



District of Columbia
DENTAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

May 2019, Vol. 65, No. 5



Dr. Chris Loukaitis

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

Dear Colleagues,

On April 4 the Society held its inaugural Spring Symposium for Licensure, aimed at giving our members an opportunity to complete nearly all of their required licensing courses in a single day. I am very happy to report that the event was an enormous success and went very smoothly. By holding this event, we were able to provide over 350 dentists, hygienists, and assistants with the education credits that they will need to renew their licenses at the end of this year. Further, I can announce officially that we will be returning to the Georgetown University Conference Center on Thursday, October 24th host the 2019 DCDS Fall Symposium for Licensure. Our Annual Symposium Committee is currently in the process of analyzing the feedback from our Spring Symposium, and we will be using all of your responses to inform our planning of the Fall Symposium. Keep an eye out for more details about the Fall Symposium, including registration and programming information, in the coming weeks.

Over the next month, all DCDS members will have a further opportunity to make their voices heard in the form of our Board of Directors elections. These elections will be held at the annual DCDS Awards Dinner on June 4. We have six candidates this year for five open at-large positions, and you will find profiles of all of the candidates later in this newsletter. I encourage everyone to review these profiles, and make an informed decision with an eye on the future direction our Society. We will also once again be providing absentee ballots upon request to those who cannot attend the Awards Dinner. More information about how to request an absentee ballot can likewise be found in this newsletter.

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Speaking of the Awards Dinner, we will be returning to the Westin Georgetown to hold this event on Tuesday, June 4th beginning at 5pm. We will be recognizing several of our members for their outstanding contributions to our Society and oral health in general, as well as looking back on the accomplishments of the past year. Though space for the dinner itself is limited, all members will be welcome to attend the pre-dinner cocktail hour to socialize and cast their ballots for the Board Election. Again, space is limited, so [register today](#) to ensure your seat.

On Tuesday, May 14, we will be holding the second of our two pilot webinars and our final event of the 2018–2019 CE program. From 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., Dr. Thomas Snyder will be giving a presentation titled “Trends in Dental Practice Transitions”. Dr. Snyder is Senior Director of Practice Transitions for Henry Schein Professional Practice Transitions. He holds both a DMD and MBA from the University of Pennsylvania. This choice of speaker and topic were both influenced heavily by feedback that we have received in monthly meeting surveys and the educational needs assessment survey, so please continue to let us know about what topics you would like to see next year. To see more information about Dr. Snyder or to register for the May Webinar, please [click here](#).

Sincerely,



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

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Welcome New Members



Dr. Wayne Hickory—Dr. Hickory received a Bachelor of Science degree from Trinity College as well as a Masters Degree in nutritional science from the Boston University of Graduate Dentistry. He then went on to the University of Connecticut, where he obtained a DMD, and a three-year postdoctoral orthodontics certification. Dr. Hickory has served as a full-time professor at both the University of Amsterdam and the University of Maryland, and he continues to teach and consult around the world. Dr. Hickory practices at Embassy Row Orthodontics near Dupont Circle.

Dr. Marian Mason—Dr. Mason, like many DCDS members, attended dental school at the Howard University College of Dentistry, graduating in 1977. She lives in McLean, VA.

Dr. Temidayo Obayomi— Dr. Obayomi graduated from the Howard University College of Dentistry, receiving his dental degree in 1983. He also completed a graduate program in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Howard, and currently works at the dental school as an assistant professor.



Dr. Jean Li— Dr. Li received her dental degree from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry, where she also served as a clinical assistant professor in periodontics for three years. She went on to complete periodontal training at the Rutgers School of Dental Medicine and is a Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology. Dr. Li practices at several locations in the area, including Dlight Dental in Rockville, Bethesda Family Dentistry, and Perio & Implant, also located in Rockville.

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Board of Directors Election and Absentee Voting

The DC Dental Society has five open at-large positions on the Board of Directors for the 2019-2020 term. Since six nominations were received for these positions, an election will be held immediately prior to the annual DCDS 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

E-mail: info@dcidental.org

Mailing address: D.C. Dental Society, 2025 M Street NW, Suite 800, Washington, D.C. 20036

June Awards Dinner

The DCDS invites all of our members to join us at our annual Awards Dinner. The dinner will be held on Tuesday, June 4th at the Westin Georgetown from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m.. This event will include a cocktail hour, dinner, and of course the presentation of the DCDS and DCDS Foundation Awards, including the Sterling V. Mead Award. We will also be holding elections for five at-large seats on the DCDS Board of Directors. Come out to recognize your fellow DCDS members and look back on the successful year that we have had as a society! For full event details and registration, [click here](#).

This awards dinner is a complimentary member benefit; members may bring one non-member dentist as a guest for no charge. The cost for additional guests is \$75. Space is limited.





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Board of Directors Candidate Profiles

Below are the profiles of the six candidates for this year's open DCDS Board of Directors at-large positions, listed alphabetically. Votes for these candidates can be cast either at the June 4 Awards Dinner or by absentee ballot.



Dr. Cheryle Baptiste

I am a native Washingtonian and the daughter of the late Roy L. Baptiste Sr, DDS. I am a 1984 graduate of the Howard University College of Dentistry in Washington, DC. I have been active in organized dentistry most of my life. As a child, my father, Dr. Roy, took me to the annual DC Dental Society events and the National Dental Association annual conventions. My professional memberships include:

- American Dental Association: I served on the membership retention and recruitment committee from 1995 to 1996.
- DC Dental Society: I served on numerous committees (1987-1996) and received the committee member of the year award in 1996.
- National Dental Association: I served on numerous committees, was a co-chair for annual convention committees and was a member of the Eddie G Smith Leadership Institute.
- Robert T Freeman Dental Society: I have served on numerous committees, the Executive Board, served as an Officer, was awarded the Rising Star Award, and am currently President Elect for 2019-2020.
- Academy Of General Dentistry
- Women Dentists of Metropolitan DC - Founding member
- Greater Washington Academy of Women Dentists
- International Academy of Mini Dental Implantology

It would be an honor to serve on the board of the DC Dental Society. I first joined DCDS in the early 1980s. I have been a board member with the Robert T Freeman Dental Society (RTFDS) since 1989. The RTFDS is the founding and local chapter of the National Dental Association (NDA). I have worked on many convention committees for both DCDS and NDA. I look forward to coordinating enthusiasm and support of our profession through alliances in organized dentistry.



Dr. Ionna Bettios

I am a Professor and Chair of the Department of Prosthodontics at Howard University College of Dentistry. I received my Bachelor's from the University of Maryland College Park with Magna Cum Laude Honors, and my Doctorate of Dental Surgery from the University of Maryland. I joined the U.S. military during dental school, and retired after 28 years of decorated service, where I held several healthcare executive leadership positions, and acted as the program director of senior level administrative and clinical committees. I have authored 18 Department of Defense policies to improve healthcare for service members and their families. I am a Diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontics, a Fellow of the American College of Prosthodontists, a member of ADA, and a member of the International

College of Prosthodontists, the Academy of Osseointegration, Who is Who in Women Dentists, and the American College of Health Care Executives. I am a decorated military veteran and accomplished clinician and educator with several personal awards from my military, healthcare, and education service. I am currently a member of the DCDS Board of Directors, and chair the Membership Committee.

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Dr. Pierre Cartier—I have been a member of the District of Columbia metropolitan dental community since 2005. After graduating from the University of Kentucky’s College of Dentistry, I served in the US Air Force Dental Corps at Joint Base Bolling-Andrews, where I completed an Advanced Education in General Dentistry residency in 2006. Upon returning to the District, I served as a civilian dental officer at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and held clinical positions in the private sector. In 2014, I earned a Master in Public Health degree in Epidemiology from The George Washington University’s Milken Institute School of Public Health, followed by a Health Policy certificate in 2015. I also held a position as the Oral Health Program Manager for the DC Department of Health from 2014 to 2017.

As a member of the Board of Directors, I will continue lending my expertise in population health and healthcare leadership to the Society. A key area where I can contribute to our organization is within strategic planning, particularly with respect to coalition and partnership building. Efforts that increase awareness of comprehensive oral healthcare and enhance our oral health workforce are key professional endeavors of mine; I will advise our organization regarding emerging opportunities to foster increased awareness of comprehensive oral healthcare and further reinforce the impact that oral healthcare providers have on health and wellness in the District.



Dr. Aliya Kassam—I have been an active and dedicated member of the District of Columbia Dental Society since 2014. This prestigious organization is very important to me and I wholeheartedly believe in our mission. As a young dentist and private practice owner, I bring my enthusiasm and energy to our group. As one who speaks highly of our organization, and has written a handful of letters for potential participants, I plan to bring more of my peers into the organization so that we may carry on the torch of the amazing members who have come before us. I am extremely committed to organized dentistry. At Howard University College of Dentistry, I actively held numerous leadership and liaison positions in my class, along with being elected as chair of various organizations. I have also participated in several Mission of Mercy events, in Oklahoma, DC, and Maryland. Last month, I attended the ADA Dentist and Student Lobby Days and meetings, which has given me insight to different facets of our profession. I plan to take these experiences and insights and make an impact in our organization and the dental community as a whole.

My willingness to work for and alongside my peers will be an asset to the organization. I will also put forth the effort needed to get projects done efficiently. I was a committee member of the 2017 Mid-Atlantic Dental Meeting planning committee and served as a volunteer for the 2016 Mid-Atlantic Dental Meeting. Most recently, I was a member of the 2019 Spring Symposium for Licensure Committee. These experiences have given me insight into our organizational strengths and challenges, and I am committed to focus on what makes us a better group. I am a team player, have the ability to listen to others, and constructively solve problems. I endeavor to make objective and fair decisions, and reach a consensus in a timely manner. I promise to continue to exemplify high ethical standards and integrity in all professional and personal interactions. I am honored to be running alongside so many qualified candidates, and thank each of you for your consideration.

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Dr. Babak Noohi—I left my country of origin, Iran, at the age of 21 to pursue a dream of “becoming a dentist and living in a free society.” I moved to the USA with my wife in 2000. Subsequently I entered NYU College of Dentistry in 2001. In 2005, I was accepted into the advanced education in Prosthodontics program at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry. Upon completing the program in 2008, I entered the University of Maryland School of Dentistry’s Periodontal and Implant Prosthetic Fellowship program and finished it in 2009. I also received a MS degree from the University of Maryland Graduate School in 2008. As a Dental Student at NYU, I was selected to tutor young students in the lab on the weekends during my third and fourth years and I also served on the Student Council during my last three years.

I have been working in Washington DC since the summer of 2009, when I became a member of DCDS. My passion for organized dentistry has led me to be part of the Dental Society and help in any capacity I can. I volunteered at the Mid-Atlantic Dental Meeting as soon as I joined DCDS, and I served on the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for three years and this past year served on the Professional Standards Committee. I have two young children, eight-year-old Ethan and six-year-old Chloe, as well as my wife of 18 years.

I feel humbled and honored to be nominated to serve on the Board of Directors.



Dr. Stephen Tigani—After receiving my Bachelor of Science degree from Georgetown University, I graduated from the University of Maryland School of Dentistry. I then completed my specialty training in orthodontics at Columbia University-New York Presbyterian Hospital. I moved back to Washington, D.C. in 1995, incorporated three practices, and began my orthodontic career. For ten years, I served as clinical instructor in the Post-Graduate Orthodontic Studies at the Washington Hospital Center and Children’s Hospital. I am both a fellow of the American College of Dentists and the International College of Dentists. As I support the core values of these organizations, I also have been involved with the Archdiocesan Health Care Network of Washington since 1997 providing care to those in need in my community.

I have been involved in organized dentistry for my entire dental career. I began volunteering with the D.C. Dental Society upon my immediate return to Washington, D.C. I have served in the capacity as a board member, Chair of Give Kids a Smile Day, Chair of the Nation’s Capital Dental Meeting and President of the Society from 2009-2010.

I have represented our society at the national level by serving as an Alternate Delegate to the American Dental Association (ADA) for three terms. I am currently serving as a delegate for D.C. to the ADA House of Delegates. I was elected by the Fourth District Trustee four years ago to serve on the Council on Membership, an honor that I value as equally as serving as your Delegate.

If elected to the D.C. Dental Society Board, I will continue to advocate for you, the member, at both a local level and national level. I am always here to listen to concerns about our profession, here to advocate, here to serve. I believe I bring a unique perspective to our board by having past knowledge and experience, and also a pulse on current relevant issues to all our members, both young and old. I respectfully ask for your consideration and vote.

Trends in Dental Practice Transitions

May CE Webinar

On Tuesday, May 14, the DC Dental Society will host a continuing education webinar entitled “Trends in Dental Practice Transitions” by Dr. Thomas L. Snyder. **There will not be an in-person monthly meeting in May.** The live webinar is 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., and attendees will be able to ask questions through the webinar platform.



Session Abstract

This webinar will present an overview on how our current and future dental marketplace may impact your practice transition plans. A review of various practice transition options will also be presented. Topics include the do’s and don’ts of hiring an associate, understanding the basics of practice valuations, and avoiding pitfalls in a partnership.

Learning Objectives

After this session, participants will be able to:

- Understand the fundamentals of Transition Planning;
- Understand why practice values vary around the country;
- Understand when it makes sense to recruit an associate

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For more information about Dr. Snyder or to register for the May Webinar, please click [here](#). Space is limited, so members are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Please note that this will be a practice management presentation; the credits will not count towards renewal of a DC dental license.

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 1 CE.

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Fall Symposium Announcement

DCDS is proud to officially announce our 2019 Fall Symposium for Licensure! On Thursday, October 24th, we will be returning to the Georgetown University Conference Center located at 4800 Reservoir Rd., Washington, DC for a day of educational programming focused on licensure. This program will include all of the required courses for DC dental license renewal, except CPR. This also includes several new requirements, which the DC Board of Dentistry has introduced for this licensing period.

In addition to dentists, this event is also open to dental hygienists and dental assistants! DCDS members will receive priority registration as well as a significant discount on registration fees. Though registration details are still being finalized for this event, please sign up for our [mailing list](#) to receive updates as soon as they are available.

Professional Ethics Guidelines

In recent weeks, there has been a good deal of discussion in the media and on social media regarding ethical practices in the dental profession. This discussion has mostly been prompted by an article in The Atlantic, which uses instances of unethical conduct by a handful of dentists to make claims about practices in the larger dental community. ADA President Dr. Jeffrey Cole responded to the article with a letter to the editor, which is available [here](#).

Dr. Cole's letter highlights the high standards of ethics set by the ADA, including the [Principles of Ethics & Code of Professional Conduct](#). DCDS encourages all members to periodically review these guidelines, and to ensure that they receive the proper ethics training required by the DC government as part of your dental license renewal.

Planning Your Practice Transition

Retirement is inevitable. Don't miss an opportunity to effectively plan your life after dentistry.



Considering the following?

- Ready to sell now and stay or leave post sale?
- Transitioning your practice in the next 3-5 years?
- Do you want to know the current Fair Market Value of your practice?
- Considering bringing on an associate or partner?
- Trying to sell your practice on your own?
- Valuing your practice for estate planning?

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Howard National Signing Day

Thank you to all of the Howard University College of Dentistry students and faculty who attended our annual National Signing Day event last week. 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 would also like to extend special thanks to our excellent panelists, Drs. Aliyah Kassam, Eema Sahrai, and Luke Schwartz, who fielded questions from the students about their own experiences in starting their dental careers.



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ADA Member Benefits

As a member of the American Dental Association, DCDS members get access to exclusive benefits and discounts on everything from rental cars to payment processing services! Below are this month's featured discounts and member benefits:

- [AHI Travel](#): Save up to \$1,000 on small group tours and cruises to South Africa, New Zealand, Italy, and more.
- [BMO Harris Bank](#): Receive a special .5% rate reduction on financing for activities such as practice acquisition and commercial real estate purchases.
- [Chase](#): ADA members save over \$1,900 per year on payment processing through Chase.
- [Lenovo](#): Get up to 30% off the retail price of Lenovo laptops, tables, and desktops, plus free shipping.

A full catalog of ADA Member Advantage discounts can be found [here](#). Please contact the DCDS office if you have any questions about how to access these discounts.

Laurel Road Student Loan Webinar

Learn best practices for student loan refinancing and better understand your student loan repayment options in a free webinar! This webinar, sponsored by ADA preferred partner Laurel Road, will be occurring on Wednesday, May 15th, at 8pm EDT. The webinar will cover important information on loan refinancing and loan forgiveness options, followed by a Q&A session. Also, remember that all ADA members receive a .25% rate discount when they refinance their student loans with Laurel Road! For more details about this webinar and to register, [click here](#).

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