

NEWSLETTER



2022 Vol. 12, No. 2

Letter from the President



Greetings from the 4th district. We have had a very busy and productive Spring and Summer. It was a thrill to successfully host our annual SDC meeting in person once again this past May at the Saratoga City Center. I enjoyed catching up with those of you who were in attendance and meeting several new members for the first time. I would like to express my gratitude to my fellow 4th district board members, to each of the volunteers and event organizers, and to our outstanding executive director Lisa Hicks for a job well done. I would also like to

thank our sponsors and vendors, the SDC staff, the speakers, and of course each of the attendees who helped make this a successful meeting.

For those of you who weren't aware, it is worth noting that the Saratoga Springs City Center hosted the annual NYSDA House of Delegates this past June. The HOD successfully conducted its business meetings and concluded its sessions by formally recognizing our newly elected officers including our very own Dr. James Galati as the 142nd president of the New York State Dental Association. Every member should be proud of Dr. Galati's accomplishment and he will undoubtedly represent our district and our state honorably in the year ahead. Congratulations Dr. Galati!

Saratoga Springs will be hosting the HOD once again in 2023, and I encourage any members interested in participating in organized dentistry, or simply witnessing how business is conducted at the HOD, to consider reaching out to myself, our board members, or

to Lisa Hicks at the 4th district so that we can get you involved. Until then, enjoy the last weeks of Summer, and please reach out to us with any questions about our upcoming CE events and annual golf outing in September.

Regards,

Bob

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Fourth District Dental Society of New York

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Fourth District Dental Society
of the State of New York
632 Plank Road, Suite 200
Clifton Park, NY 12065
Phone: (518) 371-1114
Fax: (518) 371-0018
Email: office@4thdds.org
Website: www.4thdds.org

American Dental Association
800-621-8099

New York Dental Association
800-255-2100

CO-EDITORS

Dr. Rachel Hargraves
Dr. Jennifer Kluth

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Lisa Hicks

2022 OFFICERS

Dr. Robert Berls, President
Dr. Christina Cocozzo,
President-Elect
Dr. John Milza, Vice President
Dr. Jennifer Kluth, Secretary
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Dr. Wayne Harrison

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Dr. Frederick W. Wetzel
Dr. Laura Johnstone

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: Fourth District Dental Society email is now office@4thdds.org

Upcoming Events:

New Dentist Meeting — Thurs Sept 8, 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. At the Barn at Powers in Clifton Park.

CE and Golf — Fri Sept 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.

Women Dentist Meeting — Thurs Oct 20, 2022

Speaker Dr. Jamie Cohn, venue TBD

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.

SmileCon 2022 — Oct 13-15, 2022

The ADA Annual Meeting at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston.

SDC 2023 — May 11 & 12, 2023

Save the Date for the next SDC with speakers (subject to change) Dr. Harold Crossley, Dr. Richard Madow, and Dr. Arnold Weiss.

Local Volunteer Opportunities:

Remote Area Medical (RAM) - Sept 17 & 18, 2022

This free pop-up clinic at the Washington County Fairgrounds is 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

Special Olympics Special Smiles — Sat, Oct 22, 2022

Dentists and dental staff members are in need for dental screenings, dental education, and distribution of toothbrushes and mouthguards. The event will be held in Glens Falls City Park from 4:30pm - 8:30pm. For more information see the Special Olympics website at <https://www.specialolympics-ny.org/get-involved/>

Saratoga Dental Congress

The Fourth District's annual meeting, the Saratoga Dental Congress was held on May 11 & 12, 2022 at the Saratoga City Center in Saratoga Springs. We had great member participation at the first in-person SDC since 2019 with over 300 attendees, and close to 40 exhibitors. The speakers, including Dr. Tieranona Low Dog, Dr. Ashraf Fouad, Dr. Randy Huffines and Dr. Gwen Cohen Brown were all very well received. The raffle proceeds of over \$1,000 were donated this year to the Regional Y of Southern Saratoga County. Thank you to everyone who took a chance and bought a ticket or two...and special congrats to all the winners! Raffle prizes were as follows: Saratoga National golf - William Moore; AirPods Pro - Brian Hudson; Saratoga County Fair Family package - Holly Young; Longfellows Dinner *plus* movie night - Sarah Young; Old Bryan Inn Dinner *plus* movie night - Emily Mott; SDC 2023 Free Registration - Dr. Wanda Saldana.



Clockwise from upper left: Dr. Low Dog's presentation; Dr. Bob Berls, Dr. May Hwang, Dr. Lisa Berls, Dr. Andy Singh and Dr. Laurie Singh enjoying the SDC; Dr. John McCambley at the raffle; Dr. Randy Huffines' presentation.



Dr. James Galati Installed As 142nd NYSDA President

The Fourth District is excited to announce the esteemed Dr. James Galati has been installed as the 142nd President of NYSDA. Dr. Galati has a lifelong dedication to the dental community serving leadership roles at the local, state and national level. He is in touch with the needs of members by being involved with organized dentistry for so many years and also owning a private practice in Clifton Park. In his new capacity, Dr. Galati plans to encourage and create mentorship programs in every district

in order to connect new dentists with more seasoned ones to create a mutually beneficial relationship. Dr. Galati recognizes the dental profession has increasing diversity and he plans to understand and advocate for different needs. The current issue of the NYSDJ, available online, features a conversation with Dr. Galati. This is a well deserved accomplishment for Dr. Galati and next time you see him please be sure to congratulate him!



Monkeypox Resources for Healthcare Providers (NYSDA July 22, 2022)

The CDC is requesting that healthcare providers be alert for patients who may have signs of monkeypox, including oral lesions, regardless of gender or sexual orientation, recent travel, or have specific risk factors. Healthcare providers should look for signs and/or symptoms during patient exams, continue to use appropriate PPE, and thoroughly clean all surface areas.

The NYS Department of Health hosted a webinar for healthcare providers in order to provide a situational update on the evolving monkeypox outbreak in New York City and New York State. The webinar discussed how to identify symptoms, testing, infection control protocol and more. Information can be found on the NYSDA website.

New State Law for Opioid Prescription

Effective June 27, 2022, under certain circumstances, doctors in outpatient settings prescribing an opioid for pain management may also be required to simultaneously prescribe an opioid antagonist (such as Narcan/Naloxone) to the patient.

This new LAW applies to the first opioid prescription to a patient each year when any one of the following conditions are known to exist:

- (a) a history of substance use disorder; or
- (b) high dose or cumulative prescriptions that result in ninety morphine milligram equivalents or higher per day; or
- (c) concurrent use of opioids and benzodiazepine or nonbenzodiazepine sedative hypnotics (including but not limited to diazepam/Valium, Lorazepam/Ativan, Clonazepam/Klonopin, Xanax, Ambien, Sonata, and Lunesta).

Note that the law is interpreted such that each provider's first opioid prescription of the year to a patient is subject to this law. It does not matter if the patient already had received another opioid prescription from a different provider earlier in the year. If it is your first opioid prescription to the patient that year and one of the noted conditions exist, you must also prescribe an opioid antagonist.

NYS CE Requirements for Dentists

NYS Department of Education has extended the deadline for self-study continuing education for dentists. Until January 1, 2023, all continuing education requirements can be completed as self-study. After the deadline, 42 out of the 60 required credits will need to be live courses. Below are the current continuing education requirements:

- 60 continuing education credits every 3 year registration period; 18 of the 60 credits can be home study
- NYS Mandated Ethics and Jurisprudence course (once in your lifetime)
- NYS Mandated Tobacco Cessation/Oral Cancer course (once in your lifetime)
- NYS Mandated Child Abuse course (once in your lifetime)
- Active certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR); certification varies 1-3 years; CPR must be taken in person
- NYS Mandated Infection Control course, once every 4 years

A Resource for Medicaid Complaints

The NYS Department of Health website has a website for any Medicaid managed care complaints. Anyone with concerns can refer to https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/managed_care/complaints/

Alternatively the phone number is 1-800-206-8125. Providers and patients can use this information for billing concerns, access to care issues, etc.

Small Business Tax Credit

Governor Kathy Hochul announced the opening of the initial intake tool to help small businesses, with 100 or fewer employees, determine their eligibility for the COVID-19 Capital Costs Tax Credit Program. The \$250 million COVID-19 Capital Costs Tax Credit Program will support small businesses that made investments to comply with emergency orders and regulations or to increase public safety in response to COVID-19. If deemed eligible by the screening tool, a link to the application will be provided when the program application opens. "The pandemic has hit New York's small businesses especially hard, forcing many to close and others to incur significant financial burdens to protect their employees and customers from COVID-19," Governor Hochul said. Small businesses were hit particularly hard by the pandemic downturn. This new refundable tax relief program targets COVID-19-related expenses. Eligible COVID-19-related costs include, but are not limited to:

- Supplies to disinfect or protect against COVID-19 transmission
- Costs associated with expanding, or defining space to accommodate social distancing
- HVAC equipment
- Expenses related to increased outdoor activity and outdoor space expansions
- Machinery and equipment to facilitate contactless sales

Tax credits will cover 50 percent of eligible costs, up to \$50,000, for a maximum tax credit award of \$25,000, and credits will be awarded on a first come first serve basis until program funds are depleted. Eligible businesses must operate a location in New York State, have 100 or fewer employees, \$2.5 million or less of gross receipts in the 2021 tax year, and at least \$2,000 in eligible costs between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2022.

Businesses are still encouraged to apply for the New York State COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program which provides flexible grants of \$5,000 to \$50,000 for small businesses for COVID-19 expenses. However costs incurred between January 1, 2021 and April 1, 2021 that were paid for with proceeds from this grant program are not eligible for a tax credit under the COVID-19 Capital Costs Tax Credit Program.

To receive a tax credit for their 2022 tax return, businesses must receive a tax credit certificate from ESD on or before December 31, 2022. Potential applicants are urged to complete the screening tool and apply as soon as the program is launched, as any tax credits issued on or after January 1, 2023 cannot be claimed until a business's 2023 tax return. For more detailed information visit the ESD website at esd.ny.gov/covid-19-capital-cost-tax-credit

Governor Hochul Signs NYSDA Dental Assisting Bill Into Law (NYSDA August 19, 2022)

A bill to allow registered dental assistants to place and remove temporary restorations was signed into law by Gov. Hochul on August 17, 2022. The law takes effect immediately. In 2007, the NYS Education Department mandated that registered dental assisting programs teach and train registered dental assistants to place and remove temporary restorations, thus declaring in its official directive from then Deputy Commissioner for the Professions Frank Munoz to such academic programs that these procedures were within the scope of practice of RDA and assistants needed to be educated and trained to perform them. However, the RDS scope-of-practice law was never updated to match that directive, which has been carried out ever since 2007. The bill fixes that technical glitch to match the existing education standards and training of RDA to their scope-of-practice law.

New Members

Dr. Adam Belmadani
Aspen Dental Plattsburgh
General Dentistry
Univ of Montreal 2019

Dr. Lauren Geffen
Smile Lodge, Clifton Park
Pediatric Dentistry
Stoney Brook 2019

Dr. Joan Marshall
Sitwell Dental, Clifton Park
General Dentistry
University of Maryland 2020

Dr. Jin Sung
Smile Lodge, Clifton Park
Pediatric Dentistry
Tufts 2020

Dr. Japneet Verma
Gloversville Family Dentistry
General Dentistry
SUNY Buffalo 2019

Retired Life Members

Dr. Michael Perrino

Nominations

The following nominations have been put forth to be voted on at the next business meeting at the Golf and CE event on Friday September 23, 2022 at the Highland Golf Course in Queensbury.

- Trustee (1): Dr. Adrienne Korkosz;
- NYSDA Delegates (4): Dr. Christina Cocozzo, Dr. Laura Johnstone, Dr. John Milza, Dr. Fred Wetzel;
- NYSDA Alt. Delegate (2): Dr. Crystal Arpei-McHugh, Dr. Diana Sandu;
- FDDS 2023 Board: President: Dr. Christina Cocozzo; Pres Elect: Dr. John Milza; Vice President: Dr. Jennifer Kluth; Treasurer: Dr. Rachel Hargraves;
- At Large Board Position: Dr. Michael Breault, Dr. Jonathan Schutze;
- Alternate to the Board Position: Dr. Christian Mathiesen.



Statewide Peer Review Workshops

Dr. Mathiesen held three Peer Review Workshops across NY State to update, refresh and underscore the importance of this member benefit. Peer Review chairs, mediators and administrators from across the state were encouraged to participate.

Upper Hudson Branch Meeting

The Upper Hudson Branch Members gathered for a dinner lecture with Dr. Christopher Mason on Wednesday April 27, 2022 at Morgan & Co. in Glens Falls. Dr. Christopher Mason is a Hematology Specialist affiliated with the Glens Falls Hospital and spoke on HPV and its Oral Implications. Fourteen members of the Upper Hudson Branch enjoyed the evening of learning and fellowship.



From left to right: Dr. Loren Baim, Dr. H. John Schutze, Dr. Christopher Manson, Dr. Carly McCullough, Dr. Mark Franklin, Dr. Patrick McCullough, Dr. Michael Spielberger, Jan Spielberger RDH and Dr. David Parsons.



**Fourth District
Dental Society**
632 Plank Road, Suite 200
Clifton Park, NY 12065

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