

Journal

COMMIT TO C.A.R.E.

*Pledge to do your part in making your
building, organization, and community
healthier and safer from COVID-19*

Specialist Corner

RETRIEVABLE FIXED
IMPLANT RESTORATIONS

Legislation

THE ROLE WE PLAY
AS DENTISTS



Community Spotlight

DR. ALMA CARREIA &
SHEPHERD'S HOPE

President's Message

COMING TOGETHER
TO SHARE

Sink Your Teeth Into This

WE ARE LIVING IN THE MOST
INTERESTING OF TIMES

BRING YOUR OLD HARD DRIVES TO THE
DENTAL SOCIETY OF GREATER ORLANDO
800 NORTH MILLS AVENUE • ORLANDO, FL 32803

FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 9:00 A.M-12:00 P.M.

URBAN RECYCLING WILL DESTROY YOUR HARD DRIVES ON SITE.

THEY WILL ALSO TAKE AWAY YOUR

OLD COMPUTERS (DESKTOP/TOWER)

LAPTOPS

SERVERS

NETWORKING EQUIPMENT

LCD MONITORS & TELEVISIONS

PRINTERS

COPIERS

MODEMS

ROUTERS

USB BATTERY BACKUPS

LEAD ACID NON-SPILLABLE BATTERIES

CELL PHONES AND OTHER MOBILE DEVICES

BARCODE SCANNERS

OFFICE PHONES/PHONE SYSTEMS

KEYBOARDS/MICE

STEREO AND MORE!!!

THEY DO NOT ACCEPT:

CRT MONITORS & TELEVISIONS

LIGHT BULBS

UNSEALED BATTERIES



DENTAL SOCIETY OF
GREATER ORLANDO
AN AFFILIATE OF THE CENTRAL FLORIDA DISTRICT,
AMERICAN & FLORIDA DENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

SERVING ORANGE, OSCEOLA AND SEMINOLE COUNTIES

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SINK YOUR TEETH INTO THIS

We Are Living in the Most Interesting of Times



Editorial and advertising copy are carefully reviewed, but publication in this "Journal" does not necessarily imply that the Dental Society of Greater Orlando endorses any products or services that are advertised, unless the advertisement specifically says so. Similarly, views and conclusions expressed in editorials, commentaries and/or news columns or articles that are published in the "Journal" are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the editors, staff, Board of Directors or members of the Dental Society of Greater Orlando.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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Dr. Mary Hunter

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Ocoee, FL 34761
(407) 654-2999

Dr. Keyurkumar Patel

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Orlando, FL 32835
(678) 633-9944

Dr. Rodrigo De Marco

1101 Wellness Way
Oviedo, FL 32765
(407) 699-0958

Dr. Suemee Lee

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Orlando, FL 32801
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Dr. Adriana Rodriguez

620 Mariner Way (Home)
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(305) 479-9706

Dr. Avanika Grover

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Orlando, FL 32817
(469) 323-9093

Dr. Sanaz Nasseri

2944 Bayhead Run
Oviedo, FL 32765
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Dr. Farzana Uddin

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Winter Garden, FL 34787
(407) 656-4848

Dr. Kenya Hoover

106 N Dean Rd. Ste 140
Orlando, FL 32825
(407) 614-6161

Dr. Jai Dev Patel

900 Hooks St. Ste 100
Clermont, FL 34711
(407) 497-6381

Greetings DSGO Members!

We would love to see our organization grow and flourish, however, we need help gathering new members. You can help us by recommending DSGO to any local dentists that you're in contact with. You can also invite former members to return to a meeting and encourage them to join again. We're also interested in seeing more early-career dentists join DSGO. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me via email: Alma Correia dralmadds@gmail.com.



— Alma Correia, DDS
Membership Chair & Public Relations

Coming Together to Share

Dear Colleagues,

What a year it has been! We set out with two clear goals: encourage new membership and develop an engaging series of meetings to reconnect with those members that we had lost touch with. I am very pleased to say that we have accomplished those goals. We have experienced growth as it relates to new membership, and all meetings have been well attended with lots of laughter and camaraderie.



The Greater Orlando area has a strong, tight-knit dental community and our membership reflects that. It has been a true honor to be your President this past year.

I'm equally honored to welcome Dr. Don Thomas as our incoming President. He has an exciting year planned and I'm confident we will continue the momentum of reaching

new members. I am also certain that we will plan even more events to bring us all together to share perspectives, and collaborate.

I look forward to seeing you all at the meetings. As always, never hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions about how to become more involved with the DSGO. Thank you to all the board members for your support. It has been a pleasure serving alongside you, and getting to know all of you. Signing off one last time with a big: thanks y'all!

Sincerely,

Caroline Gordy-McHugh



Dr. Caroline Gordy-McHugh
DSGO PRESIDENT

2021-2022

407-422-1130

Carolinegordymchugh@gmail.com

DENTAL SOCIETY OF GREATER ORLANDO (DSGO) CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2022-2023

THURSDAY-SATURDAY

JUNE 23-25, 2022

Florida Dental Convention
Gaylord Palms

FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2022

Dr. Don Thomas-President

MONDAY, JULY 11, 2022

Board of Directors
800 North Mills Avenue, Orlando
6:00 p.m.

MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2022

Membership Meeting
Winter Park Community Center
721 W. New England Ave
Winter Park
Speaker: Dr. Joe Richardson

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2022

Board of Directors
800 North Mills Avenue, Orlando
6:00 p.m.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2022

Board of Directors
800 North Mills Avenue, Orlando
6:00 p.m.

THURSDAY-MONDAY

OCTOBER 13-17

ADA Annual Meeting
Houston, TX

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2022

Membership Meeting
Location to be Determined
Speaker: Dr. Roger Wray
Nominations for Board of Directors
6:00 p.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2022

Board of Directors
800 North Mills Avenue, Orlando
6:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2022

Kay Huff from Benco
Country Club of Orlando

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2023

Central Florida District Dental
Association Caucus
Marriott Courtyard Downtown
730 North Magnolia Ave, Orlando

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2023

Florida Dental Association House
of Delegates.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2023

Board of Directors
800 North Mills Avenue, Orlando
6:00 p.m.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2023

Membership Meeting
Location to be determined
Speaker to be determined
Vote on Board of Directors

MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023

Board of Directors
800 North Mills Avenue, Orlando
6:00 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2023

Board of Directors
800 North Mills Avenue, Orlando
6:00 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2023

Membership Meeting
Location to be determined
Speaker to be determined
Installation

MONDAY, MAY 8, 2023

Board of Directors
800 North Mills Avenue, Orlando
6:00 p.m.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY

JUNE 29-JULY 1, 2023

Florida Dental Convention
Gaylord Palms

SATURDAY, JULY 1, 2023

Dr. Anthony Wong-President

MONDAY, JULY 10, 2023

Board of Directors

Join In

KEEP YOUR SUBMISSIONS COMING

We are fully in motion as an organization thus far! The year started with a fun mixer at Grape & Grain where members were able to come out and get to know each other. Some of our awesome members also took time to continue leading through participation with the House of Delegates meetings and elections. If that wasn't enough, we've also already enjoyed membership/CE as a group. Much of what we plan is with you in mind. Your clinical and practice management growth is key. As you enjoy all of the content inside this

edition of the journal I encourage you to mark your calendars for the upcoming events (our next meeting, shred day, etc.), and join in on the growth of our organization! We're only in month 4 but this year has already been jam packed and we're looking forward to more of your submissions and seeing your smiling faces!



ArNelle Wright,
DMD, MS
EDITOR



Pictured L to R: Dr. ArNelle Wright, Dr. Bianca Newman and Dr. Tizah Brittlebank (above); Dr. Caroline Gordy-McHugh, Dr. Gordy and Dr. ArNelle Wright (right)

DENTISTS' DAY ON THE HILL 2022

By Daniel J. Crofton, D.D.S., M.D.

On Tuesday, February 1st, 2022, dentists from all over Florida converged in Tallahassee for the annual Dentists' Day on the Hill (DDOH). Approximately 125 dentists experienced pleasant weather in our state capital. This year the legislative session convened on January 11th and will adjourn 60 days later on March 11th. The Dental Society of Greater Orlando (DSGO) was represented this year by Drs. John Cordoba, Steve Hochfelder, Bernie Kahn, Tony Wong and yours truly.

This year's event was again well-organized by our FDA Governmental Affairs Office (GAO) led by Joe Anne Hart, Alexandra Abboud and Jerilyn Bird of the Alliance of the FDA. On Monday night, January 31st, the staff of the GAO kicked-off the event with a legislative briefing at the Hotel Duval. Our FDA director of governmental affairs Joe Anne Hart and FDA coordinator of governmental affairs Alexandra Abboud hosted the briefing. Joe Anne and Alexandra did a wonderful job reviewing the legislative issues of interest and Florida's Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis was presented with the FDA Legislator of the Year Award.

Joe Ann and Alexandra presented the FDA's position on each issue, including our dental student loan repayment program and the Donated Dental Services (DDS) program. The FDA is trying to secure funds for approximately \$773,000 for these two programs of which \$500,000 will be used for dental student loan repayment. The dental student loan repayment program is to promote access to care by supporting dentists who treat underserved populations. The DDS program is intended to establish a dental home for citizens of Florida who are in need through a network of volunteer dentists. Florida has more than 14,000 licensed dentists and over 300 students who graduate from its three dental schools each year. This makes for a great opportunity for the Legislature to invest in programs that will help increase access to comprehensive dental care by investing in the Florida dental workforce. Both of these programs were approved by the Legislature during the 2019 session, but no funds were allocated.

The FDA also continues to support community water fluoridation. A state allocation of \$200,000 would enhance the efforts of the Florida Department of Health. These state funds would supplement federal funds allocated for the statewide fluoridation effort. The request-

ed funding would be used to assist local communities wanting to start community water fluoridation efforts and could be used for updating and maintaining water treatment facilities.

The FDA supports keeping the Medicaid program separate from the medical program in Medicaid to ensure that dental care funding goes toward direct care without being diluted through the medical plans. House bill 7047 separates the current contracts, but Senate bill 1950 keeps the current contracts separate. Both of these bills are working their way through committees.

A non-patient-based dental licensure exam is supported by the FDA. Senate bill 926 and House bill 517 are both moving swiftly through committees, and it is likely that a non-patient dental exam bill will be passed this session.

The FDA opposes issuing separate Medicaid provider numbers for hygienists. Physicians and dentists are already assigned provider numbers and the FDA feels that current law is adequate to allow hygienists to collaborate as needed. The FDA also continues to oppose dental therapists. This year no House bill has been submitted as of this writing and the absence of such would prevent dental therapy from becoming established in Florida this year.

It was evident during our visit to Tallahassee that one of the main issues that the legislators in both the Senate and the House will be wrestling with again this session is the state budget. The state budget this year is \$99 billion. Both the Senate and the House are working on their own budgets and a conference committee will most likely be required to iron out their differences. This year there is a budget surplus of several billion dollars, so hopefully some of this money will be used to fund FDA supported programs.

During DDOH, your DSGO members met with nine of our local legislators and some legislative aides. We met with Sen. Jason Brodeur (R-Lake Mary), Sen. Vic Torres (D-Kissimmee), Rep. Kamia Brown (D-Orlando), Rep. Joy Goff-Marcil (R-Altamonte Springs), Rep. Scott Plakon (R-Longwood), Rep. David Smith (R-Sanford), Rep. Geraldine Thompson (R-Orlando) and Rep. Keith Truenow (R-Tavares).

These and other legislators met with the dentists in attendance. The goal of the dentists was to make sure



that our issues were heard and that the way we practice dentistry is preserved. The members can rest assured that dentists have an excellent reputation among the legislators and that our issues will continue to be given serious consideration. We were very encouraged by the responses we received from the legislators we met.

The legislators complemented the job that our GAO staff is doing by informing the legislators and their staffs about our issues and guiding our bills through the legislative process. This year's DDOH was again well organized and well staffed.

I would also like to acknowledge other members of our FDA team who assisted the dentists this year. Our FDA Executive Director Drew Eason supervised the gathering. FDA chief financial officer Greg Gruber was in attendance and FDA President Dr. Dave Boden gave a very upbeat pep talk to send us on our way Monday night. Drew reminded us that all FDA members are welcome to check out our beautiful FDA office in Tallahassee whenever you visit the capital district.

A lunch buffet was provided to all of the attendees by the Alliance of the FDA. Lunch was served at the TCC Center for Innovation in Kleman Plaza and was a welcome break after a busy morning visiting with legislators.

Our DSGO legislative affairs chairman Bernie Kahn

and I will be following all of the above legislators and issues and continue to inform you about important events taking place. Advocacy remains one of the most valuable benefits that organized dentistry provides to members. For more information on these topics, I encourage you to check out the FDA website at www.floridadental.org. The Capital Report can be found there, and it is a very informative publication by the FDA. Also, I encourage you to contact Bernie Kahn at bkahn32751@gmail.com or me at djcrofton1@gmail.com if you have any political questions or concerns. If anyone is interested in attending DDOH 2023, then please contact Bernie, Kahn, our DSGO executive director Sharon Hamilton or me for more information. If you have not been to DDOH, then please consider attending next year.

Important issues that influence the way we practice dentistry are being addressed in Tallahassee and it is important that we pay attention to what is happening there or else there may be consequences for our profession. I encourage any and all DSGO members to be attentive to these issues, to support candidates who support our Tooth Party and to plan on attending DDOH 2023. There is strength in numbers! Please plan on joining us next year in Tallahassee for this important, interesting, informative and fun event.



2023

Save
THE
Date

DENTISTS' DAY ON THE HILL

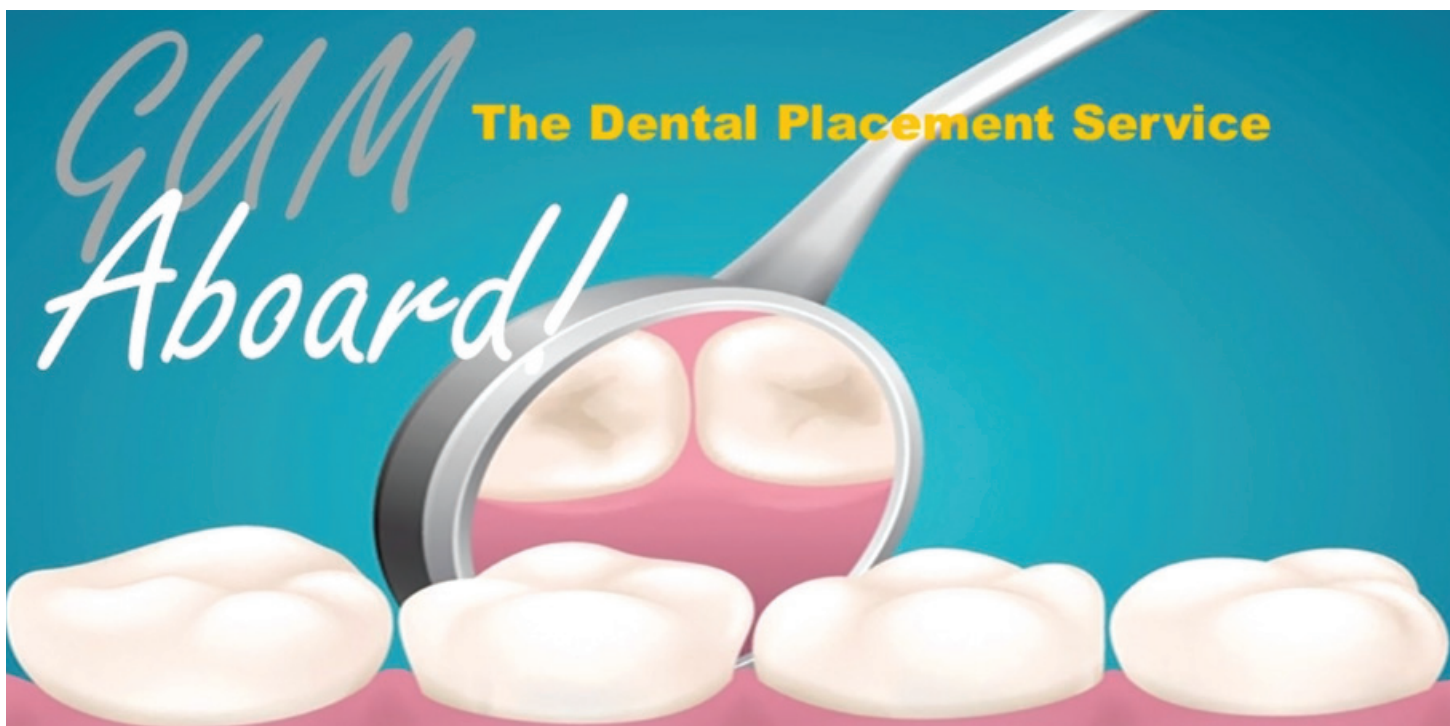


[View the 2022 DDOH Highlights video!](#)



GUM
Aboard!

The Dental Placement Service



Kelly Millett

A Dental Society of Greater Orlando Entity

kellymillett@dsgo.org

407-894-2304

THE ROLE WE PLAY AS DENTISTS

By Bernie Kahn, D.D.S.

We are of a blend of Science and Artistry foremost, a product of socialization within boundaries explored by family values and institutional exposures. I call myself a Dentist, but in my role I've also agreed to be a healthcare provider and mentor to staff, colleagues and persons that may be along this path.

The institutions of the American Dental Association, Florida Dental Association, Central Florida District Dental Association, and the Dental Society of Greater Orlando are coordinated bodies that influence our profession for education, standards of care and advocacy within our Democratic Republic. We have a role within each to act as sounding and springboards through their governance, acting upon the legislation from government. These groups allow our actions to be heard and promote our values while controlling the directions this society does influence.

Organized Dentistry has established Councils and Divisions that are dedicated to informing members of pending legislation, societal trends, and competing institutions. We need to be alert for and aware of our rights as practitioners and to be advocates of the public, our patients. What happens in Washington, D.C. and Tallahassee effects our profession with drama. We must be aware of proposed changes and offer opportunities for consideration for alternative action.



Approximately seven years ago the access to care buzz word evolved to consider a new and not so improved tier to the dental team, the dental therapist. Armed with a high school diploma and two years of training, a person would be able to perform simple, irreversible treatment under direct supervision which may mean at the end of a phone connection. Proponents came on strong with influence from

strong financial backing, dental educators and political groups of the progressive sort. We would send team of dentists and their hired lobbyists to educate and inform legislators of the proposed legislation. Yearly, the same faces would attack the integrity of our profession and our values for society and their finances appear unlimited.

This year we were successful with our campaign! No dental therapist legislation was filed. Senator Jason Brodeur of Seminole and Orange Counties offered to handle the filing of this bill by actually taking the bill from the docket. I am his legislative contact dentist and have known him through local and Tallahassee events since he was a Representative. I am proud of his fortitude, understanding our concerns and offering a solution to the battle we faced. Be aware, this and other issues will be necessarily faced. When you accept some of the responsibility of our profession, this profession will be better defended.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING • Winter Park Community Center, April 28th

“Pharmacologic Manifestations in the Oral Cavity” by Dr. Sarah Fitzpatrick



CONTINUING EDUCATION

Thank you to Dr. Tony Wong for the pictures

**There was a great turnout for the Membership Meeting at the Winter Park Community Center!
All who attended enjoyed the presentation and had fun visiting with their colleagues.**



RETRIEVABLE FIXED IMPLANT RESTORATIONS



By Dr. Mailis Soler

■ **Implant position** dictates to a great extent the contours and appearance of the fixed implant restoration. Thus, it is reasonable that the concept of prosthetically driven implant placement has become the prevailing philosophy in implant therapy.

The use of cone beam computer tomography (CBCT), implant planning software, and surgical implant guides have all given us an edge to place implants more accurately. However, each patient comes with its own set of challenges: anatomical, medical, and financial. Understanding dental materials and the different laboratory technologies available can help us bridge this gap to provide our patients with strong and aesthetically pleasing implant restorations that have the additional advantage of being retrievable.

■ **Retrievability** of implant restorations is one of my goals when fabricating fixed dental prosthetics. One reason is that the process of cementing the crown onto the abutment happens extraorally, eliminating biological complications due to excess cement; and the crown is screw-retained intraorally, making seating of the crown a much simpler process. A second reason is that the prosthesis can be more easily removed for evaluation if there is any prosthetic complication, such as screw loosening or fracture of the porcelain. For screw-retained restorations, optimally the long axis of the implant should exit at the cingulum of an anterior tooth or the occlusal surface of a posterior tooth. Deviation from these ideal directions can lead to non-esthetic results and a weakened restoration. The screw access channel should not be located on a marginal ridge or on a functional cusp. If it happens to be on a nonfunctional cusp, the occlusion should be examined carefully and adjusted to prevent lateral occlusal contacts on the nonfunctional cusp.

■ **Angled abutments** are very helpful to correct angulation and provide retrievability in cases of misaligned

implants that will be used in a fixed partial denture, or to fabricate a single crown on an implant that is off axis as a result of the pattern of bone resorption resulting from tooth loss. The precise location of the screw access channel can be evaluated with the fabrication of a provisional restoration, and the lab can use this as a tool to measure the correct angulation for the angled abutment. This is especially advantageous in anterior implant restorations.

■ **Laboratory studies** have found that increasing the angulation of the implant abutment results in increased stresses on the prostheses and the surrounding bone; but survival studies show similar values for prosthetic longevity, incidence of screw loosening, and bone loss around implants compared with straight abutments (Cavallaro, J. and Greenstein, G. Angled implant abutments: a practical application of available knowledge. J Am Dent Assoc. 2011;142(2):120-8). This is especially true for internal-hex implants, which have shown



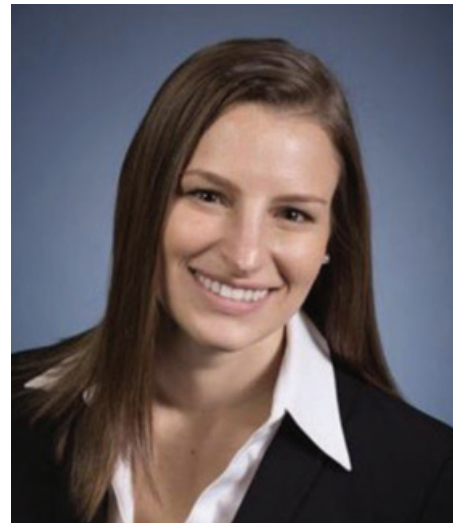
no significant differences in removal torque values with straight and angled abutments. A laboratory study comparing abutment materials in the aesthetic zone (Ti base abutment, zirconia abutment, and titanium abutment) found that the multilayer

Ti base abutment caused less stress on the implant components because of the additional cement layer. (Korkmaz, I. H. and Kul, E. Investigation of the type of angled abutment for anterior maxillary implants: A finite element analysis. J Prosthodontics. 2022). The use of pure zirconia abutments improves aesthetics but leads to mechanical complications; thus, adding the titanium base increases support and fracture resistance, and provides a more precise fit with the implant. Custom gold angled abutments are another aesthetic choice for restoring anterior implants.

■ **Ultimately**, every case should be evaluated individually to determine the correct technique and materials for prosthetic fabrication. An experienced lab technician can be a great resource, but it is our responsibility to understand the materials we work with to provide our patients with the best outcome.

DR. AUSTIN BELKNAP

Thank you to our referring clinicians and my colleagues for the warm welcome to the city of Orlando! I am Dr. Austin Belknap, the clinical oral pathologist and newest provider at **Orofacial and Dental Implant Surgery**. My specialty investigates the nature, identification, and management of diseases affecting the oral and maxillofacial region. I am honored to serve the patients throughout the city of Orlando and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or referrals at: abelknap@ofdis.com. Check out our website for CE opportunities with lunch and learns!



DR. ERICA LOWE

I love to travel! Interesting adventures include trips to India, Japan, Italy and Canada. This year I'll be visiting Washington, D.C. for the second time ever! Nothing gives me greater joy than exploring new places and meeting new people.

Bon Voyage my colleagues and friends!!

Dr. Ericka Lowe from Apopka
Endodontics

DR. PETER LEMIEUX

This photo is of Dr. Peter Lemieux. He recently completed the Zion Traverse in Utah with three friends. It was a 45 mile, four day, three night hike from Kolob Canyon to the Grotto, and included a hike to the top of Angel's Landing. They packed everything in and everything out in backpacks, slept under the stars in tents, cooked food in a camping stove, and filtered water from springs.



EVENTS



Our members are doing their part to see our profession continue moving forward. This is a photo taken from a recent [House of Delegates meeting](#). DSGO was well represented! From left: Doctors, Ryan Huhn, Jason Battle, Don Thomas, Caroline Gordy, Tom Holehouse, Tony Wong, ArNelle Wright and Steve Hocchfelder



Our [Annual Shred Day](#) was held on Friday, May 6th. Dr. Mike DiMauro (top) welcomed all and joined in on the fun!



We started the year with a fun mixer at [Grape & The Grain](#). Members gathered together, connected, and shared stories amongst one another. If you weren't able to attend this one, do not worry! We will be gathering and having more fun in the months to come! Please enjoy these fun photos from the event.

PNC Merchant Services® and Dental Society of Greater Orlando

Discover new member benefits

PNC Merchant Services® is excited to team with Dental Society of Greater Orlando to bring members customized services offerings with competitive pricing and quality services. We understand that it's Dental Society of Greater Orlando's mission to provide valuable benefits to their members to help them grow and to succeed; that's our mission too.

As a part of this program, members can benefit from:

- ✓ The Clover® suite of point-of-sale solutions, including payments via smartphone or tablet
- ✓ Cash flow management solutions
- ✓ Next-day funding of card payments*
- ✓ No Early Termination Fees for merchants
- ✓ 24/7/365 support



LEARN MORE

VISIT [PNC.COM/MERCHANT](https://pnc.com/merchant), OR CALL
Dylan Floyd at 850-381-9744 or
dylan.floyd@pnc.com

*Next-day funding on Visa®, MasterCard®, Discover® and American Express® card transactions processed by PNC Merchant Services when deposited into a PNC Bank business checking account. Certain restrictions may apply.

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COMMIT TO C.A.R.E

Pledge to do your part in making your building, organization, and community healthier and safer from COVID-19.

Commit to C.A.R.E. is a public awareness campaign with a mission to:

- Debunk myths about the spread of the COVID-19 virus.
- Make the complexities of the science easier to understand through various engaging multi-media tools.
- Encourage businesses to pledge their commitment to C.A.R.E. for the health and well-being of their employees, clients, and customers.
- C.A.R.E. is an acronym that reflects the principles of **Community**, **Awareness**, **Responsibility**, and **Equity**. As such, we strive to deliver clear science-based messaging that reflects our commitment to public health across the communities where we work and live.

Go to
<https://commit2care.org>
Take the pledge

We know that vaccination is one key way to reduce the transmission and severity of COVID-19.

However, there are other steps organizations should take to mitigate its spread and protect what matters most — people.

This campaign will promote and disseminate a variety of free resources (such as micro-training videos, checklists, web tools) for businesses to



safeguard their employees as well as demonstrate their commitment to the communities in which they reside. All tools developed under this project have been created with the needs of a nonscientific/non-medical audience in mind — people running businesses. They are designed to empower accountability and responsibility and intended to facilitate fair and equitable access to information by everyone.

Commit to C.A.R.E. was developed by global experts, scientists, and researchers guided by the current peer-reviewed science and decades of lessons learned from risk prevention of other highly contagious airborne diseases like tuberculosis and measles. It was also designed to educate and help guide organizations across the globe through easy-to-understand virtual trainings and risk assessment tools based solely and objectively on established science.

Commit to C.A.R.E. was developed in 2021 by the AIHA and IBEC, under a cooperative grant agreement funded in part by a CDC/NIOSH grant.

SAVE THE DATE

Stay tuned for more information via email in June

November 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Friday, November 11, 2022

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

BencoDental™

**Benco Dental and the Dental Society of Greater Orlando
Present**

KAY HUFF, RDH

**Practice Solutions Ambassador for Benco Dental
and**

CHUCK COHEN

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DSGO Active Members this is your **Free Meeting for 2022-2023.**

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For Dr. Alma, Outreach and Service to Community ARE IN HER DNA

A partnership with Shepherd's Hope propels a free pediatric dentistry program for underserved children into existence

By Reggie Cornell, Managing Editor

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Alma Correia loves kids.

"I've always loved working with children," she said. "I knew my future career would be related to children somehow."

It turns out she was right, but not before an inspiring and experiential journey brought her to Apopka.

Correia graduated from Tufts University where she double majored in Child Development and Community Health. After completing college, she went to work in various settings, including a counselor in a residential children's home, a nurse's aide in an emergency room, a dental assistant, and a server at a restaurant.

SERVICE, IT TURNS OUT, IS IN HER DNA

Correia completed her dental education at New York University, and it was there that she traveled to Grenada in her junior year and Mexico her senior year to provide dental care to underserved children, and also to realize what her career path would be.

"We were able to provide dental services to kids there," she said. "And that's where I knew for sure I wanted to go into pediatrics. It was that experience that just solidified going into pediatrics for me; those kids were so grateful. It was an amazing experience."

As a dental student, she was the recipient of the Presidential Service Award for her dedication to community service and outreach, and her service to others in her community has continued.

A PARTNERSHIP IS FORMED

Correia, now lovingly known as "Dr. Alma", partnered with Dr. Andre Baptiste this year to launch the Baptiste Pediatric Dentistry for Kids in Apopka. It's a practice that utilizes all of her talents, and she loves working with Baptiste.

"He was just so down to earth and told me about the need for a pediatric dentist in Apopka," she said. "And I said 'let's do it!' I ended up jumping outside of my comfort zone and



delving into the uncomfortable, starting a pediatric practice, which I had never done before. But it's been a great learning experience. We have grown tremendously. I see a lot of kids and it's their first time to a dentist. I'm so glad I'm here!"

But for Dr. Alma, there was still something missing in her life.

A PASSION FOR OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

"Once we moved to Florida, I focused on working and family life," she said. "But then I felt an emptiness because I have such a passion for outreach and community service. I missed giving back. I missed volunteering and offering my services beyond just work."

In January, Correia read an advertisement for Shepherd's Hope, a non-profit looking for volunteers to come in and join their team.

"I wondered if they were looking for dental volunteers," Correia said. "And it turns out they did not offer dental care! However, they had been given a grant to start a dental program."

It's still growing, and there's still so much we want to do. What I found out though, is that I can't be the only dentist [with Shepherd's Hope], so we've been targeting other dental offices and dentists to try to get more support." — DR. ALMA CORREIA

According to its website, Shepherd's Hope is a Winter Garden-based non-profit organization that provides free primary care and specialty care medical services, education, and wellness programs to the uninsured and underinsured in Central Florida. Since 1997, they have provided over 300,000 free patient visits and medical services.

Shepherd's Hope partners with 3,000 licensed medical and general volunteers, three community hospital systems, 100 diagnostic/secondary providers, and numerous multi-faith partners.

A PEDIATRIC DENTAL PROGRAM JUST WAITING TO BEGIN

The Dental Acute Care Program, initiated with a grant from the West Orange Health Alliance, provides no-cost urgent dental care to uninsured, low-income citizens in the West Orange community. These services, however, are currently only available to pediatric patients during Back-to-School Physicals.

Each patient is administered an examination and x-ray if needed. Patients are treated or referred to a specialist for follow-up. All treatment is at no charge to the patients.

That's how the program is described on its website, but with the pandemic in full force, they weren't able to get it off the ground as they had intended. But Correia was able to get things moving upon her arrival.

"When I spoke with them, they couldn't believe I was reaching out to them to help with forming and starting a dental practice."

So far, the program is making modest advances, but Correia needs more dentists to get involved.

"It's still growing, and there's still so much we want to do," she said. "What I found out though, is that I can't be the only dentist... so we've been targeting other dental offices and other dentists to try to get more support."

At the first back-to-school screening, Correia saw firsthand the potential this program could have in the community.

"I can't even tell you how many kids we saw," she said. "I was meeting with them just to organize probably about once a month. Then when the summer came, we did our back-to-school event, because kids are already coming in to Shepherd's Hope to get medical clearance. We piggybacked off of that



event, and did five screening sessions for about five weeks. So it was one screening a week, and I think we probably saw 80-100 kids."

It was important to get the program up and running, but in 2022, Correia hopes to advance it beyond its current status.

A THREE-PHASE PLAN IN 2022

"I have a plan for it to be broken into three phases," she said. "Phase one, which is where we are now, is the screening. We're looking for bigger issues, cavities, teeth that might need extractions, anything that might be infected is what we're trying to achieve through that.

Phase two is when we're going to do cleanings and make sure when we're sending them off to another office, that the dentist treating them can focus on the major issues and the treatment needs of the patient.

The third phase would be to no longer have to send patients out anywhere, but to get everything done in one facility."

It's a lofty goal, but Correia believes the community demand makes it worth the effort.

"I'm hoping it will take off and grow. I think the next most important step is getting the name out there and what it is that we're doing because the dental component is so brand new. The medical part of Shepherd's Hope has been around for years and years. But because dental is so new, probably most dentists don't know that we exist. So hopefully, we can see this move into the next stage. I'm hoping in 2022 we can do a little bit more with it and just see it grow!"

And as confident as Dr. Alma is in Shepherd's Hope, they are also impressed with her.

"Dr. Alma is amazing and we are so lucky to have her on our team and she is such a great ambassador for Shepherd's Hope," said Abby Rice, the Vice President of Operations at Shepherd's Hope. "As we dealt with the effects of COVID, we had to get creative with our program, so Dr. Alma was essential in that aspect. At our Back to School events, she screened all the kids and provided all of this at no cost. We serve the underinsured and uninsured in Central Florida and provide all of the medical care for free, so the work she does with us fits our mission. As things start to calm down, in a sense, from the pandemic we hope to be able to serve more patients next year through this partnership."



Meet the Dental Care Access Foundation Incoming Chairman Don E. Tillery, Jr. Oral Surgeon Volunteer Serving Central Florida

A Message from the incoming DCAF Chairman Creating Access to Care in Our Community

Dear Colleagues:

Rarely do we as dentists have an opportunity to help save a person's life. On March 24, 2022, I had the opportunity to help save not one, but TWO lives. Both patients had biopsy-verified squamous cell carcinoma and had comprehensive treatment plans in place which included surgery and life-saving radiation therapy. Their radiation therapy was slated to begin at Advent Health after having their teeth extracted, but neither patient could afford to complete the treatment in a dental office. As a consequence, they were left with untreated cancer spreading to their jaws and the rest of their bodies.

They both presented to the Dental Care Access Foundation as uninsured and below the Federal Poverty requirements. The Dental Care Access Foundation (DCAF) was established by the Dental Society of Greater Orlando in 2004 to allow Dentists of Orange, Seminole and Osceola Counties a coordinated means to volunteer their time and expertise to provide compassionate, quality care to those who lack access. The Executive Director of DCAF Julie Michael-Grimm has served as a liaison, connecting qualified patients in need to volunteer dentists since 2005. Since DCAF's inception, hundreds of dentists in our community have provided a full range of dental services in outlying community clinics, at special events like Give Kids a Smile and Operation Blessing, Kid's Smiles, All About Beautiful Smiles, Simmonds



Dental Event and the Central Florida Dental Outreach, but many provided the services from the familiar surroundings of their own offices.

One of the cancer patients received her extractions in the DCAF clinic on March 24, while the second was treated in my office the following day. I was able to sedate the patient, use my own equipment and have my assistants available to make the process routine. Finally, after weeks of delay, they both could move on to their life-saving cancer treatment. The patient population that DCAF serves is typically a very appreciative group of individuals who are just down on their luck at the time. If these patients remain untreated their condition could lead to life-threatening infections that would require hospitalization, therefore costing thousands of taxpayer dollars.

The patients served over the years by volunteer dentists received routine restorative work, endodontic therapy and extractions to relieve their pain and suffering. Unfortunately for these patients,

many of the former dental providers have retired or moved away, and the need for dental volunteers is always increasing. The gratification that it has given the volunteers in the past was often more meaningful to the volunteers than to the patients themselves. I've noticed that we're all impacted by the skill set of generous and compassionate volunteer dentists, and sometimes you might even get a chance to really save a person's life!

The Mission of the Dental Care Access Foundation is to provide quality dental care to the low-income, uninsured in our community by recruiting dental volunteers and coordinating care with new, existing agencies and volunteers providing urgent, restorative and preventative care to those in need. We look to you to help us on our mission and go the extra mile volunteering to take a patient into your private practice monthly, come out and join us once a year in our state-of-the-art donated clinic space, join us for our dental events or volunteer through our in-school fluoride varnish and oral hygiene and education program.

I would urge everyone in the dental profession to consider donating their time and skill at DCAF. Orange and Osceola Counties currently have an uninsured rate of 15%, while Seminole has 13%. This leaves over 275,000 individuals without access to care in the tri-county area. Please consider joining us in breaking the cycle of emergency room visits and providing direct care to those in need. To learn more about how you can volunteer or to send your tax-deductible donation, visit us online at www.dentalcareaccess.org or call Julie Michelle-Grimm, Executive Director at (407) 898-1525 or email dentalcareaccess@yahoo.com.

We Are Living in the Most Interesting of Times

My title, while thought to be one of encouragement, is based on an old Chinese curse. How fitting as the world seems intent on burning itself down. We currently have a full-fledged war in Ukraine. Here at home, we are facing record inflation, record fuel prices and the Corona pandemic is still alive and wreaking havoc. Germany is now reporting record numbers of cases. We are all suffering from Covid-fatigue.

I reflected recently on some of the things I wrote about in this journal 20 years ago and in one of my random musings from 2002 (yes, it's been that long), I predicted in just one article the advent of laser care for periodontal disease, increased regulation, and ever-increasing litigiousness in our society. Of course, my suggestion that apple cider vinegar could also cure periodontal disease didn't age particularly well. Just to clarify, I wasn't serious about that one.

Speaking of litigiousness, one of my recent patients bragged about an ongoing, 4-year lawsuit against his previous dentist. It makes me wonder, how am I supposed to confidently provide care to patients who seek to negatively

bombard my colleagues' Yelp reviews? At the end of the day, we all face the same pressures. It would be nice to return to the old days of making fun of Neil Powell's sport coats and the arm-wrestling exploits of our own John Beattie.

To quote one of my favorite fictional book characters, Jack Reacher, "Hope for the best but plan for the worst". Here is to hoping the world comes right and soon!

Jeff Sevor

COLUMNIST
Jeff Sevor
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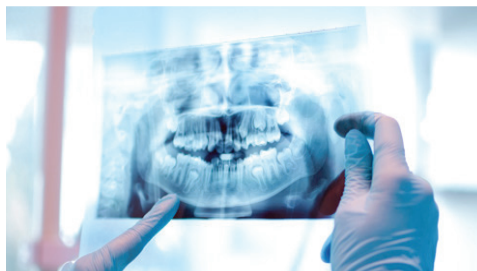
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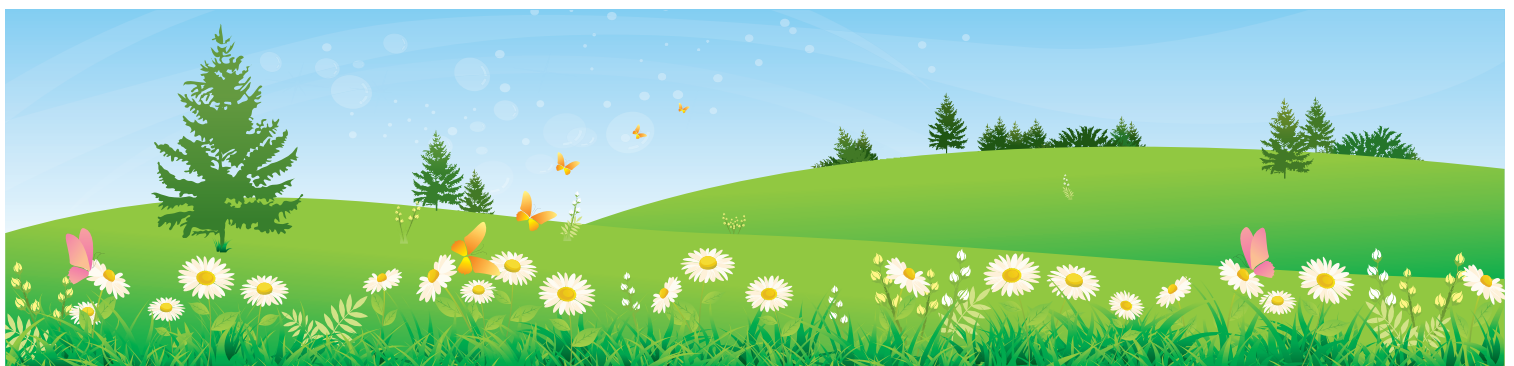
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