



District of Columbia
DENTAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

June 2019, Vol. 65, No. 6



Dr. Chris Loukaitis

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

Dear Colleagues,

As many of you are aware, this is the last time that I will be using this space to address you as president of the DC Dental Society. Before I officially step down and before DCDS begins its annual “summer break”, I would like to take this opportunity to recap the past year.

First, the Society has strengthened itself financially. Thanks to the Board’s efforts, our fiscal year 2018 “break even” budget actually turned a small profit. Thus far, the Society is forecasting to finish fiscal year 2019, which ends August 31, slightly ahead of the break-even budget that was passed by the Board in September. Two of the key factors to this financial success have been the growth of our corporate support revenue through sponsorship packages and the success of our 2019 Spring Symposium for Licensure. I believe that we are in a great position for continued financial success, and that this positioning will allow us to continue to provide great benefits to our members moving forward.

As I have discussed many times in my messages to the Society, the single most important goal for our long-term success is growing our membership base. As of the publication of this newsletter, we are currently tracking favorably in our year-over-year active member numbers. With membership promotions such as the ADA’s Half Year Dues campaign coming this month, I believe that we will be able to continue this trend and end the calendar year posting a net gain in membership.

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Reach Us

DCDS Business Office
2025 M Street NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036

P: (202) 367-1163

F: (202) 365-2163

E: info@dcdental.org

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Considering that the past few years have seen membership levels either remain flat or decline slightly, this would be a major accomplishment for the Society. In addition to growing numerically stronger, our membership has continued to grow more diverse. In order to guarantee our long-term membership growth, we must continue to ensure that our membership demographics reflect the changing demographics of our profession as a whole.

The greatest accomplishments of my tenure and the ones that I am most proud of have both come under the goal of improving our continuing education programs. First, we changed the format of the monthly meetings by splitting each meeting into two parts, allowing attendees to leave early or arrive late while still receiving partial CE credit. This decision was in response to members wishing for more flexibility in how they obtain their CE. At the same time, by lengthening the meetings and piloting our first ever CE webinars, we were able to actually increase the amount of CE credits being offered while lowering costs. Our post-meeting surveys also displayed very high levels of satisfaction with the speakers themselves and presentations, which is a credit to the excellent work done by the Education Committee. Perhaps the greatest testament to their hard work and the quality of our 2018-19 monthly meeting series was that every one of the in-person meetings sold out before the end of the pre-registration period.

Finally, this year we piloted a new event, the 2019 Spring Symposium for Licensure. After the disappointment of not being able to hold an annual meeting in 2018, this was a major step in the right direction for the Society. The Symposium was even more popular than anticipated. We were able to sell out just a month after opening registration and nearly two months prior to the event itself. Due to the success of the event, we have planned a Fall Symposium, which will occur on October 24. Member registration for this even is already open, and I would encourage anyone who missed out on the Spring Symposium to register as soon as possible. Piloting new meeting formats and building on successes is important for the Society to remain innovative, strong, and flexible as the practice of dentistry continues to evolve.

Overall, it has been an incredibly rewarding experience serving as your president over the past year. This position has allowed me to interact with so many of you in so many different settings, and I look forward to continuing to do so moving forward. I can also rest assured that I am leaving the Society in very capable hands with Dr. Steven Guttenberg serving as president for the upcoming year. Thank you all for your support and dedication to our great Society, and I eagerly look forward to see what we will accomplish over the next year.

Sincerely,



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

Welcome New Members



Dr. Viviana Avila-Gnau obtained her DDS degree from Loma Linda University School of Dentistry in Loma Linda, California, after receiving a previous D.D.S from Pontificia Universidad Javariena in Bogotá, Columbia. Her private practice experience includes managing her own practice in Bogotá, and serving as an associate at practices in Maryland, the Boston area, and New York City. She has also held faculty positions at Loma Linda University School of Dentistry, Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, and New York University College of Dentistry. She now practices at DC Smile Studio with Dr. Samuel Lievano. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her husband and two young children, and sharing her love of dancing and Latin music with the students in her Zumba classes.



Dr. Noelle Dunne graduated with a Doctorate in Dental Medicine from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. She attended the University of New Hampshire for her undergraduate degree in biology, graduating magna cum laude. Dr. Dunn is the practice owner of Dunn Dental Group, located at 1712 I Street NW, Suite 620. She practices comprehensive dental care in a variety of specialties including restorative dentistry, periodontal therapy, root canal therapy, and cosmetic dentistry. In her free time, Dr. Dunn enjoys painting, cooking, gardening, boating and fishing, and spending quality time with her children.



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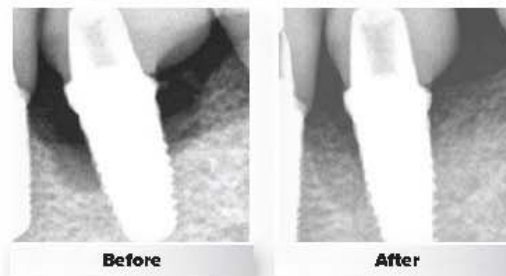
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Board Election Results

Last night at the annual DCDS Awards Dinner, the membership held elections to fill five at-large positions on the DCDS Board of Directors. The five new Board members are Dr. Cheryl Baptiste, Dr. Ioana Bettios, Dr. Pierre Cartier, Dr. Aliya Kassam, and Dr. Steven Tigani.

Thank you to all the candidates for taking part in this year's board elections.

DCDS Honors Awardees at Annual Dinner

Last night, the DCDS held its annual Awards Dinner at the Westin Georgetown, honoring the recipients of this year's DCDS and DCDS Foundation Awards. Congratulations to all of the 2019 award recipients.

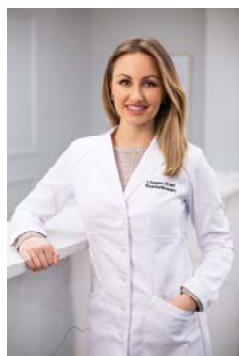
Sterling V. Mead Award: Dr. Patrick Grogan

An active member of DCDS for over 30 years, Dr. Patrick Grogan has made numerous contributions to the Society. He is a graduate of Georgetown University Dental School and has been a pillar of the Washington, DC dental community for many years. Dr. Grogan has served on nearly every DCDS committee, as well as Society President from 2010 to 2011. He currently serves as a DCDS delegate to the ADA House of Delegates.



He has volunteered his time generously with such causes as Give Kids a Smile, Mission of Mercy, and Somos Amigos in the Dominican Republic. Following his example, Dr. Grogan's daughter was recently accepted into dental school and plans to pursue a career in dentistry.

Committee Member of the Year Award: Dr. Eugenia Prokopets



Originally from Poltava, Ukraine, Dr. Prokopets is a 4th generation female dentist. Growing up in Scottsdale, Arizona, she received her Bachelor of Science in Microbiology from Arizona State University. Dr. Prokopets then earned her DDS at Marquette University in Milwaukee before obtaining advanced training in Anesthesia, Emergency Medicine, and Oral Surgery at New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center. With a focus on dental implants, Dr. Prokopets also completed a three-year residency and a Master's degree in Periodontics and Implant Dentistry at Louisiana State University.

For the past year, Dr. Prokopets has served as chair of the Education Committee. In this role, she has incorporated cutting edge CE courses by renowned speakers, increasing member engagement, and social media strategy and growth. Dr. Prokopets' hard work has resulted in an incredibly successful 2018-2019 CE program, which included six sold-out monthly meetings and the piloting of the Society's first-ever webinar series.

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DCDS Foundation Humanitarian Award: Ms. Kris Laurenti



A longtime resident of Washington, DC, Kris Laurenti has dedicated her life to public service and helping the less fortunate in our city. Ms. Laurenti received her undergraduate degree in Sociology from the University of Bridgeport before going on to earn a Masters of Social Work degree from the Catholic University of America. Following completion of her master's degree, Ms. Laurenti began her career working as a social worker for the Commission on Mental Health Services and later the DC Department of Mental Health. Initially, her work focused on providing mental health services for incarcerated and delinquent youth. Over the years, her impact in the community has only broadened. She was instrumental in leading the effort around the annual oral health assessments in DC Public Schools and currently works to ensure that the elderly in the District receive needed medical and dental care. Ms. Laurenti's outstanding work has been acknowledged by the prestigious Harvard University's Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation in American Government which has recognized her with its "Top 50 Innovations in Government Programs" Award.

Improving Patient Communication

As all dentists know, an essential part of running a practice is building and retaining a patient base. Taking the time to get to know your patients on a personal level — and letting them get to know you — goes a long way when it comes to patient retention. Most people do not enjoy going to the dentist, but by teaching yourself and your staff effective communication techniques, you can make the process as painless as possible for all involved and build loyalty among the patients that you treat. [This blog post](#) from the ADA has some simple tips for how you can connect with your patients more effectively and keep them coming back to your practice for years to come.

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Fall Symposium for Licensure

October 24, 2019

FALL 2019
SYMPOSIUM FOR LICENSURE

DCDS is happy to announce that registration for the DCDS 2019 Fall Symposium for Licensure is officially open! This event will be held on Thursday, October 24 at the Georgetown University Conference Center and will include all CE courses required by the DC Board of Dentistry for dentists, except CPR.

In addition to dentist license requirements, the event will also feature all of the licensing requirements for dental assistants and hygienists. Bring your whole dental team to ensure that your entire office is up to date on licensing requirements! The spring iteration of this event sold out within a month of registration opening, so all are encouraged to register as soon as possible. For more information about the Fall Symposium including a full schedule, or to register for the event, please see [this page](#).



The next DCDS Happy Hour is Wednesday, July 31st at Mission Dupont, from 5pm to 7pm. Mark your calendar! [Click here to sign up for a reminder.](#)

New HPV Vaccine and Oral Cancer Resources

The [ADA News](#) (4/26) reports that the ADA has released a brochure that can help dentists “educate patients about the importance of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, which could prevent nearly 90% of HPV-related cancers in the United States.” The brochure, called “Oral Health and the HPV Vaccine,” includes Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations about who should get the vaccine, and “vaccine safety” facts.

[An online CE course](#) is available on HPV-related oropharyngeal cancer. The ADA also offers the brochure [“Get The Facts About Mouth and Throat Cancer.”](#)

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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.

Our office is equipped with technology and systems in place to make your patients' visit as quick and convenient as possible.

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- **Post-Operative Discomfort:** To avoid the use of narcotics we offer Experal, a long acting Non-Opioid numbing medication that lasts 2-3 days.
- **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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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

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.

All Dentists Must Enroll in the DC Prescription Drug Monitoring Program by July 31st!

On April 11, 2019, DC Act 22-616 went into effect, mandating all medical practitioners who are registered to prescribe and/or dispense controlled substances or other covered substances in the District of Columbia to register with the District of Columbia Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (DC PDMP). Whereas previously the DC Board of Dentistry believed that this regulation only applied to those who actually dispense these substances, **they have revised their understanding of the regulation to include all practitioners who are authorized to prescribe medication, including dentists.**

If you have already registered for this program, no further action is required. If you have not yet registered for this program, **the deadline to do so is July 31, 2019.** Failure to register before this date could impact the status of your dental license.

To register, please visit [this page](#), click "create an account", and then follow the prompts. If you encounter any issues in setting up your account, detailed instructions can be found [here](#). A 24-7 technical assistance line is also available at (855) 932-4767.

ADA Files Citizen's Petition with the FDA

A Message from ADA President Dr. Jeffrey Cole



On Feb. 25, a group of ADA leaders, including myself and key ADA staff met with senior officials at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in Washington, D.C., to discuss direct to consumer orthodontic aligners.

Our chief concerns centered on patient safety; transparency in diagnosis and treatment planning; and patient recourse when the results are not positive. As a result of this meeting, ADA leaders determined a [citizen petition](#) should be filed. The [petition](#) was filed on April 25.

The basis for the ADA's citizen petition to the FDA is straightforward: SmileDirectClub, LLC, (SDC) is placing the public at risk by knowingly evading the "by prescription only" restriction that the FDA has placed on plastic teeth aligners and on dental impression material. For all intents and purposes, SDC sells its plastic teeth aligner and dental impression material products to consumers over-the-counter.

In lieu of having dentists perform patient exams meeting the applicable standard of care as the basis for prescribing orthodontic treatment, SDC tries to protect its own commercial interests by requiring customers to self-certify their dental condition and then hold SDC harmless from any negative consequences suffered as a result of SDC's aligner "treatment therapy."

The process SDC currently uses does not take into account any underlying, undiagnosed dental disease. Thus, the patient misses the opportunity to have their oral health assessed prior to beginning treatment. Tooth movement in the absence of good oral health has the potential to exacerbate oral disease and cause the patient additional harm.

Please know that dentists and the public can use the [FDA's MedWatch voluntary reporting form](#) to inform the FDA about problems patients encounter with direct to consumer products, such as aligners, partial dentures and snoring appliances. More general information about the FDA medical device reporting program can be found on the [FDA's website](#).

If you are asked about the issue of "DIY dentistry," the ADA offers these talking points that you can share with your patients:

- The American Dental Association and member dentists across the country are dedicated to the health and safety of the patients they serve.
- ADA policies oppose Do-It-Yourself Teeth Straightening and Direct to Consumer Dental Laboratory Services because dentists are concerned about the potential for irreversible harm to patients.
- For example, orthodontic treatment, if not done correctly, could lead to potential bone loss and receding gums, changed bites, and other issues.
- The ADA believes that for the health and well-being of the public, patient supervision by a licensed dentist is necessary for all phases of treatment.

You can find more information on [MouthHealthy.org](#), the ADA's website for the public.



We are DCDS: passionate about our profession, our community, and our future!

The District of Columbia Dental Society (DCDS) is a professional association representing over 400 dentists working in and around the Washington D.C. metropolitan area. Founded in 1866, the Society is the American Dental Association’s local constituent society, equivalent to a state chapter.

DCDS was created with the goal of growing the dental profession through educational programming, advocacy for our members, and raising the oral health literacy of our community.

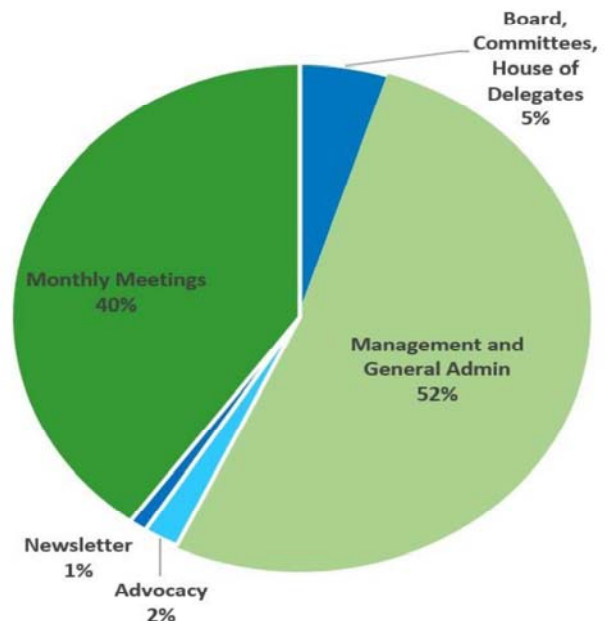
Society programs and services are designed to address the organization’s strategic goals to 1) provide programs, services and opportunities to members that will enable them to succeed and excel throughout their careers; 2) adopt technology solutions that improve member communications, networking and education, and enhance the complete member experience; 3) achieve financial stability by defining it, scrutinizing products, services and expenses, and developing and investing in new ideas to increase revenue. A substantial portion of our financial resources is spent on activities to address these strategic goals.

We strive to develop programs and services for our members designed to cultivate the science and art of dentistry for our members; elevate and sustain the integrity of our profession; nurture mutual improvement, social interaction and good feelings among members; and to promote oral health care in the community.

Summarized Financial Information
(For Fiscal Years Ending August 31, 2018, 2017)

Statements of Financial Position		
	2018	2017
Assets		
Total Assets	\$3,878,289	\$3,654,362
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Total Liabilities	\$135,271	\$75,835
Net Assets	\$3,743,018	\$3,578,527
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$3,878,289	\$3,654,362
Statement of Activities		
	2018	2017
Revenues		
Total Revenues	\$605,174	\$1,098,966
Expenses		
Total Expenses	\$440,683	\$1,102,966
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$3,578,527	\$3,582,527
Net Assets, End of Year	\$3,743,018	\$3,578,527

Functional Expense Allocation



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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.