



District of Columbia
DENTAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

February 2022, Vol. 68, No. 2



Dr. Pierre Cartier

Letter from the D.C. Dental Society President Pierre Cartier, DMD, MPH, FAGD, FICD, FACD

Dear Colleagues:

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to re-think how we “practice” dental medicine – both in terms of how we engage patients and the services that we perform. Technology is a tool that helps us to realize our potential. In the January 2022 JADA, Steven London and colleagues speak to the potential opportunities that integration into the larger health informatics landscape provide us, particularly with respect to streamlining elements of care, supporting public health efforts, and facilitating population health research.¹ The latter is particularly exciting as many administrative and clinical questions we encounter daily could be addressed through the data we maintain.

Recently, I presented to The George Washington University School of Medicine’s Geriatric and Palliative Care Fellowship program. I’ve been providing a dental medicine lecture to each fellowship cohort for about 2 years now. Both fellows and attendings have found these sessions to be helpful in that medical students typically receive less than 2 hours of oral health-related material in their pre-doctoral training. These physicians address a population that commonly presents with oral manifestations of systemic disease; the information I provide helps them in best triaging conditions for referral and providing guidance to nursing staff on the prevention of oral diseases. This year, the integration of tele-dentistry into medical practices was a key topic we discussed.

While tele-dentistry has been used in various capacities for several years, it has gained additional traction during the COVID-19 pandemic. Such is the

¹London SD, Fontelo P, Boroumand S, Dye BA. COVID-19 provides an opportunity for integration of dentistry into the health informatics system. *J Amer Dent Assoc.* 2022; 153(1): 3-8.

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D.C. Dental Society

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

Continued on Page 4

February CE Event (In-Person and Virtual): "Digital Dentistry in Practice"

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Clinical In-Person and Virtual CE Presentation by Dr. Paul Zhivago

Business Meeting Begins at 5:45 PM

Education Program Begins at Approximately 6:00 PM

Lecture Format

CE Credits Offered: 2.5 CE Credits

Cost: Free to DCDS Members | Non-Members—\$75 Virtual or \$110 In-Person

Location for In-Person Event

The February 8th Monthly Meeting will be held at the DCDS office:

2001 K Street, NW, 3rd Floor North

Washington, D.C.



[Register Here](#)

Space is limited for in-person attendance. Note that all in-person attendees must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. **Vaccination screening required for in-person meeting attendance (see Page 3).** Masks must be worn in our building and offices, regardless of vaccination status.

Visit the [DCDS Registration Fees & Cancellation Policy page](#) for more details on registration and read [Dr. Zhivago's biography here](#).

Program Description:

The first and the second session will discuss digital dental workflows in an open architecture environment. The first part will address restorative aspects and the second part will cover surgical aspects. Digital Software and Hardware will be discussed in an inhouse private practice environment.

This course includes a review of tools that are effective and efficient in tackling aesthetic cases, full mouth rehabilitation and implant cases (restorative and surgically) with the help of digital dentistry.

Session 1: 1.5 hours—Learning Objectives:

- Understand how restorative procedures would work in an open architecture digital environment.

Session 2: 1 hour—Learning Objectives:

- Understand how surgical procedures would work in an open architecture digital environment.

Continuing Education Disclaimer: The District of Columbia 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. It is the responsibility of each participant to verify the CE requirements of his or her licensing or regulatory agency and to contact them with any questions regarding licensing. The DC Dental Society designates this presentation for 2.5 CE credits.

Concerns or complaints about a CE provider may be directed to the provider or to the **Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition** at ADA.org/CERP.

ADA CERP® | Continuing Education Recognition Program

Please see Page 3 for special information regarding in-person attendance.

If you plan to attend a meeting in person this month or in future months, please read the information below as it provides important details for in person event attendance at our DCDS headquarters in the Smithbucklin offices.

ARRIVAL: While our offices at Alexander Court have a K Street address, the main lobby for our building is located at the corner of 20th and L Streets, NW. We recommend you use that entrance. It's a large, two story glass atrium with Alexander Court signage over the entry.

When you arrive at Alexander Court, proceed up the escalators to the North Tower landing and a member of our staff will greet you at the security gates. Proceed up the elevators to the third floor, which will open in our suite.

GARAGE ACCESS: The entrance to our building's garage is located on L Street between 20th and 21st.

If parking in our building's garage, come up the elevator from the garage to the 2nd floor where the security gates are located.

VACCINATION REQUIREMENT: As part of a commitment to health and safety, Smithbucklin currently requires all employees and guests in our space to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. To help manage this requirement, Smithbucklin has partnered with CLEAR Health Pass. There is no cost to DCDS or its guests to use the CLEAR Health Pass.

If you are currently a user of CLEAR, please open the app on your mobile device prior to your arrival at our offices February 8th and complete the quick process to obtain a daily Health Pass for access to our office. To do so, please look for the "Do you have a code" prompt and enter **SmithbucklinDC** in the open field. A Green Health Pass received at the conclusion of this process means you're good to go! Please show it to DCDS staff when you arrive.

If you are not currently a user of CLEAR, please click [HERE](#) on your mobile phone as soon as possible to download the app, register your personal information, and securely confirm your vaccinated status. To complete this process, the CLEAR app requires a valid state or government issued ID and a physical copy (not a picture) of your vaccination card. When registering, at the "Do you have a code" prompt, enter **SmithbucklinDC** in the open field.

MASK REQUIREMENT: Washington D.C has an indoor mask mandate in effect by order of the mayor. As a result, all employees and guests (regardless of vaccination status) are required to wear a face mask at all times everywhere in our offices, except when alone in an enclosed space with the door closed or when actively eating or drinking. Masks are also required at all times in the common areas of our building.

Thank you to our Partners



case in my office – I use tele-dentistry to conduct evaluations, host treatment planning sessions, perform non-surgical disease management activities, and provide patient education. This technology has proven particularly advantageous given that I work with a patient population that is largely medically complex and can experience exposure to COVID-19 (and recently extreme weather) when travelling to in-person encounters; patients presenting with a chief complaint or questions can be evaluated virtually to determine if an in-person visit is necessary.

Like all technology, tele-dentistry initially presents a “learning curve.” You may have already encountered some of the nuances associated with this modality; tele-dentistry forces you to rely largely on interview skills to obtain information needed to formulate a diagnosis or determine whether a patient requires an in-office visit. This nuance is very beneficial when you wish to reinforce the importance of communication skills among residents or recent graduates working in your practice. Depending on your patient population, it may also increase your engagement with allied healthcare providers -- reinforcing the increasing importance of interprofessional collaboration and the opportunities that emanate from it.

Despite some of the initial challenges, technology offers opportunities to enhance your practice and provide additional options to patients you may serve. As one of the early adopters of tele-dentistry in my office, I quickly developed a strategy for utilizing this resource and have mentored colleagues on incorporating it into their workflows. Consequently, we have been able to provide alternatives to some in-person encounters for patients requiring preliminary evaluations, disease monitoring, patient education, and extended treatment planning; this is particularly important when addressing a medically complex population during a pandemic. Further, technology can provide additional service lines, allowing you to grow your practice. This is particularly the case if you are interested in using tele-dentistry to engage underserved populations, such as residents of long-term care facilities or patients appearing in emergency departments with dental chief complaints. While you may not be able to perform procedures through this modality, you can evaluate patients and guide them to appropriate venues to address their concerns. Technology truly does “open doors” for both patients and providers.

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In speaking of an ever-changing dental medicine landscape, we would like to hear from you regarding programmatic topics that help you realize your potential and serve our District residents. In the coming months, we are looking to develop groups or communities that focus on interest-specific topics; these are like the “special interest groups” you may have encountered if you have been a member of the American Dental Education Association or other professional organizations. For example, we are working to develop a focused interest group to provide our new dentists with additional guidance on practice management and other topics that may not be fully covered in dental school or residency. If you have additional ideas for interest-specific groups, please feel free to reach out to me, our executive director Kurt Gallagher, or any of the DCDS Board members.

Additionally, please keep an eye out for surveys regarding general DCDS programming and our 2022-2023 continuing education program. We are currently surveying members on their experience with the recent licensure renewal process (see page 7). If you have contacts or working relationships with any potential speakers we might consider for our CE program or any of the interest-specific groups, please be sure to address this in the survey or discuss it with our Education Committee.

Our February 8th meeting will be held in a hybrid format. Dr. Paul Zhivago will present “Digital Dentistry in Practice.” Dr. Zhivago’s presentation is timely given the theme of this month’s President’s Letter; he will speak regarding a topic that can present both a learning curve and a springboard for professional growth. I look forward to learning additional “pearls” from Dr. Zhivago on Tuesday.

The business meeting will occur from 5:45 – 6:00 pm, with the scientific session occurring from 6:00 – 8:45 pm. Again, please make sure to register as soon as possible; a Zoom link will only be sent to those members who have registered. In-person attendees will be required to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination via the CLEAR application. Instructions for registering your vaccination status on the CLEAR Health Pass may be found on page 4.

Again, thank you for your support of our Society, our profession, and the public we serve. I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday!

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

2021-2022 DCDS President

Upcoming Presentations of the 2021-2022 Continuing Education Program

Monthly business meeting begins at 5:45 p.m. Educational session begins at approximately 6:00 p.m.

[Register Here](#)



Dr. Len Tau

Wednesday, March 9th (Virtual and In Person)

How to Take Control of One's Online Reputation and How to Respond to Negative Patient Feedback (Non-Clinical)

CE Credits Offered: 2.5 CE Credits

Course Presenter: Dr. Len Tau

Learning Objectives:

- Analyze one's website to see if they violate some of the most common design elements.
- See how one's office ranks online.
- Learn how to generate more online reviews.
- Determine whether you are ready to ramp up your marketing.
- Make sure you are actually getting return on investment in your current marketing plan.

Tuesday, May 10th (Virtual)

Lasers: What You Needed to Know Yesterday

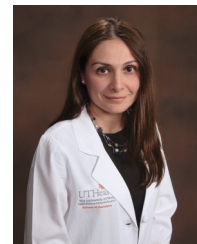
Credits Offered: 2.5 CE Credits

Course Presenters: Dr. Juliana Barros and Dr. Shelly Patel

Program Description: This presentation will give a brief overview of the history, basic scientific and clinical information on lasers. The learners will receive an overview on clinical application of lasers through both scientific research and clinical case presentations. Our intended goal is to familiarize the participants with such emerging technology.



Dr. Juliana Barros



Dr. Shelly Patel

[Visit the DCDS website](#) for course information, speaker bios, fees and cancellation policy.

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DC Health Extends Temporary Licenses to Dental Hygienists

Dentists, and now dental hygienists, who are licensed in another state can apply for a temporary license enabling them to practice in DC for up to 90 days. Requirements to receive the temporary license include:

- Submission of an application in DC for a full license by reciprocity or endorsement;
- Proof of a license in good standing in another state;
- Satisfactory check of the National Practice Data Bank;
- Satisfactory criminal background check;
- Status as fully vaccinated.

The text of the Amended Declaration of the Director provides additional details (see below).

Helpful links:

[Text of the Amended Declaration](#) of the Director
[DC Health Licensing Portal](#) (Login Screen)

DCDS Survey on Licensing Process

DCDS is working to improve the licensing process in DC for dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants. To support this effort, we would like to gain deeper understanding of the DC licensing process and any issues that may be occurring.

To support this effort, we ask that you to participate in a short survey that will help to quantify challenges and assist our advocacy efforts to improve the DC licensing process.

[Click here to complete the survey](#)

DC Board of Dentistry Unveils Draft Changes to Scope of Practice for Dentists

The DC Board of Dentistry recently announced draft revisions to the scope of practice for dentists licensed in the District of Columbia. DCDS is assessing these proposed changes and welcomes comments from members on: 1. concerns they have with the proposed changes; or 2. suggestions for additional revisions to the scope of practice. The proposed changes will be required to complete the regulatory process before they are implemented. DCDS and other stakeholders will have an opportunity to provide comments. Member comments may be sent to DCDS at info@dcdental.org.

[View Proposed changes here](#). Please note that yellow highlighting indicates proposed changes.

RTFDS Scholarship Fund Raises Money to Support Howard University Dental Students

The Robert T. Freeman Dental Society is supporting a campaign to raise \$250,000 to support Howard University dental students to reduce their student debt burden and increase their ability to serve in communities where they are needed most.



Why Should I Donate

The Robert T. Freeman Dental Society (RTFDS), the oldest chapter of the National Dental Association (NDA), has launched a massive scholarship campaign effort for dental students at Howard University College of Dentistry. Proceeds from the annual NDA Inauguration and Scholarship Gala will fund the scholarships. Consider this:

- Less than 4% of dentists in the US are African American
- Average dental student debt is \$305,000; Black dentists report higher debt
- In 2018, fewer than 30% of African Americans over age 65 visited a dentist
- Poor dental health is associated with lower quality of life
- 63% percent of NDA members are active Medicaid providers compared to 30% of non-NDA members
- Only 50% of Medicaid eligible children receive dental care
- Over 60 million people live in areas with no access to dental care
- In order to eradicate underserved areas, over 10,000 more dentists need to be added to the existing workforce

[Donate Here](#)

About the Howard University College of Dentistry

The College of Dentistry at Howard University was established in 1881. It is the fifth oldest dental school in the United States. As a teaching and patient care institution, the College has trained thousands of highly skilled dental professionals to serve their communities, particularly the underserved.

For information on [how to register to fundraise](#) or for general updates about the campaign, please visit [the campaign web page](#).

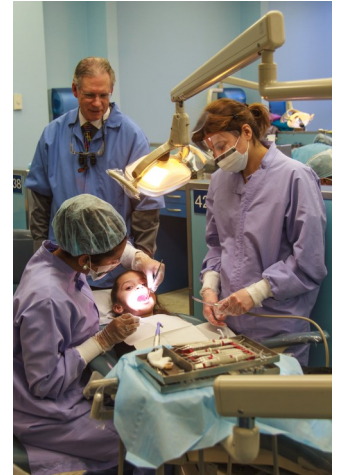
Answer the call through D.C. Dental Cares, the new pro bono program of the D.C. Dental Society Foundation

Did you hear that the DCDS Foundation has a new program to provide pro bono dental care to members of the Washington Community in need called D.C. Dental Cares? This program launched earlier this year under a partnership with the Catholic Charities Health Care Network.

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.

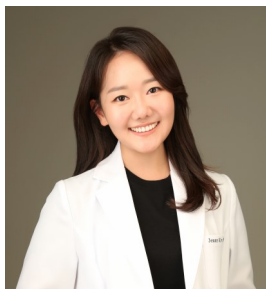
Sign up to participate via a brief [online form](#) via the button below.

Photo features just some of the DCDS members who have given their time to provide free care to the D.C. community in recent years.



Sign Up for D.C. Dental Cares

Welcome New Member



Dr. Jenny Won Young is a general dentist in Washington Dc. She grew up in South Korea and Canada. Dr. Kye earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Toronto in Canada and DMD degree from Boston University Henry M Goldman School of Dental Medicine. With her husband Dr. Woo Young Chang, she is serving patients in NW DC. She is a member of the ADA, AGD and ICOI. Outside of work, Dr. Kye enjoys playing the piano and exploring the local food scene with her husband.

District Addiction Consultation Service

The [District Addiction Consultation Service](#) (DACS) is now open to all primary care and specialty providers (including physicians, advanced practice nurses, physician assistants, dentists, and pharmacists) across DC. The toll-free DACS warmline (1-866-337-DACS) is operated **Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM** and can assist callers with questions related to the identification and treatment of Substance Use Disorders and chronic pain management. Calls are answered by a licensed behavioral health clinician who can help with:

- Locating nearby MAT providers for referrals
- Identifying useful patient and provider resources
- Recommending substance use disorder screening tools or psychosocial interventions
- Answering general behavioral health questions
- Forwarding clinical questions to an experienced DACS physician consultant

Providers may also call with clinical questions (for example, Suboxone treatment initiation and dosing). Clinical questions are forwarded to a board-certified addiction medicine or addiction psychiatry physician consultant who will return the provider's call **within one business day**.

Callers will receive a follow-up summary including recommendations, referrals information, resources, and access to the DACS website database. The DACS database contains substance use, pain management, and behavioral health provider information (such as location, insurances, accepted, and areas of specialty), as well as links to community services and resources.

Please call **1-866-337-DACS (3227)** or visit DistrictACS.org for more information.



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The advertisement features a central image of a laptop displaying a vibrant, abstract landscape with a glowing orb. The background is a gradient of blue and purple. The Lenovo logo is positioned vertically on the right side.

DACS

District Addiction Consultation Service

Supporting
prescribers
across the
District of
Columbia



District Addiction Consultation Service (DACCS)

DACS supports primary care and specialty prescribers in addressing the needs of their patients with substance use disorders and chronic pain management.

Consultation



Phone consultation for clinical questions provided by our team of expert addiction medicine specialists

Education



Education and training opportunities

Resources & Referrals



Assistance in the identification of substance use and behavioral health resources and referrals

1-866-337-DACS (3227)

www.DistrictACS.org



Funding for DACCS is provided by the District of Columbia Government, DC Health, Health Regulation and Licensing Administration (HRLA), Pharmaceutical Control Division (PCD).

DENTAL BANKING

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BECOME A DENTIST, WHEN ARE
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New ADA News series focuses on dental practice staffing issues

ADA Morning Huddle, February 2, 2022

A new series called Focus on Workforce from ADA News will spotlight staffing challenges facing dental offices, including recruitment, hiring and training. An ADA Health Policy Institute report found staffing shortages were the most common problem among practices that want to increase patient volume, ADA News reported. A survey of dentists in January showed 73% of those who were recruiting dental hygienists found the task "extremely challenging," while 55% of dentists seeking dental assistants reported the same. Resources to help with recruiting, hiring and training can be found at [ADA.org/dentalstaff](https://www.ada.org/dentalstaff).

Full Story: <https://www.ada.org/publications/ada-news/2022/january/ada-news-series-spotlights-resources-for-dental-team>

HPI: On average, dentists' appointment schedules 77% full

ADA Morning Huddle, February 1, 2022

Results of the first monthly [Economic Outlook and Emerging Issues in Dentistry](#) poll from the ADA Health Policy Institute, conducted the week of Jan. 17, showed that, on average nationally, appointment schedules were 77% full for dentists in private practice, ADA News reported. Among dentists whose schedules were not full, 9 in 10 cited patient cancellations, 38% said not enough patients were making appointments and 1 in 3 had problems filling vacant staff positions, according to the survey, which tracks the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and asks for dentists' opinions on other practice issues. The survey found one-third of dentists said they had recently or were now recruiting dental hygienists and 39% were looking for dental assistants, while top challenges facing practices over the next six months included staffing, inflation, overhead or rising costs and reimbursement issues. To join the polling panel go to [ADA.org/HPIPoll](https://www.ada.org/HPIPoll).

Full Story: <https://www.ada.org/publications/ada-news/2022/january/hpi-launches-new-economic-poll>

IRS offers guidance following termination of Employee Retention Credit

ADA Morning Huddle, January 31, 2022

New guidance from the Internal Revenue Service offers employers steps to take if they received an advanced payment from the federal Employee Retention Credit, but are now ineligible, following the credit's early termination, the Connecticut Business & Industry Association reported. The Employee Retention Credit was created in March 2020 to encourage eligible businesses to keep employees on payroll during the pandemic. The credit, which the ADA advocated for, ended last October but the new guidance clarifies steps eligible employers should take if they anticipated using the credit for the fourth quarter of 2021. [Notice 2021-65](#) addresses steps the following employers can take to avoid IRS penalties: employers who received advance payments, employers who reduced employment tax deposits and employers who reduced deposits on or before Dec. 20, 2021, for wages paid during the fourth calendar quarter of 2021 in anticipation of receiving the tax credit. The ADA advises dentists who believe the guidance may apply to them to talk to their tax adviser before filing.

Full Story: <https://www.cbia.com/news/small-business/irs-guidance-employee-retention-credit/>

ADA, ANSI give dental schools access to national standards

ADA Morning Huddle, January 31, 2022

The ADA is partnering with the American National Standards Institute to provide dental school students and faculty with free access to some of its national and international dental standards and technical reports, according to ADA News. The ADA will conduct a targeted awareness campaign to encourage dental schools to participate in the initiative, which is part of ANSI's University Outreach Program. Enrollment information and a list of available standards and technical reports can be found at [ADA.org/dentalstandards](https://www.ada.org/dentalstandards). "This new initiative, to make standards available for use in the curricula of our schools, provides an exciting opportunity for faculty to reference documents prepared through a consensus of experts and to help students understand the importance of this work being done by the ADA," said Jeffrey A. Platt, D.D.S., chair of the ADA Standards Committee on Dental Products.

Full Story: <https://www.ada.org/publications/ada-news/2022/january/ada-launches-initiative-to-provide-standards-to-dental-schools-for-free>

From the ADA

Institute for Diversity in Leadership Applications Due April 30

ADA Morning Huddle, February 1, 2022

The award-winning ADA Institute for Diversity in Leadership program gives you the tools to strengthen your leadership skills and build professional networks. Since 2003, the program empowered over 260 dentists from diverse racial, ethnic, and gender backgrounds who have been traditionally underrepresented in leadership roles. Participants attend sessions in Chicago with faculty from Duke University and complete leadership projects addressing a need in their community or dental association.

[Learn more and apply now for the 2022-2023 class.](#)

Nominations sought for CODA public representatives

ADA Weekend Huddle, January 29, 2022

ADA News reported that the ADA Board of Trustees and Council on Dental Education and Licensure are accepting nominations for people to fill positions on the Commission on Dental Accreditation's board of commissioners as public/consumer representatives. Nominees cannot have a formal or informal connection to dentistry but should be interested in or knowledgeable about the health professions in the areas of education and accreditation. Nominations will be accepted until May 1. More information on the Commission on Dental Accreditation is available at [coda.ada.org](https://www.coda.ada.org).

Full Story: <https://www.ada.org/publications/ada-news/2022/january/ada-seeks-public-consumer-member-nominations-for-coda>

IHS, tribal and urban dental programs plan 82 GKAS events for 2022

ADA Weekend Huddle, January 29, 2022

Indian Health Service, tribal and urban dental programs are planning 82 Give Kids A Smile events for 2022 to provide oral health care services for more than 20,000 American Indian/Alaska Native children, accord-



ADA American Dental Association*

ing to ADA News. Rear Adm. Tim Ricks, D.M.D., assistant surgeon general and chief dental officer of the US Public Health Service, said IHS has been hosting GKAS programs across the country for three years and finds they are "making a difference." GKAS events, along with other efforts to increase access to oral health care, have enabled 1 in 6 American Indian/Alaska Native children ages 2 to 15 to receive dental sealants and 1 in 3 of those ages 1 to 15 to get protective fluoride. "In 2021, despite the pandemic and the enormous pressures [IHS providers] had on [their] time, and the backlog of pa-

tients, 183 IHS and tribal dentists and 588 dental hygienists, assistants and other volunteers still managed to carry out 100 GKAS events, providing oral health education, screenings, preventive and restorative services to 8,457 American Indian/Alaska Native children, valued at \$723,534 in services provided," Dr. Ricks said. The ADA has resources available for those interested in hosting a GKAS event. For more information visit [ADA.org/gkas](https://www.ada.org/gkas).

Full Story: <https://www.ada.org/publications/ada-news/2022/january/indian-health-service-patients-reaping-benefits>

FDA approves Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine

ADA Morning Huddle, February 1, 2022

The [Food and Drug Administration](#) has approved Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine Spikevax for use in people ages 18 and older, according to HealthDay News. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [data](#) showed almost 75 million Americans have completed the initial two-dose Moderna vaccine series, and nearly 38.5 million people have had a booster dose. The FDA approved Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine in August.

Full Story: <https://consumer.healthday.com/moderna-covid-vaccine-2656519077.html>

Data show increasing numbers of women in dentistry

ADA Weekend Huddle, January 29, 2022

Data from the 2014-18 American Community Survey found 31.1% of 148,878 active dentists were women, up from about 25% in 2009-13, according to researchers at the [Oral Health Workforce Research Center](#), part of the Center for Health Workforce Studies at the University at Albany. The study found female dentists overall were younger than male dentists and more likely to be racially or ethnically diverse, ADA News reported. Data from the [ADA Health Policy Institute](#) showed a trend toward increasing numbers of women enrolled in dental schools and greater diversity, with more Asian and Hispanic students.

Full Story: <https://www.ada.org/publications/ada-news/2022/january/dentistry-becoming-increasingly-representative-of-the-patient-community>

ADA continues advocacy to help veterans receive oral health care

ADA Morning Huddle, February 2, 2022

The ADA continues to discuss veterans' oral health care needs with lawmakers. In a [Jan. 27 letter](#) to Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., the ADA commended the senator for his commitment to the nation's veterans and shared efforts the ADA is undertaking to help veterans, according to ADA News. The article also said the ADA will be holding a Give Veterans a Smile Summit later this year, which aims to elevate the importance of veterans' oral health in the dental community and includes more than 50 representatives from nonprofit organizations, state and local dental societies, and individuals representing government entities that offer charitable oral health care to veterans. The ADA is also working with the VA's oral health pilot program, VETSmile, which is a collaboration between the VA Center for Care and Payment Innovation and community dental care providers to enhance veterans' access to free and discounted dental services. Follow all the ADA's advocacy efforts at [ADA.org/advocacy](https://www.ada.org/advocacy).

Full Story: <https://www.ada.org/publications/ada-news/2022/february/ada-remains-committed-to-helping-veterans-receive-oral-health-care>

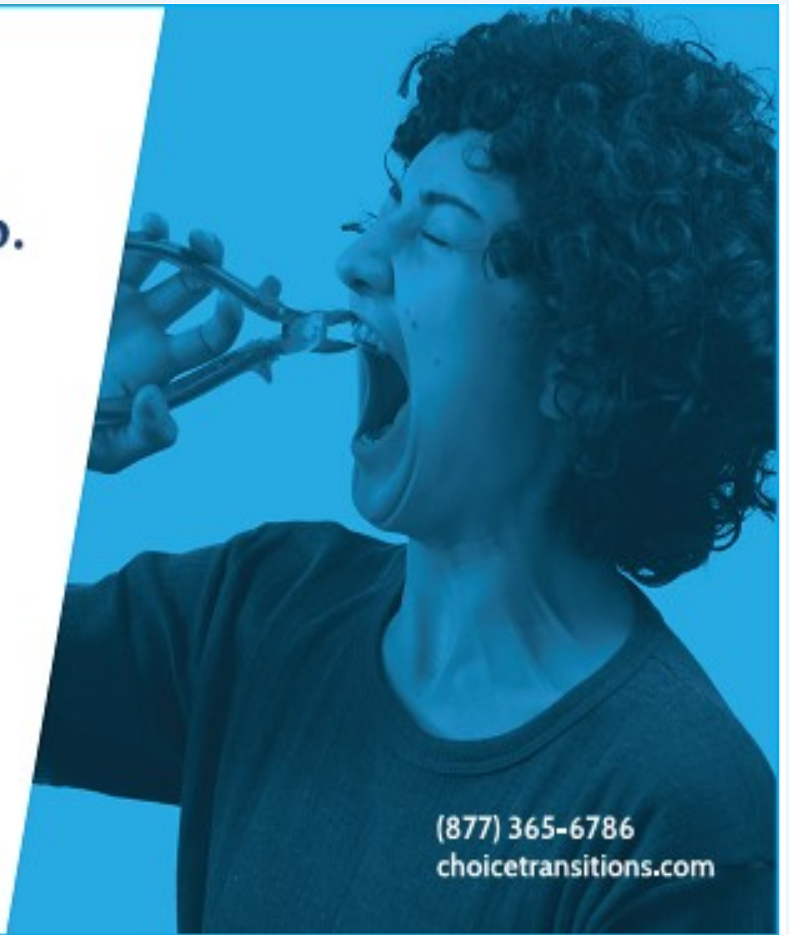
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