



District of Columbia
DENTAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

November 2022, Vol. 68, No. 11



Dr. Ioana "Anna" Bettios

Letter from the DC Dental Society President Ioana "Anna" Bettios, DDS, MS, FACP, FICD, FACD

Dear Colleagues,

October was an amazing month filled with many important events and meetings!

I had the pleasure of attending the ADA's Delegates Meeting in Houston from October 14 to October 18, 2022. It was an amazing chance to hear the topics which were elevated from several Districts, including our resolution recommendations from the recent 4th District

meeting held in Delaware in September. Congratulations to Dr. George Shepley from Baltimore, MD, one of our 4th District members, who was installed as the new ADA President. Congratulations also to the new President-Elect, Dr. Linda Edgar, a trailblazer who energized the crowd with her vision for future initiatives for our ADA members. It was a remarkable meeting with motivating speakers discussing resolutions on challenging topics for our profession. It was a refreshing and an amazingly inspiring experience to continue to advance DCDS's strategic initiatives and goals of improving membership value and continue to provide exceptional programs with financial stability to our members. I'd like to thank our DC delegation to the ADA House of Delegates comprised of Drs. Patrick Grogan and Angela Noguera (Delegates), Drs. Katie Clark and myself (Alternate Delegates), Dr. Sally Cram (Secretary), and Kurt Gallagher, CAE (Executive Director), who participated in many initiatives brought forward by the 4th District Delegates. Thanks to all for proudly representing our Society at the National level.

It was incredibly uplifting to meet so many colleagues from different districts with strategic planning topics and initiatives discussed. In addition to all of the events and the House of Delegates, there was serious discussion about what we as dentists can do to help those who need assistance and relief for our colleagues in Florida affected by the recent Category 5 hurricane.

The DCDS board of directors met recently and voted unanimously in favor of donating \$5,000 to support Massachusetts ballot measure #2 that is on the ballot in

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Letter from the President—Continued on Page 2

Letter from the President—Continued from Page 1

November. Voters in Massachusetts will decide whether to set a minimum for the percentage of dental insurance premiums that must be used for patient benefits. If passed, ballot measure 2 would require dental insurers to spend at least 83 percent of the premiums they collect on enrollee dental care, thereby limiting the maximum that can be used for administrative expenses. If less than 83 percent of the insurance premium is used on patient benefits, the dental insurance company will be required to refund the difference to the enrollee. The ADA and state dental societies, including DCDS, are supporting ballot measure #2 because of the important precedent it would establish on behalf of patients and dentists. DCDS members can make individual donations at voteyeson2fordental.com.

DCDS has brought a range of recommendations to the DC Board of Dentistry to improve the ability of dentists, dental hygienists, and assistants to provide care. Our [testimony before the DC Council](#) and [letter to the DC Board of Dentistry](#) provide additional detail. A special thanks to Mr. Kurt Gallagher and Mr. Brett Greene (from the DCDS lobbying team) for their continuing efforts to ensure our voices are heard at the DC Department of Health and for their efforts to improve staffing and licensing or registration of staff and dentists in the District. Recently DCDS hosted a virtual meeting with the director of the DC Council Committee on Health (chaired by Councilmember Vincent Gray). Many members participated and shared testimonials about ongoing licensing challenges and issues hiring dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants. Expansion of scope of practice and training programs for dental assistants was discussed, as well as more diversity needed on the DC Dental Board. We also plan to put forward nominations from our members for several positions on the Board of Dentistry.

At our October meeting, the DCDS Board discussed initiatives to improve membership with more events and happy hours. The December CE meeting will be held December 8 at Catholic University, and we're planning a holiday happy hour for December 15 (see page 10). I encourage members to attend, as both events will be amazing.

Congratulations to the Membership Committee for its 2021 ADA award for Most Improved Active Member Retention Rate in a society with fewer than 500 members. During our October meeting, the Board heard motions for a member-bring a new member-recruitment bonus; if a dentist you recruit becomes a member there will be a \$100 reward for joining DCDS (up to four members), which will expand our membership. We continue to welcome new members and encourage members to "follow" and "like" our social media platforms to ensure our events are reaching everyone. We are excited about the new Social Media and Marketing Committee; these members have been busy reaching our members with posts!

We continue our search for member talent to expand our social media platforms to ensure reaching and keeping members abreast of all new events submitted by committee chairs.

DCDS Officers and Directors

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Maeceon Lewis
Education and Community Programs Senior Coordinator

Cheryl Michi
Membership and Operations Associate

Letter from the President—Continued on Page 4

November 8th Meeting (In Person and Virtual): A Practice Management Double Feature

Session 1: Finding the Right Fit for Your Career Needs Wherever You are in Your Career
Session 2: How Dentists Work Together for Smooth and Successful Transitions

Presented by Suzanne Ebert, DMD, a Vice President at the ADA's Business Innovation Group

A Thanksgiving-style seasonal dinner will be served for in-person attendees starting at 5:15 PM!

Business Meeting Begins at 5:45 PM

Educational Program Begins at Approximately 6:00 PM

Lecture Format

Continuing Education note: We regret that we are not able to offer CE credits, as this is a practice management course.

Cost: Free to DCDS Members | \$75 Virtual for Non-Members; \$110 In-Person for Non-Members.

Space is limited for in-person attendance. Visit the [DCDS Registration Fees & Cancellation Policy page](#).

Location

DCDS Headquarters

2001 K Street NW, Third Floor North

Parking garage is accessible from L Street between 21st and 20th Streets

Parking is now available in our building's garage for \$12 after 4 p.m.

About Suzanne Ebert, DMD

[Read about Dr. Ebert here.](#)

Session 1: Finding the Right Fit for Your Career Needs Wherever You are in Your Career

Description:

Some dentists graduate knowing exactly what they want – but many aren't quite sure. When you keep an open mind about your career path, you might find satisfaction in a place you had never considered. Have you considered mentoring as part of your practice plan or a mentorship to ownership path? Dr. Suzanne Ebert, Vice President of Dental Practice & Relationship Management, will share keys to identifying the right practice and will take your questions on practice transitions.

Session 2: How Dentists Work Together for Smooth and Successful Transitions

Description:

Dr. Suzanne Ebert, Vice President of Dental Practice & Relationship Management, will share the keys to building an integration plan. Learn about the stages and steps that are most challenging for dentists and the areas critical to long-term success for the doctors and the practice.



[Register Here](#)



Letter from the President—Continued from Page 2

The Symposium Committee chair discussed results of a survey sent in September, with members expressing their desire for two-day virtual events. The DCDS Board also voted on an Education Committee motion for a language change in our policy for presenters. If a presenter is chosen from the local area, to ensure there is no honoraria if they are DCDS members, that there is no favoritism in selecting speakers, and that there is no self-promotion of their private practice. The Board voted on keeping the current line of great speakers selected for this year until the end of 2023. Stay tuned for a survey forthcoming on members' desires for the duration of CE meetings and dinner delivery timing options.

Finally, it's almost membership renewal time! Please keep an eye out for your membership renewal invoice which will be mailed to you later this month. When you receive your renewal notice, you will see that you can also donate to the DCDS Foundation and the ADPAC. Please consider making these donations, as this funding allows us to give back to the community (in the case of the Foundation) and advocate for legislation that's beneficial for dentists (in the case of the ADPAC).

I am looking forward to seeing all at the monthly meeting on November 8 or December 8 and at the holiday happy hour on December 15!

Best regards,

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

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
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Upcoming Presentations of the 2022-2023 Continuing Education Program

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

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



Tuesday, November 8th

Session 1: Finding the Right Fit for Your Career Needs Wherever You are in Your Career

Session 2: How dentists work together for smooth and successful transitions

Virtual and In Person

Course Presenter: Dr. Suzanne Ebert

Meeting Sponsor: Garfield Refining

Register Here

Tuesday, December 8th
Implants and Full-Mouth Implant Rehabilitation

Virtual and In Person

CE Credits Offered: 2.5 CE Credits

Course Presenter: Dr. Arun Garg

Note Special Location:

Catholic University

Pryzbyla Center

Great Rooms A&B

Washington, DC



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 the above presentations for the number of CE credits listed.

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

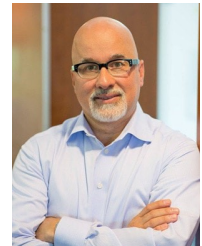
Upcoming Presentations of the 2022-2023 Continuing Education Program

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 10th
Practical Tips for the Everyday Practicing Dentists
Virtual Only
CE Credits Offered: 2.0 CE Credits
Course Presenter: Dr. Robert C. Margeas



Wednesday, February 15th
Trials and Tribulations of Digital Dental Implant Surgery
Virtual and In Person
CE Credits Offered: 2.5 CE Credits
Course Presenter: Dr. Israel Puterman

Tuesday, March 14th
Orthodontics Update
Virtual and In Person
CE Credits Offered: 2.5 CE Credits
Course Presenter: Dr. Negaar Sagafi



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Welcome New Members



Dr. Virginia Perez is a general dentist in Washington, DC and Virginia. Dr. Perez was born in Venezuela and moved to the United States when she was just 15 years old. She received a Bachelors of Science in Biology with a minor in Spanish at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. Dr. Perez then attended Howard University College of Dentistry and after finishing her dental degree, she relocated for a year to do an Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) residency in Springfield, Missouri. She is now practicing as an Associate Dentist in Northwest DC during the weekdays and on Saturdays in Chantilly, Virginia. In her spare time, she loves tutoring Spanish, hanging out with her friends and family and especially going for walks with her dog, Fitz. She also loves traveling and plans to take classes in archery during the warmer seasons and one of her goals is to have more pets and have her own dental practice.

Shilah Alibakhshi

Bianka Amin

Jaklin Bezik

Sheila Brear

Teara Frost

Lyndsey Nagy

Adetunji Sijuwade

Shon Tyler

Special Thanks

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New Guidance on Indoor Mask Requirements for Dental Practices

The ADA has provided resources and indoor mask guidance for dental practices and waiting areas.

Click on button below for details.

[Indoor Mask Guidance For Your Practice](#)





MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PERKS. AND WE'RE ONE OF THEM.

Celebrate additional savings with your State Dental Association membership on supplies you love from brands you trust.

See how dental practices everywhere are celebrating additional savings on supplies that keep the office stocked up, without breaking the bank. Plus, get next-day delivery* on thousands of in-stock items. Start saving today at [TDSC.com](https://www.tdsc.com).

*Exclusions apply. Next-day delivery is provided for over 95% of line items, dependent on inventory levels and time of order placement. Drop-ship items do not fall under this claim, delivery estimates and exclusions can be found on each product detail page.



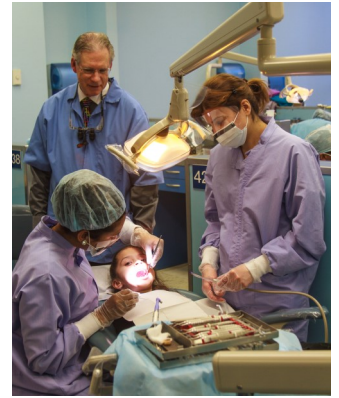
Answer the call

DCDS Pro Bono Program Lets You Provide Care in Your Practice

DC Dental Cares is a pro bono program of the DCDS Foundation created to enable humanitarian outreach by DCDC members in our local community. DCDS has partnered with the Catholic Charities Healthcare Network (CCHCN) to provide dental care for the most vulnerable and in need members of our community. This program is win-win: for our community, for the individuals who receive dental procedures that would not otherwise be possible due to costs, and for the DCDS volunteer who gains that warm feeling that comes from doing good.

Patients are fully vetted for need by CCHCN, and the treating dentist sets the level of care provided. You can treat one person a year or several a month, all while in the comfort of your own office. Sign up using our 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 DC community in recent years.



Sign Up for DC Dental Cares



Mark your calendars!

***Join us for our Holiday Season
Happy Hour***

December 15 — 5 p.m.

Network with your DCDS friends and colleagues

Proper21—K Street

2033 K Street NW

Washington, DC 20006

Nearby Metro Stations: Foggy Bottom,
Farragut North, Farragut West

DCDS Advocacy & DC Government Updates

DCDS Holds Town Hall

DCDS is working to improve the difficult challenge of securing licensed dental staff in DC and recently held a virtual town hall meeting with the Michelle Loggins, Director of the DC Council Committee on Health. A number of members provided moving testimonials describing the challenges they or their staff have experiencing securing a license or registration to practice in DC. The meeting also explored potential actions that may be taken by the DC Council to improve this situation. A follow-up meeting with Councilmember Vincent Gray is expected by the end of November.

DCDS Supports Dental Insurance Reform Campaign

In October DCDS donated \$5,000 in support of the Vote Yes on 2 for Dental Care campaign in Massachusetts to advance dental insurance reform.

Why Question 2 is important to DC dentists

Question 2 in Massachusetts is an important first step in bringing dental insurance reform to DC and other states. If approved by Massachusetts voters, the potential for enacting dental insurance reform in DC would increase significantly, which would expand access to care by increasing dental insurance coverage for both dentists and patients.

What Question 2 would do

Question 2 would require Massachusetts dental insurance plans to spend at least 83% of premium dollars on patient care or refund the difference to the patient.

How you can help

Add your support by making a donation [here](#).

Visit the [Vote Yes on 2 for Dental Care campaign website](#) for more information.

The image shows a YouTube video player interface. On the left is a video thumbnail of a woman with blonde hair and glasses, wearing a white lab coat, with the text "Dr. Moriarty" overlaid. To the right of the thumbnail is the "Vote Yes on 2 for Dental Care" logo, which features a smiling tooth character giving a thumbs up. Below the logo is the website address "VoteYESon2ForDentalCare.com". At the bottom of the player, there is a "Watch on YouTube" button. In the background, there is a text overlay: "PAID FOR BY MASSACHUSETTS DENTAL CARE PROVIDERS FOR BETTER DENTAL BENEFITS. TOP CONTRIBUTORS: MASSACHUSETTS DENTAL SOCIETY, AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION, DR. GARY CYSTER, FLORIDA DENTAL ASSOCIATION, INC., RHODE ISLAND DENTAL ASSOCIATION".

Are You Partnered with The D.C. Dental Society Endorsed Employee Benefits Team?

Does your practice offer group medical benefits on DC Health Link? Are you partnered with the right broker? Did you know D.C. Dental Society has an endorsed broker on DC Health Link for our members?

In speaking with many of our members that offer group medical plans, many do not find their health insurance brokers are helpful or responsive. They are asking:

Is my practice offering the right benefits to attract and retain employees?

Does my broker take the time to know me and explore the best options for my needs and budget?

DC Dentists with plans through the DC Health Link, uniquely benefit from working with R.K. Tongue as their health plan broker in the following ways:

R.K. Tongue's partnership with the DC Dental Society generates non-dues revenues that support DCDS' advocacy efforts on your behalf

R.K. Tongue's business relationships with DC Dentists and their practices often include multiple types of insurance – you always know who to contact an https://cdn.pixabay.com/photo/2018/12/10/16/34/graphic-3867319_960_720.png our entire team is invested in making sure you get the guidance you need

It is as simple as a phone call or email. We will walk you through the simple, online process of selecting a member of our team as your broker. Nothing will change with your medical benefits immediately (other than stellar service) and at your next renewal, R.K. Tongue will be on your team. Letting R.K. Tongue get to know you now will have us ready to go to bat for you when it counts!

If you are not offering group medical, vision, disability, or life insurance to your employees, now is the time to explore your options. You and your employees will benefit. Don't wait!

At [R.K. Tongue](#), we pride ourselves in serving our clients. Please call Cynthia Eckhardt at 410.752.7216 or [email](#) today – we are here to help you win!



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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Scan to request more info and a detailed rate analysis

The ADA Member App: a new way to tap into membership

Members can tap into resources, support and community, all in the palm of their hands with the re-imagined ADA Member App.

This app isn't just made for dentists, it's made *with* them. When designing the app, ADA team members worked directly with dentists from different practice modalities, including dental students.

The result of this collaboration is evident throughout the re-imagined ADA Member App.

ADA Member App Features

Chat: Tap into the ADA dental community by creating private one-to-one and group chats.

Dental Sound Bites™: Stream real talk on dentistry's daily wins and sticky situations. Tune in to "Dental Sound Bites" on the ADA Member App for exclusive content.

Digital Wallet: Store and easily access important documents like CE, licensing, credentialing and more.

Custom Newsfeed: Choose topics to follow and read what matters most to you.

Career Pathways: Get real-life insights from dentists in different settings.

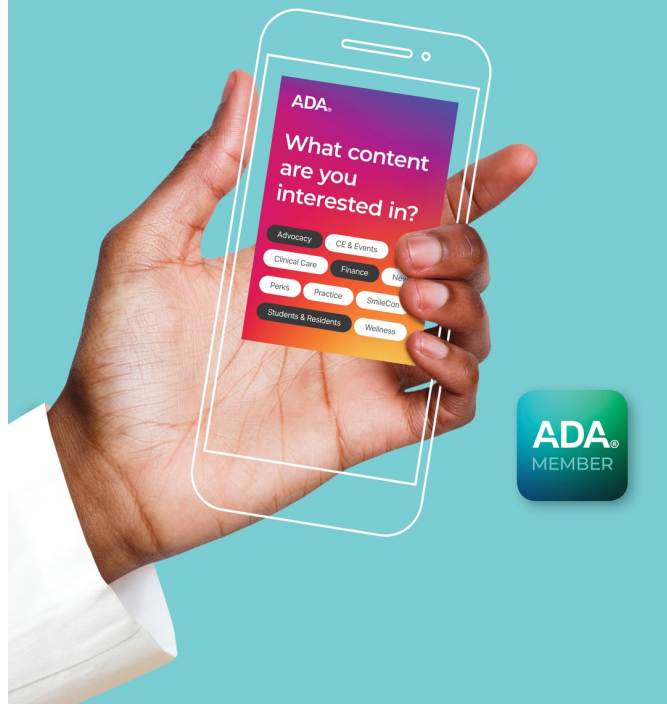
"This app is really a collaboration from the ADA and its members," said Kirthi Tata, D.D.S., a new dentist working in a private dental practice in St. Louis, Missouri. "The ADA really focused on the various resources dentists look for in all the various aspects of their career and, more importantly, how all those resources can be accessible in one place."

The revamped app is a key new benefit to members and will continue to evolve with new offerings and features.

"As technology continues to advance the profession, the ADA needs to be able to learn and adapt and evolve with it," said Raymond Cohlma, D.D.S., ADA executive director. "This app is an important part of helping the ADA reach its member dentists so we can be there for them when they need us. I can't wait for every dentist to download the app and see what we have to offer them."

Learn more at [ADA.org/App](https://ada.org/App) or search "ADA Member App" in the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#) to download now.

C'MON GET 'APPY!



ADA thanks dentists, dental societies for supporting Question 2 on Mass. ballot

ADA Morning Huddle, October 28 2022



A Boston Globe report provided details about the potential impact of Question 2 on the Massachusetts ballot, which would require dental insurers to spend 83% of premium dollars on patient care, similar to a state law requiring medical insurers in the state to spend at least 88% of premiums on patient care. Chad Olson, the ADA's director of state government affairs, said while the Association is working on a number of dental insurance reform issues, the ballot issue in Massachusetts, if passed, could become a model for national reform. "A lot of eyes are focused on Massachusetts,"

Mr. Olson said. A Boston Globe editorial came out in support of Question 2. ADA President George R. Shepley, D.D.S., sent an email to all members thanking those members and dental societies who have supported the ballot measure so far. Dr. Shepley said individual dentists in 45 states and the District of Columbia, plus 43 state dental societies already have supported the initiative. The ADA has committed \$5 million to the [Massachusetts Dental Care Providers for Better Dental Benefits campaign](#) in support of Question 2, and has asked dentists to consider making a financial contribution. To contribute or learn more about the Massachusetts ballot initiative, visit [VoteYESon2ForDental.com](#).

[Read full story in the Boston Globe](#) (tiered subscription model)

Guide to checking if dental practice websites are HIPAA compliant

ADA Finance & Operations Huddle, October 29 2022

Having a dental website that is compliant with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act means ensuring the site collects, stores and transmits electronic protected health information in a secure manner in line with HIPAA rules, Adrian Lefler, vice president of My Social Practice, wrote in Dental Economics. Dentists can check, for example, whether their live chat, online scheduling and payments services encrypt collected ePHI by consulting their website or software provider. TLS 1.2 encryption for data transmission and AES 256 encryption for storage are two specific encryption standards required under HIPAA, Mr. Lefler wrote.

[Full Story: The dentists' guide to HIPAA-compliant websites](#)

New Episode Alert! Dental Sound Bites™ live from SmileCon 2022

ADA Morning Huddle, October 26, 2022



In the third episode of the Dental Sound Bites podcast, Dr. Joy Nisnisan, past vice president of ASDA, joined the hosts live at SmileCon 2022 in Houston to discuss the impact of organized dentistry in her career.

From meeting mentors and networking to helping support the profession, this conversation digs into how organized dentistry can help power your career and how you can help make a difference in dentistry.

[Listen now wherever you get your podcasts](#), plus get exclusive bonus content from Dental Sound Bites in the new [ADA Member App](#).

Smile Tank winner to create study group for new dentists

ADA Weekend Huddle, October 29, 2022



Austin Lee, D.M.D., won this year's Smile Tank competition at SmileCon 2022 for his plan to create a study group to address the needs of new dentists, ADA News reported. "It would provide new dentists a sense of belonging by small group social celebration, mentorship and support, and quality education without a significant financial constraint," said Dr. Lee, of San Antonio. Group meetings may include meet-and-greets, group discussions and continuing education courses. Dr. Lee won \$2,500 and his idea will be shared by the ADA Council on Membership with appropriate councils and committees.

[Full Story: Study group for new dentists wins Smile Tank grand prize](#)

Optimizing your Practice: Accurate Coding for Treatment Planning, Record keeping and Claims

ADA Morning Huddle, November 1, 2022

Join Drs. Chris Bulnes and Mark Mihalo at noon CT on Nov. 15 for a free webinar outlining key changes in CDT 2023 and how this affects treatment planning, documentation of services on a patient's record and benefit claim submissions. Their experience in the CDT Code's maintenance process will also be discussed. This program is one of a continuing series addressing significant administrative activities that enable practice success. CE credit pending.

[Register today!](#)

US confirms 6 monkeypox deaths

ADA Morning Huddle, October 26, 2022

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and local health departments confirmed that six people from New York City, Chicago, Maryland and Nevada with prior health issues have died due to monkeypox infection, bringing the total number of US deaths to nine, CNN and United Press International reported. The US has recorded 27,884 confirmed or probable monkeypox cases since the outbreak started, according to the CDC.

[Full Story: Six people who tested positive for monkeypox have died, health departments confirm](#)

COVID-19 vaccine side effects tied to better antibody response

ADA Morning Huddle, October 26, 2022

Research published in [JAMA Network Open](#) showed that individual self reports of systemic symptoms such as muscle pain, fever or chills after receiving either the Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines were associated with a greater antibody response, compared with those reporting no or only local symptoms such as rash or pain at the injection site, CNN reported. The study authors suggest this supports "reframing postvaccination symptoms as signals of vaccine effectiveness and reinforce guidelines for vaccine boosters in older adults."

[Full Story: Covid-19 vaccine study links side effects with greater antibody response](#)

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Harry Snyderman, DDS x230

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”

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Classifieds

Associate Dentist

Description: Well-established, high-volume practice with 60+ years serving the community seeks: Skilled dentist with 3–5 years exper. Active DC dental license, current DEA/ malpractice/liability insurance required. Get paid weekly at a rate of 40%. Only serious applicants need apply.

Contact: Karen Hosten | 202-557-1602 | dkrdentalinfo@gmail.com

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.