



District of Columbia
DENTAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

January 2022, Vol. 68, No. 1



Dr. Pierre Cartier

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

Dear Colleagues:

Happy 2022! I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season.

During one of my recent visits to the gym, I brought along the December edition of *JADA*. Dr. Michael Glick is a past editor of *JADA* and ongoing contributor that I follow. I am drawn to the way he has employed *JADA* to review population health-related topics and illustrate their relationship to the current dental medicine landscape. His articles provide comprehensive yet precise overviews of topics that have included point-of-care diagnostics, infectious disease epidemiology, causality, and health study design. I have referenced articles from Dr. Glick as “recommended reading” in classes that I teach to our residents and even some courses I teach to non-dentists.

[The commentary that Dr. Glick co-authored with Drs. Mark Wolff and Alonso Carrasco-Labra](#) in the December 2021 *JADA* alludes to the “syndemic” of COVID-19 and scientific illiteracy.¹ *Misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation* are key contributing factors to and consequences of this syndemic. While misinformation results from the spread of false information with no ill intent, disinformation and malinformation are of particular concern because of their potential to influence public opinion. You have likely seen disinformation at play when parties are attempting to discredit individual experts or scientific organizations; you have certainly seen this phenomenon in action during the pandemic and the consequences that it has for public health.

¹ [Glick M, Wolff MS, Carrasco-Labra A. COVID-19 and scientific illiteracy, a syndemic. J Amer Dent Assoc. 2021; 152\(12\): 967-68. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.adaj.2021.09.013>.](#)

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D.C. Dental Society

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January CE Event (Virtual):

"Today's Top Clinical Tips: From the Still-Successful Tried and True to the Newest Materials and Approaches"

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

Clinical Virtual CE Presentation by Dr. Lee Ann Brady

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

Disclosure: Dr. Brady is a consultant for The Pankey Institute.

Visit the [DCDS Registration Fees & Cancellation Policy page](#)

for more details on registration and read

[Dr. Brady's biography here.](#)



[Register Here](#)

Program Description:

Dentistry is changing at a rapid pace. Being successful and efficient is about staying on top of the newest trends and clinical tips. In this program Dr. Brady will present the top clinical tips and techniques she is teaching. Some are old tried and true approaches that remain successful, while others introduce brand new materials and approaches. Tips will span the areas of prevention, posterior composites and indirect all ceramics.

Session 1: 1.5 hours—Learning Objectives:

- Caries and Perio Prevention
- Posterior Composite Efficiency and Effectiveness

Session 2: 1 hour—Learning Objectives:

- Successful Bonding & Cementation
- Improved Posterior All Ceramic Restorations

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](#).

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Malinformation occurs when individuals or groups interpret and apply information out of context to mislead others. In dental medicine, we have observed this phenomenon when data from animal studies were "interpreted" to suggest that fluoride causes osteosarcoma in humans. Unfortunately, these forms of "information misuse" act in a perpetuating fashion and often lead to an "echo chamber" effect that becomes entrenched and difficult to mitigate.

As you can see, the issue of "scientific illiteracy" is well-established – the COVID-19 pandemic has only magnified and further entrenched it. So how do we work to mitigate the impact of scientific illiteracy? First, we as oral health professionals should strive to serve as scientific resources to our respective communities as part of our societal contract. Dental medicine is somewhat unique in that it is an art with a strong underlying scientific basis. However, being a true "master" of this discipline requires understanding the scientific method, the advantages and limitations of various health study designs, biostatistics, and the communication of scientific data to a range of audiences. Many of us have mastered the first three realms (even if understanding biostatistics may have taken some additional time or is still a work-in-progress). However, scientific communication is a dynamic discipline that requires one to be astute to new technologies and "channels" for communicating, as well as their proper use. Dr. Glick and his co-authors cite the need for health professionals and other scientists to "develop strategies for communicating clearly and concisely to refute misinformation and disinformation," particularly in the realm of social media. The alternative is for incorrect information to remain unchallenged and accepted as fact, reinforcing the "echo chamber" phenomenon we have been observing over the past two years.

As "scientific citizens," I challenge you to share your experiences, knowledge, and expertise with others. Strive to inform patients and staff about the scientific method, the limitations in our knowledge, and the work that our profession is doing to address knowledge gaps. This is an important component of my practice; I have mentored my staff regarding evidence-based dental medicine and the messaging that they are expected to convey. Additionally, I share my knowledge and expertise with our residents, helping them navigate the ever-growing body of literature and master the communication skills required to implement evidence in their practices. If you have children, relatives, or neighbors that are in school, volunteer to judge science fairs or serve as speakers in their classes. This aspect of "scientific civics" is particularly important to me – I did not

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understand the scope of dental medicine until undergraduate college and almost overlooked a profession that has been an important force in my life.

Most importantly, do not fear addressing misinformation when you encounter it. Dr. Glick and colleagues suggest that information misuse often takes root in social media. If you use social media in your practice, use it to address topics or concepts that patients may frequently express limited understanding of or those that the media misrepresents. Some doctors that employ social media use games, quizzes, or contests to increase engagement around these topics. The fun of discovery is an important component of the scientific experience!

With December largely occupied by holiday activities, I don't have many business-related announcements this month. **Our January 11th meeting will be entirely virtual** and feature Dr. Lee Ann Brady. I first attended one of Dr. Brady's hands-on courses, "Mastering Anterior Implant Provisionals," at SmileCon 2021 in October. She is an engaging speaker and will provide you with a wealth of information in her presentation "Today's Top Clinical Tips: From the Still-Successful Tried and True to the Newest Materials and Approaches." We are looking forward to hosting Dr. Brady this coming 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.

Again, thank you for your support of our Society, profession, and the public we serve. Wishing you a prosperous 2022!

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](#)

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



Tuesday, January 11th (Virtual)

Today's Top Clinical Tips: From the Still-Successful Tried and True to the Newest Materials and Approaches

CE Credits Offered: 2.5 CE credits

Course Presenter: Dr. Lee Ann Brady

Tuesday, February 8th (Virtual and In Person)

Digital Dentistry in Practice

CE Credits Offered: 2.5 CE Credits

Course Presenter: Dr. Paul Zhivago



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

Tuesday, May 10th (Virtual)

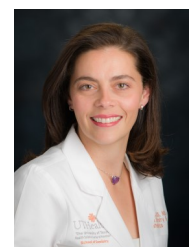
Laser Dentistry

CE Credits Offered: 2.5 CE Credits

Course Presenters: Dr. Dr. Shalizeh (Shelly) Patel and Dr. Juliana Barros



Dr. Shelly Patel



Dr. Juliana Barros

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DC to Implement Mandatory Vaccination Status Checks for Select Business Starting January 15

Mayor's Order exempts medical offices from new requirements

In late December [Mayor Muriel Bowser announced](#) that starting on January 15, 2022, select business will be required to verify that patrons who are 12 years of age or older have received at least the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. This action follows the [reinstatement of the indoor mask mandate](#) that took effect on December 20.

The requirement applies to:

- Restaurants, bars and nightclubs
- Indoor cultural and entertainment facilities
- Indoor exercise and recreational establishment
- Indoor event and meeting establishments

The Mayor's Order specifically exempts medical offices from the requirement along with other listed business ([Section II.2.c](#)) including pharmacies, urgent care centers, hospitals, grocery stores, certain big box retailers and houses of worship.

Beginning on February 15, 2022, the covered business will be required to verify that patrons who are 12 years of age or older are fully vaccinated.

Acceptable types of proof of vaccination will include:

- CDC issued vaccination card: original or photocopy or photo
- Immunization record print out from the patient portal of their vaccine/healthcare provider
- A COVID-19 Verification App such as VaxYes or CLEAR

Additional details regarding this requirement are available on the [VaxDC web page](#).

Information regarding the DC government's effort to control COVID-19 or the latest pandemic statistics are available on the [DC government's Coronavirus web page](#).

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](#).

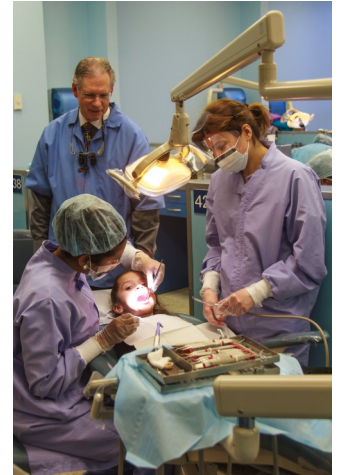
Answer the call through D.C. Dental Cares, the new pro bono program of the D.C. Dental Society Foundation

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

Thank you to our Partners



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).

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CDC revises COVID-19 isolation guidance

ADA Morning Huddle, January 4, 2022

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its COVID-19 guidance, shortening the recommended isolation period from 10 days to five for people with COVID-19 who are asymptomatic, The Washington Post reported. Anthony Fauci, M.D., director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told CNN that he expects "further clarification" on the guidance. "I believe that the CDC soon will be coming out with more clarification of that, since it obviously has generated a number of questions about at that five-day period, should you or should you not be testing people?" Dr. Fauci said. The guidance reduced the recommended isolation period to five days for people exposed to COVID-19 who have not yet received a vaccine booster dose and said people who have had a vaccine booster and are exposed do not need to quarantine but should wear a mask for 10 days.

Full Story: <https://www.cnn.com/2022/01/02/politics/fauci-cdc-to-clarify-guidelines/index.html>

Full Story: https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2021/12/27/cdc-cuts-isolation-time-asymptomatic-covid-infections/?wpisrc=nl_sb_smartbrief

FDA authorizes Pfizer booster for 12- to 15-year-olds

ADA Morning Huddle, January 4, 2022

The Food and Drug Administration has authorized Pfizer's COVID-19 booster for 12- to 15-year-olds, according to The Hill. The agency said adults can get a booster dose five months after initial full vaccination, instead of the original six months. Some immunocompromised children ages 5 to 11, who might not fully respond to the two-dose initial vaccination, also can now receive a booster dose.

Full Story: <https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/587977-fda-authorizes-covid-19-boosters-for-12-to-15-year-olds>

CMS updates vaccine mandate for health care facilities

ADA Morning Huddle, January 3, 2022

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released updated guidance that requires health care facilities in 25 states and the District of Columbia that are not affected by legal stays to have staff fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by Feb. 28 or have an exemption. Fierce Healthcare reported that the order is stayed in 25 states that have challenged the administration's vaccine mandate for health care workers, and the case is scheduled to go before the US Supreme Court later this week.

Full Story: <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/hospitals/cms-health-workers-25-states-and-d-c-must-be-fully-vaccinated-by-feb-28>

Supreme Court to hold special session on vaccine mandates

ADA Morning Huddle, December 23, 2021

The Supreme Court said it will hold a special session Jan. 7 to review legal challenges to the administration's two COVID-19 vaccine mandates, one for large employers and the other for health care employees, according to The New York Times and CBS News. The court has upheld state vaccine mandates, but these cases are different because they consider whether Congress has given the executive branch the authority to institute vaccine requirements.

Full Story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/supreme-court-biden-covid-19-vaccine-rules-health-care-workers-large-companies/>

Full Story: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/22/us/politics/osha-vaccine-mandate-supreme-court.html>

Federal report highlights advances, challenges with oral health in US

ADA Morning Huddle, December 23, 2021

The "Oral Health in America: Advances and Challenges" [report](#), produced by the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research found that while research and policy changes have advanced oral health care over the past two decades, many people across demographics still have chronic oral health conditions and lack access to care. The report is a follow-up to the 2000 "Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General," ADA News reported. NIDCR Director Rena D'Souza, D.D.S., Ph.D., told attendees at a Dec. 21 webcast that the report offered a "comprehensive picture of the state of oral health in America" and added while progress has been made there is more work to be done. The report also listed calls to action to improve oral health in the US, such as policy changes to reduce systemic inequities that affect oral health and diversifying the oral health workforce. "And now we need the broad oral health community to translate this knowledge into action in improving the future of oral health for all," said Bruce Dye, D.D.S., scientific editor and co-director of the report. Dr. Dye is also associate editor of The Journal of the American Dental Association. In a [statement](#), ADA President Cesar R. Sabates, D.D.S., said he was proud of the ADA experts who participated in developing the report. "Oral health is an integral part of overall health, and dentists are leading the way in scientific advancements and clinical treatments that help improve patient health," Dr. Sabates said.

Full Story: <https://www.ada.org/publications/ada-news/2021/december/ada-commends-nih-report-oral-health-in-america-advances-and-challenges>

ADA HPI survey shows one in four dentists increased fees

ADA Morning Huddle, December 23, 2021

The ADA Health Policy Institute's [survey of dentists](#) for December found 1 in 4 had raised fees in the previous month, ADA News reported. Patient volume among private practices was at 90% of pre-pandemic levels and volumes were highest among dentists younger than age 35 and from ages 35 to 44. The percentage of dentists who reported being "very" or "somewhat" confident in their practice's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic decreased to 71%, compared with 75% in the previous survey.

Full Story: <https://www.ada.org/publications/ada-news/2021/december/1-in-4-owner-dentists-raised-fees-at-end-of-year>

Study links periodontal disease to chronic health issues

ADA Morning Huddle, December 23, 2021

A study in [BMJ Open](#) linked periodontal diseases to a higher risk of cardiovascular, cardiometabolic, autoimmune diseases and mental illness. The study included data from 64,379 adults with periodontal disease and 251,161 who did not have periodontal disease, the Miami Herald reported. "Periodontal diseases are very common; therefore, an increased risk of other chronic diseases represent a substantial public health burden," researchers said.

Full Story: <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/national/article256793112.html>

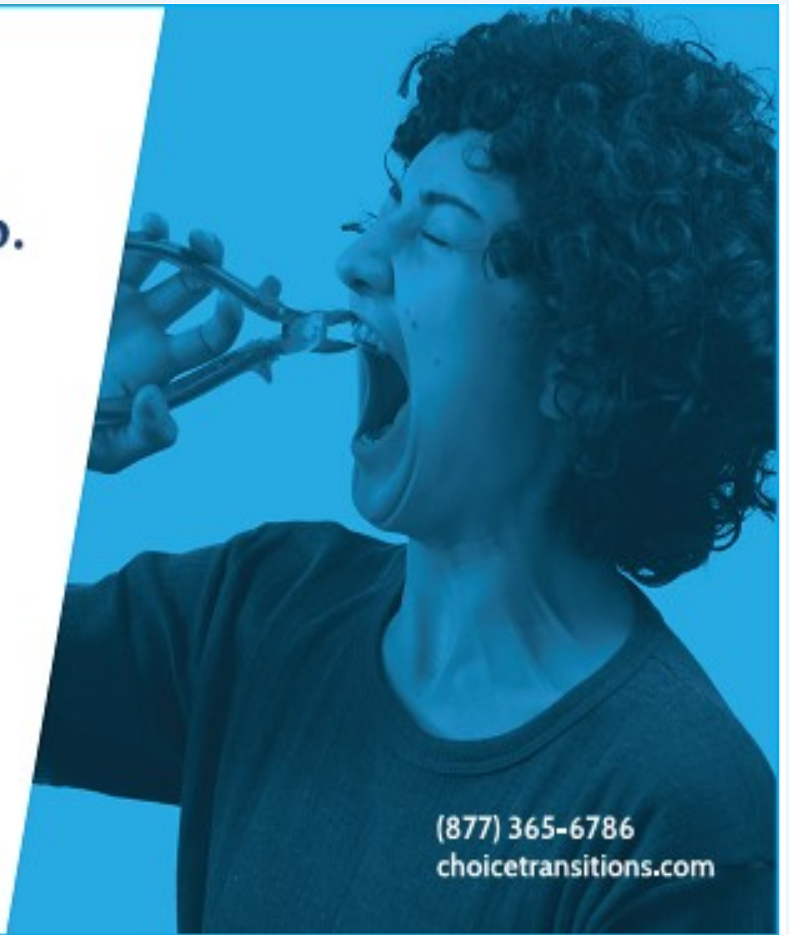
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Classifieds

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Contact: Paul Piontkowski /Bethesda Dental Practice | 703.888.8001 | bethesdadental8218@gmail.com

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Contact: Sam Schoenecker/Professional Transition Strategies /719.694.8320 /sam@professionaltransition.com.

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