



District of Columbia
DENTAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

May 2020, Vol. 66, No. 5



Dr. Steven A. Guttenberg

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

The Times They Are A Changin' (Bob Dylan, 1964)

Come gather 'round, people
Wherever you roam
And admit that the waters
Around you have grown
And accept it that soon
You'll be drenched to the bone
If your time to you is worth savin'
And you better start swimmin'
Or you'll sink like a stone
For the times they are a-changin'

These words were written by Dylan as a deliberate attempt to create an anthem of change for the 1960s. We can certainly apply the sentiment to our profession and where we go from here in these turbulent times.

Right now our offices are, for the most part, closed and we are not certain when they will be open for normal (elective, non emergency) treatment of our patients. All this has been due to the novel coronavirus now known as SARS-CoV-2 that has caused coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19). The World Health Organization (WHO) refers to the virus as 2019-nCoV and the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses refers to the same virus as SARS-CoV-2. Like we need to add to the confusion during this difficult time.

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Welcome New Member

Dr. Zachary Saltman received his dental degree in 2015 from Tufts University Kornberg School of Dentistry . He completed the Medstar Washington Hospital Center Post Graduate residency training program in Oral and Maxillofacial surgery in 2019.



2020 June Awards Dinner Update

We regret to inform you that the 2020 June Award Dinner has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A virtual meeting is planned for June 2 at 5:30 PM where the results of the DCDS election will be announced and the transition of elected officers will occur. The annual awards ceremony will be scheduled during an in-person DCDS event later this year.

Please update your calendar for the June 2 virtual meeting and watch for details on how to attend this important annual event for your DC Dental Society.

DCDS Election and Electronic Voting

The DC Dental Society election will be open for voting the week of May 18th and will close at 12 Noon on Tuesday June 2nd. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year the **election will be conducted by electronic vote only**. Please watch for instructions by email the week of May 18th on how to cast your ballot. Those email instructions will include your unique password to log into your ballot.

A candidates forum is being scheduled and will be announced in the coming days. If you have any questions about the 2020 election please reach out to your DC Dental Society staff at info@dcdental.org or (202) 367-1163.

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District of Columbia
DENTAL SOCIETY

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Dr. Pierre Cartier - President-Elect

After graduating from the University of Kentucky 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. Following my service to the Air Force, I served as a civilian dentist at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and later held positions in the private sector. In 2014, I accepted a role in managing the District of Columbia's Oral Health Program after earning an MPH from The George Washington University's Milken Institute School of Public Health, where I hold an adjunct faculty appointment in the Department of Epidemiology. Currently, I am an attending dentist at the DC VA Medical Center, where I maintain a comprehensive general dentistry practice and teach in the General Practice Residency.

Organized dentistry has been an integral component of my career since 2001. In dental school, I served as a regional representative for the American Dental Education Association's Council of Students. Later, I facilitated educational programming for the DC Academy of General Dentistry from 2011-2014. A DCDS member since 2014, I currently serve on the DCDS and Foundation boards and as the Public Policy Chair.

As President-Elect, I will continue lending my knowledge of organized dentistry and healthcare leadership to the Society. I believe that DCDS is a "gem" among our regional dental organizations – both in the educational programming we offer and camaraderie we hold dear. One of my goals is to ensure that we continue recruiting members that will embrace our professional community and foster its continued growth. Additionally, I strive to enhance engagement with stakeholders that influence the practice of dental medicine in the District – particularly those in the District of Columbia Government. Last, I would like to develop a plan for expanding our current licensure symposium to a two-day conference – one that will not only allow participants to meet licensure requirements, but will also allow them to engage with local and national speakers that will support them in continuing to provide high quality oral healthcare to residents of the District and surrounding communities.

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Letter From The President

In a recent ADA Health Policy Institute study performed during the week of April 6 involving 6,109 dentists, the outcome was hair-raising: 4% of those polled, stated that they could not remain in practice if the current restrictions remained through the end of April. If those restrictions extended through June, 18% could not sustain their practices. And, 46% of respondents felt that they would be out of business if the current conditions lingered through the end of August! That is a tragedy.

In the journal *Science* published on April 14, 2020, researchers from Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health made the disturbing conclusion that some degree of social distancing may still be needed in the US until 2022 to prevent large outbreaks of coronavirus, absent the creation of an *effective* vaccine.¹ The authors also pointed out that too-strict social distancing could actually drag things out by slowing the formation of herd immunity. It seems like we can't win.

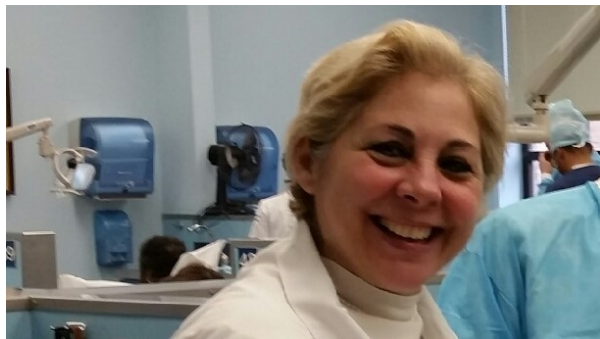
Robert R. Redfield Jr., MD, director of the CDC suggests that Covid-19 may be with us forever, just like the seasonal flu that we now endure and that we are likely to have a second flare up this winter and perhaps after that. He added most recently, on April 21, that a second wave of COVID-19 next winter could be an assault on the United States that could potentially be even more challenging than the one that we are currently facing in part because of the overlap with the seasonal flu.

Heeding the prophetic lyrics of Dylan, our profession will *sink like a stone* unless we begin swimmin'. What can we do? We must be part of the solution to prevent spread of the virus and we must do this in a proactive manner to reassure patients, staff members, and our governments that we can treat all patients in a safe manner without transmitting the disease.

(Continued on Page 8)

Letter From The President

Dr. Ioana “Anna” Bettios - Vice President



Dr. Bettios is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Prosthodontics at Howard University College of Dentistry. She received her Bachelors of Sciences and Doctorate of Dental Surgery Degrees at the University of Maryland; she joined the military service during Dental School, and retired after 30 years of highly decorated service. Dr. Bettios completed a Clinical Fellowship program in Prosthodontics in San Diego, CA, and a Residency program in Prosthodontics at the Naval Postgraduate School in Bethesda, MD, and a Master's Degree in Health Sciences at the George Washington University. During her military service, she

held several Senior Healthcare Executive leadership positions, in the Mid-Atlantic and the Pacific theaters. She authored many healthcare policies for the Department of Defense at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery for the Surgeon General of the Navy, and Health Affairs. During her military and civilian career, she has Chaired many Healthcare Committees and has lectured to large scale audiences worldwide. She has Chaired the Membership Committee at the DC Dental Society with four ADA awards the past four years.

An active member of the American College of Prosthodontists Digital Dentistry Task Force with publication in April 2018 for the Digital Curriculum for the Dental Schools. She is a Diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontics, a Fellow of the American College of Dentists, the International College of Dentists, and the American College of Prosthodontists; a member of the ADA, the International College of Prosthodontists, and the Academy of Osseointegration. Dr. Bettios is a passionate clinician volunteer with many missions with over 1200 hours for the Capital Area Red Cross Chapter, the Northern Virginia Dental Society, the Maryland Mission of Mercy, and Remote Area Medical Virginia Section with thousands of dollars of dental services provided to local underserved communities every year.

Dr. Eugene Giannini - Treasurer

I am asking your support of my candidacy as Treasurer for the DC Dental Society. It is critical for the Treasurer to have firsthand experience in the operations of the Society and the impact our programs have for our members and our profession. My track record of service and commitment to organized dentistry and our Society began while I was a student at Georgetown Dental School as a two term National Vice President of the American Student Dental Association. After graduation and a general practice residency in New York, I returned to DC and began my involvement with DCDS by serving on several committees. These culminated in my selection as Chairman of the Nation's Capital Dental Meeting in 2004 and later to serve as President in 2006.



I was later appointed to the ADA's Council on Communication in 2006 for a four year term and also served as the council's consultant to the ADA's Council on Governmental Affairs. I was later appointed to the District of Columbia Board of Dentistry's Anesthesia Task Force in 2009 and have served in an advisory position to the board. In 2014, I chaired the Society's Executive Director Search and I currently serve as a member of the DCDS Public Policy Committee and the DC Dental Political Action Committee.

You can see that I have been involved at all levels in our Society and have a proven record of engagement and results. I am proud to live and work in the District and feel my experience and understanding of the Society's past finances and budgets will provide me with the skills required for this position. I look forward to being an active member of the Board if given the opportunity.

Candidates for Secretary

Dr. Michael Blicher

I am a native Washingtonian and a graduate of the University of Maryland School of Dentistry. After graduation, I served in the USAF for 2 years and then entered private practice.

I have been active in organized dentistry for many years having served as Chair of the Nation's Capital Dental Meeting, Chair of DC's Give Kids a Smile Day, President of the DC Dental Society from 2008 – 2009, Chair of the ADA's Council on Annual Sessions and General Chair of the 2013 ADA Annual Meeting in New Orleans. I have been awarded fellowships in the International College of Dentists, the American College of Dentists, the Pierre Fouchard Academy and the Academy of General Dentistry. I am currently the Chair of the Academy of General Dentistry's Scientific Meeting Council and General Chair of their 2020 Scientific Meeting.



My years of service, both locally and nationally, have given me a deep sense of what members in all phases of practice life need and expect from our Dental Society. I am just finishing my first term as DCDS Secretary and would appreciate your support so that I can continue to serve and advocate for our member dentists to the best of my ability.

Dr. Sally Cram



I have been a member of the DC dental community for over 30 years. Upon graduation from Georgetown University School of Dentistry and the University of Texas Health Science Center's graduate periodontal training program, I established a private periodontal practice here in Washington, DC in 1988. I have held previous teaching positions at Georgetown University School of Dentistry and Northern Virginia Community College's Dental Hygiene Program. I have always been very active in organized dentistry during and after graduation from dental school. I am a past president of the D.C. Dental Society, having served on almost every committee over the years. I am currently the President of the D.C. Dental Society's Foundation.

I have been involved at the national level as a spokesperson and consumer advisor for the American Dental Association since 2001 and have served as a delegate and alternate delegate to the ADA's House of Delegates since 2004. I was proud to be nominated as the Local Arrangements Chair for the 2015 ADA Annual Session here in Washington. I have served on and chaired the American Academy of Periodontology's Clinical Practice Committee and have lectured locally and nationally on periodontics, communication and leadership.

My numerous experiences on the local and national level have given me insight into the DC Dental Society's strengths and challenges and I feel very strongly that we need mentors who can help the next generation of dentists succeed as leaders. I know the importance of keeping our members informed and involved about issues on the local and national levels. I think I have a unique perspective, with the ability to listen and communicate with all of my peers to constructively solve problems and build consensus. If elected as your secretary, my job would be to continue to advocate for you and ensure that you are kept informed on any issues that may affect you and your practices. I humbly ask for your vote.

Board of Directors Candidates

Dr. Hillary Hochman



It is my honor to be nominated for a position on the Board of Directors. I graduated from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in 2009 and practiced general dentistry in New Hampshire for two years, where I was voted one of New Hampshire's Top Dentists. I moved to Washington, DC in 2011 and practiced in Reston, Virginia for four years. I have been with Comprehensive Dental Care downtown since 2015.

It has been such a pleasure to be a part of the society, from getting to know the dentists that have had long and decorated careers, to working alongside the "new wave" of younger dentists to the city. My focus is to encourage engagement of the newer generation of dentists in DC--to collaborate and support each other in our careers and community, and foster the mentorship we receive from the dentists that have maintained the integrity of our profession in the district for decades.

I feel very lucky to practice in such close proximity to such talented specialists and incredibly gifted general dentists. We have so much to learn from each other in the spirit of collegiality. Thank you for your consideration.

Dr. Naghmeh "Nina" Latifi

I was born in Lincoln NE but raised for most of my childhood in Iran. In search for a better life, real liberty and the pursuit of happiness, I moved back to the US in 2003. After a few years of working and preparing for dental school, I attended Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine, graduating with my DMD in 2014. I continued my studies to completed my advanced specialty training in endodontics at New York University College of Dental Medicine in 2016. With my "always in training husband", I practiced as an endodontist in Boston and Chicago. In Boston I served as a member of the Attending Clinical Faculty of Tufts University School of Dental Medicine and was active in the local Dental Society.



While living in New York I was able to participate in multiple pro bono outreach programs including in Nepal and Mexico, where I helped to treat under-served communities in need of endodontic care. My "always-in motion" life has given me deep insight of different cultures, and more understanding of different challenges, and learning ways to find solutions.

I became a diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics in 2019 and have been a member of the American Association of Endodontists since 2014 and the American Dental Association since 2010. I moved permanently to Washington DC in 2018, with my husband, who is a Hepatopancreatobiliary and transplant surgeon at Georgetown University, and we are ready to start this next exciting chapter of our lives. I have enjoyed working with Dr. Moiseiwitsch at DC Endodontics. I feel honored and humbled to be nominated as a candidate to serve as a member of the board of directors for the District of Columbia Dental Society and respectfully ask you for your kind consideration.

Board of Directors Candidates

Dr. Kim Menhinick



Born and raised in British Columbia, Canada, I moved to Cleveland Ohio in 1993 to work towards completing a D.D.S at Case Western Reserve University. A GPR at Illinois Masonic Hospital in Chicago soon followed. Upon completion I relocated to the Washington, DC and Maryland region to work as a general dentist. After a few years of practice, I chose to pursue a residency in Endodontics at Baylor University in Dallas, where I earned a Certificate in Endodontics and a Masters in Oral Biology. Returning to the area thereafter I joined Advanced Endodontic Associates where I have since been practicing for the past 17 years.

During my time here in the District I have maintained active involvement with the DC Dental Society on a variety levels. This has included involvement in the planning of Mid-Atlantic/Nations Capital dental meetings, participating in Give Kids a Smile Day, chair of the Fall Symposium for Licensure, and rendering care for Spanish Catholic Charity patients. In addition, I have previously held positions on the DCDS board as well as overseeing volunteers at the Mission of Mercy held here in DC in conjunction with the annual ADA meeting.

As a longtime member of our society I have always felt it was important to maintain involvement to keep our society strong. It is vital that we remain on the political forefront, at both local and national levels. My intent as a member at large on the DCDS board is to bring a broad knowledge base as well as a unique perspective that spans the period I have practiced in the District. I will dedicate my energy to be a clear and effective voice for the membership, because I believe we are a society that is truly passionate about our profession, our community and our future. Thank you for your time.

Dr. Babak Noohi

I left my country of origin Iran at the age of 21 to pursue a dream, “become a dentist and live 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 my wife and I decided to move and live in Maryland and that was the main reason to apply to Uni. Of Maryland for the postgraduate education. I was accepted in the advanced education in Prosthodontics, upon completing the program in 2008, I entered the Periodontal and Implant Prosthetic Fellowship program and successfully completed this one year program in July of 2009. I also received a MS degree from the Uni. 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 3rd and 4th years, which was an exceptional experience being able to share my knowledge with those who had difficulties to catch up with the curriculum. I was also a member and an active participant of the Students council during the last three years at NYU, advocating the interests of dental students as a whole. I have been working in Washington DC since the summer of 2009, when I became a member of DCDS.



My desire to for organized dentistry has been to merely to be part of the Dental Society and help in any capacity I can. I had been volunteering for Mid-Atlantic dental meetings ever since I joined the DCDS and also was part of the Bylaw committee for 2 years. I have two young kids, Ethan 9 yo, and Chloe 7 yo and a wife of 20 years. I feel humbled and honored to be nominated again to be part of the DCDS Board committee and I am looking forward in working and helping on your behalf.

Board of Directors Candidates



Dr. Luke Schwartz

Born and raised in Fredericksburg, VA, I discovered my passion for dentistry at a young age. My father, a dentist himself, was a private-practice owner and taught me the value of giving back to the community. When I was a teenager, he encouraged me to volunteer at our town's free dental clinic, the Lloyd F. Moss Free Clinic. It was there that I realized I wanted to pursue a career in dentistry.

After completing my undergraduate studies at Wake Forest University, I began my dental profession by attending Temple University – Kornberg School of Dentistry. To further my training in dentistry & healthcare, I completed a two-year General Practice Residency back at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. During the second year of my residency, I had the honor of serving as the chief resident for the program. I am also a Fellow with the Academy of General Dentistry.

Upon completion of my residency, I moved to Washington, DC where I joined Drs. Brian Gray and Eugene Giannini in their practice. I did not hesitate to join the DC Dental Society as I value being involved with the local dental community and giving back to our profession. Since joining, I have regularly volunteered with the DCDS at both the NBC4 Health & Fitness Expo and in the ADA National Signing Day for the graduating dental students at Howard University. Currently, I serve on the Continuing Education Committee and look forward to strengthening the value of this DCDS member benefit.

I am honored to be a candidate to serve all of you on the Board of Directors for the DCDS. The great comradery amongst our members and shared desire to better our profession is why I love being a member of the DCDS. If elected, I will work to help our society continuously be a great resource for us all to grow both our individual careers and our profession. Thank you for your consideration.

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Letter From The President

I do not pretend to have all the answers. Those will be determined by scientists focused on statistical analysis of the virus's progression. However, I do have some thoughts.

It is clear that we will be pressing elevator buttons with our knuckles, practicing social distancing and wearing face masks for some time to come. I wish my iPhone recognized me with my face mask on, but that is the least of our problems. Obviously what we want is to get back to our offices and to perform all the procedures that we were prior to being shut down except for emergency care. Our patients are clamoring to be seen and treated and I know that we want to get our faithful, hard working dental auxiliaries back to work as well.

We may have to start scheduling our patients so that there are only one or two individuals in the reception area at a time. They will need to be queried about recent or current fevers. Perhaps their temperatures should be checked while still in the reception area and quick response antigen testing should be conducted once available.

SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be spread primarily through respiratory droplets. We must be able to address this issue. Some new equipment that we will have to purchase, if you do not already have them in stock, are plastic face shields and N-95 respirators. Most of the dental masks that are typically worn are ineffective since they have pores that are much larger than the average coronavirus particle that is 0.125 microns. The virus will pass through those masks with ease.

Related to the costs of maintaining supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE), DrBicuspid.com recently published a [Q&A session](#) on PPE and insurance reimbursement with insurance industry expert Teresa Duncan.²

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Letter From The 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.

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 CE.

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

Get the Return to Work Interim Guidance Toolkit

Is your office ready to see patients for non-emergency appointments?

As some states move to reopen, the **ADA's Advisory Task Force for Dental Practice Recovery** has developed this free toolkit with interim guidance which recommends measures to take to help protect patients, staff and dentists from COVID-19 as dental practices re-engage in providing the full range of oral health care.

The toolkit includes:

- Sample letter to patients
- Guidance on pre-appointment screening
- In-office patient registration procedures
- Reception area preparation strategies
- Chairside checklist
- Staff protection strategies
- Supplies shopping list

The COVID-19 pandemic and our knowledge of the disease is constantly changing, so the toolkit will be updated as we learn more.

Find more guidance, digital events and the latest on COVID-19 and dentistry at [ADA.org/virus](https://ada.org/virus).

Together, we're one dental community.

[View More Information Here](#)

Watch On Demand: Respiratory Protection in the Era of COVID-19

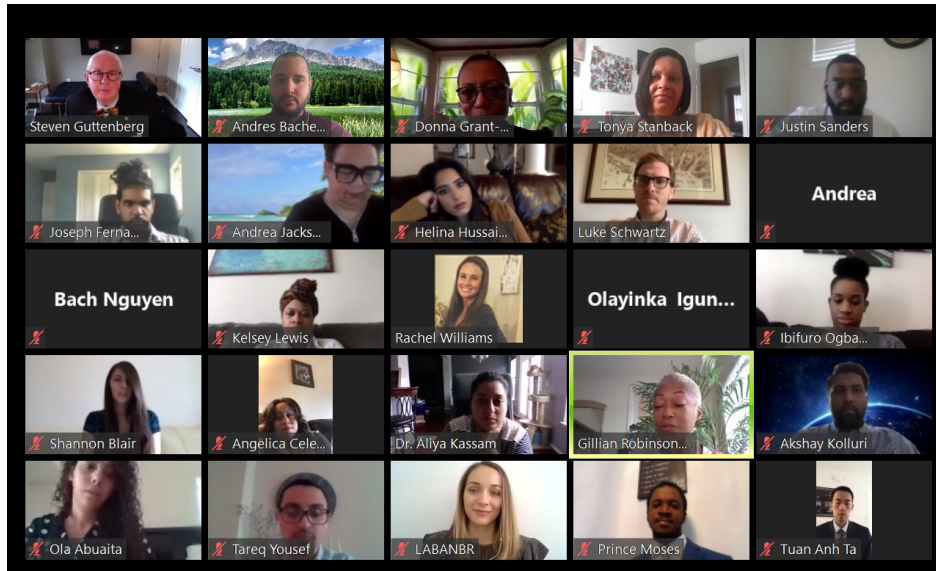
One of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic is the reality that dentistry must reassess what levels of personal protective equipment (PPE) are appropriate for different procedures. This could mean that some practices will be using N95, or N95 equivalent, respirators for the first time. In this webinar from April 24, 2020, Eve Cuny and Kathy Eklund, experts from the Organization for Safety, Asepsis, and Prevention (OSAP) discuss:

- Steps to introduce the use of N95 and other respirators in dental settings
- Practical tips for developing the OSHA respiratory protection program, including fit-testing, medical evaluation and training
- Different levels of surgical masks and how they compare to N95 respirators
- Proper steps for donning and doffing of all PPE

[View More Information Here](#)

Howard National Signing Day Was A Success

A big thank you to Dr. Anna Bettios for helping to organize this event and to Dr. Steven Guttenberg, Dr. Aliya Kassam, and Dr. Luke Schwartz for participating in our virtual Howard National Signing Day. More than sixty students participated in the virtual event.



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Letter From The President

Our staffs are very good at disinfecting our operatory hard surfaces and dental chairs. We will need to be even more meticulous since coronavirus can live for up to 72 hours on plastic and stainless steel surfaces.³ In the future, it may take longer to clean an operatory and therefore fewer patients can be scheduled for care. However, as we have become acutely aware from the COVID-19 pandemic, the most intangible route of pathogen transmission, the air that surrounds us, is being increasingly recognized as a serious infection-transmitting hazard in our office.⁴ This is particularly acute in the dental setting where bioaerosol production is a common event and the virus is viable for up to 3 hours in the air.⁵

A recent New York Times infographic (March 15, 2020) revealed dentistry to be the most at risk profession in the United States. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) ranks our profession in the very-high-risk category, due to our exposure to aerosolization. To put this ranking in perspective there is no category ranked as more dangerous. They recommend that dental practices install negative-pressure rooms or airborne infection isolation rooms for operatories. They further recommend a variety of available respirators, like N95.⁵

Therefore serious consideration should also be given to acquiring an air purifying system that uses short-wave ultraviolet light (UV-C) and High Efficiency Particulate Arrestance (HEPA) filters. This will further help to diminish the potentially harmful effects of aerosolization.

These measures will not be inexpensive and the cost of patient care will rise. Insurance companies will need to increase their reimbursement to accommodate these measures.

In closing, I wish to point out that this month's President's Letter is not meant to make one fearful of the future. It is presented as stimulus to consider what may or must be done so that our future continues to flourish in a safe environment for us and our staffs, and in which our patients can receive the same excellent care to which they have become accustomed.

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Letter From The President



A ACCELERATOR SERIES

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Health Professional Loan Repayment Program

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APPLY TO HPLRP:
bit.ly/2MzONXV

On May 1, 2020, the District of Columbia Department of Health (DC Health) will accept applications for the Health Professional Loan Repayment Program (HPLRP). The program provides loan repayment services to eligible providers practicing in HPLRP-certified Service Obligation Sites (SOS) in the District. New provider applications will be accepted from **May 1 – May 31, 2020**.

The HPLRP will issue up to seven (7) award contracts to primary care, mental health and dental providers, including: physicians, dentists, dental hygienists, registered nurses, midwives, advanced practice nurses, physician assistants, licensed clinical social workers, clinical psychologists, and professional counselors. Award contracts will cover two years of participation and award contract amounts will be equivalent to 44 percent of a provider's total eligible debt - up to a maximum of \$67,952.62 for physicians and up to \$37,373.01 for all other eligible primary care providers.

Providers interested in the program must be employed or have an employment contract with a certified Service Obligation Site (SOS) to provide direct patient care for at least 40 hours per week. A site must be an approved SOS for a provider to be eligible for the HPLRP. To become an SOS, a site must be a public or nonprofit entity located in a Health Professional Shortage or Medically Underserved Area/Population (HPSA/MUA/MUP) and must submit a Site Certification Application to the HPLRP. HPLRP applications, including recommendation letters and loan verification information, must be completed and submitted to DC Health by May 31, 2019.

The anticipated contract start date for selected applicants is July 2020.

HPLRP Application Technical Assistance Conference Call

Wednesday, April 8, 2020

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Conference Call In Number: 1-866-817-5653 Participant Code: 6207986

Thank you to our 2020 Premier Partners



The Hasenberg Hartsock Group



As dentists, we are allowed to perform numerous “medical” tests, including but not limited to blood glucose, HbA1C, hemoglobin testing, and cultures of infected tissues. Once the testing kits become available, we have an opportunity to be a tremendous boost to public health by performing SARS-CoV-2 antigen and antibody evaluation. This is especially important for our country since fewer than 1% of inhabitants of the United States have been tested as of April 22, per the Johns Hopkins University.

Abbott Laboratories recently announced a point-of-care swab test that can deliver results in as little as 5 minutes. That will be a substantial addition to our arsenal for patient and staff safety.

The District of Columbia has previously encouraged the dental community to test for HIV. Testing for the SARS-CoV-2 antigen or antibody should be a similarly great benefit to all of our patients and the people that they may infect. What’s more, dentists should be allowed to administer the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine to the public once it becomes available. Our role as oral physicians will become more solidified. In fact, the ADA told HHS that “administering these types of tests falls under licensed dentists’ scope of practice” and said “by issuing federal recognition, dentists would qualify as ‘covered persons’ under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act, which may extend protection from liability associated with the administration or use of FDA-authorized COVID-19 tests.”

Certainly, now that saliva testing has been shown to be a valid modality to detect SARS-CoV-2 we need to push for its availability.⁷ Who knows saliva better than dentists?

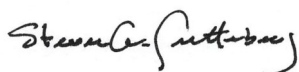
The DC Dental Society and the ADA have your back. As ADA president Dr. Gehani said. “We want to be the primary resource for the practicing dental community,” and “we want to pass on information that is evidence-based, that is science based, and that is very much factual.”

While the ADA’s interim recommendation is for dentists to postpone nonurgent procedures until April 30, Dr. Gehani said that “dentists need to follow what’s being asked of them in their own states – either by their state boards or by their governors.” In addition, the ADA Advisory Task Force on Dental Practice Recovery is hard at work addressing the concerns of our members regarding the limited availability of certain personal protective equipment.

On April 14, 2020, Muriel Bowser, mayor of DC extended the public emergency and public health emergency through May 15, 2020. I would not be surprised if the order is extended until later in the year.

We are a resilient profession and will overcome this destructive pandemic. We will not sink!

Sincerely,



Steven A. Guttenberg, DDS, MD
DCDS President

¹ Kissler *et al.*, Projecting the transmission dynamics of SARS-CoV-2 through the postpandemic period, *Science* 10.1126 (2020)

² Henry, Kevin, Q&A with Teresa Duncan on PPE and insurance reimbursement, DrBicuspid.com, April 27, 2020.

³ van Doremalen N, Bushmaker T, Morris DH, et al. Aerosol and surface stability of SARS-CoV-2 as compared with SARS-CoV-1. *N Engl J Med.*, March 17, 2020.

⁴ Ward, K. Airborne contamination in dentistry. *Int Dent SA* 2006; 9:62-5.

⁵ Laheij AMGA, Kistler JO, Belibasakis GN, Valimaa H, JJ de Soet. Health care associated viral and bacterial infections in dentistry. *J Oral Microbiol*; 2012;4:17659.

⁶ Guidance on preparing workplaces for COVID-19. US Department of Labor. Occupational Safety and Health Administration. 2020. <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>

⁷ Lorenzo Azzi, Giulio Carcano, Francesco Gianfagna, et al, Saliva is a reliable tool to detect SARS-CoV-2, *Journal of Infection*, April 14, 2020

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