



District of Columbia
DENTAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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Dr. Steven A. Guttenberg

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

“In many ways, it is hard for modern people living in First World countries to conceive of a pandemic sweeping around the world and killing millions of people, and it is even harder to believe that something as common as influenza could cause such widespread illness and death.” [Charles River Editors]

Given the events that we are living with today, one might think that this is a current quote. In fact this quotation was about the first major healthcare event of the 20th century, the 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic.

Even though some of us have lived through the H2N2 Asian Flu in 1957 and another, the H1N1 virus that emerged in 2009, we have never had to deal with anything like the current COVID-19 situation that we all now face. Our lives have been altered in ways that are uncomfortable. People we know are becoming ill. Some are dying. The news media are battering us with information.

Most of us have had to close our offices. It was certainly a significant inconvenience for our patients and a hardship for our employees, their families and us.

But, is closure necessary? Certainly, but it has been painful nonetheless. As the New York Times reported on March 15, 2020, dentists have the highest risk of exposure to disease of any other profession in the United States. The American Dental Association and most specialty boards and associations called upon us to limit our contact with patients except for the essential treatment of pain, infection, bleeding, trauma, etc.

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Welcome New Member

Dr. Poorna Phaltankar received his dental degree in 2017 from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine . She completed the UVM Medical Center General Practice Residency. In her free time, Dr. Phaltankar can be found reading a book or running. She loves to treat children and adults alike and is excited to be a member of the society.



Officers/Board Election and Absentee Voting

The DC Dental Society election will be held immediately prior to the DCDS Annual Awards Dinner scheduled for Tuesday, June 4. For those who are unable to attend the Awards Dinner, absentee ballots will be available. In order to ensure proper voting procedures, the guidelines for absentee voting are:

- Members who need an absentee ballot must request one; the ballot will have a unique number associated with the individual member and cannot be used by anyone else.
- To request an absentee ballot, you must complete a request via the [DCDS website](#) or contact the DCDS office at 202-367-1163.
- Your ballot will be e-mailed to you electronically. Please print out the ballot, make your selections by hand, and sign the ballot where indicated.
- **All ballots must be signed.** Unsigned ballots will not be accepted.
- Return the ballot to the DCDS office by fax, scan, e-mail, or mail.
- All absentee ballots must be received by the DCDS office by close of business on **Friday, May 31**. No exceptions.
- After May 31, the only way to vote is to come in person to the June 4 Awards Dinner. All voting will occur during the cocktail hour. You do not have to register or stay for the dinner to vote.

Fax number: 202-367-2163

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We assuredly do not want to bear the responsibility for the further spread of this novel coronavirus to patients, employees, our and their families, or become infected ourselves.

In addition, since we appropriately utilize personal protective equipment (PPE) during our treatment, we are depriving our first-line hospital medical colleagues of these materials that they have rapidly depleted and of which they are running out. I had a call last week from a doctor at the George Washington University Hospital inquiring whether we could ask our dentist members to contribute masks, especially N-95 respirators to them since they are running short and have to wear their masks for up to two days. We all are aware that they should be used and discarded between patients.

Even the leader of our nation's coronavirus task force, Vice President Mike Pence, asked today (March 21, 2020) during a news conference, that dentists, in particular, since they should not be seeing patients, donate all or some of their masks and N-95 respirators to facilities treating the ill.

And finally, in an effort to reduce morbidity and mortality, minimize disease transmission, protect healthcare personnel and preserve the functioning of the healthcare system, the DC Department of Health (DOH) has issued guidelines. They are aimed at hospitals, physicians and dentists. We are not being singled out.

The DOH guidelines state that elective or non-urgent dental procedures should be postponed if the delay will not cause harm. While many elective procedures have limited side-effects, all procedures carry the possibility of complications that may necessitate additional medical treatment, further stressing the system

Our country has successfully persisted through pandemic crises before and we have persevered through World Wars. We will again. It will not be pain free, but we must all do our part.

Sincerely,



Steven A. Guttenberg, DDS, MD

DCDS President



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Due to COVID-19 The May Monthly Meeting Will Be Held as a Webinar

“Top of the Heap” Frequently Prescribed Medications and Clinical Dental Considerations

The DC Dental Society May monthly meeting will be held as a webinar on Tuesday, May 12 and will feature two sessions by Tom Viola.



REGISTRATION

To register or for more information, visit the [DCDS Event Calendar](#). Space is limited. Pre-registration ends at 5pm on Monday, May 11.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The challenge faced by all clinicians today is to provide safe and effective dental treatment to our medically complex patients. However, dental professionals find themselves practicing in a marketplace awash in direct to consumer advertising of prescription drugs and in the midst of an explosion of new drug entities over the last several years. Thus, many dental professionals may find it challenging to stay up to date with the latest prescribing trends in disease state management.

This program will provide an overview of those frequently prescribed brand name medications whose actions, side effects, contraindications and potential drug interactions may have the greatest impact on dental therapy.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify the most frequently prescribed FDA-approved brand name medications for the treatment of systemic illnesses.
- Discuss the basic mechanisms of action, potential adverse reactions, drug interactions and contraindications of these medications.
- Explain the clinical dental considerations of these medications and their potential impact on dental therapy.
- Describe patient management strategies essential for successful treatment planning and proper care of our medically complex dental patients.

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Howard National Signing Day Will Be Held Virtually

Our annual National Signing Day will be held virtually on April 10. This event is held every year and aims to educate graduating D4 students on the benefits of organized dentistry, with the ultimate goal of enrolling them for their free year of ADA membership after graduation. DCDS is calling on dentist interested in participating in this year's event. Please contact info@dcdental.org if you are interested in participating.



Know a Distinguished Dentist? Nominate a Colleague

DCDS and the DCDS Foundation are now accepting nominations for their esteemed awards to recognize the contributions of our members and community leaders working towards improving oral health in the District. Recipients of the 2020 awards will be honored at the June DCDS Awards Dinner. Here are links to the list of awards and relevant criteria for the [DCDS awards](#) and [DCDS Foundation awards](#). To nominate a colleague, please send your nomination along with supporting documentation to info@dcdental.org. The deadline to receive award nominations is April 13.

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D E N T A L S O C I E T Y

Contact info@dcdental.org today!

Find These and Other Resources from the ADA on the COVID-19 Pandemic at [ADA.org/virus](https://ada.org/virus)

CARES Act Small Business Interruption Loans*

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The federal government is allocating \$349 billion to the Small Business Administration to guarantee loans to small businesses. The ADA has put together an informational sheet for our members. Click the button below for more information.

[View More Information Here](#)

Financial Obligations to Staff during COVID-19

ADA®

Dentists across the country want guidance regarding their financial obligations to staff during this time when the future is uncertain and practice revenue is less than typical. Many dentists view their teams not as employees, but as family members: for this reason, many find it difficult to announce layoffs or other financial restrictions that may be necessary in order to maintain the business.

[View More Information Here](#)

Renegotiating Payment Terms on Existing Contracts

ADA®

Dental practices will feel the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on many levels and for quite some time. This resource is intended to provide guidance to support you as you address some of the financial realities you're facing because of the pandemic.

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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.