Letter from the DC Dental Society
President Steven A. Guttenberg, DDS, MD

Welcome to 2020. The beginning of a new decade is always exciting. It is also the 20th anniversary of the beginning of a new century and a new millennium. That event was welcomed with much fanfare and also a great deal of trepidation and fear of impending doom. Complex computer programs first written in the 1960’s were created with a two-digit code for the year, leaving out the “19.” So it was theorized that that when the clock struck midnight on December 31, 1999 there would be a major computer calamity throughout the world since power plants (including nuclear ones), banks, airline schedules, etc., would have computers that would suddenly switch to January 1, 1900.

They even had a name for this circumstance, the Y2K or Millennium Bug. Hundreds of thousands of hours and millions of dollars were spent in preparation for the potential catastrophe. In the end, our clocks struck midnight and nothing horrible happened. But the world had prepared.

That experience mirrors the progress in our profession, which continues to be exponential. In the year 2000, a few dentists had a computer in their office, used primarily for billing and word processing. Now nearly all dentists make use of this technology for everything from patient demographics and chart preparation to treatment planning and other functions. The digital advances encompass biometric (thumbprint) identification of patients and employees. Gone are the time clocks of yesteryear, replaced by their computer analogues that do so much more than checking on staff work hours. Personally, I become nervous thinking about how to practice modern dentistry without a computer.

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Back in the day, most of us had film cameras to record unusual findings or to memorialize cases of which we were proud to show to other patients or colleagues. Early in the new century, I remember asking a photographer from the Associated Press what kind of film he was using and he looked at me funny and advised me that the AP had stopped using film years ago. They were completely digital. And so began the migration of cameras from SLRs to DSLRs.

Twenty years ago, if you were lucky enough to have a mobile phone, it may have been just that, a phone with which you could make a telephone call... until the summer of 2007 when the first iPhone was released. Now, you were able to make telephone calls, communicate with others by texting and emailing, make images and perform actual computer functions much more powerfully than the super computers available at the end of the 20th century.

Who would have thought that 20 years into this century, we would have machines in our offices that can produce 3-dimensional digital images without having a dark room and smelly chemicals? At first, mainly oral and maxillofacial surgeons were the main users of cone beam computed tomograms (CBCTs); now, due to lower cost and the ability to make smaller images, these machines can be found in a wide array of dental offices, producing diagnostic images at a fraction of the radiation produced by older, non digital film machines.

In 2000, it was inconceivable that we dentists could be taking digital impressions of patients’ dentitions without using trays and impression materials that were universally despised by our patients. Now, we’re incorporating digital files into a 3-D image and producing models using a 3-D printer. For those of you who have been out of school for a while, do you ever sit back and muse about the fact that you are doing things now that you never did during your formal education?

There is a continuing explosion of new techniques and materials to better treat our patients. That is what is so exciting about dentistry. We are always evolving. We grow because we know that we and our profession are progressive. We value our continuing education so that we can be the best that we can be and not be static. We live for the future and abhor being left in the past.

As George Bernard Shaw proffered, “Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.” Dentists continue to evolve because we possess open minds that allow the change and growth that is necessary to appropriately treat our patients. It’s no wonder that dentistry continues to be one of the most highly admired professions in the United States.

The DC Dental Society strives to be part of your growth by presenting monthly educational meetings with outstanding speakers. We’re honored to assist you on your journey.

Happy New Year. See you at the next meeting.

Sincerely,

Steven A. Guttenberg, DDS, MD
DCDS President
Dr. Sinclair Davis completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Maryland Dental School Baltimore. He went on to graduate school at John Hopkins University and graduated in 1992. Dr. Davis practiced in Chevy Chase and Germantown. He recently opened a practice in MacArthur Blvd NW.

Dealing with Ridge Deficiencies: Current Options to Maximize Long-Term Outcomes

January Monthly Meeting

The January DC Dental Society monthly meeting will be held Tuesday, January 14 at the Westin Georgetown and will feature two sessions by Dr. Rodrigo Neiva.

New treatment options and materials have been introduced to Periodontics and Implant Dentistry in recent years. The aim of this presentation is to discuss possible advantages, disadvantages, and realistic short- and long-term expectations of these new techniques and materials. At the end of this course, clinicians should be able to know and understand:

Learning Objectives:
- Rationale for new materials and techniques
- Advantages and disadvantages
- Bone instrumentation for maximum tissue preservation
- Material selection based on material properties and features
- Implant selection based on site-specific design

For more details, and to register, click here. Space is limited. Pre-registration ends at 5pm on Monday, January 13.

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 2.5 CE.
You Want me to Say What? Resolving Delicate
Patient Situations with Tact & Diplomacy

February CE Webinar

There is no in–person monthly meeting in February. Instead, join us on Tuesday, February 11 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. for a CE webinar titled “You Want me to Say What? Resolving Delicate Patient Situations with Tact & Diplomacy,” presented by Dr. Denise S. Ciardello.

For more details, and to register, click here. Space is limited. Pre-registration ends at 5pm on Monday, February 10.

Does your office struggle with handling difficult questions when answering the phone – Do you take my insurance? Can I move my appointment tomorrow? How much do you charge for a crown? The fear of losing a patient is often overpowered by giving the answer that truly fits with the policy and philosophies of your practice. Join Denise for this one-hour session as she introduces dentists helpful steps when dealing with new patients, managing the schedule, and handling the uncomfortable topics of cancellations, no-shows and dismissing patients from the practice.

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The Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity & The Maimonides Dental Society

Presents

“Smile Design, Bonding and Esthetic Materials Update”

Dr. Gerard Chiche

Friday
March 13, 2020
Registration 8:00 – 8:30 am
Course 8:30 am – 4:00 pm
6.5 CEU

Maggiano’s Little Italy
5333 Wisconsin Ave. NW
Washington, DC

This presentation will present key points formulated into a systematic step-by-step approach to resolve esthetic problems with predictable results and improved laboratory support. It also covers critical technique details to achieve optimum results with porcelain veneers and all ceramic crowns along with ceramic system selection, cement and adhesive selection, and bonding sequence. Interdisciplinary esthetic dentistry will be another focus of the presentation to control key esthetic factors together with Periodontal, Orthodontic and Implant therapy for best esthetic and soft tissue outcome.

Dr. Chiche is Clinical Professor at Augusta University, Dental College of Georgia where he recently completed his 10-year term as the Thomas P. Hinman Endowed Professor in Restorative Dentistry, and Director of the Center for Esthetic & Implant Dentistry. He holds the title of Professor Emeritus from Louisiana State University, School of Dentistry. He is a Past President of the American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry and is also the author of two textbooks in Esthetic Dentistry Esthetics of Anterior Fixed Restorations, and Smile Design - A guide for Clinician, Ceramist and Patient, both published by Quintessence Pub. Co. He became in 2009 the first recipient of the Endowed Chair sponsored by the Thomas P. Hinman Dental Society.

including breakfast & lunch * convenient parking * easy metro access * 6.5 hours CE credit

Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity & The Maimonides Dental Society
“Smile Design, Bonding and Esthetic Materials Update” - Dr. Gerard Chiche

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Please make checks payable to Alpha Omega Washington DC and mail to Alpha Omega c/o Dr. Fred Simon, Treasurer, 5454 Wisconsin Ave., Suite 1355, Chevy Chase MD 20815

Course Tuition is $350 if received before February 1st, afterwards $400
Students, residents & staff $150
Volunteers Needed: 2020 NBC4 Health and Fitness Expo

The DC Dental Society Foundation will again be providing oral cancer screenings at the 2020 NBC4 Health and Fitness Expo occurring Saturday, January 18 and Sunday January 19, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. Dentist volunteers will work two hour shifts performing screenings and will staff an "Ask an Expert" booth. We will also have opportunities for students, hygienists, and dental assistants to assist the dentists performing the screenings.

Last year, DCDS volunteers preformed nearly 500 screenings for attendees of the Expo. Those interested in volunteering for NBC4 can fill out this form or reach out to DC Dental Society staff by email at info@dcdental.org, or by phone at (202) 367-1163.

Howard University March Networking Event:
Call for Volunteers

Howard University College of Dentistry AAPD Student Chapter will be holding a Residency Preparedness Program on Monday, March 2 from 6pm to 9pm. We are seeking volunteers who will participate in a “Mock Interview” with students. The event includes dinner. Please e-mail info@dcdental.org to confirm you are interested.

FROM THE ADA

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JANUARY 31, 2020

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STREAMLINING WORKFLOW
MARCH 27, 2020

Use Eaglesoft effectively between the front desk and the dental chair
- Planning services
- Using Eaglesoft Messenger for quick communication
- Using Appointment Queue for scheduling single and family appointments
- Setting and tracking recalls
- Sending patient reminders using InContact
- Using the Task Manager
- Using Intellicare for custom alerts

NETWORK SECURITY IN THE DENTAL FIELD
JUNE 26, 2020

Protecting your practice and your patients
- Using Patterson products to keep patient information safe (PatLock, DDS Rescue)
- Encrypting emails for patient communication
- Performing Windows and system backups
- Storing office backup files
- The importance of going paperless
- Violation of HIPAA laws and consequences

INSURANCE HEALTH CHECK
OCTOBER 23, 2020

Use Eaglesoft to manage insurances and save time
- Coverage book usage for participating providers
- Using employers for tiered plans
- Entering bulk insurance payments
- Claims
- Fee Schedules versus Coverage Books
- Creating preauthorizations

EVENT DETAILS

TIME
8:30 a.m. — 9:00 a.m. Sign In
9:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m. Class
12:00 p.m. — 1:00 p.m. Lunch

PRESENTER
Ryan Mattern, Patterson Dental Technology Advisor

LOCATION
Baltimore Branch
8751 Freestate Drive, Suite 300
Laurel, MD 20723

FEE
$75 per person per class

RSVP
Please RSVP with Ryan Mattern one week prior to the event.
240.856.5994
ryan.mattern@pattersondental.com
(Limited seating; RSVP required)
FROM THE ADA

Looking for an easy way to get CE? Don’t forget the ADA Webinars! Click here for more information.

ADA Announces Interim Policy On Vaping

The American Dental Association has adopted an interim policy on vaping. According to the article, the new interim policy “calls for a total ban on all vaping products that aren’t approved by the Food and Drug Administration for tobacco cessation purposes.” ADA President Chad P. Gehani is quoted that, “While the long-term oral health effects of vaping are under scientific review, as health professionals we must be prudent in protecting consumers from potentially harmful products.” In addition, the ADA will “advocate for research funding to study the safety and effectiveness of e-cigarettes and vaping products for tobacco cessation purposes and their effects on the oral cavity.”

For more information on the ADA’s advocacy efforts on vaping, visit ADA.org/vaping.

Congress Passes $1.4 Trillion Spending Package, Including Funding For Many ADA Priorities

Congress passed two spending bills in late December “to keep the government running through the remainder of the fiscal year”; the bills total $1.4 trillion and “include funding for many of the Association’s key advocacy issues affecting oral and overall health.” Some of the initiatives pursued by the ADA that were funded by these spending bills include: $477.4 million for the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research and $19.5 million for the CDC Division of Oral Health.

The bills also included the repeal of several taxes enacted by the Affordable Care Act, funding extensions for Medicaid in US territories, and language “urging the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid to appoint a chief dental officer and to instruct auditors to utilize the clinical guidelines, best practices and policies of the ADA and American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.” President Trump is expected to sign both spending bills.
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From here. For here.
Get ready for National Children’s Dental Health Month with free posters!

Planning for 2020? Don’t forget National Children’s Dental Health Month coming up in February! Posters and activity sheets for your patients are available, featuring the theme “Fluoride in water prevents cavities! Get it from the tap!” and celebrating the 75th anniversary of community water fluoridation. The free materials are a fun and interactive way to teach patients the benefits of drinking tap water.

Visit ADA.org/NCDHM to order or download our free activity and poster sheets, available in English and Spanish.

Get the Tools to Help Patients in Need in Your Community

The ADA’s Public Practice Readiness site offers exceptional resources for oral health professionals looking to better serve their communities, whether you’re in a private practice or public dental safety net venue. The Public Practice Readiness Toolkit includes practical, how-to guides for educating yourself along your journey. Learn more about scholarship and loan repayment options to help alleviate the cost of your dental education while gaining experience addressing the oral health needs of underserved populations. Whether you are a new graduate or an experienced clinician, there are opportunities to collaborate as part of the dental safety net. For more information, contact Dr. Steve Geiermann at geiermanns@ada.org.
Classifieds

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