

NEWSLETTER



2024 Vol. 14, No. 2

Letter from the President



Dear Members of the Fourth District,

Happy Summer everyone! While it is a quiet time in the district, we had a very busy spring. First, I want to thank all of our sponsors, volunteers, and Lisa Hicks for helping to make this year's SDC a huge success. We had 280 attendees: made up of 95 dentists, 118 hygienists, 18 CDAs, 21 DAs, 26 staff and 2 students. It was fantastic to have 32 vendors present to see new items and catch up with people face to face. And thank you for the tremendous contribution with raffle tickets, raising \$1,220 for the Operation Santa Claus Charity, supporting children

in Warren, Washington, Northrn Saratoga, Essex, and Hamilton Counties. Our evening state mandated child abuse lecture was strongly attended by 139 of our colleagues and co-workers. (This course is required to be completed by 4/1/2025 to be in compliance with NYS). Another deadline to keep in mind is 1/1/2025 for businesses to submit the filing for the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA). The ADA has an [information page](#) on their website. (also see page 6 of this issue) This summer, NYSDA has launched CE Navigator to help us track our CE classes. I have started to use it to enter my classes. It takes some work to get it set up. What I like about it is that it clearly shows your status in relation to the requirements. It also has a feature where you can find where to take required classes.

Speaking of required classes, we are offering the state mandated infection control class on Friday September 20th at Hiland golf course in Queensbury. This is a great opportunity for all members of the dental team to improve their knowledge of infection control and fulfill

the state's requirement for those that need it for license renewal. The afternoon offers our annual golf tournament.

We have our final CE class for the year on Friday October 4th. It will be a 3 hour morning webinar with Dr. Brandon Veremis on AI's impact on Dentistry.

In closing, I implore each one of you to take a CE class given by the district next year. Our committee works hard to find speakers that are relevant to our practice, elevate our skills and challenge us to provide the best up to date care for our patients. CE is a huge member benefit.

Thank you,
John A. Milza, Jr., DDS

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Fourth District Dental Society of New York

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This newsletter is the official publication of the Fourth District Dental Society. It is published three times a year: Fall, Winter, Spring/Summer. Unless officially adopted by the Fourth District Dental Society and so indicated, opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of the association.

Please contact the Fourth District office with changes to your home or office address, phone number, or email.

Upcoming Events:

Shredding event– TBD Sept 2024

Annual Golf and CE- Friday September 20, 2024

Infection Control & Fall Business Meeting

Plan to join us for the AM Infection Control course (8am) and fall business meeting, stay for lunch, then head out to the second course of the day 1pm..18 holes at the beautiful Hiland Park Golf Club. [INFECTION CONTROL REGISTER](#)

New Dentist Mixer Meeting– Thursday, September

26, 2024 6pm, @ The Mill, Round Lake, New grads and members 10yrs or less out of school and those interested to meet and welcome them, please plan to attend a fun night.

CE Series, Course #4 –Friday, October 4, 2024

AM webinar “Artificial Intelligence Impacts Dentistry”
3CEs Dr. Brandon Veremis [REGISTER](#)

Upper Hudson Branch Meeting– Thurs, October 10,

2024 (includes Saratoga Branch) Wishing Well, Robert Lovino, on the changing landscape of *professionalism*.

ADA House of Delegates– October 19-22, 2024

New Orleans, LA

Women Dentist Meeting -TBD *early Nov* 2024

Upcoming Board Meetings–

Wednesday November 6th and December 4th 2024

All members welcome to attend, call Lisa Hicks at the district and let her know if you are interested, 518-371-1114

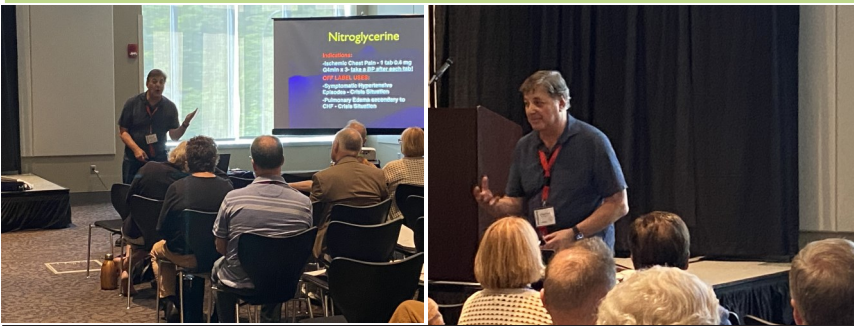
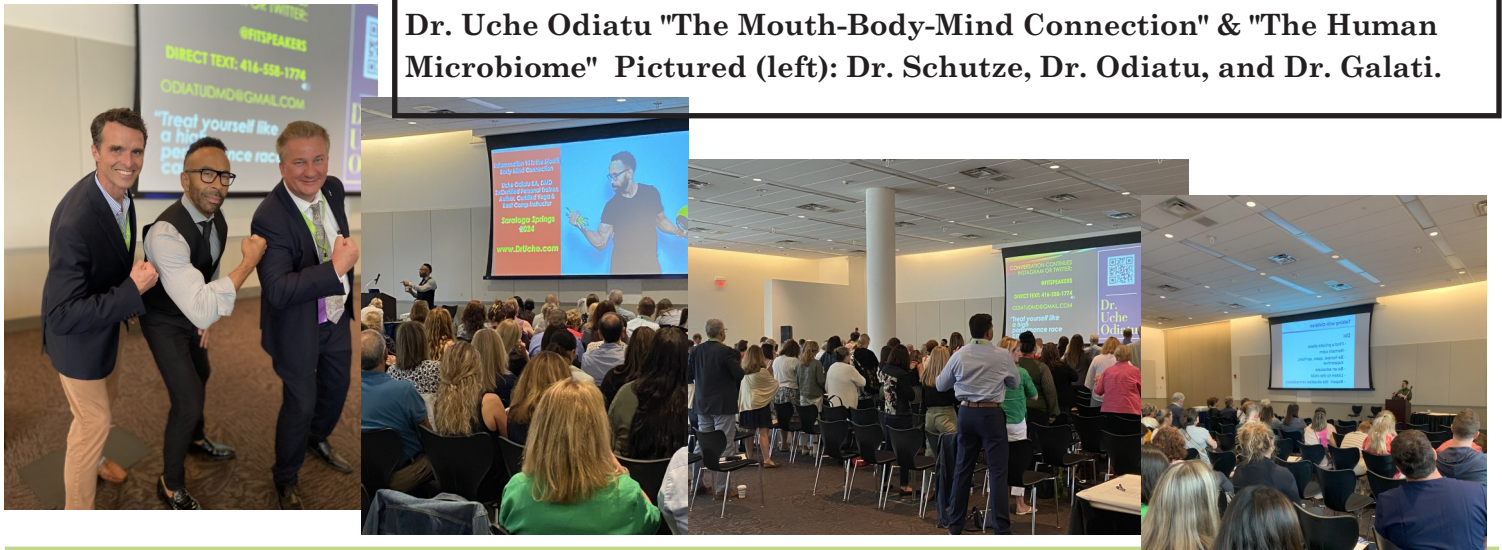
2025 Board Branch Representatives:

****All branches have been slowly coming together and re-organizing post Covid. Branch events are a vital part of our district. Dr. Milza is encouraging all branches to select their representative to the 4th District Board (best vehicle for first hand information flow back and forth). Our 6 branch reps. (ADK, FHM, Saratoga, Schenectady & Schoharie & Upper Hudson) are crucial for the success of our district and quorum for doing business. Please select your branch rep. and contact [Lisa at the office](#)**

Saratoga Dental Congress—Thursday May 23 & Friday May 24, 2024

The annual membership meeting was held in Saratoga again this year with a very successful Two Days and Evening of CE programs, CPR, Mandatory Updated Child Abuse Course (pictured below), Charity Donation, Dining, and Networking Exhibitor Hall With Over 30 Vendors!

Dr. Uche Odiatu "The Mouth-Body-Mind Connection" & "The Human Microbiome" Pictured (left): Dr. Schutze, Dr. Odiatu, and Dr. Galati.



Above: Dr. Daniel Pompa "Actions & Algorithms for Medical Emergencies"



**Pictured (far left): Legal Updates Tricky Situation with Esqs.: Fran Ciardullo & Margaret Surowka, Drs. Kluth, Hargraves, Johnston, Milza, Kiehl
Pictured (left): Dr. Robert Lipscomb " This Crown Doesn't Fit"**



Attendees check in greeted by Dr.Wun, Dr.Coccozo, Dr.Arpei-McHugh (left) and Dr.Milza, Dr.Pompa(right)



Beyond Borders: Dental Relief Efforts in Puerto Lempira:

By: Dr. Maybelle Hwang

Since 2008, *Dr. Steven Esposito*, of Ballston Spa, has been a beacon of hope for the people of Puerto Lempira and the surrounding villages. “I first heard about humanitarian work in Honduras while speaking to a dental colleague 20 years ago. I took down some information and when the time was right and my kids were grown I took my first trip.” Located in extreme eastern Honduras, Puerto Lempira is a small city and the capital of the Honduras Department of Gracias A Dios, also known as The Mosquito Coast. The only way to access this region of the country is by a small aircraft or boat. There are no paved roads. It is the poorest most poverty-stricken isolated region of Honduras and meets the definition of a “Fourth World” country.

In a land where access to healthcare is extremely scarce, and government funding is a distant promise, however, Dr. Esposito’s commitment shines brightly. Traveling with a team of dedicated volunteers from the non-profit organization MEDICO (Medical, Eye, Dental International Care Organization)—comprising dentists, ER doctors, nurses, optometrists, and lay volunteers—he provides essential dental care to those in need.

Life in the rural out-skirts of Puerto Lempira is not easy. The residents subsist mainly on rice and beans, with supplies have to be brought in from afar. Basic necessities such as clean water are scarce, and infection is a constant concern, exacerbated by the lack of proper sanitation facilities. Dr. Esposito and the MEDICO volunteer team often sleep in the humble confines of a church building, setting up tents to create makeshift accommodations amidst their service.

Each day, Dr. Esposito sees an average of 20 patients, working 9 hours a day. Despite limited resources, he performs vital dental procedures, focusing mainly on extractions due to the absence of X-ray facilities. Education is a key aspect of his work, as he provides guidance on oral hygiene practices and administers treatments like Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) and glass ionomer restorations under challenging conditions. Many of the residents have to wait months in excruciating pain to receive definitive care. Dr. Esposito remembers one native middle-aged woman named Maria, who presented with a severe toothache. “She prayed to God for months to send her an angel to relieve her of her tooth pain,” he recalls. That day she had the troublesome tooth removed.

The dental clinic relies on the generosity of healthcare equipment companies like Aseptic, which provide essential equipment, such as a portable dental operatory unit, powered by generators. Electricity in these remote villages is unavailable. Hospital-level disinfection protocols, including the use of chlorine dioxide, are implemented to maintain hygiene standards in the absence of modern facilities.

For those inspired to get involved, organizations like MEDICO provide avenues for participation, including the acceptance of dental material and supply donations, monetary donations, and field team volunteers. Dental hygienists are especially welcome, as they play a crucial role in educating locals on preventive oral health practices. After 15 consecutive years of providing crucial dental services to the natives of Honduras, Dr. Esposito has never looked back. “If not me, then who? Why waste our talent when we can share them and do our part?” For more information on MEDICO’s mission and ways to get involved, please visit www.medico.org.

Beyond Borders: Dental Relief Efforts in Puerto Lempira: *Continued...*



Schenectady Branch Meeting– Stella’s Pasta Bar- April 2024-Hosted Oral Surgeon, Dr.Edmund Wun, as their speaker. (Below) Drs. Kluth and Yucedal, Drs. Wun and Down, attendees.



Wilton Water Fluoridation Efforts- UPDATE Pictured: (left) Dr.Mass, Dr.Cirenza, Dr.Lindner, Dr.Farrel, Stacey McilDuff, Dr.Harrison. The 4th DDS, NYSDA, and dental professionals, have continued to support community member, Peter Lindner, PhD, and Dr.Bill Mass (former Director of Dental Health for the CDC) in their efforts to fluoridate the Wilton Water Supply (WWSA). Supporters attended meetings in May at Dorothy Nolan Elementary, Wilton Town Hall, and in July WWSA in an attempt to advocate for fluoridation after the Wilton Town Board voted against it’s action in May 2024. It was further concluded that the topic could not be permitted as future discussions with the WWSA board meetings. Wilton Fluoridation Supporters presented a petition with 147 signatures with more ready to support to sign. *Please show your support by contacting Director Mike Mooney at mmooney@townofwilton.com and ask that the board reconsider their stance of no communication. Thank you for your continued support!*



HVCC Graduation 2024– Scholarship Awards- Congratulations to All Graduates!



Pictured Left: Dr. Wayne Harrison presented the *Gerard A Ripp Memorial Award* to graduate *Shane White*, on behalf of the Hudson-Mohawk Section of the American College of Dentists. The award was created in 2000 to honor local Oral Surgeon and HVCC instructor Dr. Gerard Ripp. A freshman dental hygiene student who demonstrates leadership, scholastic performance, and great potential to make a contribution to the profession of Dental Hygiene is selected to receive the award. **Pictured Right:** Dr. Jennifer Kluth presented the *Dr. Mark A. Bauman Scholarship* to graduate *Isabella Sypek*, who was selected to receive the annual 4th District Scholarship award for traits that mirror Dr. Mark Bauman's: (1) Leadership, 2) Interest and high standard for the profession, and 3) Compassion and care you exhibit at HVCC.

NEW Compliance Updates:

Beneficial Ownership Information Reporting Rule enacted under the federal Corporate Transparency Act affects many dental practices. Deadline to file January 1, 2025. The chart and **compliance guide** explains what must be reported about **ownership** of the business entities and for whom. Further information on the **Beneficial Ownership** Information Reporting Rule can be found at: <https://www.fincen.gov/boi>.

RADIATION REGULATION...DOH Has Proposed Changes: Apr 29, 2024

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has issued proposed regulations to completely overhaul its ionizing radiation regulatory scheme, including raising fees for regular dental office radiation installations from \$65 to \$100 and for cone beam computed tomography (CBCT) installations. The new CBCT regulations will impose new costs in that these units will have to be accredited within 18 months of the adoption of the new regulations and will be subject to annual quality assurance testing -- the accreditation costs are approximately \$3,000 every three years, and the annual Quality Assurance (QA) testing will be \$800 to \$1,200 per year. You can read the NYSDOH notice of the proposed regulations published in the New York State Register today at pages 12-16: [April 10 NYS Register](#).

****CE Navigator– A NEW FORM OF CE CREDIT SUBMISSION****

**Starting September 30, 2024, all CE submissions must go through CE Navigator –
fax, email, or mailed submissions will no longer be accepted**

CE Navigator empowers you to submit your CE quickly and easily through an enhanced online process. Set your own email and password, upload your CE certificates, download the app for instant access, and track your continuing education effortlessly. No more guesswork or hassle – just more control over your CE records. Watch the [demo video](#) and [get started today!](#)

NYSDA House of Delegates Meeting-May 31-June 2, 2024-

Turning Stone, Verona, NY



The NYSDA House of Delegates was held from May 31-June 2 at Turning Stone. Each district from across the state sent delegates to vote on various resolutions. Representing the Fourth District were delegates Dr. Christina Cocozzo, Dr. Fred Wetzell, Dr. John Milza and Dr. Jennifer Kluth. Our alternate delegates were Dr. Rachel Hargraves and Dr. Diana Sandu. Also attending from the Fourth were NYSDA Trustee Dr. Adrienne Korkosz and NYSDA Immediate Past President Jim Galati. Our delegation was supported by our Executive Director Lisa Hicks, who was also in attendance. Delegates pictured above and below at work. (Pictured upper left) President-Elects meeting including NYSDA President Prabha Krishnan.



The delegation voted to hold NYSDA dues the same (no increase), to keep the House of Delegates size the same (no decrease), to coincide with the ADA radiation shielding recommendations (legislative changes still need to occur in NY State), to hold future HOD meetings exclusively in New York State (after 2026 which is already planned), and on a host of other resolutions. In a bit of legislative excitement, Dr. Milza took to the floor to propose an amendment to the resolution to eliminate term limits to the position of members of Peer Review and Quality Assurance. The Fourth District had discussed the pros/cons of no term limits in our caucus, appreciating the benefit of a lengthier tenure in this committee. We believe that term limits make our organization stronger by bringing in active members. Dr. Milza proposed the resolution be amended to be limited to three terms, the amendment was passed. Congratulations!

New York State Dental Foundation's Annual Brunch fundraiser at **Turning Stone Casino** on Saturday, June 1, they celebrated the early successes of *Salute Vets with a Smile*, a new program to connect U.S. Veterans with free dental care. The Foundation recognized the dozens of volunteer Dental Heroes who are already hard at work providing free dental care to Veterans in need of treatment. A big thanks to all who have been actively helping us promote this program, including **Dr. Loren Baim** (below). And thanks to you all, there have now been close to 100 connections made.



[New Developments and In-Progress Corner]

UVMHC and Hudson Headwaters Proposed Partnership: The University of Vermont Medical Center and Hudson Headwaters are working to improve access to dental care in the ADK area by having dental residents rotate with Hudson Headwaters. More information currently in development. *Stay tuned...*

Informed Consent: Section 18-C - [Effective 10/20/2024] Separate patient consent for treatment and payment for health care services

Informed consent from a patient to provide any treatment, procedure, examination or other direct health care services shall be obtained separately from such patient's consent to pay for the services. Consent to pay for any health care services by a patient shall not be given prior to the patient receiving such services and discussing treatment costs. For purposes of this section, "consent" means an action which:

- (a) clearly and conspicuously communicates the individual's authorization of an act or practice;
 - (b) is made in the absence of any mechanism in the user interface that has the purpose or substantial effect of obscuring, subverting, or impairing decision-making or choice to obtain consent; and
 - (c) cannot be inferred from inaction.
- N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 18-C, Added by New York Laws 2024, ch. 57, Sec. O-4, eff. 10/20/2024. Added info from NYSDA... *"there is no specific consent form to be used for this and it doesn't ... require anything signed or in writing at all. That will be up to the health care provider as to how to get consent, just like it is now. ...most providers already keep the clinical consent and the payment issues separate, but maybe some don't."*

"New State Laws Provide Further Protections for Patients and Employees" ^{see}

NYSDJ pg 6-8, Lance Plunkett, J.D., LL.M. breaks down new employment rules, Noncompete updates, Pregnant/lactating employees new rules, office cannot require credit cards onfile/preauths for emergent or medically necessary services. https://issuu.com/brownst303/docs/nysdj_june_july_24_final

Position Change... *(From Dr. Prabha Krishnan, D.D.S, NYSDA President)* The NYSDA Board of Trustees would like to inform you that Mr. Greg Hill will no longer be serving as the executive director of the Association. effective September 13, 2024. This decision was made with careful consideration, and we are committed to ensuring a smooth transition. The Board has invoked its existing leadership succession plan, under which Mr. Michael Herrmann will step in as the interim executive director. **Until further notice**, please contact Mr. Herrmann on any NYSDA matters for which you would have normally contacted Mr. Hill. He can be reached at: 518-689-2744 W, 518-728-0746 C, mherrmann@nysdental.org

Slate of Nominations: For Member Vote at Sept. Business Meeting, Highland Park Golf Club, September 20, 2024

NYSDA Delegate (4) : Dr. Rachel Hargraves, Dr. Fred Wetzel, Dr. Christina Cocozzo, Dr. John Milza, (Alternate Delegate): Dr. Diana Sandu

4th DDS Board: President: Dr. Jennifer Kluth, President Elect: Dr. Edmund Wun, Vice President: Dr. Claire Kiehl, Secretary: Dr. Katherine Guilfoyle, Treasurer: Dr. Rachel Hargraves

At Large Director (2) : Dr. Michael Breault, Dr. Jonathan Schutze

Alternate to the Board (2): Dr. May Hwang, Dr. John McCambley

4th Rep to NYSDA Council on Dental Benefits: Dr. Rory Ogden, 4th Rep to NYSDA Council on Dental Education & Licensure: Dr. Erin Thompson



**Fourth District
Dental Society**
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4th District Committees

In addition to the executive board, there are many members who dedicate their time to making the Fourth District tick! Thank you to all members who actively participate in our district by joining councils and committees. Your involvement is key to our success and needed to further strengthen the Fourth District. If you are interested to become involved, please reach out to any Council Representative, Officer or Board Member of the 4th district. If you would like to attend a board meeting, please contact Lisa at office@4thdds.org. Upcoming Meeting Dates: November 6 and December 4.

4th District Branch Presidents and Representatives:

Adirondack Branch—Dr. Morris Feinberg

Fulton Hamilton Montgomery Branch—Dr. Sarah Fox, Dr. Gary DiSanto-Rose

Saratoga Branch—Dr. Katherine Guilfoyle, Dr. Laura Johnstone

Schenectady Branch—Dr. Richard Hoskinson, Dr. William Down

Schoharie Branch—currently open

Upper Hudson Branch—Dr. Jacob Merryman, Dr. John Milza

Current Council Representatives:

Awards—Dr. May Hwang, Dr. Wayne Harrison, Dr. David Parsons

Continuing Education—Dr. Christina Coccozzo, Dr. Golaleh Barzani

Constitution & By-Laws—Dr. John McCambley

Dental Benefits—Dr. William Down (open position)

Dental Education & Licensure—Dr. Morris Feinberg (open position)

Dental Foundation—Dr. Loren Baim

Dental Health Planning & Hospital Dentistry—Dr. Laura Johnstone

Dental Practice—Dr. Diana Sandu

EDPAC—Dr. Frederick Wetzel

EDPAC Immed. Past Chair—Dr. Michael Breault

Ethics—Dr. Loren Baim

Finance—Dr. Frederick Wetzel, Dr. H John Schutze

Governmental Affairs—Dr. Phong Chung

Membership & Communication—Dr. Katherine Guilfoyle

MLMIC Underwriting Claims—Dr. Frederick Wetzel

Necrology—Dr. John Milza

New Dentist—Dr. Aliah Joslin

Newsletter—Dr. Crystal Arpei-McHugh, Dr. Rachel Hargraves

Nominations—Dr. Adrienne Korkosz

Peer Review South—Dr. Bettina Pels-Wetzel

Peer Review North—Dr. Anne Marie Spear

Substance Abuse & Well Being—

Dr. John McCambley

Relief—Dr. John McCambley



Congratulations!... Dr. David Morrison, Earns Prestigious AGD Mastership!

Dr. Morrison of Clifton Park, Morrison Dental Care, achieves Academy of General Dentistry Mastership.



Life Members 2024

Dr. Aaron Cotugno, Dr. Gordon Davis,
Dr. John Popielarski, Dr. Bart Rizzuto,
Dr. Rajnikant Shah

In Memoriam 2024

Dr. Gerald Benjamin