



District of Columbia  
DENTAL SOCIETY

# NEWSLETTER

September 2020, Vol. 66, No. 9



**Dr. Ladan Basiri**

## ***Letter from the DC Dental Society President Ladan Basiri, MA, DMD***

Dear Colleagues,

Steering the DC Dental Society through this pandemic has been challenging. When I was the president-elect, I had many plans for my presidency, and given the circumstances, those plans had to be altered. What I know is that despite all the uncertainties, what is certain is that DCDS and ADA have been and will be ready to face any challenge that is thrown our way. I know I share the sentiment with many of you that I am proud of our profession and our dental society. Our strength is in our numbers, which translates into a powerful collective voice to advocate for our career and our path forward. Indeed, you can count on the DCDS for a strong unified voice and support. But this collective also needs and appreciates your support in staying active as members: start volunteering, mentor a young dentist or a new member, bring in a new member, support the DCDS Foundation, participate in our educational and networking virtual events. In whatever shape or form, get involved!

We all feel the change and the pressure of adapting to the new normal. With the backing of the ADA and other dental organizations, we will use every tool to advance the ability of dentists to provide oral health care to the public. In working closely with the ADA to realize the goals of our members, we must have a voice – to do so, we need to sustain and grow our membership. To facilitate adapting to the change around us, we are trying to improve our digital presence by utilizing new digital platforms as our committees are busy planning to achieve our new goals for improving communication and engagement with our members in the time of COVID-19. Member experiences will surely be different than they have been in the past, but we hope to form stronger and more durable connections

*(Continued on Page 3)*

### ***A Look Inside...***

- Letter from the President.....1
- Welcome New Members.....2
- DCDS Virtual Happy Hour.....2
- DCDS Business Meeting, Bylaws  
Votes, Sept. 8.....2
- New COVID-19 Rapid Test May  
Allow Point of Care Screening for  
Dentists.....4
- Sept. 8 Monthly Meeting: Non-  
Odontogenic Sources of Tooth  
Pain.....5
- Sept. 24 Virtual Presentation by Dr.  
Uche: Four Patient Lifestyle Habits  
That Influence Healing.....6
- Meet Your DCDS Staff .....7
- News from the ADA .....8
- Classifieds.....12

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## Welcome New Member

**Dr. Cassandra Wright** graduated from Baltimore College of Dental Surgery University of Maryland in 2001. She went on to earn her graduate degree from the Veteran Affairs Medical Center. Dr. Wright served in the Air Force for more than 10 years before starting to practice in Washington, D.C.

## DCDS Hosts First Virtual Happy Hour

About a dozen members of the DC dental community turned out on August 25 for the first ever virtual happy hour hosted by DCDS. The gathering brought together familiar faces as well as new members of the dental community, including guest appearances by several young family members and some four-footed friends. Registrants received a DoorDash gift card and were entered into a raffle to win a gift basket donated by Dr. Basiri that contained balsamic vinaigrette, olive oil, dental supplies and other items. Congratulations to Dr. Philip Chang for winning the raffle.



If you missed this happy hour, join us on the next one. Sign up for our [happy hour interest list](#) to receive updates.

## DCDS Business Meeting, Bylaws Votes to be Held Sept. 8

The DC Dental Society kicks off its 2020-2021 continuing education series on Tuesday, September 8 with a virtual monthly business meeting followed by a live virtual presentation by Seena Patel DMD (see page 5 for more details).

The program begins at 5:45 PM with the monthly business meeting that will include a vote on two proposed bylaws amendments. Help DCDS modernize its bylaws by participating in the meeting and voting on the two amendments, which were read to the membership during monthly business meetings earlier this year. The texts of the proposed amendments are available via the following links:

- [Proposed Amendment I](#) - updates list of committees to current practices, eliminates inactive committees, clarifies amendment process.
- [Proposed Amendment II](#) - updates term limits on the DCDS Delegation to the ADA House of Delegates



that will enable us to grow and learn together. Decidedly, the important lesson during this pandemic is the realization of the power of connection and collective action.

August was a busy month with several events taking place. We had our second live on-demand webinar of the summer. We would wholeheartedly like to extend our thanks to Mr. Amr Alian of iSYNERGY for the informative presentation regarding COVID-19 financial fundamentals, which was presented free of charge to our members. You can find a [recording of the webinar](#) on the DCDS website. We also had our first virtual Zoom happy hour, including a raffle and gift cards for registrants. Congratulations to Dr. Philip Chang for winning the raffle. During the August Board of Directors meeting, the board adopted the '20-'21 committee roster, the '20-'21 board meeting schedule, and the online voting process that will be used for the vote to be held on September 8th for the two proposed amendments to our bylaws.

There will be a business meeting prior to our virtual monthly clinical webinar by Dr. Seena Patel entitled "Non-Odontogenic Sources of Tooth Pain: Demystifying the Mystery of "Phantom Tooth Pain." Please exercise your right to vote and attend the first live on-demand CE monthly meeting. The Board has approved a strong lineup of activities, including a series of 8 CE monthly meetings, social events, wellness activities/events, and the virtual Spring Licensing Symposium. Through these developments, the board has appreciated the valuable input it has received and has worked tirelessly to make strong decisions to continue to move the DCDS forward in a positive direction. Maintaining the safety of attendees, volunteers, and staff drove the decision to hold both the monthly meetings and the Spring Licensing Symposium as virtual events. We all hope to switch back to in-person meetings in mid-2021. We are awaiting the announcement of regulations by the DC Board of Dentistry to lift the limit on the number of CE hours that may be earned through online courses. The Board of Dentistry has already voted to establish a policy to eliminate the limit, an action that will be codified when the regulation is finalized. We will keep you posted as soon as that regulation is announced and finalized.

DCDS received notice of a [second round of PPE](#) for our members from the ADA/FEMA, which provides the option of receiving masks and isolation gowns. For all of these efforts and more, I want to thank our board of directors and our executive director and his team for their hard work and dedication to the dental society, our profession, and – most importantly – our members during this challenging time.

Through all the hurdles before us, please remember that the DCDS – like the ADA – is actively engaged in efforts behind the scenes that benefit our members. The board recognizes that as individual dentists, many of our members do not have the time for the advocacy work that the DCDS carries out, and that is exactly what we are here for – that is the power of the collective: the dental licensing symposium, the monthly meetings and webinars, the connection to the DC Board of Dentistry and to the ADA and other societies are just a few examples of how we are working to support our busy membership base.

The ADA is an example of a larger body that constantly monitors, lobbies and provides education on behalf of its members. On July 27, the ADA Board of trustees adopted an [ad-interim policy](#) stating dentistry is essential health care. On August 12 the ADA released a statement stating that it "[respectfully yet strongly disagrees](#)" with the World Health Organization's (WHO) recommendation to delay "routine" dental care in certain situations due to COVID-19. We all agree that oral health is connected to total health and that [dentistry is an essential part of healthcare](#). It cannot and should not be paused. The COVID-19 pandemic has created an opportunity for DCDS and ADA to show what our membership values are: Our rapid adaptation and adoption of new measures, our voice for advocacy, information and [guidance](#).

Please [do not forget to register](#) for the ADA/FDC 2020 Virtual Connect Conference – taking place October 15th – 17th. Registration is now open, and there is a fantastic lineup for you and your team!

Thanks to all of you for working hard on the front lines. You can count on us to continue to advocate for you, your profession, and our collective path forward. Remember, together we are one strong dental community.

Sincerely,

Ladan

Ladan Basiri, MA, DMD  
FACD, FICD  
DC Dental Society President

## New \$5 COVID-19 Rapid Test Offers Real Possibility of Point of Care Screening for Dentists

Under an [executive order by Mayor Bowser](#) (see section XIV.(1)), dentists have been authorized to administer COVID-19 swab tests, but multiple obstacles blocked practical usage of testing in dental practices. Last week's [authorization by FDA](#) of a new 15-minute coronavirus test that shows results without the need for special equipment could be a game changer. Additional information on the new test is available from [Abbott](#).

Dental practices that want to administer the test will still need to request a Certificate of Waiver from CMS under the Clinical Laboratory Improvements Act (CLIA). The ADA fact sheet "[Diagnostic Testing Options for Sars-CoV-2](#)" provides additional guidance on the registration requirements:

*Dentists who plan to incorporate testing for COVID-19 into their screening protocol will be considered a laboratory and must request a Certificate of Waiver from CMS prior to administering the tests.*

*Dental practices interested in securing CLIA approval must specify in their registration application the name of the test(s) that will be used in the practice. Be sure to verify that each test listed in the application has been authorized for use in a CLIA-waived setting by consulting the [FDA's list of emergency use authorized tests](#) on the FDA website and verifying that there is a "W" in the column titled "Authorized Setting(s)".*

The fee charged by CMS for a Certificate of Waiver is [\\$180 biennially](#). Visit the CMS web page "[How to Apply for a CLIA Certificate, Including International Laboratories](#)" for more information on the application process (see [application form](#)).

COVID-19 tests that require laboratory processing can be requested from or submitted to the DC Department of Forensic Sciences (DFS) Public Health Laboratory by contacting [DFS-COVID19@dc.gov](mailto:DFS-COVID19@dc.gov) or (202) 727-8956.

# Sept. 8 Monthly Meeting: Non-Odontogenic Sources of Tooth Pain - Demystifying the Mystery of “Phantom Tooth Pain”

Clinical CE Virtual Presentation by Seena Patel DMD, MPH

Tuesday, September 8, 6:00 PM (following monthly business meeting)

CE Credits Offered: 2.5 CE Credits

One in six dental patients experience orofacial pain. Most often, this pain presents as a toothache. However, not all toothaches are caused by an odontogenic source. Unfortunately, these types of pain sources can be perplexing for both the patient and the dentist. Hence, patients often see several specialists and irreversible treatments before obtaining an accurate diagnosis. This course will provide a comprehensive review of non-odontogenic sources of tooth pain. Attendees will learn how to differentiate between odontogenic and non-odontogenic toothaches, the appropriate examination methods, diagnostic tests, and management of non-odontogenic toothaches.



Part 1 of this course will review the pain mechanisms involved in orofacial pain and describe myofascial courses of non-odontogenic tooth pain and trigeminal neuralgia.

Part 2 will review the condition, painful post-traumatic trigeminal neuropathy and neurovascular sources of orofacial pain.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES, PART I:

Upon completion of this course, the participant will be able to:

- Describe the pain mechanisms involved in orofacial pain.
- Describe myofascial sources of nonodontogenic sources of tooth pain.
- Define trigeminal neuralgia and how it presents as tooth pain.
- Implement diagnostic techniques in the evaluation of myofascial pain and trigeminal neuralgia.
- Describe management strategies for myofascial pain and trigeminal neuralgia.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES, PART II:

Upon completion of this course, the participant will be able to:

- Describe the presentation of painful post-traumatic trigeminal neuropathy.
- Describe neurovascular sources of non-odontogenic toothache.
- Implement diagnostic techniques in the evaluation of painful post-traumatic trigeminal neuropathy and neurovascular orofacial pain.
- Describe management strategies for painful post-traumatic trigeminal neuropathy and neurovascular orofacial pain.

For more information or to register, [please visit the Monthly Meetings page on the DCDS website.](#)

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 continuing education credit.



# Sept. 24 Virtual Presentation by Dr. Uche: Four Patient Lifestyle Habits That Influence Healing

Wellness Virtual Presentation by Uche Odiatu, DMD  
Thursday, September 24, 6:00 PM

CE Credits Offered: 1.5 CE Credits

Course Description:

Your patients don't leave their sleeping patterns (insomnia, apnea, snoring), physical fitness (or lack of) or eating patterns (mindless eating and evening feeding frenzies) or their stress management practices in the car before they sit in your chair. Just like you don't leave your lifestyle problems at your office door. There's irrefutable scientific evidence that these habits have the ability to ramp up inflammation or dial it down. Well adjusted, rested, physically active, healthy eating patients enjoy a physiology that supports a more positive response to your treatments. And as healthcare providers, we need to be good role models and "walk the talk." In this session, find out how you can be a better dentist by being healthier yourself, and how to talk to your patients about lifestyle changes that will make a big difference.



Learning Objectives:

1. Understand why your sedentary patients don't heal as well as your active living patients.
2. Discover how eating habits have the ability to dial down or ramp up inflammation.
3. Develop a conversation style to positively impact our patients at the new patient or re-care exam.

About the Speaker: Dr. Uche Odiatu

Dr. Uche Odiatu is the co-author of *The Miracle of Health*, a professional member of the American College of Sports Medicine and a practicing dentist in Toronto. He has been the invited guest on over 400 radio and TV shows from Atlanta to Alaska. This busy dentist is also an NSCA Certified Personal Trainer, certified yoga instructor, certified boot camp instructor and has given over 400 lectures in England, Canada, the USA, the Bahamas, Denmark, Bermuda and Norway. For more information on Dr. Uche, visit [www.DrUche.com](http://www.DrUche.com). Twitter @FitSpeakers Instagram @FitSpeakers

For more information or to register, please visit the [Monthly Meetings page on the DCDS website](#).

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# Meet Your DCDS Staff

Your DCDS staff are professionals in the field of association management. You see them at in-person events and on screen in the Zoom environment. Learn more about those who make the programming of your DC Dental Society possible.

## ***Kurt Gallagher, Executive Director***

Kurt is the newest team member, having joined DCDS as executive director in December 2019. Kurt brings more than 20 years of experience serving a diverse range of associations and other nonprofit organizations.

“I am responsible for ensuring that the strategic priorities and programs for your DC Dental Societal are implemented effectively, and I lead the staff to carry out activities to achieve those priorities,” Kurt said. “I believe in the importance of practicing continuous improvement and want to hear from members about how we can make your professional society more responsive and effective to even better meet the needs of the DC dental community.”

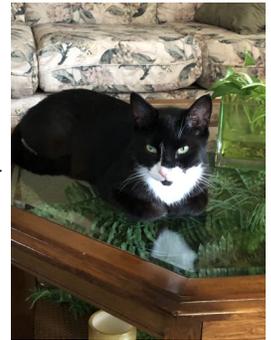
Kurt is practically a DC native. He grew up in Western Massachusetts and came to DC to attend The George Washington University in the early '90s. Aside from leaving the area for a few months to work on a congressional campaign in 1996, he has been a Washington area resident with his partner since the end of that campaign.

## ***Tonya Stanback, Senior Coordinator***

Tonya, a longtime employee of SmithBucklin, joined DCDS nearly two years ago in part to assist with the development of a new event, the Spring Licensure Symposium. Tonya offered DCDS extensive experience in event planning and project management.

Tonya's primary responsibility is supporting monthly meetings by negotiating contracts with speakers and providing logistical support to both speakers and sponsors. Tonya also handles regular reporting for the DCDS political action committee (PAC) and is in the process of renewing the DCDS ADA CERP accreditation.

Tonya is a native of the DC area who lives just a few doors away from her mother. Tonya provides TLC to her neighborhood by looking after and feeding the local feral cats.



## ***Andrés Bachelet, Associate***

Since joining DCDS in 2017, Andrés took on the role of the first point of contact for many members by assisting with general inquiries and membership renewals; processing CE credits; and handling registration for monthly meetings and other events.

Prior to joining DCDS, Andrés worked for two years for Mil Mujeres, a nonprofit that helps immigrant women who are victims of domestic violence, and later served as a grassroots organizer on a political campaign.

“I've seen some interesting situations since joining DCDS, including the time I was called upon to help a nonprofit CEO with an employee coming to DC from Africa for emergency dental surgery,” said Andres.

Andres became a resident of the DC area seven years ago after arriving as an immigrant from Santiago, Chile. He is an avid cyclist who looks forward to resuming his passion for travel when the pandemic ends. This summer he took up a couple of new hobbies as a gardener and by expanding his cooking repertoire.

## ***Saluting Andrea Van Hook***

After serving as a member of the DCDS team since 2016, Andrea has been promoted within SmithBucklin and is moving on to serve as executive director for two client organizations. This is a goal she has been working toward for a long time, and we are all delighted that she has earned this opportunity.

Andrea has been working closely with the DCDS staff the past few months to transfer her duties and work assignments to ensure that everything continues to run smoothly for DCDS.

We will miss her and wish her much success in these new endeavors.



## FROM THE ADA

### ADA FDC Virtual Connect Conference

The virtual conference will be held Oct. 15-17 on our cutting-edge 3-D digital platform. Watch courses and events in real-time or later on demand. Consider adding on live workshops for interactive learning from your personal workspace.

Learn more and register [ADA.org/meeting](https://ada.org/meeting).

### ADA Supports Legislation Addressing Workforce Shortages, Health Disparities

The [ADA News](#) (8/28, Garvin) reported that the ADA supports “new legislation aimed at improving the health workforce shortage and health disparities highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic.” In an [Aug. 28 letter](#), ADA President Chad P. Gehani and Executive Director Kathleen T. O’Loughlin praised Sens. Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Marco Rubio (R-FL) “for introducing S 4055, the Strengthening America’s Health Care Readiness Act, saying ‘this historic investment’ in the National Health Service Corps and National Disaster Medical System will help bolster health emergency surge capacity and ‘restore the pipeline of dentists’ and other health care providers needed to tackle existing health workforce shortages.” Drs. Gehani and O’Loughlin “told the senators that the ADA is committed to helping expand the availability of National Health Service Corps scholarships and loan repayments for dentists who agree to work in NHSC-approved sites.”

For more information about the ADA’s advocacy efforts during COVID-19, visit [ADA.org/COVID19Advocacy](https://ada.org/COVID19Advocacy).

### Webinar Discusses Legal Aspects of Practice Transitions

Noting that “buying and selling dental practices means paperwork, including letters of intent, contracts, valuations, and a whole ream of other documents,” an article in the [ADA Practice Transitions blog](#) (8/28, Simmers) stated “navigating all the details takes a close eye to detail – and an attorney who can help make sure you don’t overlook anything critical.” During a recent [ADA Practice Transitions Coffee Talk webinar](#), Charlie Douglas, managing partner of Douglas Law Firm, discussed the legal aspects of practice transitions and shared tips for a successful transition.

### Vaping May Increase Risk for Oral Infections, Inflammation, Studies Show

The [Miami Herald](#) (8/27, Camero) reported that an [article](#) recently published by the American Heart Association (AHA) discussed how vaping can harm oral health, pointing to “a growing body of research” that shows how “the chemicals in vapor can contribute to issues such as inflammation, cavities, loss of bone and oral cancer.” The Herald added, “On top of the damage, smoking in general also [weakens your immune system](#), which makes it harder to fight off infections in the mouth.” Dr. Purnima Kumar, a professor at the Ohio State University College of Dentistry, told the AHA, “E-cigarettes stress the bacterial communities that live in your mouth, and they encase themselves in slime. So, they’re no longer good bacteria and the inflammatory response is through the roof.” [Continue reading the article here.](#)



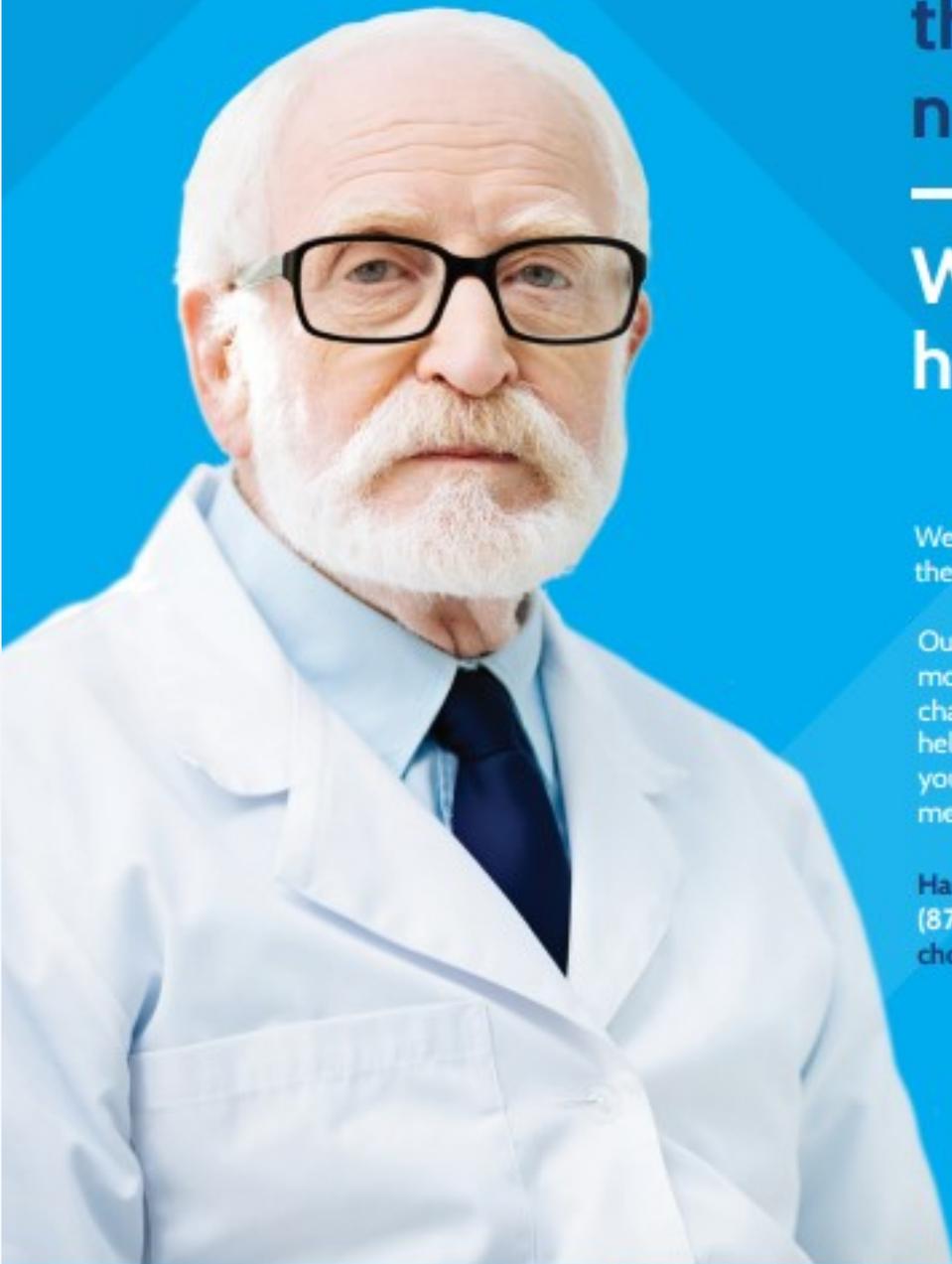
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the new  
normal?”

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**Contact:** Dr. Raoufinia | 703-946-1077 | rjraouf@gmail.com

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**Contact:** Dr. Tsaknis at City Dental DC | 202-628-7979 | jtsaknis@citydentaldc.com

### DC Practice for Sale

**Description:** DC Dental Practice for sale. 25 years in NW DC. Profitable practice. Diversified payer mix. Trained staff. Over 1,500 active patients. First floor location. Owner is retiring.

**Contact:** Ulric Donawa | 301-502-1375 | Ulric@allenbusinessadvisors.com

### 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 publication.

