



District of Columbia
DENTAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

January 2021, Vol. 67, No. 1



Dr. Ladan Basiri

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

Dear Colleagues,

I hope that you had a restful and relaxing start to your 2021 and are ready and energized to go back to work.

We have had several milestones achieved towards the end of 2020, one of which was the EAU approval of the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines – a panel of outside advisers to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has endorsed both vaccines for emergency use. Each vaccine requires two doses, given three or four weeks apart, for each person inoculated.

The Moderna vaccine has less onerous cold storage requirements than the Pfizer/BioNTech shot, making it a better option for remote and rural areas. The initial 2.9 million doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine has begun shipping and making their way to hospitals across the country and into the arms of doctors, nurses, and other frontline medical professionals.

Our task as health care providers to educate the public on vaccination and to lead by example is more imperative than ever. The FDA, an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, protects the public health by assuring the safety, effectiveness, and security of human and veterinary drugs, vaccines and other biological products (for human use), and medical devices. Dentists and their teams must be vaccinated and reassure and educate the public about what the FDA and HHS have done to guarantee the safety of these vaccines, so they can be administered to everyone.

There are, of course, questions to which we still have no definitive answers,

(Continued on Page 3)

A Look Inside...

- Letter from the President1
- COVID-19 Vaccine Updates2
- Jan. CE Program: Occlusion, Bite Splints & the New Patient Exam...5
- Save the Date: Spring 2021 Symposium for Licensure6
- DCDS Election: Meet the Candidates for DCDS Delegation to the ADA House of Delegates8
- News from the ADA.....13
- Classifieds.....16

Reach Us

2001 K Street, NW
3rd Floor North
Washington, D.C. 20006
P: (202) 367-1163
F: (202) 367-2163
E: info@dcdental.org

Cover Photo: DCDS President Dr. Ladan Basiri receives her COVID-19 vaccine at a local Safeway after booking through the [DC COVID-19 Vaccination Appointment Portal](#).

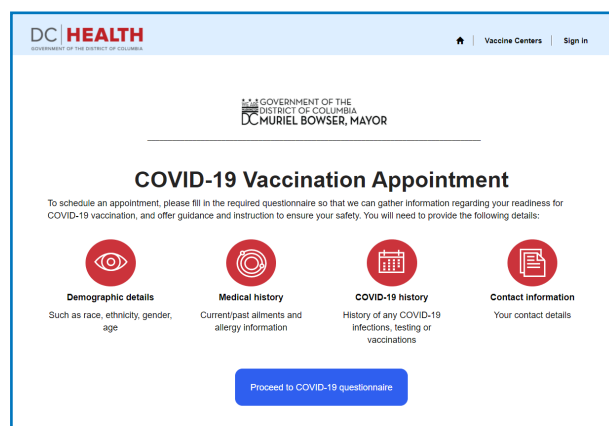
Dentists and Dental Team Members Should Book Their First Vaccine Dose Through the DC Appointment Portal

Dentists and dental team members can book their appointment to receive their first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine through the D.C. government's COVID-19 Vaccination Appointment portal at vaccinatega.dc.gov. Registrants are required to complete a brief questionnaire via the blue button at the bottom of the page in order to access the appointment options.

Technical issues with the portal should be reported to the D.C. government by writing to vaccinatedc@dc.gov.

Licensed dental care professionals are encouraged to bring a copy of their license to their appointment.

If a team member does not have a DC license, DC Health suggests they bring a letter from the practice attesting that they qualify as a worker in a healthcare setting with direct or indirect exposure to infectious materials.



Second Dose Should be Scheduled Through Pharmacy/Provider

DC Health has advised that the appointment to receive the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine should be booked directly through the facility where the first dose is administered. The second dose should be administered at the same location to reduce distribution and availability challenges.

DC Health is providing guidance to pharmacies and other facilities in DC to clarify the process of scheduling appointments for the second dose.

Mayor Bowser Announces New Details on Vaccine Rollout During January 4th COVID-19 Situational Update

DC plans to expand eligibility to receive the COVID-19 vaccine to new segments of the population according to the following schedule:

Week of January 11: DC residents who are 65 years old and older

Week of January 25: Specific categories of essential workers, including public safety workers, grocery store workers, workers in PreK-12 educational settings and childcare settings

Week of February 1: DC residents with chronic medical conditions and other essential workers

[Read summary of the January 4th COVID-19 Situational Update here.](#)

such as: will vaccinating adults enough to curb the spread of this virus? Will vaccination prevent asymptomatic spread? Is the developed immune response durable and protective? How long can we expect immunity to last? Following the FDA's emergency use authorization (EUA) for the new COVID-19 vaccine, it might be helpful to review the ADA's [new fact sheet for dentists with questions \(read background information\)](#). We must continue to be vigilant about the safety measures we have taken to protect ourselves, our teams, and our patients. As of December 21st, the virus has claimed over 315,260 lives in the United States ([see latest statistics](#)), and health experts have warned of a deepening crisis this winter as intensive care units (ICUs) and hospital beds fill up.

Another important 2020 milestone was diagnostic testing. The FDA has authorized a COVID-19 antigen test for over-the-counter, [fully at-home diagnostic use](#). The test – to be sold in drug stores – is authorized for individuals 2 years of age or older, including those not showing symptoms. According to FDA commissioner Dr. Stephen Hahn, patients swab their nose, run the test, and find out their results in 20 minutes. The FDA has authorized more than 225 diagnostic tests for COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic, including more than 25 tests that allow for at-home collection of samples, which are then sent to a lab for testing. The Ellume COVID-19 Home Test is the first COVID-19 test that can be used completely at home without a prescription. The FDA continues to work with test developers to expand access to COVID-19 testing and support further development of COVID-19 tests that can be used completely at home.

As you may have read in recent DCDS emails, dentists and their teams are [now able to be vaccinated](#) as members of Phase 1A, which is the highest priority. Dentists and their teams can register to receive a COVID-19 vaccine at [vaccinatega.dc.gov](#) (read the CDC web page "[The Importance of COVID-19 Vaccination for Healthcare Personnel](#)" for more information). We are grateful to the Board of Dentistry for their close collaboration with us and to DC Health for responding to our letter sent to them and to Mayor Bowser. I thank our executive director, Mr. Kurt Gallagher, the executive committee, and the board for their input in composing that important letter.

On December 16th, the Board announced the latest census, which is as follows:

Dentists (1,273), Dental Hygienists (505), Dental Hygienists with the authority to administer Local Anesthesia (100), Dental Hygienists with the authority to administer Local Anesthesia & Nitrous Oxide (56), Dental Hygienists with the authority to administer Nitrous Oxide (2), Dental Assistant Level 1 (582), Dental Assistant Level 2 (120), Teaching Licenses for Dentists (3), Teaching Licenses for Dental Hygienist (0).

In PPE news, Dr. Rene Mccoy-Collins stated that in DC and MD, it is unlawful to charge for PPE, infection control, and therapeutic biological agents. It is up to the provider to raise their fees to cover the costs, but this has to be done across the board for all fees.

I am looking forward to seeing you virtually during the January 12th monthly meeting, in which Dr. Mark Klieve will present on Occlusion, Bite Splints, New Patient Examination. During our business meeting, one Delegate and one Alternate Delegate will be elected to serve on the ADA House of Delegates. Dr. Stephen Tigani is running unopposed for the Delegate position, and the three candidates for the Alternative Delegate position are: Dr. Aliya Kassam, Dr. Katie Clark, and Dr. Olga Spivak. The elected individual will serve a 2-year term and represent DCDS membership at the national level.

In April, DCDS is looking forward to the first virtual Licensure Symposium under the leadership of Dr. Kim Menhinick and her planning committee. It promises to enable you to fulfill most of those courses that are specifically required to renew your license. In addition, new rules adopted by the DC Board of Dentistry, you can get your CPR certification renewed through online courses.

Please also stay tuned for the upcoming 2021 Board and Committee open positions and the Award and Nominations Committee's announcement accepting nominations for 2021. The list of these awards and their descriptions can be found on our website, www.dcdental.org. This year, the awards will be presented either in person or virtually in June.

I want to thank you for your dedication as a member of the DC Dental Society this past year. If you have not already done so, please renew your membership for 2021 – you can renew your ADA and DCDS membership on line at dcdental.org/login. If you have not received your renewal letter, please contact us at info@dcdental.org, and we will be sure to respond to you very promptly.

In a year unlike any other, I thank you for everything you have done to improve the lives of those around you and bring our world closer together. I wish you a safe and healthy New Year and look forward to a time when we can be together again.

Sincerely,

Ladan

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

Thank you to our 2020-2021 Partners



January CE Event: "Occlusion, Bite Splints and the New Patient Exam"

Clinical CE Virtual Presentation by Dr. Mark Kleive
Tuesday, January 12, 2021



Business Meeting Begins at 5:45 PM
Educational Program Begins at Approximately 6:00 PM
CE Credits Offered: 2.5 CE Credits

Free to Members | \$110 for Non-Members

Please register by 5 PM on Monday, January 11.*

Visit the [DCDS Registration Fees & Cancellation Policy page](#) for more details on registration.

Course Description:

Dentists and team members strive for simple and effective strategies for diagnosis and treatment planning with their new patients. However current challenges include the patient's lack of awareness of their current health status, and dependence on dental insurance. Helping our patients transition from where they are now to a healthier place is a process that does not have to be complicated. There are several ways in which we can help connect our patients with the tools they need to make informed decisions and become a partner in their treatment process.

While the concepts of occlusion have many dentists confused, they really can be simple. We just have to apply them appropriately for each patient. The most frequent questions posed by dentists include: Which teeth need to touch for stability? What bite (CR or IP) is appropriate for this patient? How do I know when to equilibrate? What bite splint design is going to be therapeutic for stability?

This course will review the esthetic, functional, structural, and biological components of thorough hygiene and doctor exams with particular emphasis on clear patient communication, shared decision making and occlusal awareness and treatment.

Learning Objectives:

Session 1 6:00-7:30 pm

1. Discover the steps of building strong patient relationships
2. Effectively set the stage for engagement during each and every visit to your practice
3. Master the components of the collaborative oral health examination and discovery process
4. Engage the patient in a collaborative "choiceful" decision process
5. Grow your practice in both production and happiness

Session 2 7:40-8:40 pm

1. Learn the contributing factors to occlusal disease.
2. Confirm when equilibration is important and when intercuspal position (IP) is the reasonable restorative position
3. Understand the essentials of diagnosis & treatment planning for achieving occlusal stability.

For more information about the speaker, [please click here](#).

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 credits.

[Register Here](#)

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* Attendees registering by the requested deadline will receive the link for the CE evaluation the evening of the event. Those registering after the requested deadline will receive the link within 48 hours after event.

SPRING 2021

SYMPOSIUM FOR LICENSURE

Save the Date: Spring Symposium for Licensure Coming Saturday, April 17

The D.C. Dental Society is pleased to announce that the Spring 2021 Symposium for Licensure will be held virtually on Saturday, April 17. This one-day event will provide the latest mix of courses (except for CPR) required by the D.C. Board of Dentistry [for licensure renewal of dentists](#) and dental team members.

The following table lists the courses that will be offered and the number of hours that are required for dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants:

Course Category	Hours Offered	Required for Dentists	Required for Dental Hygienists	Required for Dental Assistants
Infection Control	2 hours	2 hours	2 hours	2 hours
LGBTQ Cultural Competency	2 hours	2 hours	2 hours	2 hours
Ethics	1 hour	1 hours	1 hour	1 hour
Abuse and Misuse of Prescription Drugs/Opioids	2 hours	2 hours for prescribers	Not Required	Not Required

Watch for updates over the next few weeks. Registration will open soon.

How to Access Your Official Verification of Continuing Education Credits Online All Year

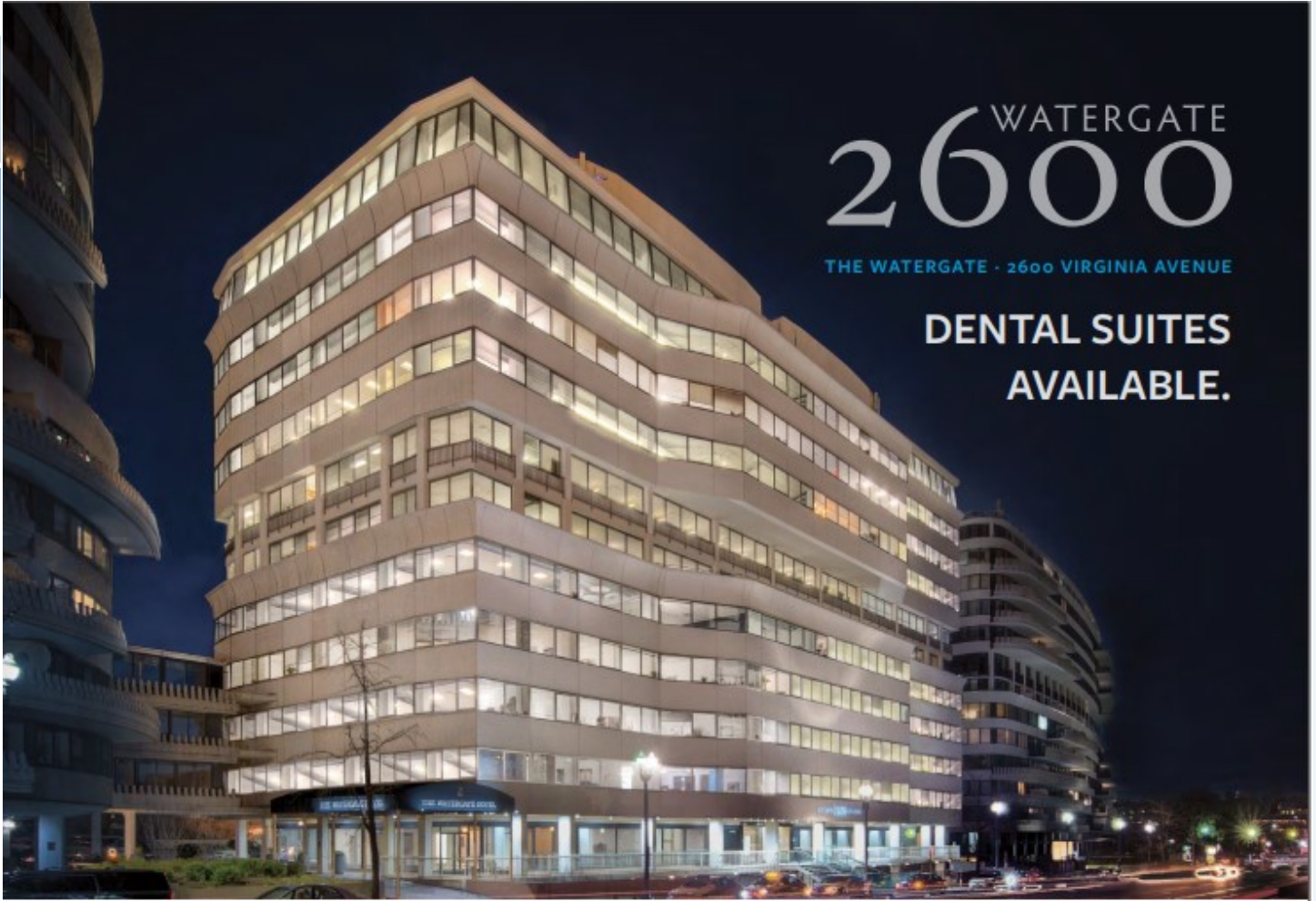
All member can access their Official Verification of Continuing Education Credits at any time through the DCDS online system when they complete the evaluation after each CE session. Here are [step-step instructions](#) on how to register to receive your CE credits and retrieve your verification. To log into the system, use the following credentials:

- Username: Your ADA Number
- Password: dcds

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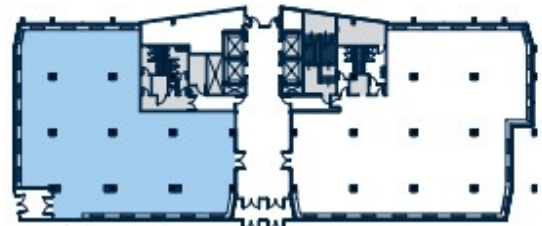
- Fully built-out, former dental suite
- 3 patient rooms with sinks, restroom, reception, office, front desk, and storage in-place

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- 1st floor space in shell condition
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Suite T127



Suite 103

ADAM BIBERAJ
abiberaj@lpc.com
202.513.6736

MERRILL TURNBULL
mturnbull@lpc.com
202.513.6713

BETH WILZBACH
bwilzbach@lpc.com
202.513.6733

TIM WEITZEL
tweitzel@lpc.com
202.513.6716

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DCDS Election: Meet the Candidates for Delegate and Alternate Delegate to the ADA House of Delegates

DCDS is conducting an election for the latest members of its delegation to the ADA House of Delegates. The election is being conducted by [electronic ballot](#) only. DCDS members may vote up until Tuesday, January 12, at 6:00 p.m.

Election results will be announced at the end of the monthly business meeting on January 12th. [Register for the January monthly here.](#)

Dr. Stephen Tigani—Candidate for Delegate

My name is Stephen Tigani, and I am running as your Delegate to the American Dental Association. I have humbly served as your alternate delegate from 2013 to 2016 and as your delegate from 2017 to the present. Advocating for my fellow dentists and for our patients remains my priority and my commitment as your representative on current issues that affect our practice, our membership, our community and the future of dentistry. In addition, under the leadership of our former trustee and ADA President, Dr. Jeffrey Cole, I was asked to represent the Fourth district by serving on the ADA Council on Membership from 2016 to 2019. It was an honor to serve you in these capacities and I hope you will continue to trust that I will represent you to the best of my ability.



I have served on the DCDS Board of Directors for several years and have immensely enjoyed working with our colleagues. After acting as Chair of our Nation's Capital Dental Meeting in 2007, I served as your President from 2009 to 2010. As a member of the Strategic Planning Task Force in 2010, 2012 and 2017, I have had the pleasure of working beside members to ensure the vitality and future of our Society. In support of academia, I have served as a clinical instructor in the Post Graduate Orthodontic Studies Program at the Washington Hospital Center from 1998 through 2008. I am currently a Dean's Faculty member at the University of Maryland, School of Dentistry, Post Graduate Clinics.

Awarded as a Fellow to the International College of Dentists and to the American College of Dentists, I proudly serve others. As an active member of my community, I continue to embrace advocacy for all patients. In 2019, I received the honor of the Pro Bono Health Care Award from the John Carroll Society, Archdiocese Health Care Network as a provider for pro bono health care for over twenty-eight years.

I have been a member of the District of Columbia Dental Society since 1992. I genuinely enjoy serving our community and our society. It is with your blessing that I will continue to be your humble servant.

My door is always open, and I look forward to continuing to serve you, our society and the American Dental Association.

2021 ADA/DCDS Membership: Renew Today

Thank you for your membership in the DC Dental Society! Because ADA/DCDS membership runs on a calendar year, it is once again time for membership renewals. If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2021, you may do so on the [DCDS website](#).

Don't miss out on DCDS monthly meetings, other exclusive member benefits or updates that are critical to your practice. If you have not yet received your renewal invoice or believe that your dues total is incorrect, please contact the DCDS office.

Membership dues may be [paid online via credit card](#) or by a check made payable to the District of Columbia Dental Society. Checks should be mailed to:

DC Dental Society
PO Box 776391
Chicago, IL 60677-6391

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to serving you in 2021.

DCDS Election: Meet the Candidates for Alternate Delegate to the ADA House of Delegates

Dr. Kathryn (Katie) Clark—Candidate for Alternate Delegate

As someone who grew up just outside of DC, I am incredibly thankful to now be practicing here and part of this amazing dental community.

I completed my dental training at the University of Maryland Dental School and my orthodontic residency at Oregon Health Sciences University. I received my undergraduate degree in Neuroscience from the College of William and Mary. I have been in practice in Tenleytown for the past 10 years. I am an active member of the AAO, DCDS, GWAWD and Spears study clubs. I served on the Mid-Atlantic Dental Meeting Committee from 2015-2017 selecting the capsule clinic lectures and coordinating the volunteers. Currently, I am serving as Chair of the DCDS Membership Committee. In my spare time, my husband and I enjoy watching our three kids participate in their many sporting events and activities. With whatever time is left, I also love to knit, make pottery, read, and to swim.



Finally, I was recently reminded of a story from dental school in which I had relayed a dental joke to my sister that my classmates and I had found funny. She responded that I had, "found my people!" I truly did, and I hope to have the opportunity to represent our local dentists as an Alternate Delegate to the ADA.

DCDS Election: Meet the Candidates for Alternate Delegate to the ADA House of Delegates

Dr. Aliya Kassam—Candidate for Alternate Delegate

My name is Aliya Kassam, and I have been an actively participating and dedicated member of The District of Columbia Dental Society since 2014. Our prestigious organization is very important to me and I wholeheartedly believe our mission. As a young dentist and private practice owner, I bring my enthusiasm and energy to our group. Although there are many opportunities for growth and evolution, I would still like to stay true to the core values of the organization. As one who speaks highly of our organization, and has written a handful of letters for members, 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 and would love to learn how our ADA works for us and how we can work for them.



in

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. I am currently an adjunct professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry.

I have also participated very strongly with the DCDS. I have been a volunteer for the 2016 Mid-Atlantic Dental Meeting, a committee member for the 2017 Mid-Atlantic Dental Meeting, and a committee member for our last Symposium. I have also served on the Membership Benefits Committee, New Membership Committee, and the Awards and Nominating Committee. I also currently serve as an At-Large Board Member in our society. 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 plan to take these experiences and make an impact in our organization and the dental community as a whole, and to learn from other organizations as well.

Having strong positive character traits is very important for any leader. 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 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.

DCDS Election: Meet the Candidates for Alternate Delegate to the ADA House of Delegates

Dr. Olga Spivak—Candidate for Alternate Delegate

Dr. Olga Spivak graduated with Honors from Boston University School of Dental Medicine (GSDM) where she received her DMD degree. While growing up in St. Petersburg, Russia, Dr. Spivak received her Bachelor of Science degree and DDS degree from Saint-Petersburg State Medical University.

Throughout her career path her passion has been esthetics dentistry and orthodontics. Upon her graduation from Boston University she received the Hanau Excellence in Prosthodontics Award “Best of the Best Award”. Dr. Spivak completed several Orthodontic internships and externships both nationally and internationally. She has continued to bring current dental innovative techniques internationally to her hometown and elevate the standard of care with the coming generation of dentistry through online webinars and live seminars. She is an Invisalign certified dentist with an affinity in digital dentistry.



Dr. Spivak has been an active member of the community and enjoys giving back to the public. She participates in multiple outreach programs to serve families and children with limited or no access to dental care such as the Special Olympics, Give Kids A Smile, the Health Fair, and AAWD Women to Women event.

She is an active member of the American Dental Association, Massachusetts Dental Society, District of Columbia Dental Society, Greater Washington Academy of Women Dentists and Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity. Dr. Spivak represented the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) at the GSDM chapter as a Community Service Committee. She acted as a Vice-President of American Association of Public Health Dentistry at the GSDM chapter. Dr. Spivak is honored to have served for the past year on the Constitution and Bylaws Committee in the DCDS.

Dr. Olga Spivak holds a personal passion to deliver comprehensive yet conservative dental care to help achieve emotional closure and patient’s satisfaction.



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Trump signs \$2.3T spending, COVID-19 relief package

Reuters, December 28, 2020

President Donald Trump signed a \$2.3 trillion government spending and COVID-19 relief package into law on Dec. 27, averting a government shutdown, Reuters reports. The \$900 billion pandemic relief provisions include funding for stimulus checks of up to \$600 per person, a boost in weekly unemployment benefits, funding for vaccine distribution and small business aid, according to National Public Radio. The Senate failed to vote on a proposal to increase stimulus checks to \$2,000, The Associated Press reports. The ADA will provide members with more information on how the legislation affects dentists in the coming weeks, and an ADA fact sheet on small-business loans has been updated with information on Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loans funding.

Full Story: [Reuters](#) (12/27), [National Public Radio](#) (12/27), [ADA News](#) (12/28), [The Associated Press](#) (12/30)

ADA Offers Resources for Career Advancement

The ADA continues to provide a range of resources for dental professionals looking to enhance their practice, such as the [ADA Accelerator Series](#) with useful leadership and financial resources, modules for practice management under the [Guidelines for Practice Success](#) page, the quarterly [Dental Practice Success](#) online magazine and a collection of [on-demand webinars](#), according to the ADAPT blog. The Association also advocated for dentists throughout 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic, including with the creation of the [ADA COVID-19 Center for Dentists](#) to help dentists navigate through the changed environment.

Full Story: [ADAPT Blog](#) (12/28)

Recall of Sunstar gingivitis oral rinse expanded

Sunstar Americas said that a recall for its Paroex Chlorhexidine Gluconate Oral Rinse for gingivitis announced in October has been expanded to include all gingivitis oral rinses scheduled to expire between Dec. 31, 2020, and Sept. 30, 2022, according to Becker's Dental + DSO Review. According to a news release, the company said use of the product could result in systemic infections that would require antibacterial therapy, and use of the affected products should cease immediately.

Full Story: [Becker's Dental + DSO Review](#) (12/29)



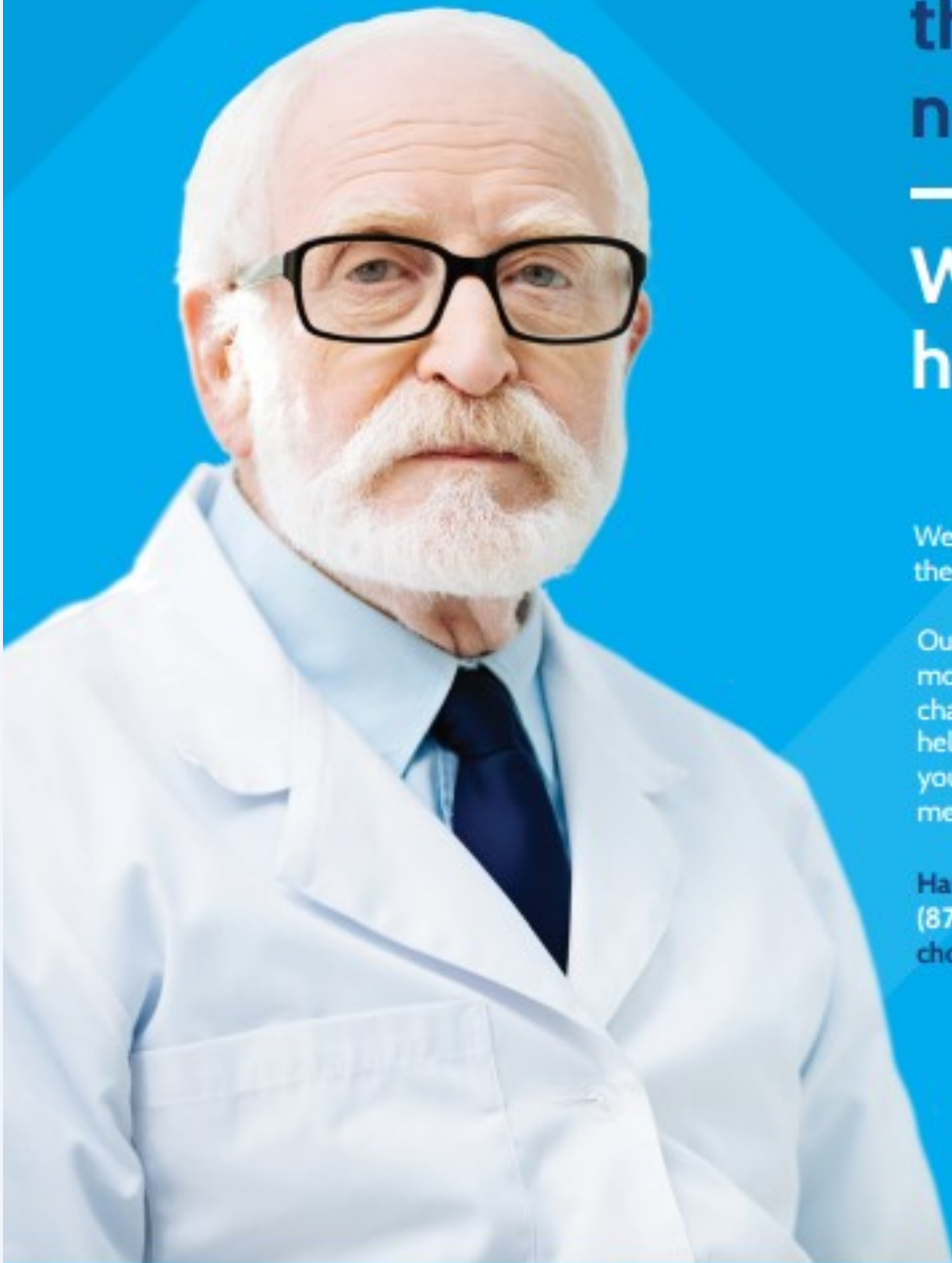
“What’s
the new
normal?”

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ADA[®]

Classifieds

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Description: Dental office space available near both Farragut West and North metro stations. 1-4 furnished tx operatories available depending on the week day(s).

Contact: Jan | 202-812-4990 | varichmail-qu@yahoo.com

Space Sharing in Downtown DC Opportunity

Description: Reduce your overhead, risk. Space share in our state-of-the-art, multi-specialty 11 operatories (General/Endo/Ortho/Perio) practice located in the heart of Downtown DC. A great opportunity for new or established dentist to share space, spec, empl.

Contact: Dr. Samira Shenan | 703-261-3649 | | brr168@gmail.com

Periodontist and/or an Oral Surgeon Needed

Description: Looking to have a Periodontist and/or an Oral Surgeon come to our main office either 1 day a week or every other week to place implants, soft / hard tissue grafts and difficult third extractions. We have a CBCT and Cerec Stent fabrication capabilities.

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

DC Practice for Sale

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

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

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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 publication.