

NEWSLETTER



2019 Vol. 9, No. 3

Letter from the President

Dear Fourth District Friends and Colleagues,

This winter marks a very sad time for our local dental community with the passing of Dr. Mark Bauman. We lost a great leader, teacher, mentor, and friend. Dr. Bauman influenced so many of us with his passion for organized dentistry and the love for his colleagues. He knew many people, but we all knew him as a kind-hearted, spritely individual who devoted his life to serving others.

I initially met Dr. Bauman while attending my very first SDC meeting. I had recently moved to Saratoga from New York City and he introduced himself to me at the registration table. As our casual conversation carried on we discovered people we knew in common, the best places to eat, and the closest place to shop for Asian

groceries. That is how he became my “insta-friend.”

For years following, Dr. Bauman was a motivational force for achievement above and beyond my comfort zone. Did I ever think I would have a place on the executive board of a distinguished 417-member professional organization? Not in a million years. I was always the one who hung by the sidelines with one foot in, one foot out. But Mark saw in me a small spark that longed to be lit. He brought out the best in people. When he asked me to fill his seat on the NYSDA Council on Membership and Communications 10 years ago, I respectfully declined, not feeling prepared to take on such a responsibility. But Mark wouldn't accept no for an answer. In his usual calm and friendly manner he helped me to understand the mission and duties of the council. I finally accepted and I am so glad I did. I cannot ever imagine

not being on the Membership Council. Thank you, Dr. Bauman for believing in me.

There is always a learning curve when you commit yourself to a leadership role in organized dentistry. Currently, the majority of members on the Fourth District Board of Directors have been serving for years, if not decades. They are well-versed and outspoken in topics relating to the dental profession. (Continued on page 2)



Mark Bauman

1947-2019

Fourth District Dental Society of New York NEWSLETTER

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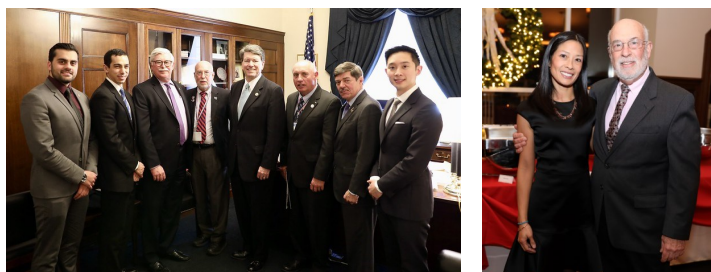
Please contact the Fourth District office with changes to your home or office address, phone number, or email.

Letter from the President

(continued from page 1) In the primitive stages of my involvement in organized dentistry, I sat reticent with only my eyes and ears wide open at board meetings. I shied away from addressing the board. Most of the time I didn't know what to say. However, it always helped to grab a seat next to Mark Bauman. Not because of his savvy food and wine recommendations (that was an added bonus!), but because he was a walking encyclopedia of anything related to our profession. I could ask him anything and I would always receive a clear explanation, without judgment. He taught me to love organized dentistry.

Mark loved the Dental Society as well. He knew what our members wanted and needed. Seeing the need for a women dentist networking outlet, Dr. Bauman helped create the Fourth District Women Dentist Meeting. Now in its 11th year, this meeting has grown and become a popular annual membership benefit. He later expanded this program to include a series of "Dining for Dental Divas" events where he shared his passion for wine and global cuisine. I doubt I will ever taste a pink cannoli again, but I know I will always think of my friend Mark when I'm with my colleagues.

Aside from his culinary talents, Mark always shared



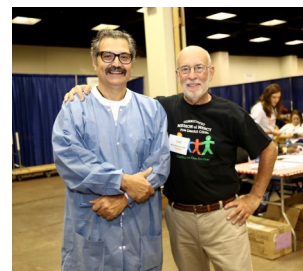
his passion with others through his photojournalistic style of photography. At any occasion he attended, rather than take a moment to relax, he stood tirelessly, camera-ready, taking pictures of everyone and everything that told a story. Mark's photos were published in the Fourth District Newsletter, the NYSDA Journal, the ADA newsletter, his food blog, and various organization websites. Very seldom were there pictures of himself and never did he expect credit for his photography.

His accomplishments and contributions spoke volumes about his commitment to helping others. He has worn many hats, including NYSDA Trustee, Board of Governors, district representative for NYSDA councils, co-chair of NYS Mission of Mercy, executive committee of EDPAC, and President of the Fourth District Dental Society. Most recently, Dr. Bauman was slated to serve as President of the American College of Dentistry in 2020, a position reserved for the most dedicated of leaders.

But I'm not about to divulge his long list of accomplishments and accolades. We all know that his CV is too thick to fit in a legal size envelope. Rather, I want to emphasize the undeniable strength and unity of our dental society because of the impact Mark had on each of us. The Fourth District Dental Society is a sophisticated, dedicated group of members who respect and learn from one another. Along the way friendships are made and mentorships are formed. I not only put Dr. Bauman on a pedestal, but all the amazing people I work with. Every year is a job well done. Thank you all for giving me the honor of representing such a fine organization. You are the best of the best. And to the late Dr. Bauman, my mentor and friend, your portrait will hang on my heart forever.

Yours Truly,

May Hwang, DMD



NEWS UPDATES

2020 CE PROGRAM

***The CE Program, held in tandem with the Third District, has a change of venue in 2020. In lieu of the Century House, we will be at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites just down the road from the Century House at 400 Old Loudon Road for the February, March and April presentations.**

Friday, February 7, 2020

“The Modern Restorative Process” presented by Dr. Michael DiTolla at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Latham (not the Century House).

Friday, March 6, 2020

“Differentiate Yourself: Clinical Tips to Generate New Patients” presented by Dr. Joshua Austin at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Latham (not the Century House).

Friday, April 3, 2020

AM Session “The New World Classification of Periodontal Diseases”, and PM Session: “Dental Practice Key Performance Indicators” by Karima Bapoo-Mohamed, DH, RDH, MBA at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Latham (not the Century House).

Friday, September 25, 2020

The Golf and CE at the Hiland Golf Club in Queensbury will be about Infection Control this year.

Friday, October 23, 2020

“Medical Emergencies” presented by Dr. Larry Sangrik at Fort William Henry Resort, Lake George.

SARATOGA DENTAL CONGRESS 2020

Thursday, May 14th

- Dr. Harold Crossley “Street Drugs: What Your Kids and Patients Are Not Telling You”
- Lois Banta “The Insurance Game” and “Top Ten Management Tips”
- CPR – AM & PM

Friday, May 15th

- Dr. Christopher Phelps : “The Science & Influence of Persuasion: Its Ethical Uses” and “Applying Ethical Persuasion to the Dental Practice”
- Frances Ciardullo, Esq & Margaret Surowka, Esq: “Hot Topics & Legal Pitfalls in the Modern Dental Practice” and “OPD: What You Need to Know”
- CPR– AM Only

MEDICAID WORKGROUP

On November 4th, the Dental Medicaid Stakeholders Workgroup held their quarterly meeting. The significant areas of discussion were access to care, various fluoridation issues and concerns with managed care plans. The group continues to recommend to the Managed Care Organizations that they establish mechanisms to facilitate better provider communications and make it easier for providers to access information regarding patient eligibility and claims. NYSDA’s Special Committee on Dental Medicaid encourages NYSDA members to submit any complaints they have regarding specific Medicaid/MCO situations to the DOH via email at managedcarecomplaint@health.ny.gov and copies to Dr. Michele Griguts who serves as Dental Director for the NYS Department of Health at Michele.Griguts@health.ny.gov and to Dr. Judith Shub who serves as assistant executive director for NYSDA at jshub@nysdental.org to ensure that all complaints are addressed.

SARATOGA PALIO 5K

On September 15th, the Fourth District hosted a booth at the Saratoga Palio Race. Organized by Dr. May Hwang, Fourth District members Dr. Holly Jafarzade, Dr. Rory Schmit and Dr. Christian Mathiesen generously donated their time to help educate the children attending the event about their oral health. Several local dentists and team members participated in the 5K run. Proceeds from the run benefited The Melanie Foundation and Saratoga SNACpack, which provides backpacks with food essentials to local children in need. The event was a great way for the Fourth District to be present in and interact with our local community.



Dr. Rory Schmit reviews brushing with a young attendee.



Dr. Jennifer Kluth and her team (Debbie, Anne, Suzanne, Dr. Kluth, and Donna)

WOMEN DENTIST MEETING

On October 3, 2019 the Women Dentist Meeting was held at Panza's in Saratoga Springs. Co-Hosts Drs. May Hwang and Christina Cocozzo organized a delightful evening of fellowship and learning. There were 31 dentists in attendance, and one beautiful and very well-behaved baby. Dr. Jill Braverman-Panza gave an informative presentation on "Migraines...More Than Just a Headache." Dr. Braverman-Panza is an internal medicine specialist in Albany and has practiced for 35 years.

The presentation was followed by a Floral Arranging Workshop led by Robin Ambrosino, owner of Gatherings Wildcrafted Botanical. Robin is a Master Gardener, grower, forager, arranger and lifelong plant enthusiast. Ms. Ambrosino brought floral supplies so that everyone in attendance could design their own bouquet and bring it home! <https://www.gatherwildplants.com>

The generous sponsors of the evening were Bank of America, MLMIC, Wealth Advisory Group and the Fourth District Dental Society.



Ms. Theresa Hughes (MLMIC) and Mr. Jose Segura (Wealth Advisory Group)



Dr. Jill Braverman-Panza and Dr. Christina Cocozzo



Drs. Rachel Hargraves, Sarah Fox, Kate Houtz and Chelsea Morini



Robin Ambrosino and Dr. Jessica Mulder



Dr. Linda Lam and Dr. Claire Keihl



Dr. Megan Curran and Dr. Jaclyn Papa

CE/GOLF

Following the Risk Management course on September 20, 2019, the Annual Fourth District Golf Tournament was held at the Hiland Golf Course in Queensbury. There were 52 golfers who participated in the collegial event. The winning team with a score of 64 (8 under) was Galati, Sheridan, Mundinger and Klingbel. Dr. Michael Spielberger won the Putting Contest. It was an outstanding weather day and golf and dinner was enjoyed by all who participated.

The continuing education course and golf tournament were supported by the following sponsors: 3M Oral Care Solutions, Adirondack Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Alexander Orthodontics, Bank of America Practice Solutions, Cooney Orthodontics, Dentsply Sirona Endodontics, James E. Galati, DDS, Hayes Handpiece, Hoskinson Orthodontics, MLMIC, Rochester Technical Group, Inc., SCOMSA, TD Bank, and VOCO America, Inc.

New Specialists in the Capital Region

The Fourth District is pleased to announce three new specialists to the area. Dr. Zachary Schonfield, an oral surgeon, has recently relocated back to NY and joined the team at Saratoga County Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Associates. He completed his Bachelor of Science degree at Hobart and William Smith Colleges located in Geneva, NY. Dr. Schonfield then went on to dental school and received his 6-year dual degree in Oral Surgery at the University of Maryland. He practices a full scope of oral surgery but has a special interest in implants, orthognathic surgery and operative TMJ. Outside of the office, Dr. Schonfield is an experienced scuba diver who has dived four of the world's oceans.



Capital District Endodontics is happy to announce their new endodontist, Dr. Ravi Singh. He is a New Jersey native who completed dental school at Howard University in Washington, D.C.. Dr. Singh then returned to New Jersey for his endodontic specialty training at Rutgers School of Dental Medicine. Dr. Singh enjoys being able to provide a positive dental experience to a patient who has severe dental anxiety from a previous dental procedure. He also has a passion for endodontic surgery and was recently selected by the AAE Foundation for Endodontics to represent them in an outreach trip to Jamaica. He is a sports enthusiast and has plans to ski and become an Adirondack 46er this year.



Dr. Canaan Tyner has returned to the Capital District area to practice at Cooney Orthodontics in Troy and Malta, NY. He grew up in the Lake George area and then obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Sports Medicine at Pepperdine University. After receiving his DDS from the University of Buffalo, he completed his specialty training in orthodontics at Montefiore Medical Center. He is very interested in digital scanning, completing research on the effectiveness and accuracy of scanning and digital model analysis. Outside of orthodontics, Dr. Tyner enjoys golfing and has an interest in learning about Revolutionary War history.



The dental community welcomes our new specialists to the area and is happy to have more professionals to serve the needs of our patients.

Medicare Advantage Plans—Did You Opt Out?

A few years ago there was a big push to either "opt in" or "opt out" of Medicare. Much of the issue was regarding prescriptions—if a patient had a Medicare prescription plan, and their dentist prescribed a medication, it was not always covered under their Medicare plan. There was also some overlap for Oral Surgeons with coverage for a few Medicare covered procedures. Some dentists, at that time, decided to "opt out" of Medicare. The Medicare "opt out" option came with an automatic renewal for "opting out". So, essentially, if a dentist "opted out", they stayed out.

Now we are seeing more and more Medicare Advantage dental plans. The concern is that if a dentist "opted out" the patient's Medicare Advantage plan can deny payment. So, if a dentist "opted out" and they want reimbursement from patients' plans they must "opt out" of "opting out". The dentist does NOT need to "opt in". They can stay NEITHER "opted in" or "opted out" (basically neutral) and be eligible for reimbursement. But, if a dentist does not "opt out" of "opting out", they will stay "opted out" and will likely get denials from their patient's Medicare Advantage Dental plans.

Opt-out affidavits signed after June 16, 2015 automatically renew every 2 years. To cancel this, dentists may cancel by notifying all MAC's (Medicare Administrative Contractors) in writing at least 30 days prior to the start of the next opt-out period. If a dentist has recently opted out for the first time, the opt-out can be cancelled within 90 days by notifying all MAC's. Once they are 'neutral,' they can receive reimbursements.

DR. THOMAS H. SULLIVAN CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY GRANT PROGRAM

The incidence of alcoholism and drug abuse among health care professionals is statistically higher than for the general population. Estimates suggest that addictive illness affects between 10-20 percent of all dentists. Eighty percent of licensed dentists practice as solo practitioners, isolated from daily contact with other professionals. This makes it acutely difficult to identify potential addiction problems, particularly in the early stages, and to effectively intervene or monitor recovery.

The Dr. Thomas H. Sullivan Chemical Dependency Grant Program provides financial assistance to chemically dependent dentists whose professional careers, families and very lives are threatened by substance abuse and addiction. The grants provided via the Sullivan Grant Program assist in the payment of initial treatment costs associated with in-patient services. Any dentist who requires in-patient medical services to treat a chemical dependency but who does not have access to independent financing or relevant medical coverage is eligible to apply for assistance to the Sullivan Grant Program. Chemical dependency, for the purpose of this program, is defined as dependency upon alcohol and/or any addictive licit or illicit controlled substances. (No monies are available for treatment costs associated exclusively with nicotine addictions.)

Applications to the Sullivan Grant Program are reviewed by the NYSDA Chemical Dependency Committee's Peer Assistance Coordinator and staff from the New York State Dental Foundation, which administers the Program.

Tax-deductible contributions to the Dr. Thomas H. Sullivan Chemical Dependency Grant Program can be made c/o the New York State Dental Foundation, 20 Corporate Woods Boulevard, Suite 602, Albany, NY 12211. Please indicate on the memo line of your check that the monies are to be applied to the Sullivan Grant Program. All monies contributed to this account will be used solely for the purposes of assisting impaired dentists. Information about the Grant can be found on the New York State Dental Foundation website.

WHAT IS INFORMED CONSENT?

As dentists, we can understand and appreciate the importance of informed consent. But, what is informed consent and how do we ensure we are fulfilling our patient obligation? These were concepts discussed at the Risk Management Course presented by Dr. Fred Wetzel and John VanDenburgh, Esq on September 20th at the Hiland Golf and Country Club in Queensbury.

By definition, informed consent is the process by which a patient learns about and understands the purpose, benefits, and potential risks of a medical or dental procedure and then agrees to receive the treatment. Often dentists use generic consent forms listing off the possible risks and adverse effects of a given procedure. They may also utilize their dental assistants to review the forms with the patients. However, as Dr. Wetzel and Mr. VanDenburgh explained, this is not fulfilling our duty to provide informed consent and can open us up to liability.

Informed consent cannot be summed up on a piece of paper or be delegated to a staff member. It is the discussion of all risks, benefits and alternatives to treatment that the doctor has with the patient that constitutes informed consent. It is in the best interest of the practice to also have a written form that is signed by the patient but only following the actual discussion. Mr. VanDenburgh recommended that the doctor also make a note in the chart that “all risks, benefits and alternatives to treatment were discussed with the patient and the patient elected to move forward.” By following these simple guidelines, we can continue to provide the best care to our patients and protect ourselves.

ADA ANNUAL MEETING

The Fourth District was well represented at the ADA Annual Meeting in San Francisco this year in September. Shown in the photo are Drs. Adrienne Korkosz, Fred Wetzel, Loren Baim, Chad Gehani (ADA President), Wayne Harrison and Mark Bauman.



Retired Members

Dr. Richard Lamanna
Dr. Miro Burjetka

New Members

Dr. Jennifer Tung
University of the Pacific
Pedodontics
Smile Lodge

Dr. Colleen Lacombe-Senecal
SUNY Buffalo
Pedodontics
Lake Shore Pediatric Dentistry,
Peru

Dr. Solomia Zhownirovych
SUNY Buffalo
General Practice
Schenectady

Dr. Molly Kovalesky
University of Maryland
Pedodontics
Smile Lodge

Dr. Zachary Schonfield
University of Maryland
Oral Surgery
SCOMSA

In Memoriam

Dr. Mark Bauman
Dr. Sheldon Kriegel
Dr. Roy Livingston
Dr. Richard S. Vlock
Dr. Raymond Cichy

CLASSIFIEDS

Please visit the Fourth District website for classified ads about equipment sales, job opportunities and practice sales.

EDPAC

EDPAC (Empire Dental Political Action Committee) is a vital organization committed to the professional futures of dentists. They are a bipartisan group comprised of NYS dentists who work to elect candidates to state office who can best serve its members. EDPAC works diligently to protect the interests of dentistry and to ensure dentists can provide the best care to their patients. EDPAC relies on contributions from NYSDA members in order to make the strides that it does. The Fourth District Dental Society is pleased to announce that we had the highest percentage of members contributing in the State, with 18% of members contributing. The average contribution per Fourth District member was approximately \$181. We are proud that our society sees the value of EDPAC and we encourage everyone to learn more about them by visiting the website www.empiredentalpac.com

DENTAL PROFESSIONALS AND CANCER PREVENTION

October was National Dental Hygiene Month, with the theme “Keep them healthy. Keep them clean.” To keep your teeth healthy, good oral care habits must be practiced on a regular basis. The Community Cancer Prevention in Action Program of Fulton, Montgomery & Schenectady Counties encourages you to discuss cancer prevention practices with your patients daily. First, we encourage you to give your age-eligible patients a high-quality recommendation for the cancer prevention vaccine, HPV. Data reflects, patients are more influenced by a high-quality recommendation and are more likely to follow through with their primary provider in obtaining the HPV vaccine. This action is key to cancer prevention and will help combat the growing rates of HPV oropharyngeal cancers. Second, we urge you to routinely screen your patients for oropharyngeal cancers. Research states the incidence of oropharyngeal cancer (OPC) has surpassed cervical cancer as the most prevalent HPV cancer. HPV causes 70% of the OPCs in the United States, affecting about 11,600 people each year.

The burden of HPV related cancers is increasing, and we ask you to help us take action against oropharyngeal cancer by adopting these five action steps into your practice, know your unique role in HPV cancer prevention, practice cancer prevention by educating age-eligible patients/parents of the link between HPV and oral cancer by encouraging this cancer prevention vaccine, refer patients for the HPV vaccination through their primary provider, collaborate with pediatricians/primary care providers to ensure continuum of care and last engage your team to promote cancer prevention confidently and professionally.

We invite you to continue the conversation on how your practice can help take action against cancer, contact the CPiA program at (518) 770-6815 for a follow-up conversation, resources to give to patients, and HPV vaccine materials to include in your waiting room.

Kelsey Carpe

Health Education Promotions Coordinator

Community Cancer Prevention in Action of Fulton, Montgomery & Schenectady Counties

GET THE FACTS. REDUCE THE RISK. SPREAD THE WORD.

visit: TakeActionAgainstCancer.com

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Fourth District Newsletter

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