 18 Regional Director Marc J. Worob, DDS, FAGD, said that this life transition sparked the selflessness that Thusu has woven into his career.

"Akshay is an amazing young man whose parents set the tone for his life by sacrificing everything to bring him to this country for his education," Worob said. "Leaders like Akshay don't come along very often, and this incredibly talented young dentist strives to be better than the day before, every day."

To Thusu, the most exciting part of dentistry is his patients, who offer the "greatest and most valuable source of learning, motivation and success." His advice to new dentists is to never lose sight of why you became a dentist — to help others.

"The journey to becoming a dentist will be difficult, and there will be times when you feel like giving up," Thusu said. "The more difficult the journey and the harder you work, the stronger and more successful you will come out."

"I hope to use my influence for a positive impact for the future of dentistry."

TSBDE License Renewal Certificates

- As of 9/1/2021, TSBDE no longer mails out renewal certificates.
- You now have access to print out your renewal certificate from the board's website: <https://tsbde.texas.gov/printcert/>
- The licensing division can be reached at (512) 463-0235 or email at licensinghelp@tsbde.texas.gov.

Board Member Profile: Taylor Cook, DDS

*Our SADDs Board members work on your behalf...
let's meet one of them!*

Dr. Taylor Cook attended Howard Payne University prior to enrolling at UT Health San Antonio School of Dentistry.

Why dentistry? "I decided to become a dentist while on a mission trip to Kenya when I was in undergrad. Out of all the medical professionals on the trip, the dentist was the one person who could immediately and permanently get someone out of pain. I try to do one mission trip a year to give back using the gifts and blessings that God has given me," states Dr. Cook.



Among her many achievements as a student, she was named a UT Health San Antonio Presidential Ambassador Scholar – an honor bestowed on one dental student each year in recognition of leadership abilities. The ambassadors represent the student body and the university at numerous events throughout the year. Other distinctions include the TDA Outstanding Senior Student Award and the Pierre Fauchard Academy Leadership Award.

Dr. Cook currently practices at Westpointe Modern Dentistry and Orthodontics in New Braunfels. "My friend and mentor, Dr. Robert Krantz, invited me to move to New Braunfels and work with him after graduation and it's been great working with a friend! It has been a busy office to quicken my skills after dental school," she says.

What's your favorite aspect of practicing periodontics, and what do you love most about the dental profession?

I love making connections with my patients! Being available to patients in their time of need is one of the greatest joys of the profession for me. I also enjoy the continual learning that you get to do - every day is different!

You made the conscious decision to be involved in organized dentistry – SADDs, TDA, ADA. Why is this important to you?

I was ASDA president when I was in dental school and loved the networking and comradery in organized dentistry. It's a great place to connect and to make a difference for the future of our profession. For a young

dentist, I think it's a way to find mentors in town and continue to learn from others around us.

Any current and past leadership or committee positions at the local, state and/or national level of organized dentistry?

As a student I was ASDA president for the UT Health San Antonio chapter. I am now part of the SADDs Membership Committee and have been involved with the Committee on the New Dentist for the last few years. This year, I am the new dentist liaison for the Council on Annual Meeting, Continuing Education and Programs (CAMCEP), the committee within TDA that plans the statewide TDA Meeting.

Importantly, how has being involved in organized dentistry leadership contributed to your personal and professional growth?

Being involved in organized dentistry has allowed me to get out of my comfort zone and to meet other seasoned professionals who have taught me many things professionally and personally. I am hopeful that I will continue on this path of leadership at the state and local levels!

Are you a member of other dental organizations such as the Academy of General Dentistry?

I am not a part of any other organizations at this time. Living outside of San Antonio makes it tough to commit to more than one dental organization in SA at a time, and I get the most value out of SADDs.

If you could go back to your first year of dental school, knowing what you know now, what would be the #1 thing you'd tell yourself?

Take time to do the things you enjoy with the great friends you will make in dental school - the days are long, but the four years are short!

How do you like to spend your free time?

I enjoy golfing, shopping, discovering new restaurants and spending time with family and friends.



Alliance News: Hello Alliance Members and Welcome to 2022!

Since our last report, we have been busy wrapping up events in Nov/Dec 2021. We are so pleased with the response of our community to the TMOM for Veterans that occurred in San Antonio November 5-6, 2021. The primary dental health focus of the Alliance to the SADDS for 2021 has been to support this event. We're aware that the last newsletter included a report from the Society, but we wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you to some of our Alliance members who played a role. Our biggest "thank you" goes to our member, **Patty Taylor**, who has spear-headed this project for over two years as the Community Chair. We are so proud of you Patty! You have the heartfelt appreciation of your fellow Alliance members! Additional appreciation goes to **Dr. Ben Taylor**, who assisted Patty throughout this event. Thank you both!

Our members gave a great deal of financial and personal attention to this event; including two days of feeding volunteers breakfast and lunch during the TMOM pre-screening days in October, and serving breakfast and lunch for volunteers and patients during set up and treatment days in November. They were instrumental in transporting, serving and cleaning up after all food services for five days! We also provided dental assisting & event coordination. **Denise Bruchmiller** organized, and served with, the Alliance volunteers, which included: **Karen Cox, Kathy Edgin, Chita Harris, Kristen Huriega, Gloria Morales, Jeanette Morgan, Nelda Potter, Brenda Robbins, Lois Shockley and Susan Shults**. Thank you to each of you who served or supported this event financially. Our Alliance members worked hard, and we are proud to have been a part of this wonderful event!

Thank you to **Kristen Huriega** for leading us so capably in December at our Executive Board Dinner held at Frederick's on 12/06. We enjoyed having an evening event which allowed us to catch-up with some of our "working" members: **America Geis, Kelly Lemke, Susan Shults, and Gina Villareal**.

Kristen Huriega also led our general meeting at San Antonio Country Club 12/07, where we presented our State Alliance President, **Karen Donelson**, with our traditional "Alclade" in which she was proclaimed "Mayor of La Villita" whenever she is in our city limits! We also had the pleasure of welcoming, **Linda Estrada**, her state corresponding secretary. It was good to see **Kathy Edgin, Pat Krueger and Nelda Potter** amongst our membership, as Karen shared her remarks about her theme: "Rainbow Connection" and her Presidential year serving our state so

far. A good time was had by all; which included an impromptu "Happy Birthday" tribute to **Diana Bruchmiller**, a long-time, dedicated member; for her 90th Birthday!

Coming Up SOON!

Our next Alliance meeting is just around the corner, on **Tuesday, February 1st, 2022 at 11:00am at Paloma Blanca** off Broadway. This meeting, led by **Denise Bruchmiller**, will highlight our Dental Health Projects for the remainder of this year! FEBRUARY is always "Dental Health Month," and this year we are: (1) providing volunteers to answer the phones at the **San Antonio Christian Dental Clinic @ Haven for Hope**, so that staff can be freed up to handle the other important business of the clinic, and (2) providing dental health items, and dental health presentations, to the multiple programs **Roy Maas Youth Alternatives** supports. The Communications Committee will be contacting you with more details, collecting RSVP's for the luncheon and providing information about how you can help with our remaining Dental Health projects. Please plan to join us!

Member News!

Barbara Westwood has not been able to attend meetings because she is recovering from shoulder surgery. Give her a call when you have a chance!

The Omicron Covid Variant has been hitting our country hard, and San Antonio is no exception! This would be a good time to reach out to fellow members to see how they and their families are doing. A special "thank you" to **Chita Harris** for being a wonderful Courtesy Chairman and sending cards and staying connected with all our members!

Our final meeting of this year will be **Tuesday, April 5th, 2022, at Oak Hills Country Club**, led by **Gloria Morales**. Stay tuned for details.

With the turning of a new year, the Presidential Committee takes the opportunity to once again THANK YOU for your commitment and loyal membership to ASADDS.

Warmly-

Denise Bruchmiller, Kristen Huriega, Gloria Morales, and Jeanette Morgan (Presidential Committee 2021-2022)

SADDS Diversity Committee Black History Month Feature

By Beryl Otchere, DDS

Happy Black History Month! My name is Beryl Otchere and I am a general dentist, wife, mom of two, and blogger/content creator for my blog "Bloom, Beryl" where I encourage my readers to bloom and grow regardless of where they are planted. My family is from Ghana, West Africa but I grew up in Dallas, TX and also went to college there. I went to dental school in Houston, TX and graduated in 2019. I've been part of organized dentistry for the past 2.5 years. And before that, I was involved with the ASDA chapter at my dental school. Organized dentistry is important to me because it gives us as dentists the opportunity to represent our profession and also to network and build a local community of fellow dentists.

My journey to dentistry began with the many dental procedures that I needed as a teen, including impacted canine exposure and ortho treatment to bring this canine into alignment. At that time I became fascinated with the field of dentistry and all that could be done to improve a person's smile. A large part of my personal confidence today is the smile that my orthodontist achieved for me years ago. As I transitioned into college as a pre-dental student, this is when I finally got to see dentistry firsthand and realized how much I could impact my future patients by relieving pain, creating beautiful smiles, and building confidence. All along my journey to dentistry, many people inspired me, especially fellow African-American female dentists. We make up a very small minority of practicing dentists, so it's nice to be able to look up to those of us who have made it.



I had pleasure of shadowing Dr. Kellie Johnson in Arlington, TX for over a year during my undergrad and she inspired me tremendously. Her beautiful practice is overflowing with patients who love and trust her with their smiles. She 's one of those dentists that does a little bit of everything and does it all with excellence. And she truly makes all her patients feel welcome and comfortable. Seeing Dr. Johnson practice helped me to envision myself as a dentist one day, and even as a practice owner. Diversity in dentistry is important because representation matters. There are many young people just waiting for someone to believe in them or waiting to see role models that look like them.

While in dental school, I learned about Ida Gray who was the first African-American dentist. She was born in 1867 and took an interest in dentistry while working in the office of Dr. Jonathan Taft. He was a mentor to her and instrumental in helping her get into dental school. When she graduated, she was the first African-American to practice dentistry in the nation. She set up her practice in Cincinnati, OH and saw patients of various races and ages. Her patient's raved about how friendly and gentle she was and even kids loved to see her. As an African-American female dentist, she's been extremely inspirational to me and to many others as well. Her story shows that no matter the odds or the challenges, if you are determined, you will succeed. I endeavor to be the kind of dentist Ida Gray was, gentle, kind, and willing to work hard to provide the best care for my patients.



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SADDS New Dentist Study Club Lecture Series 2021-2022

JULY 20 - DR. ROGER MACIAS "SLEEP DENTISTRY FOR THE NEW DENTIST"

SEPTEMBER 21 - DR. COURTNEY ALEXANDER "MAXILLARY & LINGUAL FRENECTOMIES IN THE PEDIATRIC POPULATION"

NOVEMBER 30 - DR. ANTONELLA BOTTO "BEGINNING WITH THE END IN MIND: A GUIDE TO TREATMENT PLANNING"

MARCH 22, 2022 - DR. BART WILSON "INVISALIGN ON FLEEK"

MAY 24, 2022 - PATHWAY TO PRACTICE OWNERSHIP: A PANEL DISCUSSION

Lectures at Patterson Dental Office
12625 Wetmore Rd., Ste. 103

6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

\$ 100 for entire study club series/\$ 30 for each study club presentation

(No series refunds)

Dinner & 2 hours CE provided at each lecture

Register at www.sadds.org

Questions? Contact Dr. Austin Lee - austinvincentlee@gmail.com

Pronouns: Why Do They Matter in My Office?

By Mike Farmer, DMD



It was only a few months after I had opened my private practice that Susan came into my office. You could tell that she was nervous when she handed my patient coordinator her insurance card that said “Daniel” rather than “Susan.” Fortunately, the team member reassured Susan, being sure to double check that the patient’s chart reflected her

preferred name and not her given name.

Susan had a seat in the reception area and the hygienist soon came up and called for Susan to come back. You could start to tell Susan’s level of anxiety instantly lowered. The hygienist made small talk as he does with each patient and, after introducing himself, casually dropped in the question of, “What are your preferred pronouns?” when it felt comfortable and appropriate. Susan was now feeling much more relaxed and open to allowing us to treat her oral health.

For many transgender patients, the fear of seeing a dentist is less about the sound of the drill and more about what will happen during interactions with the staff members and doctors.

Are they going to call me Daniel when they take me back to a treatment room? Are other people going to look at me as I get up and go back?

Are the staff members going to ask questions about transgender issues?

Will I be judged?

*Will I have to educate **another** group of people? **Again**?*

Using a patient’s name and pronouns correctly is the first step of providing care because you are showing that you care about the patient. I was taught in dental school that the only way that I would be able to provide effective dental care for a patient is to build trust. If the patient

does not trust you, they will not be honest or open with you. For transgender patients, building this trust starts with using pronouns.

A simple question can change the trajectory of a patient’s relationship with you:

“What are your pronouns?” This question can be verbal or can be on your patient paperwork. Ideally, it occurs both written and verbally. By asking this question, you change the narrative from “this is an issue that we can just pretend doesn’t exist” to “we care about you as a whole person, not just about your teeth.” Would we ever ignore medical conditions such as a bleeding disorder, cardiovascular disease, or pregnancy? What would we be missing out on if we did not ask about these conditions on a patient’s medical history? I propose that a patient’s pronouns are equally important in a patient’s care because it gives us the information that we need to treat the patient comprehensively.

Research shows that 3 of 10 transgender patients postponed or avoided medical care due to discrimination. There are multiple factors that lead to this avoidance of care, but one of the key identified factors is past negative medical experiences. If we could change just a few policies in our office and make transgender patients feel more welcome, can we meet our unified goal of improving oral health outcomes? Would you be willing to make a few simple changes if it meant changing a specific population’s oral health?

Utilizing the appropriate pronouns creates an inclusive environment that leads to higher access to care for the LGBTQ+ community. Providing a safe space where patients feel comfortable and not judged encourages better patient compliance and retention. Time after time I have had patients walk into my office that are transgender and tell of how a friend had spoken highly of our office’s environment and to show appreciation for being a place where any patient is welcome.

*But why do we need to ask **every** patient this question?*

Shouldn't we just ask the transgender patients this question?

Do we only ask the patients with hypertension if they have high blood pressure? Or only the patients with diabetes if they have diabetes? Of course not. We ask every patient. Just as we should be doing about pronouns. And while the question may make a few of your cisgender patients "uncomfortable", I would suggest that it provides an opportunity to educate cisgender patients about the issue and an opportunity for your staff to say that we care about *all* our patients.

And if your staff makes a mistake, what should they do? Apologize at great length so that the patient knows they are sincere? Continue to bring it up? No. Simply say, "I'm sorry that I used the wrong pronouns, I truly apologize and will try to do better in the future," and then move on. Patients do not want to have a drawn-out conversation about it, they want to be treated normally. They understand mistakes happen and as long as you are trying, that is all that matters.

Putting forth an effort to improve oral health outcomes for transgender patients begins today with you reading this article. I challenge you to continue the next steps in your own office. Seek education for yourself and your team. Practice asking people what their pronouns are so that you are comfortable. Advocate for more education at the local and state level on transgender issues in dentistry. Do anything you can to make an inclusive environment for your patients so that they can trust you and get the care they need and deserve. Do it because it's the right thing to do.

About the author: Michael C. Farmer, DMD (he/him) practices general dentistry in Charlotte, NC where he is the President Elect of the Charlotte Dental Society and a member of the Charlotte Transgender Healthcare Group. A graduate of the University of Alabama-Birmingham School of Dentistry, Dr. Farmer was a member of the American Dental Association's Institute for Diversity in Leadership in 2018-2019 and is an Adjunct Faculty member at the University of North Carolina Adams School of Dentistry. His passions include educating dental professionals about LGBTQ+ issues and improving oral health in Uganda since 2012 through the non-profit Universal Smiles.

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“Reflections on a Career in Dentistry from a Long-Time Member”

By Cheryl E. Hubble, DDS

I am Cheryl E. (Hayward) Hubble, DDS. San Antonio has been my home since birth. My professional education started with a BA in Biology/Chemistry from Incarnate Word College, then an MS in Biology from University of Texas at San Antonio, before starting at Un. Of Texas at San Antonio Dental School and graduating in 1981, the third large class. I taught High School Biology for two years before starting graduate school, and my third year in graduate school, I worked as a full-time Histology tech while doing my own research for my thesis. I decided on dental school because of some friends from college who were interested in Dentistry, one of whom graduated from the San Antonio Dental School in 1976. I was accepted and the rest is history.

I knew before I graduated that I would be setting up my own practice, and Dr. Padgett's class had us doing surveys of the places we were thinking of establishing practices. This was a great aid, and I decided to set my office up on Perrin Beitel and Naco Perrin Rds. This was a good growth area at the time, lots of military families (I would hope to treat the families, and retirees). While my office was being constructed, I worked as an associate for Dr. James Reveley in his office on S. Flores. I worked there for about 10 months and learned a lot about running a dental practice. Incidentally, Dr. Reveley was that college friend that was a big influence on me.

I practiced on Perrin Beitel and grew from 1 dental chair, to two chairs, a part-time dental hygienist, to three chairs and a full time dental hygienist. In 1993, I moved my practice to twice the space and 5 rooms! I practiced there for 21 years and sold my practice to Dr. Kaci Tibbetts - I stayed on part time for two more years and then retired from General Dentistry, per se, in 2015. For about 4-5 years, I worked as a supervising dentist at Concorde Dental Hygiene, but quit in 2020 when Covid became prevalent (this was before the vaccines.).

Since then, I volunteer at my church, Coker UMC, in the Food Pantry, and the Front Desk. I've been a member of Choir for the last 8 years, and I'm in a Sunday School Class before services on Sunday. And I do bible studies! This keeps me pretty busy.

At home, I'm the mom of 4 Fur babies. While they are small, they keep me busy too. I haven't done any traveling since Covid started, but I've been to Europe 23 times on tours and cruises. I've done Egypt twice, Morocco, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Alaska, and my favorite—Israel. I'm hoping to start traveling again next year. I want to do our National Parks, and Canada.

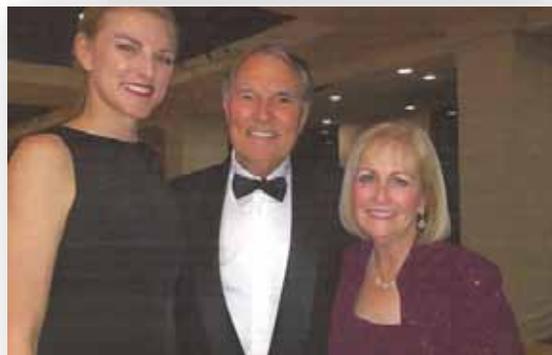
I've been a member of the ADA, TDA, and the local dental society since a student in dental school. I went to meetings early on after graduating, but then life caught up and so now I read the dental journals, do my CE, the Conventions once a year. I was made a life member when I turned 65.

I'm also a long-time member of the K Supper Club—a dinner-dance club started during or shortly after WWII. I have seen several former instructors from the dental school, most recently Dr. Rugh and his wonderful wife, at these dinners! And he and Shannon Starr from the District Dental Society said I should do a brief biography. So, this was it.

I was blessed to go into Dentistry. It has been a wonderful career, and I had a great staff, many of whom worked for me for over 18 years. Several of the younger ones have new careers in Dentistry as Dental hygienists, and office managers. Their technical skills and general knowledge are awesome!!

I can say, as one of the first women dentists to set up her own practice in San Antonio, I have never had an issue with being female. If anything, it was an asset as patients perceived me as being gentle. Many became long time friends. I had read in a census of men and women in dental schools in 1971 (I have no clue anymore where I got that), there was only 1 woman in dental school in the United States. When the faculty of the San Antonio Dental school were picking students for the entry class of 1977—we had 18 women out of a class of 152. And 11 of us graduated!!!!

As I said, Dentistry has been a blessing for me, and I cherish the memories of practicing and trying to do the best dentistry for my patients. Thank you to all my instructors/professors, and especially to my staff through the years!!!



Photos: Top Left - Me with my very first patient! I was a junior in dental school. Top Right - One of my youngest patients ever in 1982. Her mother became my first office manager. Bottom Left - 7 years ago with 2 of my great nephews. Bottom Right - Dr. Kaci Tibbets, Dr. John Rugh and me at K Club dinner dance 4 years ago.

Real Estate Tax Tips

By Jeanine Lehman, Attorney at Law

With rapidly increasing real estate valuations and government budgets, expect real estate taxes to continue increasing in Texas. There are some exemptions applicable to principal residences that are critical to obtain, if you are eligible.

General Residence Homestead Exemption. Texas has a General Residence Homestead Exemption, which significantly reduces real estate taxes applicable to the owner's principal residence. The *property must be your principal residence and you may not claim homestead on another property.* To receive the homestead exemption, application needs to be made to the appraisal district where your principal residence is located. For example, the Bexar Central Appraisal District is at bcad.org. If the prior owner already has a homestead exemption, generally that exemption continues until year-end and the new owner files for a homestead exemption in the period beginning January 1st and ending April 30th of the year following the purchase. Recently, the law has changed when the prior owner did not receive the homestead exemption for the year of purchase. In that case, provided that the home is the principal residence of the new owner, the new owner can file the application for the homestead exemption after the purchase in the year of purchase, rather than waiting until January 1st, and will receive the homestead exemption for the remainder of the year of purchase. This change in the law is helpful in circumstances where the home is a new home or the prior owner was an investor. The homestead application requires submission of the applicant's driver's license or state-issued personal ID certificate with the address matching the home's address. If you have not filed for a homestead exemption on your home and are eligible, it is advisable to file now. *You may file for late homestead exemption up to two years after the date on which the taxes become delinquent. In such case, you will want to contact the appraisal district for instructions for late filing of the homestead exemption. Another benefit of the General Residence Homestead exemption is that the increase of net appraised value of your home is limited to an increase of 10% over the prior year (known as the homestead cap).*

Age 65 or Older Exemption. *If you are age 65 or older, your residence homestead will qualify for an additional money saving exemption. You qualify for the Age 65 or Older Exemption the year you turn 65. You apply for the Age 65 or Older Exemption with your appraisal district.*

Transferring School Tax Ceiling. When you obtain the Age 65 or Older Exemption, the school district's taxes on your

home have a ceiling on the amount of those taxes, which ceiling applies to future years. If you move to another principal residence in Texas and obtain a general residence homestead exemption and over 65 exemption, you may transfer your school tax ceiling from your old residence to your new residence. The ceiling on the new homestead will be calculated to give you the same percentage of tax paid as the ceiling on the original homestead. To transfer the school tax ceiling, you file a Request to Cancel Exemption/Port Exemption to New Residence form with your old appraisal district. The old tax appraisal district then provides you with a Tax Ceiling Certificate. You then apply for your homestead exemption and age 65 or older exemption with the new appraisal district, and also send the new appraisal district your Tax Ceiling Certificate from your old appraisal district. Since school district taxes are very significant, it is well worthwhile to transfer your tax ceiling to your new home.

Other Exemptions. There are various other exemptions including for disability, and death or disability (including partial disability) of a veteran, active duty military, or first responder, which benefit those persons or their surviving spouses.

Example. To give an example of the magnitude of the exemptions, a home in a desirable area in Northwest Austin was selected arbitrarily. The home had the general residence homestead exemption and another exemption, which was probably the 65 or older exemption. In 2021, the tax appraisal was a little over one million dollars. Since the appraised value increased over 10% from 2020, the increase was capped at 10% pursuant to the homestead cap, and the net appraised value was about \$986,000. The tax ceiling for school district taxes was in place probably for at least 10 years, due to the 65 or older exemption. For 2021, the estimated real estate taxes with the current exemptions were about **\$13,600**. By contrast, for 2021, the estimated real estate taxes without exemptions were about **\$21,500**. The exemptions made a significant difference.

Tax Website. See the [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) website for updates on real estate taxes for your county.

Jeanine Lehman is a Round Rock, Texas dental, health, real estate, and business law attorney with a statewide practice – www.jeanine.com. She can be reached at (512) 918-3435 or Jeanine@Jeanine.com. © Jeanine Lehman 2022. This article is not legal advice.

Dr. Allison Kohnen Rohling 1992 - 2021



God welcomed home His daughter, Dr. Allison Kathleen Kohnen Rohling, on Friday November 12, 2021. Allison was born in Bay City, Texas, on June 4, 1992, to parents Michael and Leslie Kohnen.

As the oldest of three girls, Allison was always a confident and driven trailblazer with big dreams for her future. She worked hard her entire life to achieve them; in 2010, she graduated at the top of her class from Bay City High School and three years later she graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi. It was here that she not only enjoyed her love of the beach, but met her biggest supporter and future husband, Weldon Stephen Rohling. She then went on to receive her Doctorate of Dental Surgery from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston in 2016. After this, she practiced her passion in Fort Worth, Brownwood, and Stephenville before being accepted to a Pediatric Residency at the UT Health San Antonio School of Dentistry in 2021.

She was naturally outgoing, bubbly, and pure of heart. In her childhood, she found joy in dance, cheerleading, track, softball, and a number of other sports. As an adult, she enjoyed spending her free time doing yoga, art projects, skiing and cooking with those close to her. Her professional life was more than a career for her, it was a passionate endeavor. Over the years, she committed herself to making healthy dental hygiene attainable for as many people as possible. She spent innumerable hours volunteering her time and effort here in the States and abroad. It was her time in these under-served areas, in combination with her new adventure as a mother, which inspired her to specialize in pediatric dentistry.

Her legacy will live on through her beautiful infant son, Whitton St. James Rohling. She will be dearly missed by her husband, Weldon Stephen Rohling; her parents, Michael and Leslie Kohnen; her sisters, Mackenzie Kirkpatrick and husband Justin, and Madison Barrington and husband Scott; her grandparents, Gloria "Nonna" and Bob Lynch; her step-grandmother, Maggie Jones; her mother-in-law, Nancy Rohling; her father-in-law, Greg Rohling and wife Emily; her siblings-in law: Sarah, Waylon, Weston, William, Warren and wife Monse, Sophia, Stephanie, Cory, and Wilfred; cousins who were as close as siblings: Delaney, Carly, Connor, Jenna, Kody, Riley, and Emma; as well as aunts, uncles, in-laws, and countless other friends who knew her.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, November 20, 2021, at 10:00 AM at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in San Antonio, TX.

Dr. James T Mellonig 1942 - 2021

James T. Mellonig entered into eternal rest on November 16, 2021 at the age of 79. James was born on January 9, 1942 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Val and Ann Mellonig.

James is preceded in death by his parents and brother Robert John Mellonig.

To cherish his memory, he leaves behind wife of 54 years Karen; three children Timothy, Amy and Kimberly; brother Thomas (Nancy) and sister Judy. He is also remembered by numerous extended family members and a host of friends who will miss him deeply.

James retired from the Navy Dental Corp in 1989 with the rank of Capt.US N Ret. He retired from the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio Dental School as Professor Emeritus in 2010.

James published and lectured nationally and internationally. He also served as President of the American Academy of Periodontology.



Visitation was on December 2, 2021 from 11AM-12PM at Castle Ridge Mortuary North located at 10901 W Loop 1604 N San Antonio, Texas 78254. The funeral service began at 12PM and departed the funeral home at 1:30PM in procession to Cordi-Marian Resurrection Cemetery for our committal service with US Navy Military Honors.



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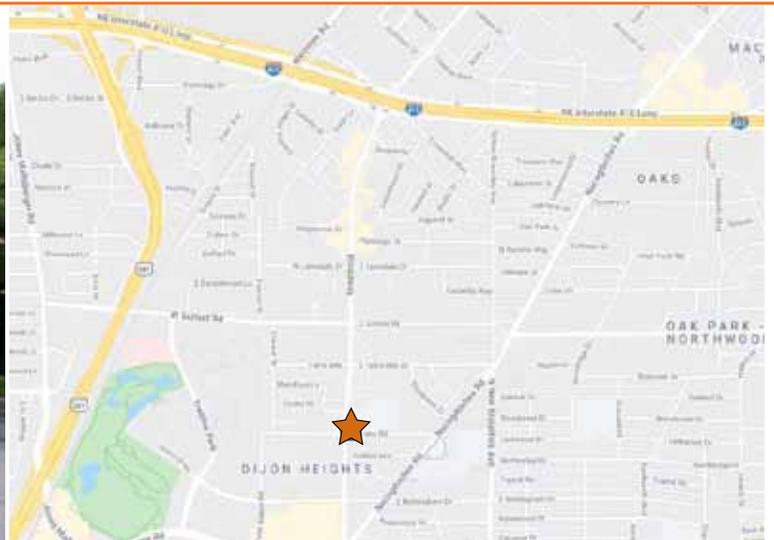


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SADDS Meetings

Register at sadds.org

March 8, 2022
SADDS Board Meeting

Mar 22, 2022
New Dentist Study Club
"Invisalign on Fleek"
by Dr. Bart Wilson

April 12, 2022
April GM Meeting
Dr. Ricahard Zimmermann
Maggiano's in the Rim

May 17, 2022
SADDS Board Meeting

June 7, 2022
June GM Meeting
Maggiano's in the Rim

July 12, 2022
SADDS Board Meeting



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Dental Business Law.....	22	Perio Hygienist Podcast.....	23
Dental Partners.....	22	The Healthy Mouth Guy.....	24

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

“Current Technology at UT Health”

Richard Zimmermann, DDS

April 12, 2022



Technology is rapidly changing the landscape of dentistry. This presentation will explore the impact technology has had on the not only the way dentist practice dentistry but also how it is taught. This will include discussions on impact of AI, automation, patient smile apps and 3D printers integration.

Learning objectives for this presentation include:

- **What are some new diagnostic technologies available?**
- **How does automation fit in digital workflows?**
- **What can 3D printers be used for?**
- **What are some advantages of digital workflows?**



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Richard Zimmermann, DDS graduated from NYU College of Dentistry in 1997 and is currently an Assistant Professor at UT Health San Antonio in the Comprehensive Dentistry Department. Since 2009, his primary focus has been the clinical integration of digital applications, which started with the acquisition of a SLA printer to create patient specific models for implant surgeries. His projects have included patient specific 3D medical modeling, integration of automated additive manufacturing into UT Health, bioprinting, and evaluating subtractive manufacturing materials and methods in the clinical environment. Dr. Zimmermann’s current project is in the development of an in-house digital laboratory.

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