


District of Columbia  
DENTAL SOCIETY

# NEWSLETTER

February 2019, Vol. 65, No. 2



Dr. Chris Loukaitis

## *A Letter from the DC Dental Society President Chris Loukaitis, DDS*

Dear Colleagues,

As a member-based organization, membership is the life-blood of our Society. Everything that we do, from philanthropy to continuing education events and advocacy, would not be possible without a robust and engaged group of like-minded dentists.

Membership is particularly at the top of my mind this year, as we come to the end of our annual membership renewal process. I am happy to report that, thanks to you, we are currently tracking favorably with our renewal numbers as compared to this time last year. Additionally, we were very successful in the latter part of last year in attracting new individuals to the Society, particularly graduate students. Thank you all for your continued support of the Society.

In addition to a higher number of dentists, it is vital that our Society has a membership that is active and engaged. There are many ways for you as DCDS members to contribute, from volunteering at Foundation events to simply attending and participating in our monthly meetings. For those who want to take an even more active role in the society, I would recommend that you nominate yourself or a deserving colleague for one of the upcoming open positions on DCDS committees, a full list of which can be found here. Serving on a committee is a great way to get involved with the Society at a higher level, as well as to expand your network. In addition, committee membership often serve as a path to a leadership position on our Board of Directors or as an officer. To nominate yourself for committee membership, please fill out this form.

Speaking of engaged members, thank you to all of the dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, and students who volunteered at last month's NBC4 Health and Fitness Expo! Despite some very challenging weather conditions, we had dozens of volunteers come out to provide over 350 of oral cancer screenings over two days. Events like NBC4 are a great way for the Society to remain prominent in the community, and we sincerely appreciate all who participated. Please be sure to view the photos from the expo and our wonderful volunteers on page 11 of this newsletter.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

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### **Reach Us**

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(Continued from Page 1)

As of press time, DCDS 2019 Spring Symposium for Licensure is officially sold out. As a reminder, this event will take place on Thursday, April 4th at the Georgetown University Conference Center and will include all of the required courses (except CPR) by the DC Board of Dentistry for license renewal. Thought the event is now sold out, a waiting list has been created in the event of cancellations. Full details and registration for the event can be found on the [DCDS website](#).

Finally, I would like to remind you that there will not be an in-person CE meeting this month. Instead, we will be hosting our first of two pilot continuing education webinars on Tuesday, February 12 from 6 PM to 7PM EST. This webinar, hosted by John J. Murphy III, Esq., is titled "Common Contractual Issues for Practicing Dentists" and will cover some of the most common agreements and legal issues faced by dentists. Please note that this is a practice management topic, and as such will not be counted towards renewal of a DC dental license. Full details and registration can be found [here](#).

See you at then March Monthly Meeting!

Sincerely,



Chris Loukaitis, DDS, MS, FICD, FACD  
*President, DC Dental Society*

## Thank you to our Premier Partners!



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## Welcome New Members

**Dr. Jim Louie**— Like many DCDS members, Dr. Jim Louie attended the Georgetown University School of Dentistry and graduated in 1980. After obtaining his DDS, he remained in Washington DC and today practices on K Street near Foggy Bottom.

**Dr. Christina Woo**—Dr. Woo attended dental school at the Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine, receiving her DDS degree in 2013. Immediately following this, she entered a one-year general practice residency in the dental department of the Montefiore Medical Center in New York City. Dr. Woo practices alongside fellow DCDS member Dr. Laelaye Shimeles at Apolline Dental near Dupont Circle.

## ADA Releases Statement on Study Involving Dental Floss

The ADA News (12/11, Garvin) reports that on Tuesday, Dec. 11, President Donald J. Trump signed the Action for Dental Health Act into law. Since 2014, the ADA has championed the Action for Dental Health initiative, which aims to improve oral health and access to oral health care. “This is a tremendous victory for dentistry and patients everywhere,” said ADA President Jeffrey M. Cole. “The Action for Dental Health initiative shows what our profession stands for, which is that all Americans deserve good dental health. The ADA is pleased to see Congress prioritizing legislation that will improve access to oral health care and help prevention and outreach programs to combat dental disease before it starts.”

For more information about the ADA’s Action for Dental Health initiative, read the full article in the [ADA News](#).

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# Common Contractual Issues for Practicing Dentists

February CE Webinar

On Tuesday, February 12, the DC Dental Society will be hosting a one hour continuing education webinar entitled “[Common Contractual Issues for Practicing Dentists](#)” by John J. Murphy III, Esq. **There will not be an in-person monthly meeting this month.**



## Session Abstract

Dentists are asked to sign complicated and confusing contracts that often contain “standard” terms that can have broad legal ramifications. This webinar will explore common terms and hidden pitfalls frequently found in independent contractor agreements, employment agreements, indemnification and hold harmless agreements, asset purchase agreements, and alternative dispute resolution agreements. This program is designed to provide a broad overview, as opposed to an in-depth technical legal analysis, of key legal provisions savvy clinician should be aware of before entering into these and other contracts common in the dental industry

## Learning Objectives

After this session, participants will be able to:

- Define common terms found in many legal agreements
- Describe 1-2 hidden pitfalls that practitioners need to be aware of
- Know enough of key legal provisions to be able to communicate successfully when seeking professional legal advice

The DC Dental Society is an ADA CERP Recognized Provider. ADA CERP is a service of the American Dental Association to assist dental professionals in identifying quality providers of continuing dental education. ADA CERP does not approve or endorse individual courses or instructors, nor does it imply acceptance of credit hours by boards of dentistry. The DC Dental Society designates this presentation for 1 CE.

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## 2019 Spring Symposium for Licensure

As of press time, the 2019 DCDS Spring Symposium is officially sold out! This event will be held on Thursday, April 4 and will include all CE courses required by the DC Board of Dentistry for dentists, except CPR. Anyone who still wishes to attend the event is invited to add their name to a waiting list by registering for the event online. DCDS is also exploring offering additional programming related to licensing requirements later this year.

For more information about the Spring Symposium for Licensure, including a full schedule and transportation information, please see the [DCDS website](#).

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# Get Involved! Nominations Sought for Open Board and Committee Positions

There are many opportunities for DCDS members to get more involved in directing the future of the society. In addition to openings on the Board of Directors, several DCDS committees will also have openings in the 2019-2020 term that begins in June 2019, including:

- Awards and Nominating
- Constitution and Bylaws
- Education
- Membership
- Membership Benefits
- New Dentist Sub-Committee
- Professional Standards
- Public Policy
- Public Relations
- Strategic Planning

The Board of Directors is responsible for guiding the Society's strategic goals and activities and committees are a great way for members to get involved in specific areas of interest. A full list of committees and their current members can be found [here](#). Any member that is interested in serving as a member of the board should contact DCDS Executive Director at [dfesler@dcdental.org](mailto:dfesler@dcdental.org) or 202-367-1163. Committee nominations can be submitted online by utilizing this [form](#). Online nominations will be accepted through **Friday, March 8**. Nominations will also be accepted at the March 12th business meeting, occurring prior to the monthly meeting. For more information about volunteering as a board or committee members, please contact DCDS Executive Director Doug Fesler.

## 2019 ADA/DCDS Membership: Renew Today!

Thank you for your membership in the DC Dental Society last year! As of January 31, 2019, prior year DCDS members no longer have access to member benefits such as CE events and ADA discounts. In order to regain access to member benefits, all 2018 members are encouraged to renew their membership as soon as possible. If you have not yet received your invoice or believe that your dues total is incorrect, please contact the DCDS office.

Per the instructions on your invoice, you may pay your dues [online](#) via credit card using your ADA login credentials or mail a check (payable to the District of Columbia Dental Society) to the address on the invoice. Monthly and quarterly partial payment plans are available. Please contact the office at [info@dcdental.org](mailto:info@dcdental.org) or call (202) 367-1163 to make arrangements. Renew now and avoid a \$100 late fee!

# DCDS Foundation Approves Three-Year Strategic Plan

By Dr. Salvatore Selvaggio

The District of Columbia Dental Society (DCDS) Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the DC Dental Society. Its mission is to support and promote oral health care and oral health literacy in our community.

Recently, the Foundation Board of Directors developed and approved a three-year strategic plan that we are in the preliminary stages of implementing. In addition to providing a roadmap for our activities for the next three years, the plan focuses the Foundation's resources for maximum impact. Below is a summary of the three strategic goals that make up the plan.



Dr. Salvatore Selvaggio

**Strategic Goal 1: The DCDS Foundation will develop and disseminate resources to educate District of Columbia residents and visitors about the importance of oral health and its relationship to overall health.**

Initially, the Foundation will focus its efforts toward older adults and their caretakers in the community. We believe it is the "lowest hanging fruit" and that there are opportunities to make a large impact quickly. Older adults, especially those residing in long-term care facilities or those being cared for in their homes by family members or other caregivers, are experiencing challenges in attaining optimal oral wellness. With our aging population, it is critical to address this group not only to prevent oral conditions, but also to minimize the impact of systemic phenomena such as impaired nutrition, diabetes, aspiration pneumonia, and cardiovascular diseases.

**Strategic Goal 2: The DCDS Foundation will facilitate increased engagement of District of Columbia dentists and auxiliary personnel in oral health-related community service activities.**

There continues to be a great need for oral health education and clinical treatment services among underserved and at-risk populations in the District. The Foundation is exploring and developing mechanisms for increasing engagement of our Society members with the community in order to improve the state of oral health in our community.

**Strategic Goal 3: The DCDS Foundation will define its financial goals and the relationship of these goals to its 2019-2021 strategic priorities. Additionally, it will develop a strategy for increasing awareness and donor support of its programs.**

In order successfully reach our goals, the Foundation needs a stable financial base. With a formal plan, the Foundation can better determine which organizations and project in the community to support. The Foundation will also develop new strategies for engaging with possible donors, increasing awareness of its activities, current efforts, and work that it would like to support in the future.

I will continue to provide regular updates via the monthly member newsletter on the Foundation's activities and progress towards realizing its strategic plan. We welcome any feedback or questions on our strategic goals. The Foundation has formed committees that are working to realize these goals and we are always looking for volunteers to assist in helping us fulfill our goals. Please reach out to me directly via email at [selvaggiiodds@rcn.com](mailto:selvaggiiodds@rcn.com).

Thank you to my fellow Foundation board members, and to all of you who donate along with your dues renewals, for your support of the DCDS Foundation.

## Court Approves \$80M Settlement in Class Action Lawsuit Against Dental Companies

The [ADA News](#) (1/10, Garvin) reports that a federal court “approved a \$80 million settlement agreement in a [class action lawsuit](#) against dental product companies accused of violating antitrust laws by fixing prices on dental equipment and supplies.” The preliminary approval of the settlement issued on Tuesday, Jan. 8, indicates “any person or company that purchased dental products directly from Henry Schein, Patterson, Benco, Burkhart or any combination of those companies between Aug. 31, 2008, and March 31, 2016, may participate in the class.” About “142,000 dental offices and laboratories are expected to be eligible to take part.” The article reports that “dental products and equipment covered in the suit include such items as gloves, hand instruments, face masks, toothbrushes, anesthetic solutions, imaging devices, dental chairs, CAD/CAM systems, and the like.”

To read the full article in the ADA News, please click [here](#).

## Bonding Agents: Preferred Techniques, Products, and Challenges

When it comes to adhesive systems and bonding techniques, there are a lot of options available. [The latest report](#) from the ADA Clinical Evaluators (ACE) Panel dives into the challenges dentists experience with bonding agents and their preferred bonding products, based on a survey of nearly 300 practicing dentists.

Three key takeaways from the survey include dentists’ preferred bonding techniques and products, most common challenges when using bonding agents and clinical insights on reducing post-operative sensitivity. [Download the report today!](#)

Interested in joining the ACE Panel? Help to advance the dental profession and gain awareness and insights on new dental products and techniques that could benefit your patients, colleagues and profession. [Sign up now.](#)

## ADA CE Subscription Service

As a part of a larger effort to remain on the cutting edge of technological developments in dentistry, the ADA has invested considerable time and effort into expanding its online continuing education presence in recent years. The ADA’s online catalogue already contains nearly two hundred courses on numerous topics, and new ones are added every month.

Now, the ADA is offering a new subscription service that will give you access to all of their CE offerings for one low annual price. For just \$119, you can get unlimited access to the full ADA and JADA catalogues for an entire calendar year from your time of purchase. Alternatively, you and four of your colleagues can take advantage of a group discount by signing up for a group subscription for \$499, perfect for large practices.

New offerings include full recordings of all sessions from the October 2018 ADA Annual Meeting, a total of over 50 hours of continuing education content. This is in addition to more than 200 other existing courses in the ADA online catalogue.

For more information about this service, including how to register and frequently asked questions, please see the [ADA Website](#).



Saturday, April 27, 2019

# ORAL CANCER FOUNDATION

## DMV Oral Cancer 5k Walk / Run

Registration: 7:30 am - Event begins 9:00 am

**Free Public Oral Cancer Screenings**  
**Prizes for Top Fundraisers - Raffle**

### LOCATION:

**Sligo-Dennis Avenue Park**  
**10200 Sligo Creek Parkway**  
**Silver Spring, MD 20902**

### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

**Please contact**  
**megan@bccoralsurgery.com**  
**or 443.745.3625**

### COST:

**Oral cancer survivors are FREE.**  
**Walkers: \$30 to pre-register, \$35 day of event**  
**5K Runners: \$35 to pre-register, \$40 day of event**  
**6-10 year olds: \$15**  
**Children 5 and under are FREE**

### REGISTRATION:

**For more information or to register, please visit:**  
**<https://donate.oralcancer.org/event/dmvoralcancer5k>**

# GIVE ORAL CANCER A VOICE!

[www.oralcancerfoundation.org](http://www.oralcancerfoundation.org)



## ADA Contract Analysis Service

Receiving a clear, concise explanation of the terms of a provider contract may help you decide if signing on is best for you and your patients, as well as helping you avoid unpleasant surprises in the future. The ADA Contract Analysis Service ("CAS") will provide you with information concerning a proposed contract so you can better understand and analyze its terms. CAS analyzes:

- Dental provider contracts with third party payers.
- Dental management service organization contracts.
- Contracts that offer dental school students scholarships or loans in exchange for a commitment for future employment.

Utilize this service at no charge by submitting the following documents through your state society prior to signing the proposed contract:

- A copy of your unsigned contract, and
- An analysis request.

CAS is intended as a tool to aid you in understanding and analyzing your proposed contract, and is not intended to constitute legal advice. For more information regarding this service, including members-only resources, see the [ADA website](#).

If you would like more information about the most common contractual issues faced by dentists, be sure to register for the [February DCDS webinar](#)!

## Taxes and 179 Expensing

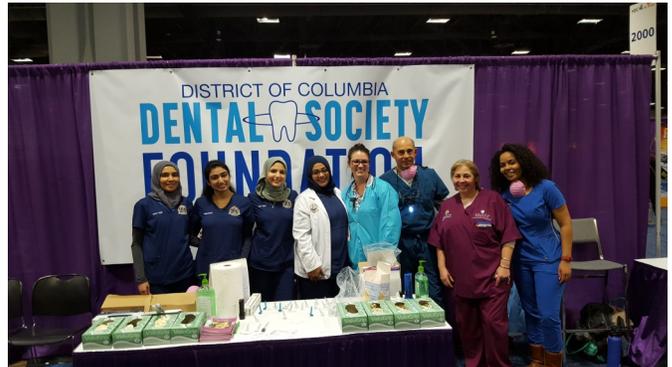
Dentists who own and operate practices who have purchased or financed equipment during the calendar year may elect to take the Section 179 deduction when filing their taxes in order to maximize their savings. Internal Revenue Service Code Section 179 allows business owners to deduct the purchase price of equipment and/or software put into service during the year.

In 2017 the ADA successfully advocated to ensure the dental profession benefits from the tax reform law that passed Congress. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was the first major rewrite of the U.S. tax code in more than 30 years and contained many changes that could affect dentists' financial planning. With the 2019 filing deadline approaching, the ADA News is featuring a series of articles focusing on how the new law will affect dentists beyond the revised standard deductions. The first article in the series ran Dec. 10 and discussed the Student Loan Interest Deduction.

ADA News talked with Allen M. Schiff, a certified public accountant and president of the Academy of Dental CPAs, to see what dentists need to know about 179 expensing. Mr. Schiff is the president of the academy, which is made up of 24 dental CPA firms representing more than 9,000 dental practices. To read the full conversation, [click here](#).

# Thank You NBC4 Volunteers!

The DCDS Foundation would like to extend its sincere gratitude to all of the dentists, hygienists, assistants, and students who volunteered at the NBC4 Health and Fitness Expo last month. Dozens of committed volunteers braved the elements to come to the Expo, and were able to provide over 350 oral cancer screenings to attendees. Below are some pictures of our volunteers in action!



# Restoration of Endodontically Treated Teeth

## March Monthly Meeting

The March DC Dental Society monthly meeting will be held Tuesday, March 12 at the Westin Georgetown and will feature a presentation by Dr. Steven Morgano titled “Restoration of Endodontically Treated Teeth.”



### Session Abstract

Guidelines for restoring endodontically treated teeth are well established; nevertheless the principles behind these guidelines were developed decades ago primarily from in vitro studies or retrospective studies of metallic posts cemented with conventional cements. New materials and techniques have been introduced for the restoration of pulpless teeth, and there are additional clinical studies in the literature, not only on traditional materials and methods but also on the more novel materials. This presentation will critically review the latest available evidence on restoring pulpless teeth and suggest practical guidelines for the clinician.

### Learning Objectives

At the completion of part one, the participant will:

- Be familiar with the literature supporting traditional recommendations for restoring pulpless teeth
- Be familiar with the most recent literature related to newer materials and techniques used in the restoration of pulpless teeth
- Have a clear understanding of the advantages, disadvantages, indications and contraindications of materials and techniques for the restoration of pulpless teeth

At the completion of part two, the participant will:

- Be able to determine if a severely compromised tooth is worth saving with endodontic therapy
- Be able to critically judge newer materials and techniques for the restoration of pulpless teeth
- Be able to apply traditional principles to the restoration of pulpless teeth.

<i>Presentation Topic</i>	<i>Location</i>
Peri-implant Soft Tissue Development and Preservation for Optimal Long-Term Esthetics	Westin Georgetown 2350 M St NW Washington, DC 20037
<i>Schedule</i>	<i>Parking at the Westin</i>
5:30 p.m. — Registration/Buffer Opens	Before 5:00 p.m.: \$15
5:45 p.m. — Business Meeting	After 5:00 p.m.: \$10
6:00 p.m. — Session 1	
7:30 p.m. — Break	
7:45 p.m. — Session 2	
8:45 p.m. — Event Ends	

For more information on Dr. Morgano or to register for the March Monthly Meeting, please click [here](#). Space is limited, so as always members are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Pre-registration ends Monday, March 11 at 5:00 PM.

The DC Dental Society is an ADA CERP Recognized Provider. ADA CERP is a service of the American Dental Association to assist dental professionals in identifying quality providers of continuing dental education. ADA CERP does not approve or endorse individual courses or instructors, nor does it imply acceptance of credit hours by boards of dentistry. The DC Dental Society designates this presentation for 1 CE.



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## PROTECTING SMILES, IMPROVING COMFORT

TMJ (temporomandibular joint) disorders exhibit many different symptoms, and patients are sometimes not aware they need medical attention.

Since some types of TMJ problems can lead to more serious conditions, early detection and treatment are important.

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## Updated 2019 Coding Resources

The new CDT 2019 and Companion Kit is now available from the ADA! This essential ADA resource helps your team code more accurately – which speeds claim processing, lessens the need for additional information requests, and reduces claim rejections.

The CDT 2019 and Companion Kit includes:

- CDT 2019: Dental Procedure Codes with all the new and updated codes, including 15 new codes, 5 revised codes and 4 deleted codes, PLUS complete descriptors.
- CDT 2019 Coding Companion trains staff on how to use the right codes at the right time. The book features four new authors, 35 new coding scenarios, 21 new Q&A, and a new chapter on working with dental benefit plans.

To order, please see the [ADA Catalog Website](#).

## Classifieds

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## Advertise with DCDS

Classified ads in the DCDS Newsletter are easy. Simply submit your ad through [the online form](#). We will then send you an invoice. Payment must be received prior to the publication date.

### *Deadlines:*

The Newsletter is usually distributed on the first Wednesday of every month. Ads are due to the Society two weeks prior to the publication date.