

NEWSLETTER



2022 Vol. 12, No. 1

Letter from the President



Greetings from the Fourth District. I would like to extend a special thanks to Dr. Laura Johnstone, our outgoing president, for her service to the district over the last two years. It's been an interesting couple of years to say the least. Our members have persevered through one of the most uncertain and anxious periods in the history of organized dentistry. Thankfully, our profession has seen a surge in demand in the second half of 2021 and in the first quarter of 2022 as our patients continue to emerge from the global pandemic. Nearly three months of mandated shutdown followed

by months of uncertainty and fluctuating rates of Covid-19 infection in the community led to a significant decline in the dental health of many of our patients. Almost two years later, it appears that the worst is behind us, but a lot of work is still needed as we play "catch up." I'm confident that we are up to the task. I've been humbled and frankly surprised at the attitude and gratitude expressed by my patients during this time. Rarely did I encounter a patient concerned about their well-being in the office, even during the height of the pandemic. I was reminded of the level of trust and confidence that our patients have in our judgement and expertise not simply as dental professionals, but as health care professionals.

There was time in the thick of this however when patient interactions were limited or all together absent. Many of us, myself included, took the opportunity to catch up on CE. Quite appropriately, for a couple of years now, our governing bodies have relaxed the in-person

requirements for CE credits. While this has been incredibly helpful over the last two years, I think it's time to renew our commitment to in person learning and peer to peer interaction. Many of us practice as individuals, but like most professions, Dentistry thrives and advances due to collaborative interactions amongst colleagues. Teleconferencing and virtual communication filled a much-needed void during the pandemic, but it is no substitute for face to face interaction. I encourage all of you who have not yet returned to live CE to use the upcoming 2022 Saratoga Dental Congress as an opportunity to do so. It's been (Continued on page 3)

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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.

Please note that the email for the Fourth District Dental Society is now office@4thdds.org

Upcoming Events:

Saratoga Dental Congress — May 19-20, 2022

The SDC will be held at the Saratoga City Center.

Thursday May 19:

Dr. Tieroana Low Dog: “The Mind-Gut Connection” and “Immune Health in the Era of Pandemics”; Dr. Gwen Cohen Brown: “Oral Cancer, HPV & Emerging Medical Technology” and “Common Oral Lesions: Differential Diagnosis and Treatment”; CPR with MedCourse AM and PM sessions.

Friday May 20:

Dr. Ashraf Fouad: “Contemporary Concepts and Technologies in Endodontic Diagnosis and Treatment”; Dr. Randy Huffines: “Successfully Treating Older Adults: Techniques for the Entire Dental Team”; CPR with MedCourse AM session only.

Membership Mixer — TBD Summer 2022

A fun gathering for new members to meet each other, and hear about the 4th District mentorship program. Interested members will be matched with 4th District mentors.

CE and Golf — Friday September 23, 2022

Risk Management with Mr. John VanDenburgh and Dr. Fred Wetzel will be offered at the Hiland Golf Course in Queensbury, followed by the Annual Golf Tournament.

CE Series, Course #4 — Friday, October 28, 2022

A virtual webinar “I Have Become... Profoundly Numb” will be led by Tom Viola, R. Ph., C.C.P. The presentation will be focused on local anesthetics, vasoconstrictors, clinical dental considerations.

New Dentist Meeting — TBD Fall 2022

A meeting for member dentists who are up to 10 years from graduation.

Women Dentist Meeting — TBD Fall 2022

Remote Area Medical (RAM) is coordinating a free pop-up clinic at the Washington County Fairgrounds on September 17 and 18, 2022. They are looking for volunteer dentists, assistants, hygienists, surgeons, technicians and general support for registration, interpretation, and other positions. Information can be found on their website RAMUSA.org



Installation Dinner

The annual 4th District Installation Dinner was held in early March to thank Dr. Laura Johnstone for her service and to welcome new President Dr. Robert Berls, President-Elect Dr. Christina Cocozzo, Vice President Dr. John Milza, Secretary Dr. Jennifer Kluth and Treasurer Dr. H John Schutze. The dinner was held at Saratoga National and was well attended by many Past Presidents of the Fourth District. Dr. Gleason graciously served as emcee of the night, presiding over the induction of our 2022 officers.



Dr. Gleason introducing officers Drs. Berls, Cocozzo and Kluth.



Dr. Bob Berls and Dr. Lisa Berls.



Dr. Laura Johnstone handing the presidential gavel to Dr. Bob Berls.



Dr. Berls addressing the attendees.

Continuing Ed

Our Seminar Series was a successful CE program held in conjunction with the Third District. In February we hosted local Periodontal experts Drs. Katherine Guilfoyle and Linda Lam (4th district) and Drs. Alex Choe and Mahogany Miles (3rd district) for a terrific presentation with over 85 members joining the webinar. In March we hosted our first in-person CE in Clifton Park with Dr. Gary Radz, and in April we hosted Dr. Miles Cone in Latham with each lecture drawing over 60 attendees and many local vendors. Look for Risk Management CE in September and a webinar in October with Thomas Viola.



Dr. Miles Cone speaking to attendees about prosthodontic challenges at the CE course in April. .

(Continued Letter from the President, page 1)

two years since we have had the opportunity to host this meeting which has had a long history of outstanding attendance and outstanding speakers. Please visit www.4thdds.org and sign up to attend if you have not already done so to show your support for the terrific lineup of speakers, our dedicated group of vendors, and our outstanding community of dentists. I am thrilled to return to the Saratoga Convention Center in May as your president and I look forward to seeing you all again face to face for the first time in a long time.

Sincerely,

Bob Berls

Opinion: Access to Care for the Intellectual and Developmentally Disabled

Dr. Laura Johnstone

If a government program exists but no one can access it, does it really serve a purpose? Special needs New Yorkers, their families, and their caregivers are waiting in pain. Individuals with profound intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in New York State often require access to hospital operating rooms in order to have appropriate dental care under the safety of general anesthesia. Most are on Medicaid. In 2008, the NYS Dept of Health changed from reimbursement of providers based on the cost of the use of the facility to reimbursement based on the amount of procedures completed and the perceived complexity or intensity of the procedures. Without adequate financial support, the network of dental OR programs began to crumble. The result is a dismaying access to care issue that continues to plague the hospital-based dentistry system.

Our previous Governor and his Medicaid Redesign Team refused any increases in Medicaid expenditures with no exceptions for the IDD population despite provisions in the Affordable Care Act that allow for increases in reimbursement for this treatment. (This same state government denied IDD group residences qualified for PPE disbursement during the pandemic, reversing course only when the NYCLU and NY Disability Rights groups filed complaints citing the Americans with Disabilities Act.) OR work of anesthesiologists and dentists is not valued under Medicaid as much as other treatment. Hospitals aim for \$6000-7000 per hour for OR use; dental treatment for IDD patients often only brings in \$500-1500 for a 2-3 hour procedure. Anesthesiology will receive anywhere from \$120-155 for this case. As for the dentist? Standard Medicaid dental rates apply.

In spite of the significant clinical challenges of treating this vulnerable segment of society, providers are not only disincentivized by current reimbursement levels, rather they are financially penalized. If no providers agree to treat them, how can they cost the state any money? When attempting to understand someone's motivation it is often instructive to surmise it from the outcome. The current system of reimbursement is not designed to motivate provider participation.

Making matters worse there is typically a 2-year waiting period for dental treatment in this population. NYS has 214 hospitals – only 30 currently provide OR treatment for IDD individuals. Our area has witnessed the loss of IDD/OR dental programs at Ellis and St. Peter's Hospitals, as well as the closure of the Helen Hayes Hospital OR in Hudson Valley. COVID restrictions have exacerbated the issue. There is also a shortage of dentists who feel comfortable treating patients that have adverse/combatative behaviors or who feel that they have sufficient training with this population. This problem is projected to get worse as more New Yorkers develop Alzheimer's Disease. There are currently 410,000 patients with Alzheimer's Disease in NY State, with 70% of the 80,000-100,000 of moderate cases likely to need general anesthesia for dental care, conservatively.

As individuals and as a society, we are judged not by how we treat the most glamorous and privileged amongst us. Rather it is how we prioritize the most vulnerable – those that cannot advocate for themselves – that holds a true mirror to who we are as a profession. Right now, someone has a family member that cannot get potentially life-saving treatment because we have not summoned the collective will to demand better, to demand what many of them cannot demand for themselves. Let us not wait until someone dies of an abscess to call awareness to this problem.

To combat these shortfalls and correct the cruelty that prolonging dental care can inflict, the NY Taskforce for Special Dentistry is asking the NYS government to fund a Fellowship for Special Needs Dentistry at 6 academic and 6 hospital locations and train more dentists to do work at this scope. If you feel so moved by the plight of these families, please contact Lisa Hicks at the Fourth District to receive a template that can be forwarded to your local representative and voice your concerns regarding the treatment of the most vulnerable segment of our population.

New Members

Dr. Lina Bajwa
Salvatore Dental, Malta
General Dentistry
LECOM School of Dental Medicine

Dr. Natalie Barclay
1st Advantage, Queensbury
General Dentistry
Meharry Medical College 1999

Dr. Tarek Elsafty
Stillwater
General Dentistry
NYU 2003

Dr. Najlaa Hanna
Plattsburgh
Transfer from Montreal
General Dentistry
Univ Montreal 1999

Dr. Maryam Harini
Saratoga
General Dentistry
Univ Texas 1989

Dr. Joseph Juracka
Smiles for Life, Saratoga
General Dentistry
Rutgers 2016

Dr. Rosanne Morgan
Smilecross Dental, Schoharie
Transfer from 9th District
General Dentistry
Chapel Hill 2016

Dr. Kim Sangmee
Smile Lodge, Clifton Park
Pediatric Dentistry
Columbia 2019, Yale 2021

Dr. Ryan Yurchak
Chauvin Family Dentistry, Clifton Park
General Dentistry
University at Buffalo 2018

Retired Life Members

Dr. David Betts
Dr. Thaddeus Marciniszyn
Dr. Christian Mathiesen
Dr. Thomas Merten

In Memoriam

Dr. Anthony John Romanazzi
Dr. Benjamin J. Vinciguerra
Dr. William Brennan



Tooth The Point Sharpening
Dental Hygiene Instrument Sharpening Services

Sarah Young RDH,CDA
802-522-9327
Malta, NY
tooththepointsharpening@gmail.com



NEW DENTIST SURVIVAL GUIDE SERIES

A Four-Part Series for New Dentists

Setting Yourself Up for Success

NYSDA

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:** May 4, May 19 (at SDC, 11:30am), June 22, October 6, November 2 and December 7.

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 Cocozzo, Dr. Lisa Berls
Constitution & By-Laws—Dr. John McCambley
Dental Benefits—Dr. William Down
Dental Education & Licensure—Dr. Morris Feinberg
Dental Foundation—Dr. Kirk Gleason
Dental Health Planning & Hospital Dentistry—Dr. Laura Johnstone
Dental Practice—Dr. Adrienne Korkosz
District Claims Review—Dr. John Schummer
EDPAC—Dr. Kirk Gleason
EDPAC Chair—Dr. Michael Breault
Ethics—Dr. Loren Baim
Finance—Dr. Frederick Wetzel
Governmental Affairs—Dr. Phong Chung
Membership & Communication—Dr. Katherine Guilfoyle
MLMIC Underwriting Claims—Dr. Frederick Wetzel
Necrology—Dr. John Milza
New Dentist—Dr. Rachel Hargraves
Newsletter—Dr. Jennifer Kluth, Dr. Rachel Hargraves
Nominations—Dr. Wayne Harrison
Peer Review South—Dr. Bettina Pels-Wetzel, Dr. Christian Mathiesen
Peer Review North—Dr. Anne Marie Spear, Dr. Christian Mathiesen
Professional Liability Insurance—Dr. John Schummer
Substance Abuse & Well Being—Dr. John McCambley
Relief—Dr. John McCambley

The Politics of Dentistry

On the evening of April 19th, 2022 NYSDA hosted a webinar entitled “The Politics of Dentistry: A View From Washington” which included viewpoints from NY Congressman Andrew Garbarino, NYSDA Lobbyist Roy Lasky and ADA Senior VP and Washington Lobbyist Michael Graham, as well as other state and local members involved in the political efforts of the ADA and dental political action campaigns. They discussed the lobbying efforts that are made at a national level, including those made during the pandemic to ensure that dental offices were included in the PPP, EIDL, HHS and other programs. The ADA is one of the few organizations which has a physical presence in Washington D.C. on both the House and Senate sides of town, in order to be as connected to lawmakers as possible. It is these relationships with both Republicans and Democrats which allow the ADA to be heard and effect the legislative process to the benefit of the dental profession. Congressman Garbarino spoke to the power of hearing from dentists and dental students about their personal experiences. There was discussion of the efforts to nationalize the licensure process for dentists, as this is a common concern for newer dentists who are more likely to move to another state over the course of their career. It is contributions to the political action campaigns such as ADPAC and EDPAC that ensure dentists have a voice in future legislation.

4th District 2022 Budget

Drs. Cocozzo, Harrison, Johnstone, Hargraves, Milza, Galati, Schutze, and Chairman Wetzel met on November 30, 2021 via Zoom at 7pm. After reviewing the income and expenses of the 2019, 2020 and 2021 years and projecting our best estimates for the year 2022 the following budget for 2022 was developed.

Income		EXECUTIVE DIR. Full Office expenses	
4000 C E INCOME	\$30,000.00	6400 Mtgs/Auto REIMBURSEMENT	
400010 CE Expenses	-\$20,000.00	6404 Mtgs Exec Dir ada,nysda,branch	\$2,500.00
400011 C E Sponsor/exhibitor	\$2,000.00	6405 AUTO EXPENSE Reimbursement	
Total 4000 C E INCOME	\$12,000.00	6406 AUTO EXP Exec Dir	\$500.00
4010 DUES	\$40,000.00	Total 6405 AUTO EXPENSE Reimbursement	\$500.00
4025 MISC INCOME	\$100.00	Total 6400 Mtgs/Auto REIMBURSEMENT	\$3,000.00
4040 PROGRAM ENDORSEMENTS	\$10,000.00	6502 OFFICE EXPENSES	\$2,000.00
4060 SARATOGA DENTAL CONGRESS		6501 POSTAGE	\$250.00
4061 SDC EXHIBITORS/Sponsorships	\$30,000.00	6506 RENT	\$5,300.00
4062 SDC REGISTRATIONS	\$83,900.00	6751 ISP+PHONE	\$2,000.00
61121 SDC Annual Expenses		6752 WEB SITE DEVELOP AND MAINT	\$500.00
61031 Meal SDC	-\$30,000.00	Total 6502 OFFICE EXPENSES	\$10,050.00
61041 Rentals SDC	-\$21,000.00	COMPENSATION	
61051 Speakers SDC	-\$25,000.00	6200 COMPENSATION Exec Dir	\$50,000.00
61131 Other SDC Expenses	-\$5,000.00	6207 Bonus Exec Dir	\$2,000.00
Total 61121 SDC Annual Expenses	-\$81,000.00	Total 6200 COMPENSATION Exec Dir	\$52,000.00
Total 4060 SDC	\$32,900.00	6203 PAYROLL TAXES INS FEES	\$5,000.00
4065 OTHER 4th MEETINGS Income		6505 Payroll Service	\$1,000.00
40652 Golf CE Income	\$15,000.00	Total 6203 PAYROLL TAXES INS FEES	\$6,000.00
406521 Golf CE expenses	-\$10,000.00	Total COMPENSATION	\$58,000.00
Total 40652 Golf CE Income	\$5,000.00	Total Full Office expenses	\$71,050.00
Total 4065 OTHER 4th MTNGS Income	\$5,000.00	OTHER EXPENSES	
Total Income	\$100,000.00	6701 ACCOUNTING FEES	\$2,000.00
Gross Profit	\$100,000.00	6712 HVCC Contributions	
Expenses		67161 Dr. Mark Bauman Scholarship	\$1,000.00
6000 FULL 4TH DISTRICT expenses		67163 HVCC Hygiene Pin	\$1,200.00
6120 COMMITTEES & BD OF DIRECTORS		Total 6712 HVCC Contributions	\$2,200.00
6003 MEMBER RECRUITMENT		6719 MAINT AND REPAIR OF EQUIP	\$1,000.00
6031 New Dentist	\$2,000.00	6720 INSURANCE EXPENCE	\$1,500.00
60311 Income to offset expenses	-\$1,000.00	6731 MISC EXP	\$1,000.00
Total 6031 New Dentist	\$1,000.00	6741 NEWSLETTER	\$1,000.00
6032 Women Dentists	\$2,500.00	DONATIONS	
60321 Income to offset expenses	-\$1,000.00	6714 MEMORIAL - HONORARIA	\$250.00
Total 6032 Women Dentists	\$1,500.00	6721 ADA Campaigns/NYSDA Hosting	\$5,000.00
Total 6003 MEMBER RECRUITMENT	\$2,500.00	Total DONATIONS	\$5,250.00
6101 Install Officers & Bd. Mtgs	\$5,000.00	Total OTHER EXPENSES	\$13,950.00
Total 6120 COMMITTEES & BD OF DIR	\$7,500.00	Total 6000 FULL 4TH DISTRICT expenses	\$100,000.00
6600 OFFICERS' EXPENSE		Total Expenses	\$100,000.00
6602 PresElect + 1 Alt ADA Delegate	\$5,000.00	Net Operating Income	\$0.00
6407 4 NYSDA Alt Delegates	\$2,000.00	Net Income	\$0.00
Total 6602 PresElect + 1 Alternate ADA Delegate	\$7,000.00		
6603 TREASURER	\$500.00		
Total 6600 OFFICERS' EXPENSE	\$7,500.00		



**Fourth District
Dental Society**

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