



District of Columbia  
DENTAL SOCIETY

# NEWSLETTER

July 2022, Vol. 68, No. 7



**Dr. Ioana "Anna" Bettios**

## **Letter from the D.C. Dental Society President Ioana "Anna" Bettios, DDS, MS, FACP, FICD, FACD**

It's with great honor that I take over as President for one of the most diverse dental societies in the States. When I was Chair of the Membership Committee, I was pleased to receive the ADA Award for our Society being one of the Nation's Most Diverse Dental Society. I would like to thank the Society

members, board of directors, Executive Director Kurt Gallagher and the DCDS staff for the great honor and support to continue the legacy of this great Society.

We will continue to advance and improve our ongoing strategic initiatives and the momentum of the Society with many events planned by the Membership Committee this upcoming year. I would also like to thank Dr. Chris Loukaitis, with his many years of experience in organized dentistry, for accepting to serve on the board as my Presidential Appointee. I have known Chris as a professional prosthodontist colleague and a friend for many years. I would also like to thank our team of Board Members for their support in shaping our goals and vision for our strategic plan. We have a great Board team with many years of collective experience as Board Members, Past Presidents, and as ADA Delegates with common goals to forward the Society to new heights this next year.

I am looking forward to the events planned by the Membership Committee with outreach programs, happy hours, and opportunities for our members to meet and engage in fun activities. We will continue activities and events

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### **D.C. Dental Society**

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

Cover photo: DCDS Life Member inductees at the Annual Awards Meeting on June 21.

**Letter from the President—Continued on Page 2**

## Letter from the President—Continued from Page 1

starting this summer as well as outreach and mentorship to Howard University dental students with mock interviews and table clinic presentations during continuing education seminars to further their career goals.

The Educational Committee has planned for our monthly meeting continuing education presentations through the end of 2023. We are confirming speakers now and will have a great line up of speakers to announce by the end of summer. I also expect that early in 2023 our Society will once again organize a Symposium for Licensure to help you and your staff complete those educational courses that are required specifically to renew your license.

The Public Policy Committee, with Board guidance, will shape the way forward with “town hall meetings” and will continue the Society’s advocacy efforts in addressing those issues that are critical to your practice, including reducing the time required to process applications for licenses; building the pipeline for dental hygienists and dental assistants; and expanding the functions of dental assistants. We appreciate the ongoing efforts and support by Mr. Brett Greene in assisting the Society with advocacy efforts with the Board of Dentistry and the District of Columbia Council to ensure high quality oral healthcare for our patients.

I encourage our members to volunteer to serve our Society and support the ongoing efforts in committees. Please reach out to the DCDS office staff if you have an interest in serving on the Education, Professional Standards, Membership/New Member Subcommittees, and Public Policy Committees .

In closing I would like to congratulate our newly elected officers, President-Elect Dr. Cheryl Baptiste and Vice President Dr. Hillary Hochman, as well as incoming members of the Board of Directors, Dr. Charles Coulter, Dr. Clare McGorry, Dr. Allen Robinson, and Dr. Luke Schwartz.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as president of our Society. I look forward to meeting all in upcoming meetings!

Best regards,

Dr. Anna Bettios, DDS, MS, FACP, FICD, FACD  
President 2022-2023

### **DCDS Officers and Directors**

Dr. Ioana “Anna” Bettios  
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Dr. Cheryle Baptiste  
President-Elect

Dr. Hillary Hochman  
Vice President

Dr. Eugene Giannini  
Treasurer

Dr. Sally Cram  
Secretary

Dr. Dr. Katie Clark  
Dr. Charles Coulter  
Dr. Chad Jones  
Dr. Aliya Kassam  
Dr. Lucciola Lambruschini  
Dr. Clare McGorry  
Dr. Allen Robinson  
Dr. Luke Schwartz

### **DCDS Staff**

Kurt Gallagher, CAE  
Executive Director

Maeceon Lewis  
Education and Community Programs  
Senior Coordinator

Cheryl Michi  
Membership and Operations  
Associate

## Members Gather at Annual Awards Meeting

The Annual Awards Meeting was held on the rooftop of the DCDS office building on June 21st, honoring the recipients of this year's DCDS Awards and installing 2022-2023 DCDS President Anna Bettios.

Board Election results were announced and ADA and Life Member pins were presented to members, along with Certificates for Excellence in Continuing Education for members who completed 50 or more hours of continuing education over the past year.

Congratulations to all!



2021-2022 DCDS President Pierre Cartier with Sterling V. Mead Award winner Angela Noguera

Outgoing DCDS President Pierre Cartier hands the gavel to incoming President Anna Bettios



## Members Honored at Annual Awards Meeting

### *Sterling V. Mead Award*

#### **Dr. Angela Noguera**



Dr. Angela Noguera has been a member of the D.C. Dental Society since 1989 and has contributed to the DCDS community while serving in nearly every volunteer leadership position possible. She helped plan the Nation's Capital Dental Meeting throughout the early 2000s before serving as chair of the 2003 meeting. Concurrently, she was also a member of the board of directors before her election as president of DCDS, holding the office from 2005-2006.

Dr. Noguera is an active member of numerous other dental associations as well, including the American Association of Endodontists, American Dental Association, the International and the American College of Dentists and the College of Diplomates of the American Association of Endodontists. In addition to the offices she held within DCDS, she is also a past president of the Edward C. Penick Endodontic Study Club and the Maimonides Dental Society.

In 2016 Dr. Noguera returned to service within the D.C. Dental Society when she was elected to the delegation representing Washington, D.C. in the ADA House of Delegates and continues to serve as a member of the delegation to this day. During the 2015 and 2021 House of Delegates meeting, she was appointed by the ADA as a member of the Dental Education, Science and related matters as well as the Dental Benefits, Practice and related matters Reference Committee, which is responsible for evaluating resolutions proposed for action by the House of Delegates. She also serves on the board of the D.C. Dental Society Foundation.

Dr. Noguera became a board-certified endodontist in 1994 and received her undergraduate dental education from the Universidad Metropolitana in Barranquilla, Colombia. She then proceeded to further her education in the USA at the University of Maryland where she received an M.S. in Oral Biology from the Graduate School, as well as a Certificate in Endodontics through Baltimore College of Dental Surgery in 1988.

Dr. Noguera is happily married to Dr. Ali Fassihi, another past president of DCDS, and is the proud mother of three daughters: Eliana, Maryam, and Roxana. In her spare time, she enjoys and supports the Music and Arts, reading and sitting by the water.

Dr. Noguera was selected again by her peers as a 2021 Top Dentist, a distinction that has been bestowed for the last 15 years.

***Members Honored at June Awards Dinner —Continued on Page 5***



## ***2022 Committee Member of the Year Award*** **Dr. Clare McGorry**

In the five years since arriving in the District for a yearlong GPR at the D.C. Veterans Affairs Medical Center and joining DCDS, Dr. Clare McGorry quickly established herself as a dedicated contributor to the dental community. In 2018 she joined two committees – the Education Committee and the New Dentist Subcommittee, and in 2020 was elected to her first term on the DCDS Board of Directors. During her first year on the board, Dr. McGorry was an active participant in the Strategic Planning Committee, which developed the DCDS strategic plan that is current in operation. She is a champion for DCDS who is actively engaged in both the Board of Directors and the Membership Committee. In the fall of 2021 she volunteered to participate in a series of mock interviews for D4 dental students at Howard University and has supported the development of innovative new programs for DCDS.

Dr. McGorry has a long history of service. While at OSU, she served as secretary of the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) chapter for three years, was the Student Liaison to the Ohio Dental Association’s Education Committee for two years and helped plan the ODA’s Annual Session. In 2014, she lobbied on Capitol Hill on behalf of ASDA to help promote bills that would benefit new dentists and the dental profession as a whole. In addition to her volunteerism within DCDS, she also serves as Chair of the Education Committee for the American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine.

Dr. McGorry graduated from Ohio State University College of Dentistry and is a Diplomate of the American Board of Dental Sleep Medicine. She currently practices south of DuPont Circle at Markowitz Dental. In her free time, she enjoys cooking and yoga as well as trying new restaurants in DC.



## ***2022 Special Recognition of a Member Award*** **Dr. Aliya Kassam**

Dr. Aliya Kassam initially began her affiliation with the D.C. Dental Society as a student liaison in 2008 through the American Student Dental Association. After completion of her General Practice Residency in 2014, she returned back to DC and continued her membership with the society. In 2016, she volunteered to serve on the committee for the Mid-Atlantic Dental Meeting, and has been an active volunteer working to benefit the DCDS community ever since. In 2019, she participated in a committee charged with developing a new event for the DC dental community, which would become the first Symposium for Licensure, while also serving on the Membership Benefits Committee. That same year, she was elected to her first term as a member of the Board of Directors. In addition to her service on the Board, she also sits as a member of the Awards and Nominating Committee. Dr. Kassam works to keep the ADA strong by regularly participating in the annual National Signing Day event at the Howard University College of Dentistry, a key membership development activity.

While a student at the Howard University College of Dentistry, she actively held numerous leadership and liaison positions in her class, along with being elected chair of various organizations. She participated in several Mission of Mercy events—in Oklahoma, DC, and Maryland—and is currently an adjunct professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry at Howard University. Dr. Kassam regularly participates in mission trips to serve underserved communities, both domestically and abroad, with her students.

Dr. Kassam is currently the co-founder of multiple locations of Mint Dental in DC. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, attending local sporting events, mentoring future dental professionals, experimenting with different cuisines, and spending quality time with her cat.

## **DCDS & DCDS Foundation Election Results**

### **President-Elect**

Dr. Cheryle Baptiste

### **Vice President**

Dr. Hillary Hochman

### **Board of Directors**

Dr. Charles Coulter

Dr. Clare McGorry

Dr. Allen Robinson

Dr. Luke Schwartz

### **Foundation Board of Directors**

Dr. Patrick Grogan

Dr. Johanna Huijssoon

Dr. Angela Noguera

Dr. Andrew Pinto

Dr. Jessica Rubin

Dr. Salvatore Selvaggio

Dr. Stanley Shulman

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## ADA and DCDS Life Member Inductees

- Dr. Luis Barr\*
- Dr. Carol Blake
- Dr. Andrew Cobb
- Dr. Ronald Cooper
- Dr. Sally Cram
- Dr. Robert Donahue
- Dr. Robert Emery
- Dr. Eduardo Gerlein\*
- Dr. Eugene Giannini
- Dr. Brian Gray\*
- Dr. Patrick Grogan
- Dr. Shawna Hawk
- Dr. Margaret Irvin
- Dr. Kim Knoll
- Dr. Chris Loukaitis
- Dr. John Martin\*
- Dr. Angela Noguera
- Dr. Julian Moiseiwitsch\*
- Dr. Keith Progebin
- Dr. Michael Ribera
- Dr. John Shefferman
- Dr. Francis Surprenant
- Dr. Alexandra Thomson
- Dr. Robert Tigani



Members receive special pins to commemorate their induction as Life Members.

**2011-2022 Excellence in Continuing Education**  
**Awarded to members who have earned 50 or more continuing education credit hours over the past year.**

- Dr. Pierre Cartier
- Dr. Robert Emery
- Dr. Steven Guttenberg
- Dr. Christos Loukaitis
- Dr. Donald Meyer
- Dr. Edward Mopsik
- Dr. Angela Noguera
- Dr. Michael Ribera
- Dr. Sheila Samaddar
- Dr. Luke Schwartz



Photo: Left to Right: Drs. Angela Noguera, Eugene Giannini, Julian Moiseiwitsch, Carol Blake and Sally Cram were inducted as Life Members on June 21.

\* ADA Life Member Inductee only in 2022.

## Thank you to our Partners



## SmileCon 2022

### Top thought leaders bring latest, greatest in dental education to SmileCon

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Dr. Shatz

With courses centered on specific themes, including the business of dentistry, science and technology, art and design, and common good, attendees can explore the areas that interest them the most.

"SmileCon is a new take on the traditional dental meeting," said Peter Shatz, D.D.S., CE chair. "Similar to how most people get their news of the day from social media outlets and not the daily paper, SmileCon delivers the latest science, innovations and trends in a highly concentrated experience. We have curated a collection of the top thought leaders to bring you the latest and greatest in dental education in a high-energy, relatable and engaging manner. No other meeting has so many high-end speakers in one place, at one time."

SmileCon, a joint meeting with the 2022 Texas Dental Association Meeting and the 2023 Greater Houston Dental Society's Star of the South Dental Meeting, will take place Oct. 13-15 at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston.

Meeting registration opened June 1, and attendees can register for courses and plan their schedules with the Agenda Builder at [SmileCon.org](https://www.smilecon.org).

Source: [www.ada.org](https://www.ada.org)



**Register for SmileCon 2022**

## DCDS Advocacy

### DC Board of Dentistry expected to take up DCDS recommendations on expanded scope of practice during July 20 meeting

During its meeting on July 20, the DC Board of Dentistry is expected to discuss recommendations presented by DCDS regarding expansions of the scopes of practice for licensed dental health professionals. DCDS communicated its recommendations via a June 11 letter to Interim Chair of DC Board of Dentistry John R. Bailey DDS. The letter recommends a number of changes to the scopes of practice for dentists, dental assistants and dental hygienists and notes that the Board is considering scope of practice changes "at a time when a significant percentage of dental practices face critical staffing shortages."

The Board of Dentistry will meet at 9 AM on July 20. Members of the public may [join via Webex](#).

#### BACKGROUND:

The DCDS letter presents key findings from a survey conducted among DC dental practices in April in response to a request for data from DC Health. The survey confirmed widespread reports of high vacancy rates among dental practices (see figures in table below).

The letter notes that "by updating the scopes of practice, the Board has an opportunity to enhance the

	Unfilled Vacancies	Vacancies Filled by Temporary Workers	Total Vacancies
Dentists	18%	10%	28%
Dental Hygienists	36%	11%	47%
Dental Assistants	25%	5%	30%

ability of dental practices to increase access to care by expanding the procedures that dental hygienists and dental assistants are authorized to perform." The procedures recommended in the letter include the following:

- Ability of all dentists to administer injectable pharmacologics (e.g., Botox and dermal fillers)
- Ability of dental assistants to place pit and fissure sealants
- Ability of dental assistants to perform coronal polishing

The recommended changes would bring the District's regulations in line with those of many other states.

To learn more about DCDS advocacy or to get involved, write to [info@dcdental.org](mailto:info@dcdental.org).

[Read DCDS Letter](#)

## DCDS Launches New Programs to Foster the Dental Community

Whether it was by chatting with colleagues at a monthly meeting or connecting with friends at a happy hour, DCDS has long provided members with ways to connect with the dental community. Now DCDS has launched a new series of programs to provide members with even more ways to connect.

We hope to see you at an upcoming outing, game night, affinity group meeting or other activity. Watch for announcements from DCDS and connect with the DC dental community.

**Case  
Studies**

**Trivia Night**

**Medicaid Town Hall**

**Happy  
Hour**

**GAME  
NIGHT**

Want to help plan an activity? Write to DCDS at [info@dcdental.org](mailto:info@dcdental.org) or call 202-367-1163.

### Join a DCDS Affinity Group

DCDS is forming affinity groups to connect member segments based upon areas of interest, such as:

- Practice Specialty
- Diversity
- Public Policy Interest or Patient Population Served

**Sign Up for DCDS Affinity Groups Here**

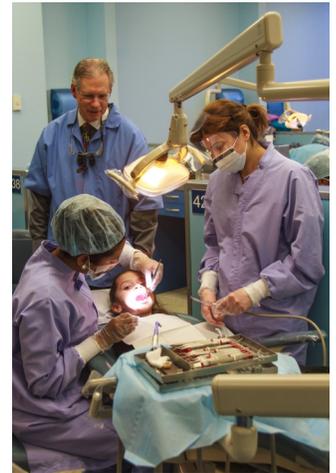
## Answer the call through D.C. Dental Cares, the new pro bono program of the D.C. Dental Society Foundation

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. Nadia P. Gutiérrez** was born and raised in the beautiful Caribbean island of Puerto Rico. In 2013 she received her Bachelor of Science Degree, with a major in Biology from the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus. Subsequently, she continued her education, obtaining her Doctorate in Dental Medicine in 2017 at the University of Puerto Rico, School of Dental Medicine. In July 2017, Dr. Gutiérrez continued her post graduate studies in Montefiore Medical Center in New York City where she completed a General Practice Residency in 2018.

After completing the program, she moved to the District of Columbia where she has been actively serving the community. During the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, she worked vigorously with underserved communities ensuring that they were receiving proper dental emergency treatments. Her unique experiences and dental background have allowed her to care for patients of all ages and cultural backgrounds.

Today, Dr. Gutiérrez continues to serve patients at Pahlavani Dental in Northwest DC. During her free time, Dr. Gutiérrez enjoys yoga, binge-watching TV, and spending time with her husband and two adorable dogs Mango and Guava, and extended family.

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**[www.DistrictACS.org](http://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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## Free webinar: Decreasing Costs and Improving Efficiencies in your Practice is easy as EFT

*ADA Morning Huddle, July 6, 2022*



Would you like to decrease costs and improve administrative efficiencies in your practice? Join Dr. Sara Stuefen, a general dentist from Iowa, and Brad Smith from NA-CHA, at noon CT on July 14 to learn how to successfully implement electronic funds transfer (EFT) payments in your practice. You and your team members will learn how to reduce practice overhead costs by using EFT to secure rapid receipt of claim payments directly into your bank account. 1 CE credit. [Register today!](#)

For more information on the advantages of EFT payments visit [ada.org/aei](https://ada.org/aei).

## Improving Oral Healthcare for Older Adults Symposium

*ADA Morning Huddle, June 30, 2022*



Join experts from academia, government and different practice modalities online or at ADA headquarters in Chicago on Friday, Aug. 26, for a symposium exploring the issues that impact oral and systemic health in older adults. From Policy to Chairside: Improving Oral Healthcare of the Aging Population will engage attendees in a common purpose to serve this unique patient segment. The symposium is designed for all dental professionals and students regardless of career stage or practice modality. 6 CE credits (pending approval).

[Register today!](#)

## Free Webinar: The Science of Advocacy

*ADA Morning Huddle, July 5, 2022*

The science (and the art) of public policy advocacy is a compelling topic, particularly in light of the challenges of growing political partisanship and politically motivated thinking. Join us at 7 p.m. CT on Aug. 18 to learn about how policy advocacy can positively shape the world of dental medicine, health care policy and public health practice. We'll also explore potential solutions for addressing and overcoming politically motivated thinking. 1 CE credit (pending approval).

[Register today.](#)

## State advocacy wins to improve Medicaid dental programs

*ADA Morning Huddle, July 5, 2022*

Many states have used their recent legislative sessions -- and budget surpluses -- to make improvements to their Medicaid dental programs, ADA News reported. Ensuring comprehensive dental care in Medicaid is an important issue for dentists and the profession, and on the federal level the ADA supports the [Medicaid Dental Benefit Act of 2021](#), which would require all states to include comprehensive dental services as part of Medicaid coverage for adults. ADA President Cesar R. Sabates, D.D.S., said he was gratified that some states are taking action to improve Medicaid dental benefits because that will "reduce racial disparities and inequities in chronic disease prevalence and promote maternal health."

**Full Story:** <https://www.ada.org/publications/ada-news/2022/june/ada-highlights-state-advocacy-wins-to-improve-dental-medicaid?md5=6d82a1682331f6d929006a00ab33bc4a>

## ADA seeks comments on white paper about AI use in dentistry

*ADA Morning Huddle, July 1, 2022*

The ADA Standards Committee on Dental Informatics released for comment a [white paper](#) that provides an overview of the clinical and nonclinical applications of artificial and augmented intelligence in the dental profession, according to ADA News. The paper was developed by the SCDI Working Group 13.8 on Augmented Intelligence in Dentistry, which is working on other standards and technical reports related to the use of AI in dentistry. Comments on the white paper will be accepted until Aug. 15.

**Full Story:** <https://www.ada.org/publications/ada-news/2022/june/ada-white-paper-on-augmented-intelligence-in-dentistry-available-for-comment?md5=6d82a1682331f6d929006a00ab33bc4a>

## JADA articles explore how to improve oral health care in US

*ADA Weekend Huddle, July 2, 2022*

A perspective article in The Journal of the American Dental Association, "[Oral Health in America: Implications for Dental Practice](#)," analyzes a National Institutes of Health report from 2021, "Oral Health in America: Advances and Challenges." Bruce A. Dye, D.D.S., Rena N. D'Souza, D.D.S., and Judith Albino, Ph.D., write in a [JADA guest editorial](#) that the authors of the perspective suggest three strategies, across areas such as oral care delivery, oral health integration, insurance coverage and financing, and dental workforce, that could help improve oral health care in the US. "The greatest challenge to this achievement will be providing the adequate access to care necessary to ensure oral health equity," the editorial said. "As a profession, we are reaching a defining moment for deciding the direction we should pursue and how we want to shape the future."

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Harry Snyderman, DDS x230

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## Classifieds

### Upcoming Events

#### DCDS Summer Happy Hour

Join your colleagues at our next Happy Hour planned for late July. Watch for additional details from DCDS over the next few weeks.

### DCDS Member Ads

**FREE Employment Ad for DCDS Members.** DCDS members who are seeking employment or who have open staff positions can place a classified ad at no charge. Click on the link below to get started.

#### Advertise with DCDS

Classified ads in the DCDS Newsletter are easy. Simply submit your ad through [the DCDS online form](#). We will then send you a payment link. Payment must be received prior to publication.