



District of Columbia
DENTAL SOCIETY



An update to contemporary dental

Ceramics

Nathaniel Lawson DMD, PhD
UNIVERSITY OF
SCHOOL OF
DENTISTRY

NEWSLETTER

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Dr. Pierre Cartier

Letter from the DC Dental Society President Elect Pierre Cartier, DMD, MPH, FAGD, FICD, FACD

Dear colleagues,

As I write this letter, I am completing the first series of workshops in the Harvard Medical School's Surgical Leadership Program. This program is designed to provide surgeons (including dentists) with additional training in strategy, accounting, entrepreneurship, and other topics traditionally

taught through MBA programs. It has been exciting to meet providers from all over the world and discuss ideas for enhancing the delivery of surgical healthcare.

One of my favorite lectures was a discussion of brand development led by Professor Ajay Singh. You have likely heard about developing one's own "personal brand" – this is a topic that began emanating from technology circles approximately 10 years ago. University students at the time were routinely coached to "develop a personal brand" to navigate an increasingly competitive career landscape. However, our speaker presented an alternative way to look at personal brand development: Taking control over your professional identity in lieu of allowing others to define you! Developing your own personal brand is not solely a means for survival in today's environment: It is a tool for achieving more meaningful professional interactions and achieving what matters most to you.

The concept of brand development is not limited to individuals – it can be applied to organizations as well. Most can assert that DCDS has a solid reputation in regional organized dentistry circles. Our continuing education program hosts an impressive slate of nationally and internationally recognized speakers. Further, our Society enjoys an atmosphere of camaraderie that is unparalleled in other regional dental organizations. I feel that DCDS is a

(Continued on Page 3)

A Look Inside...

Letter from the President	1
June 10 Awards Meeting, DCDS Election	2
DC Health Launches New Online Licensing System.....	5
Help Those in Need Through DC Dental Cares	5
Nominations Open for Dr. David Whiston Leadership Award	6
Study: Most aerosol droplets in dental procedures from irrigation tools, not saliva.....	7
ADA Recorded Webinar: How to minimize team stress in a stressful environment	8
Classifieds	12

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Cover Photo: Nathaniel Lawson, DMD, PhD presents on "Bonding Dental Ceramics & Materials and Techniques to Improve Class II Composites" during the May 2021 monthly meeting.

Attend the June 10th Annual Awards Meeting online

DCDS election ends June 10th at 12:00 PM

Mark your calendar to attend the June 10th Annual Awards Meeting. This year the event is being held as a hybrid meeting with limited in-person participation due to COVID-19 restrictions. All DCDS members are invited to attend the event virtually.

The event will begin with a brief business meeting during which a vote will be held on a bylaws amendment to synchronize the DCDS fiscal year with the ADA. Help DCDS modernize by voting for this important administrative change. Additional details are provided below.

During the event, the new D.C. Dental Society officers and board members will be installed. In addition, winners of the DCDS and DCDS Foundation awards will be announced.

Register for DCDS Annual Awards Meeting

DCDS bylaws amendment vote on June 10th

During the June 10th business meeting to be held at the opening of the Annual Awards meeting, the DCDS membership will vote on a proposed bylaws amendment to synchronize the DCDS fiscal year with the ADA's membership year. This change will have no impact on the membership period of DCDS members.

This change will improve DCDS' efficiency by shifting the DCDS fiscal year to run from January through December. Read the text of the proposed bylaws amendment by clicking on the image above.



Proposed Bylaws Amendment

Purpose: to Synchronize DCDS Fiscal Year with ADA

9.10 FISCAL YEAR

The Society's fiscal year shall be a twelve-month period beginning January 1 and ending December 31 ~~September 1 of one year and ending August 31 of the following year.~~

2021 DCDS Election

The DC Dental Society election is now open for voting and will close at 12 Noon on Thursday, June 10. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year the election is being conducted by electronic vote only. Instructions on how to vote have been sent by email to all eligible DCDS member. Those email instructions include your unique password to log into your ballot.

If you have any questions about the 2021 election, please reach out to your DC Dental Society staff at info@dcdental.org or (202) 367-1163.

“second organizational home-away-from-home” due to the connections I have made over the years.

The upcoming year provides an opportunity for us to further solidify DCDS’ brand as the “Premier Oral Healthcare Organization in the District of Columbia.” In support of this objective, I have developed the following goals for 2021-2022:

- **Increase DCDS’ active membership and overall member engagement** – A diverse cadre of engaged members is integral to the ongoing successes of our organization’s brand.

Our Society has a strong continuing education program and engaged membership base that are recognized throughout the region. However, like many organizations, we have seen our membership impacted during COVID-19.

A key effort will involve increasing our “market share” of dentists. In particular, we strive to increase the number of “new dentists” that join and remain engaged with our organization. Nationally, there is concern about decreased engagement of young and mid-career professionals in organizations, particularly as these individuals have traditionally ascended through leadership roles. If you know of a dentist who might enjoy our Society, I encourage you to bring them to a meeting or social event so that they can “see what we are all about.”

No matter where you are in your career, I encourage you to speak to me and other members of our board regarding ways that you can become involved. If you are a new dentist, participating in leadership activities is a good way to solidify connections with your colleagues while helping to further the Society. Further, if you are an established member of our Society, volunteering for leadership positions or committee assignments allows you to support DCDS while mentoring the next generation of dental leaders.

Another concept I have suggested is that of creating an “associate membership” structure for non-dentists. As dentists, we work on a team of oral healthcare providers and often learn from each other. Additionally, we may interact with physicians, nurses, and other allied professionals that have an interest in the work we do and advocate it to patients. Developing an associate membership option provides us with an opportunity to engage these professionals and incorporate them into our advocacy efforts.

With respect to engagement, our monthly meetings have historically been the primary venue for interaction. Over the past few years, we have introduced additional opportunities for members to become involved outside of the monthly meetings, such as case discussion groups and quarterly happy hours. We plan to resume happy hour events during the 2021-2022 year. Further, we plan to explore additional event categories outside of our monthly meetings (such as special topic workshops) and an online option for members that may not be able to attend meetings in-person due to family, work, and other obligations.

- **Enhance DCDS’ visibility and engagement with community stakeholders** – A key challenge the Society has faced in recent years involves its ability to productively engage with stakeholders in the District of Columbia Government. In May, DCDS retained Brett Greene to assist it with enhancing the Society’s visibility and engagement with DC Health, the District of Columbia Council, and other stakeholders. Brett was instrumental in addressing the

potential introduction of mid-level dental providers into the District several years ago; we are confident that he will assist DCDS in creating an environment where the Society's views are considered on policy matters that ultimately influence the practice of dentistry in the District of Columbia.

I also want to take this opportunity to enhance awareness of the work that our DCDS Foundation performs. Our Foundation has historically led the Society's efforts to support community stakeholders, such as health fairs and the Howard University College of Dentistry. During the coming year, I would encourage you to learn more about the work that the Foundation does and explore ways in which you might contribute. One of the Foundation's recent efforts has been to develop a "donated dental services" program where providers can collaborate with local charities to provide dental care to low-income District residents. Given that some safety net programs have eligibility requirements, this program will ensure that individuals are not overlooked, and they will ultimately receive care that may prevent long-term oral and systemic health complications. I encourage you to speak with members of the Foundation board if you are interested in supporting them as they develop this program.

- **Develop a 2-day symposium event** – The Society's yearly meeting had long been an anticipated event for DCDS members and dentists throughout the region. Each year, I speak to several providers that ask, "What happened to the yearly meeting?" While a large-scale event at the convention center may not be feasible, a more focused event that builds upon our successful licensure symposium series would fill this void and provide additional opportunities for our colleagues throughout the region to engage with the Society and learn about the benefits of membership. Further, it would provide a venue for our Society to showcase some of its "in-house" subject matter experts, many of which are globally recognized.

Additionally, I would like to ask for your assistance with an important effort. We are conducting a survey to ascertain issues related to licensure applications and renewals. Recently, members have expressed concerns that the Board of Dentistry's current operations impede the timely licensure of dental hygienists, resulting in a shortage of providers that are willing and able to accept positions in the District. Your responses to this survey will aid us as we address this concern with the Board of Dentistry and advocate for increased access to oral healthcare in the District.

Last, I would like to acknowledge and thank Dr. Ladan Basiri for her leadership during the past year. Ladan has successfully navigated the challenges of the "pandemic year" and led our Society to a position of continued sustainability. I am honored to continue the work that Ladan has done and ensure that the DCDS brand endures for years to come.

Pierre M. Cartier, DMD, MPH, FAGD, FICD, FACD

Take DCDS Survey Now

7. How would you characterize the supply of available dental hygienists, dental assistants and other team members in DC?

- ☐ Severe shortage
- ☐ Inadequate Supply
- ☐ Adequate Supply
- ☐ Abundant Supply

DC Health launches new online licensing system

License renewals must be submitted by December 31, 2021

The District of Columbia Department of Health (DC Health), Health Regulation and Licensing Administration (HRLA) has opened a new online licensing system. Effective immediately, any healthcare provider who is interested in applying for a new health professional license, or to renew, reinstate, or reactivate an existing license, may do so by going to the below link and submitting an online application. ***All users are strongly encouraged to review the instructions prior to beginning the process.***

All DC dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants must submit their license renewal application by December 31, 2021.

The announcement from DC Health notes that while all demographic information and some documents may be provided as part of the online application, many primary source documents must still be mailed directly to DC Health at the following address:

*DC Health
Attn.: Board of Dentistry
899 N. Capitol St. NE, 2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20002*

Technical issues registering, logging-in or completing the application process, may be reported to the help desk ticket by clicking on the “**Contact Support**” button at the bottom of the page.

For any questions regarding application requirements, please review materials provided on the Board of Dentistry website (<https://dchealth.dc.gov/service/dentistry-licensing>) or contact the Board of Dentistry at dcbod@dc.gov.

Help the needy of Washington through D.C. Dental Cares, the new pro bono program of the D.C. Dental Society Foundation

Did you hear that the DCDS Foundation has launched a new program in partnership with the Catholic Charities Health Care Network to provide pro bono dental care to members of the Washington Community in need?

Through this program, D.C. dentists will be able to provide pro bono treatment for patients in their own office with no long term commitment. The type and amount of treatment rendered to these patients is entirely at the discretion of the dentist. Patients will be pre-screened for their eligibility for this program based on their economic status. Our member dentists will receive a referral, which outlines the patient’s general oral health needs and their chief complaint.

Sign up to participate via a brief [online form](#).



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From the ADA

Dental students, early-career dentists eligible for Dr. David Whiston Leadership Award

Award covers costs of attending ADA Institute for Diversity in Leadership

ADANews, May 26, 2021

The ADA Foundation is encouraging dental students and early-career dentists to apply for the Dr. David Whiston Leadership Award, which will cover the costs of attending this fall's ADA [Institute for Diversity in Leadership](#). Applications must be submitted via an [online portal](#) by June 28.

The applicant must be a dental student, graduate student or resident enrolled in an accredited dental school education program, or an early-career dentist under the age of 40 or in their first five years of professional work following residency.

Selection will be based on leadership skills that advance the dental profession through community engagement, service to the profession, and/or scientific advancement of oral public health.

The award funds, totaling \$5,000, will cover the costs of attending the 12-month ADA Institute for Diversity in Leadership. Funds can also be used to defray the costs of the Institute project, which has a research focus on addressing an issue or challenge within their community, organization, the oral health of the public or underserved population. For more information about the award and how to apply, visit adafoundation.org.

Study: Most aerosol droplets in dental procedures from irrigation tools, not saliva

Finding helps show SARS-CoV-2 infection risk at the dentist's office is low

ADANews, May 26, 2021

Patient saliva was found not to be the major source of the microbes in aerosols generated during dental procedures, according to Ohio State University researchers, who analyzed the genetic makeup of the organisms detected in aerosols.

The findings, published May 12 in the [Journal of Dental Research](#), is the latest study to demonstrate that visiting the dentist remains safe, with low risk for transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. SARS-CoV-2 spreads mainly through respiratory droplets, and dental procedures are known to produce an abundance of aerosols, which led to fears that saliva during a cleaning or a restorative procedure could make the dentist's chair a high-risk location.

"These findings should help us open up our practices, make ourselves feel safe about our environment and, for patients, get their oral and dental problems treated," said lead author Purnima Kumar, D.D.S., Ph.D., professor of periodontology at Ohio State, in a news release.

"Getting your teeth cleaned does not increase your risk of COVID-19 infection any more than drinking a glass of water from the dentist's office does," added Dr. Kumar, a member of the ADA Council on Scientific Affairs.

The researchers set out to characterize the microorganisms generated during dental procedures to quantify the contribution from saliva by collecting samples from personnel, equipment and other surfaces reached by aerosols during a variety of dental procedures.

What they found was that no matter the procedure or where the condensate had landed, microbes from irrigants contributed to about 78% of the organisms in aerosols while saliva, if present, accounted for 0.1% to 1.2% of the microbes distributed around the room.

For the study, the team enrolled 28 patients receiving dental implants, restorations using high-speed drills, or ultrasonic scaling procedures in Ohio State's College of Dentistry between May 4 and July 10, 2020. Researchers collected samples of saliva and irrigant (the water-based cleaning solutions used to flush out the mouth) before each procedure and, 30 minutes after the procedure, aerosol remnants — condensate — from providers' face shields, the patient's bib and an area 6 feet away from the chair.

Salivary bacteria were detected in condensate from only eight cases and of those, five patients had not used a pre-procedural mouth rinse. The SARS-CoV-2 virus was identified in the saliva of 19 patients, but was undetectable in aerosols in any of the cases.

The findings make sense, Dr. Kumar said: Irrigant dilutes saliva — a "thick, viscous" substance — by an estimated 20- to 200-fold. These findings help to explain the outcome reported in the 2020 *Journal of the American Dental Association* [study](#) that less than 1% COVID-19 positivity rate among dentists.

Continued on page 8

"Dental surgeons and hygienists are always at the forefront of the war against bacteria in the mouth, and they of course did not feel safe because they are front-line workers surrounded by aerosol," said Dr. Kumar, who has a periodontology practice of her own and was one of the procedure operators in the study.

"Hopefully this will set patients' minds at ease because when you do procedures, it is the water from the ultrasonic equipment that's the primary source of aerosols rather than saliva, making the risk of spreading SARS-CoV-2 infection not high," she said.

"However, we should not lose sight of the fact that this virus spreads through aerosol, and speaking, coughing or sneezing in the dental office can still carry a high risk of disease transmission," Dr. Kumar said.

ADA Recorded Webinar: How to minimize team stress in a stressful environment

Creating a less stressful work environment can be challenging, especially re-entering the office with new guidelines and standards. Stress cannot be completely avoided, but we can develop ways to reduce or minimize stress in the practice. Learn important tips to create an environment that encourages employee achievement while lessening stress in the workplace.

In this free webinar for ADA members, Debra Engelhardt-Nash of The Nash institute for Dental Learning & Nash Speaking and Consulting, will present on establishing training protocols, developing vital feedback protocols and guidelines, and designing 30-60-90 day strategies.

This course is free for ADA members and \$69 for nonmembers. [View webinar now.](#)



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Contact: Karen DKR Dental | 202.557.1602 | Twcdcinfo@gmail.com

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