



District of Columbia
DENTAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

July 2019, Vol. 65, No. 7



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

Dear Colleagues,

There is a well known quote that originated with the poet John Lydgate that was later adapted by President Abraham Lincoln:

Dr. Steven A. Guttenberg “You can please some of the people all of the time, you can please all of the people some of the time, but you can’t please all of the people all of the time”.

The DCDS leadership strives to provide programs and services that meet the needs of every member. We have student members, new members, members who are employed, some who own their own practices, millennials and those that have been around for a while (like me!).

We want everyone to get something positive from membership in the DCDS. While we know that this is a large task, I want you to feel free to share your ideas and feedback (good or less than good). We listen. We have an excellent Board of Directors that are engaged and here to serve you. Let us know how we can do a better job, keeping in mind the needs of the spectrum of dentists who make our Society great.

The Board’s actions are guided by our strategic plan that is comprised of three key priorities:

1. *Membership Value: Provide programs, services and opportunities to members that will enable them to succeed and excel throughout their careers.*

We have made tremendous in-roads in growing our membership and the pipeline of future Society leaders these past few years. And the modifications implemented to the monthly CE series have been well-received. We will continue to hone Society programs and services to ensure that they stay relevant, as well as explore new opportunities to enhance the value of DCDS membership. *(Continued on page 2)*

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(Continued from Page 1)

2. *Technology: Adopt technology solutions that improve member communications, networking and education, and enhance the complete member experience. Provide resources that enable members to learn and utilize the latest technologies in social media/practice management.*

Leadership is continuously exploring opportunities to improve the member experience utilizing technology while also recognizing what makes our Society unique and appealing to many of us is our relative small size and personable environment. I am happy to announce that DCDS has partnered with the Minnesota Dental Association to launch an online classified platform – hesy-re.com. The site is active and I encourage all of you to take advantage of the service. You can learn more about hesy-re.com on page 10.

3. *Financial Stability: Achieve financial stability by defining it, scrutinizing products, services and expenses, and developing and investing in new ideas to increase revenue.*

Leadership has worked hard over the past several years and has made tough decisions to ensure the long-term viability and financial health of our Society. We are living within our means and have strong reserves that we utilize to advance the Society's strategic priorities. Know that we take our responsibility of being financial stewards of DCDS seriously.

In closing, I want you to know how immensely honored I am to serve DCDS and you as Society President. And I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge and thank immediate Past-President Dr. Chris Loukaitis, as well as outgoing board members Drs. Sally Cram and David Spiegelman and the entire board for all their work on behalf of the Society. "If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants."

Sincerely,



Steven A. Guttenberg, DDS, MD

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Are You Enrolled in the DC Prescription Drug Monitoring Program? Deadline July 31!

DC Act 22-616 now mandates that **ALL** medical practitioners (including dentists) who are authorized to prescribe and/or dispense medication in the District of Columbia must register with the District of Columbia Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (DC PDMP).

Failure to register before July 31, 2019 could impact the status of your dental license. To register, visit the [DC PDMP website](#) and click "create an account", and then follow the prompts.

Join us for Summer Happy Hour on July 31



Network with DC dental professionals! The next DCDS Happy Hour is **Wednesday, July 31 at Mission Dupont, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

Mission Dupont: 1606 20th St NW, Washington, DC 20009

Mark your calendar! Click [here to sign up for a reminder](#)

Practices should remain wary of measles contagion

Measles is one of the most contagious of all infectious diseases. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that, from January 1 to June 6, 2019, 1,022 individual cases of measles have been confirmed in 28 states—the greatest number of cases reported in the U.S. since 1992 and since measles was declared eliminated in 2000. The CDC recommends that healthcare staff be immunized, and providers ask patients to confirm their vaccination status with written documentation. Other precautions may include isolating infected people and having all healthcare staff entering the room use respiratory protection consistent with airborne infection control precautions, regardless of their presumed immunity status. Finally, always and immediately report suspected measles cases to the local health department.

Learn more about measles from the [ADA Center for Professional Success](#)



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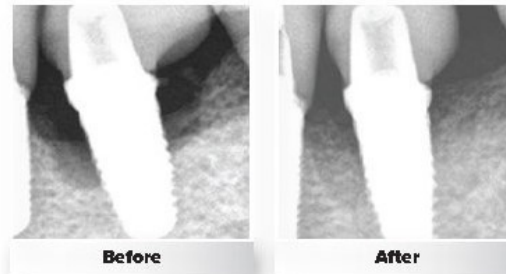
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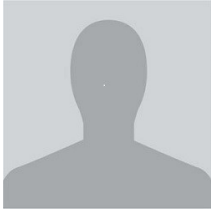
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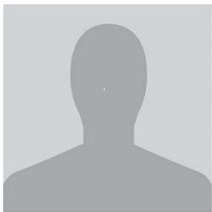
Welcome New Members



Dr. Jerome Atta-Fynn graduated from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry in 2004. He has been a licensed dentist in Washington, DC since 2010. He practices at 3333 14th Street NW, Suite 110.



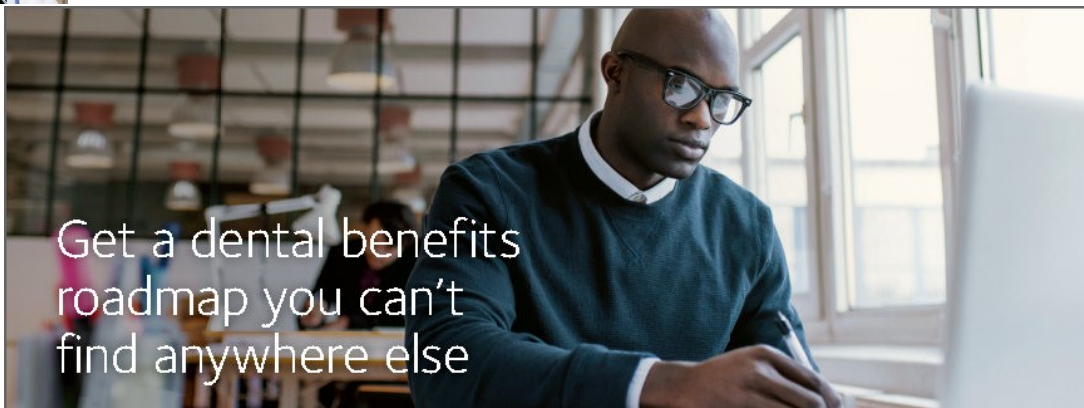
Dr. Aisha Henry graduated from Meharry Medical School of Dentistry in 2019, and has moved to Washington, DC, to start practicing dentistry.



Dr. April Linder graduated from the University of Maryland, Baltimore College of Dental Surgery in 2017. She then completed a one-year program at the Perry Point VA Medical Center in Perry Point, MD. She now works at Navy Yard Dental with member Dr. Chad Jones.



Dr. Dustin Plunkett is a graduate of the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine in 2016, and then finished a graduate program at the VA Medical Center in Hampton, VA. Dr. Plunkett has enjoyed traveling to provide care to under-resourced populations through Remote Area Medical and Mission of Mercy.



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Members Honored at June Awards Dinner

The DCDS held its annual Awards Dinner on June 4, honoring the recipients of this year's DCDS and DCDS Foundation Awards. Congratulations to all of the 2019 award recipients!



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Hawthorne, NY, September 24th, 2019

Pittsburgh, September 27th, 2019



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We are pleased to announce that our spring schedule is designed to accommodate your patients in need of wisdom teeth extractions during their spring break. By offering X-Guide technology in our office, we can perform minimally invasive surgery in a more precise and accurate manner resulting in a quicker recovery with minimal to no pain.

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- **One Step Online Registration:** All patient registration forms can be filled out and submitted on our website directly. No printing required!
- **Professional Atmosphere:** We strive to provide the highest level of care while maintaining an atmosphere of privacy, safety and comfort.

Wisdom teeth season is upon us once more, so we are here to help your patients complete their treatment by the end of their spring break. Click the button below to visit our site and submit your referral.

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Congratulations 2019 ADA Life Membership Inductees

Congratulations to the following members who have been conferred ADA Life Membership for 2020. Life Membership is bestowed upon member dentists 65 years of age or older who have accrued 30 years of continuous membership or 40 total years of membership.

- Dr. Bonnie Beamer
- Dr. Linda Check
- Dr. Ali Fassihi
- Dr. Laurence Gibbons
- Dr. Alan Helig
- Dr. Gary Kaihara
- Dr. Michael G. Landy
- Dr. Denice C. Stewart

Congratulations 2018- 2019 Excellence in Continuing Education Certificate Recipients

Eight members will receive Excellence in Continuing Education Certificates in recognition of earning fifty (50) or more hours of continuing education between June 1, 2018 and May 31, 2019.

Congratulations to the following members for their achievement:

- Dr. Pierre Cartier
- Dr. Vivien Click
- Dr. Steven Guttenberg
- Dr. Chris Loukaitis
- Dr. Donald Meyer
- Dr. Angela Noguera
- Dr. Keith Progebin
- Dr. Robert Smyth

Congratulations Incoming 2019-2020 Board and Incoming Committee Members

The DC Dental Society is pleased to announce its incoming 2019-2020 board officers, at-large board members and incoming committee members. We are thankful to all of the candidates for their willingness to volunteer their time and efforts to benefit the Society.

Board Members

Dr. Steven A. Guttenberg, President
Dr. Ladan Basiripour, President-Elect
Dr. Isabelle Lass, Vice-President
Dr. Kim Menhinick, Fall Symposium Chair
Dr. Anna Bettios, At-Large Board Member
Dr. Pierre Cartier, At-Large Board Member
Dr. Aliya Kassam, At-Large Board Member
Dr. Stephen Tigani, At-Large Board Member
Dr. Margot Culotta-Norton, Presidential Appointee

Awards and Nominating Committee

Dr. Patrick Grogan
Dr. Kim Menhinick

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Dr. Olga Spivak

Education Committee

Dr. Hillary Hochman
Dr. Luke Schwartz

Membership Committee

Dr. Alan Robinson
Dr. Luke Catamessa

Membership Benefits Committee

Dr. Elena Schlansky
Dr. Stephanie Simmonet

Professional Standards Committee

Dr. Olga Spivak

Public Policy Committee

Dr. Caroline Berman

Public Relations Committee

Dr. Luke Catamessa

‘Friending’ Patients: What Are The Potential Ethical Considerations?

An article in the *New Dentist Now* blog discusses the ethical considerations of becoming friends with dental patients on social media. After listing several issues to consider, the article states, “The bottom line is that your online sites and actions should comport with the ADA Code and its important guidance for behaving ethically and professionally.” The article adds, “Caution should be the watchword, and, if in doubt, err on the side of being the ‘professional’ and not the ‘friend.’”

Q: As caring, compassionate, and friendly practitioners, we naturally care and are curious about our patients and their lives. We certainly garner information on many of our patients’ typical family activities, vacations, purchases, life changes, and other events as a part of interacting with them in a treatment setting. [Read the rest of the article at *New Dentist Now*.](#)

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Poor Oral Health Associated With Increased Liver Cancer Risk, Study Suggests

[Medical Xpress](#) (6/17) states that researchers at Queen's University Belfast "investigated the association between oral health conditions and the risk of a number of gastrointestinal cancers, including liver, colon, rectum and pancreatic cancer." The release states that although "no significant associations were observed on the risk of the majority gastrointestinal cancers and poor oral health, a substantial link was found for hepatobiliary cancer." The [findings](#) were published in the United European Gastroenterology Journal.

ADA President Responds to Article In The Atlantic

The [ADA News](#) (6/18, Garvin) reports that in a [June 16 letter](#) to the editor of The Atlantic, ADA President Jeffrey M. Cole responded to the magazine's May article, "The Trouble With Dentistry." The ADA News reports that Dr. Cole "addressed the article's shortcomings, which the ADA believes enforced negative stereotypes about dentists and failed to explain the practice of evidence-based dentistry," and he "also strongly disagreed with the author's implication that dentists are motivated by profit to pay down their student loans." Dr. Cole wrote, "The American Dental Association and dentists across the country are dedicated to the health and safety of the patients they serve." Dr. Cole added, "The ADA is dedicated to evidence-based dentistry, which integrates the dentist's clinical expertise, the patient's needs and preferences, and the most current, clinically relevant evidence."

The American College of Dentists has released an engagement tool for dentists who receive questions from patients who have seen the article. Visit the [ACD website](#) for more information.

Study: Periodontal Disease Associated With Increased CAD Risk In Select Patients

[Endocrine Today](#) (6/6, Neuffer) reported researchers found that in adult patients with type 1 diabetes who smoke, "periodontal disease increases the risk for coronary artery disease [CAD]." The [findings](#) were published in the Journal of Diabetes and its Complications.

[Diabetes \(UK\)](#) (6/7, Woodfield) reported lead researcher Tina Costacou, PhD, an associate professor of epidemiology at the University of Pittsburgh, said, "These data suggest that in addition to good [blood glucose] control and treatment of high blood pressure, smoking cessation and oral health are important factors in reducing the development of heart disease."

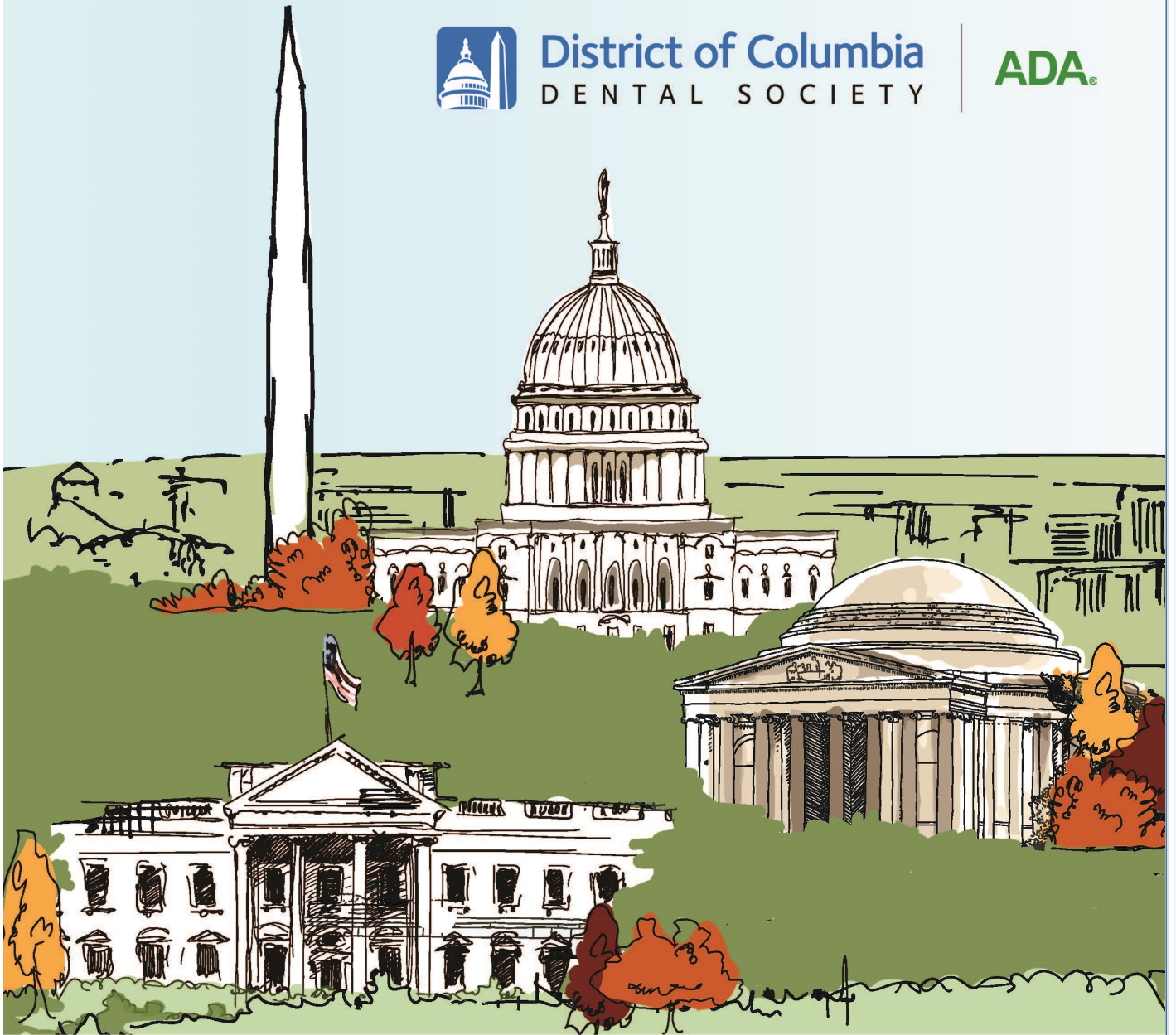
Dental professionals can find information on [diabetes](#) on an ADA Science Institute-developed Oral Health Topics page. In January, ADA Science Institute researchers [published a paper](#) exploring the number of additional individuals with prediabetes or diabetes who could be identified if diabetes risk assessments were conducted in the dental care setting. In addition, the ADA offers the online course [Diabetes and the Dental Professional](#) and the [Diabetes and Your Oral Health](#) brochure.

Dentists can refer patients to MouthHealthy.org, ADA's consumer website, for information on [diabetes](#). JADA For the Patient also includes the articles, [Can Diabetes Affect My Oral Health?](#), [Diabetes and Oral Health](#), and [Diabetes: Tips for Good Oral Health](#).



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2019-2020 CE Program Starts September 10

The DCDS Education Committee has been hard at work developing the 2019-2020 CE program. The Society's pledge is to provide members all of their required, general clinical CE hours to renew their biannual DC dental license as a member benefit. Members need only attend most of the Society's monthly CE meetings held between September-May to achieve this. In addition, the Society strives to bring members exciting speakers with international and national reputations, who are on the cutting edge of the latest technologies and best practices in dentistry. The Society is happy to announce the 2019-2020 CE schedule will be as follows:

September 10, 2019	Monthly Meeting
October 9, 2019	CE Webinar
November 12, 2019	Monthly Meeting
December 10, 2019	Monthly Meeting
January 14, 2020	Monthly Meeting
February 12, 2020	CE Webinar
March 10, 2020	Monthly Meeting
May 12, 2020	Monthly Meeting
June 2, 2020	DCDS Awards Dinner (no CE)

Based on feedback received from members and meeting attendees, topics for next year's CE program will include, among others, local pain and anesthesia management, implant failures/rehabilitation, digital dentistry, and sleep apnea. Speakers for the CE series are still being finalized, but keep an eye on the [DCDS events calendar](#) and newsletter for announcements.

Opioid Overdose Deaths Not Prevented By Medical Marijuana Laws, Research Suggests

The [Washington Post](#) (6/10, Bernstein) reports, "Five years ago, [a study of death certificate data](#) attracted notice for suggesting that states that passed medical marijuana laws saw 25 percent fewer opioid overdose deaths on average than states that barred medical" marijuana. Following release of that study, "the cannabis industry" took up its findings "to help win passage of medical cannabis laws in more states, even as medical experts expressed skepticism." Now, a new study conducted by the Stanford University School of Medicine indicates that "states that introduced medical marijuana actually had...more deaths from opioid overdoses."

The [AP](#) (6/10, Johnson) reports that after analyzing "data through 2017," investigators found that "states passing medical marijuana laws saw a 23% higher than expected rate of deaths involving prescription opioids." The [findings](#) were published online in PNAS.

Dental professionals can find information on the [oral health effects of cannabis](#) on an ADA Science Institute-developed Oral Health Topics page.

Follow all of the ADA's advocacy efforts, policies and positions on opioids on the [ADA 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 distributed on the first Wednesday of every month. Ads are due to the Society two weeks prior to the publication date.