

NOVA Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine, A Popular Choice for Dental Training

by Dr. John D. Tabak

Now in its ninth year the NSU College of Dental Medicine has matured from being the new kid on the block to a prominent, private university dental school. While the facility still has that new look about it, the school has already outgrown it and an additional building is in the planning stages. The faculty and student body are growing, and the curriculum is evolving to incorporate twenty-first century technology. Research activity is expanding, board examination pass rates are excellent, and the internationalism/globalization of dentistry is an essential part of the college's reality.



because Northwestern was closing. The transfer students wanted to complete all of their clinical requirements in one place. The second year brought the first full-size freshman class of 100. That soon became 105 when additional units were added to the simulation laboratory.

As soon as the school's name started to circulate on pre-dental campuses, the number and quality of each year's applicants began to rise. For several years now the school's application process has been centralized through the American Dental Education Association's AADSAS program (Associated American Dental Schools Application Service). The service makes it possible for the student to complete one application and have it sent in a standard format to all the dental schools of interest. Among the college students in the country who applied for admission to the class of 2010, 38% listed Nova



The college opened with a small sophomore class of foreign graduates and a transfer class from Chicago

Southeastern as one of their top choices. That popularity, private university tuition notwithstanding, does not derive only from the research or the papers published by faculty. It comes from the positive feedback from the student body to their friends back at their undergraduate alma maters. An incremental increase in popularity has enabled the admissions committee to raise



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President's Message



An Ancient Proverb States: "If I am not for myself, who is for me? And if I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?"

By Dr. Mel Kessler, FLAGD President

Sam Hanania, our out-going president, stood up. He has dedicated himself to work for all of us this past year. He showed his excitement for the Academy and its goals, advocacy for the general dentist and quality continuing education. It is now my turn to stand up and serve our organization and you, its members.

I do this not for myself but for all of us. We must forever be careful and watchful. The way we achieve that is through advocacy. Advocacy News states: AGD serves as the eyes, ears and voice of the general dentist. We advocate for you on legislation and regulation in both Washington, DC and the various states. We also stand up for you with insurance companies and third party payers. Finally, we also represent your interests within organized dentistry, including the American Dental Association.

Recently Dr. Vincent Mayher, president-elect of the Academy, spoke at a hearing before the Food and Drug Administration to maintain the use of mercury-based fillings as they do not harm patients. The FDA concluded that there is no significant new information to limits its use in dentistry.

In June 2005 the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) solicited comments from the AGD on their draft "Referral Guidelines for the Management of Patients with Periodontal Diseases." These comments were ignored, but the AAP listed the Academy as endorsing the "Guidelines". According to the Guidelines you should not treat severe chronic periodontitis, furcation involvement, vertical/angular bony defects, periodontal abscess and other acute periodontal conditions, significant root exposure and peri-implant disease.

On the state level, there is Draft Legislation 466.012, Specialist License to Practice Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Not only does the statute propose specialist licensure, item 3 states: "No dentist licensed in this State may engage in the practice of the specialty area of oral and maxillofacial surgery or hold himself or herself out to the public as a specialist in oral and maxillofacial surgery unless the dentist has been approved for a specialty license... Does this mean only specialists may extract teeth in Florida? Would this limit your scope of practice and impact your practice? Who is looking out for you?"

President's Message, continued on page 18

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Editorial



TIME FOR A FIFTH YEAR OF EDUCATION?

by Dr. Larry Scheitler

Florida has two very good dental schools. In fact, Florida Focus has in past issues highlighted both institutions and their outreach clinics in the community. These schools have produced many excellent dentists, although only 20% of the dentists practicing in Florida were educated here. Thank goodness that is changing.

Our new dentists are quite capable, to be sure, and very smart. With an application acceptance rate of 11:1, any student accepted into dental school today is educated, and competitive. But frankly with only 4 years of dental school education, they really haven't had the time to learn the skills they need to practice dentistry today. Yes, they've learned the basics, enough to pass the state boards, but something is missing. Just ask any recent graduate, they'll tell you once they've realized what's missing after they graduate and pass the boards.

Only one fourth of dental graduates enter into specialty training or one-year general dentistry residency programs because that's all the programs that are available. Of the 4,000 plus graduates every year in the US, about 1,000 enter graduate training. The rest look to the military, other employment or private practice because there is no other choice for them.

That can be a real problem, because it's usually the dental students in the upper half of the class who get into graduate training. That's why in the first five years after graduation new dentists in private practice take a considerable amount of continuing education to learn practice management, cosmetic dentistry, full mouth reconstruction, rotary endodontics, implantology, removable prosthodontics, and oral conscious sedation. What a shame that the \$200,000 those new dentists spent on 4 years of dental school education didn't provide them with the clinical training

they actually needed to practice dentistry the way they wanted to practice.

I'm not blaming the dental schools. The amount of knowledge required to practice (today) has quadrupled in the last 25 years and dental school is still 4 years in length. Many requirements that used to exist have been made elective, and dental students don't even have to make a denture or do a molar endo to graduate today, I'm told.

It's time we dentists admit that a mandatory fifth year of training is necessary, and put in place the requirement for a least a one-year residency following dental school in a Commission on Dental Accreditation approved program. And it's time we update the standards for those programs to add the subjects not covered in dental school like advanced implantology, and prosthodontic reconstruction.

I actually think New York is on the right track. What better way to raise the bar of dental practice and the educational

What better way to raise the bar of dental practice and the educational level of our dentists by providing licensure if they complete residency training or specialty training in a CODA approved program?

level of our dentists by providing licensure if they complete residency training or specialty training in a CODA approved program? And, what better way to reduce the cost of licensure for our new graduates (some spend up to \$10,000 taking board prep courses and pay for patients acceptable to the board examiners) than by bypassing the process totally with advanced training?

In fact, let's take a look at the curriculum of dental education and residency training from the point of view of the Florida Dental Association, the Florida Academy of General Dentistry, and the two dental schools and plan for the new dental graduates' needs in 2015. That's only 9 years away; enough time to change state laws, update licensure regulations and establish partnerships in education with organized dentistry. Mentoring programs with dental school approved field faculty practitioners and certified dental practices to oversee student dental education are needed if we are to meet the needs of the future. There just aren't enough residency programs for all the new dentists we need to educate with advanced training, but the need is there and it's real.

Or we could just leave it up to the weekend CE institutes and tack on another \$25,000 in loans for our already indebted young dentists.



From the Executive Office



Advocacy by the Numbers

by Rosie Small
Executive Director

Any day now, you will be receiving your dues bill from the Academy of General Dentistry, if you haven't already received it. Before you ask yourself "is it worth joining this organization" or "should I be spending my money on this," please read Dr. David Stillwell's Legislative column on page 5 of this issue of *Florida Focus*.

It appears that the proud professional of general dentistry is being attacked on all fronts by the various dental specialties, trying to protect their "turf." It's time for all General Dentists to dig in their heels and pull out the big advocacy guns, which in this case, are your FLAGD officers.

When Dr. Stillwell went before the Board of Dentistry to advocate against proposed legislation which, if passed, would open the doors to allowing only dentists licensed by the state as specialists in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery to perform oral surgery, the Board listened to him because he was able to inform the Board that he represents nearly 1,700 General Dentists in the State of Florida.

When the American Academy of Periodontology published its recent Guidelines for the Management of Patients with Periodontal Diseases, disregarding the comments AGD had submitted on the initial draft of the referral guidelines last year, the AGD's response was treated with respect because the AGD represents 35,000 General Dentists across the country.

When it is important to advocate for your point of view, nothing else is as important as numbers. General Dentists represent the largest "specialty" group of dentists, and by joining together as members of the AGD, you can make your individual voice heard as part of the General Dentistry chorus.

The Florida Academy of General Dentistry has three major focuses - Continuing Education, Advocacy, and promoting

the Excellence of the General Dentist. You can see these listed on the masthead of this newsletter, the Florida Focus. We proudly acknowledge our Fellows and our Masters as General Dentists who have gone above and beyond in acquiring education and excellence. Now, in order to succeed in our goal of Advocating for the General Dentist, we need to increase our membership numbers.

Starting in January, 2007, the FLAGD is initiating a "member-get-a-member" campaign, with valuable prizes awarded at the end of 2007 to the members who have brought in the greatest number of new members. Watch the next issue of Florida Focus to see more details on this very important membership drive. Meanwhile, there is an application for membership on page 23 of this newsletter. On the top, there is a place to put your own name, as the referring member. Take the time to talk to a general dentist who is not yet a member of the AGD, and explain to him or her why it is so important to belong to our organization at this time in history. Then give that person the membership application, and have it sent to the FLAGD or the AGD. By doing this, you can help yourself as well as protecting your profession.



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FLAGD Legislative Update



Current Legislative Items of Interest

*By Dr. David Stillwell
FLAGD President-Elect
and Legislative Committee
Chairman*

1 AGD Advocacy Coordinator Teresa Peavy continues to forward to the Committee regular updates on regulatory and legislative actions at the State and National level.

1 Florida House Bill 1157, dealing with charting by dental hygienists was enacted following the governor's signature on 6-9-06 and was filed as Chapter No. 2006-149.

1 The Department of Health/Board of Dentistry has adopted rule FAC 64B5-14.002 (FL 30714 2006) effective 6-15-06 that regulates the administration of certain sedative medications only while possessing a valid general anesthesia permit.

1 The 2006 Florida Legislature approved the funding of partial dentures for adult patients over the age of 20, effective 7-1-06. Certain coverage exclusions are defined, prior authorization is required, and one lifetime placement per dental arch is reimbursable.

1 The Agency for Health Care Administration/Medicaid adopted rule FL 30570 2006 on 6-12-06 amending the incorporation rules to fold the Florida Medicaid Dental Services Coverage and Limitations Handbook within the Bureau of Medicaid. The regulation became effective on 7-2-06 and is cited as FAC 59G-4.060.

1 In September 2006, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved new concurrent Medicaid waivers to establish an integrated, long-term care, capitated delivery system to Medicaid recipients. The waiver will be piloted in two areas of the state: the Panhandle (Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton Counties) and Central Florida (Brevard, Orange, Osceola

and Seminole Counties). The Panhandle has been identified as mandatory enrollment, while Central Florida will allow seniors to participate on a voluntary basis. The proposed implementation of the Florida Senior Care pilot program is pending approval from the Florida Legislature.

1 On May 23, 2006, on behalf of the FLAGD, I sent the following letter to the Florida Board of Dentistry:

As a member of the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD), which represents over 35,000 general dentists nationwide, I urge you to accept the AGD Transcript.

The AGD transcript reports my continuing education hours. It also has the capability to identify, record and report CE in a format that is acceptable by the Florida Board of Dentistry.

Currently, a majority of states accept the AGD transcript for verification of mandatory continuing education requirements (only Florida and Arkansas do not).

The AGD Transcript will do all the tracking and verifying of records -when a transcript is received by the Board of Dentistry from an AGD member, you can be assured that it meets Board requirements.

AGD has staff trained in the transcript process. If you would like more information on how it works, please contact the AGD Education Department: Rebecca Murray, Education Assistant Director, 312.440.4305 or 888.AGD.DENT, ext. 4305.

Thanks to the legislative support and assistance of the AGD, Florida now recognizes and accept the AGD state transcript as proof of CE for general dentists.

1 In September, 2006, the FLAGD wrote a letter to the Florida board of Dentistry in response to a proposal currently before the Board of Dentistry regarding Draft Legislation 466.012: Specialist License to Practice Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. This draft legislation appeared to state that no dentist licensed in this State may engage in the practice of the specialty area of oral and maxillofacial surgery unless the dentist has been issued an oral and maxillofacial surgery specialist license by the Board. The FLAGD went on record opposing this draft legislation and requested permission to be heard prior to any further discussions on this matter.



“Community Smiles” A Worthy Project in Miami-Dade County

In 1946, when the dental profession in Miami-Dade County was pressed into action to provide professional dental care for the low-income community, a group of dedicated, licensed dentists volunteered to donate their time, vision and energy, and established the Dade County Dental Research Clinic. Its founding premise, which continues today, is to provide professional dental care to the underserved, to enhance the oral well-being of its patients, to provide quality continuing education to its participating dentists and to train dental assistants.

Known today as “Community Smiles,” the clinic is a community based, fully accredited, non-profit dental clinic whose professionals are dedicated to oral health education and improving access to dental care for underserved children and families throughout Miami-Dade County.



The Clinic, outside the operatories

Community Smiles offers a post-doctoral education and training in the art of dentistry from an American Dental Association accredited dental teaching program and is also recognized as a Continuing Education provider for the Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) program. The team is made up of volunteer dental professionals who deliver quality dental care, both general and specialty, to the indigent, receiving post-doctoral education and CE credits for each session. The dentists are supported by the students of Lindsey Hopkins Technical Center’s Certified Dental Assistant Program. Community Smiles delivers

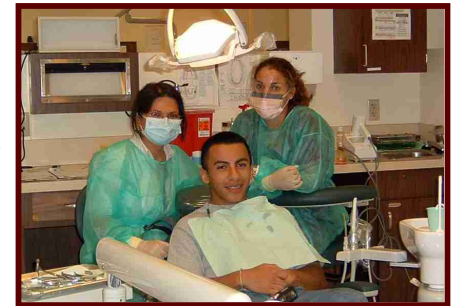


L to R, Dr. Bipin Sheth, FLAGD PACE Chair; Dr. Robert Wolf, Clinic Director; Barbara Kubilus, Executive Director and Dr. Al Underwood, FLAGD Treasurer

approximately 10,000 dental services to 2,000 patients each year, of which 42% are Black, 45% Hispanic, 10% White and 3% others. These individuals represent the different sectors of the Miami-Dade County community and all patients fall below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Working through a partnership with Jackson Memorial Medical Center, the Public Health Trust and the volunteer dentists who donate their time and money, Community Smiles assists JMHC in treating dental emergencies while operating a separate clinic that handles

both routine and complicated dental procedures. Further, individuals referred by Camillus Health Concern (provider for the homeless) ISOP program (transitional services - vocational training) are treated for dental rehabilitative and cosmetic services to enable their employability. Since 1983, the Miami-Dade Public Health Trust has provided the financial support for the dental supplies needed to serve these individuals.



Community Smiles at work

Over 170 dentists volunteer their time, effort and expertise each year to provide care for medically indigent patients.

Each year, well over \$1,000,000 of free care is provided through the 17 specialty clinics that offer complete and comprehensive care. The clinicians do more than just pull teeth and make dentures. Whenever possible, the dentists will save teeth by not only providing root canal therapy, but other advanced techniques such as periodontal treatment.



FLAGD President, Dr. Mel Kessler, teaches a PACE approved CE seminar for Community Smiles volunteer dentists

Community Smiles, Continued on Page 7

In addition to providing free care to the needy, Community Smiles dentists train dental assistant students at Lindsey Hopkins Technical Institute, helping to create employable graduates. The program is open to lower income individuals in the Miami-Dade County area who are interested in becoming productive members of the community and acquiring a profession whose members are in demand.

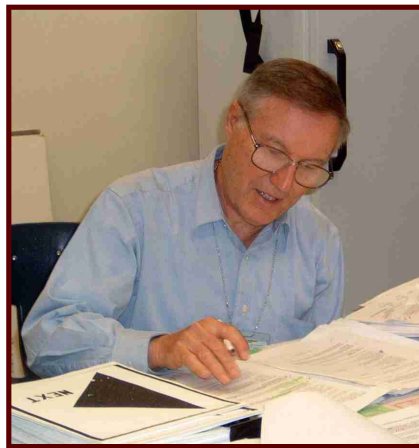
The Clinic Director at Community Smiles is Dr. Robert M. Wolf, a dedicated and devoted advocate, not only for the Clinic but also for the patients it serves. "We could do a great deal more for the community if we could encourage more dental assisting students," he says. "Not only would more dental assistants increase the ability of our dentists to treat additional patients, but we could provide meaningful, well-paying jobs to underprivileged young people at the end of their high school careers."



The Clinic is an active space for many professionals.

Community Smiles' innovative AEGD Program allows dental professionals to acquire dental knowledge in exchange for CE Credits, while providing service to the community. The Clinic is organized into 13 distinct specialty groups that offer both didactic and practical training with emphasis on delivery of patient care. Volunteers are required to volunteer one half day per month, in exchange for valuable Continuing Education that can be utilized toward acquiring a Fellowship or Mastership award through the AGD.

Expanding on its original public service commitment, Community Smiles continues to emphasize treating individuals, while simultaneously providing training and job opportunities in the dental profession. Since the inception of this program in November 2004, Community Smiles is providing full scholarships to Lindsey Hopkins Dental Assistant Training Program, ancillary support through transportation, childcare, books and tutoring, and job placement, made possible by a grant



Dr. Robert Wolf at work at his desk

from the Miami-Dade Empowerment Trust and an award from the James L. Knight Foundation.

Another major partner of Community Smiles is the Miami-Dade Public Schools. Despite reductions in their support in the last few years, they continue to be the biggest contributor to the organization. MDPS provides \$394,000 of in-kind support in the form of staff resources,

space, utilities, equipment and maintenance. Community Smiles pays one dollar per year for sufficient space to treat patients in a 10,000 sq. ft. facility with a conference and a waiting room, and the space to hold fourteen operatories.

Many members of the Florida AGD have served as volunteers and leaders of Community Smiles. In a visit to the Clinic today, you are likely to run into Dr. Mel Kessler, FLAGD President, Dr. Al Underwood, FLAGD Treasurer, and Dr. Bipin Sheth, Chairman of the PACE Program. These dedicated dentists and others like them pay an annual fee (donation) to belong to Community Smiles, in addition to performing their volunteer clinic duties and teaching and attending Continuing Education courses and seminars.

Located at 750 N.W. 20th Street in Miami, not far from Jackson Memorial Medical Center, Community Smiles is managed by its new Executive Director, Barbara Kubilus,

and Clinic Director, Dr. Robert Wolf. Donations to Community Smiles go toward funding the support staff, dental supplies and dental equipment. Sponsorship at their annual fundraising event is another important way to help the organization. On an annual basis, 56% of the Budget of Community Smiles is spent on Programs, with 24% going toward Administration, 12% to Student Development, and 8% on Fundraising.



The "Wall of Fame" in the Seminar Room, with photos of Community Smiles former presidents, including many FLAGD members.

For information about how you can join the Community Smiles team, either as a volunteer or a donor, call now - 305-325-0510 - and ask for Barbara Kubilus or Dr. Wolf, or contact them via email at rwolf4smiles@bellsouth.net and barb4smiles@bellsouth.net.



Region XX Report



Trustee's Report

*by Dr. Larry Scheitler
Region XX Trustee*

The last weekend in September, the Board of Trustees met in Miami, and this was my first meeting as your new trustee. Clearly, everyone missed Dr. John Joffre and many voiced their appreciation for his many years of dedicated AGD service. The new Executive Committee has taken over the helm at AGD, and Dr. Bruce DeGinder served as chairman of the proceedings.

Many of the council chairs were also present at the meeting, and made reports regarding their efforts on behalf of AGD and national. The budget took much of the three days of meeting time, and I am here to tell you that we now have a very good CFO and the investment committee has done a fantastic job building reserves for the academy. We're at approximately 50% reserves which means AGD is alive, well, and healthy.

Membership took up much of the discussion time, and Dr. Bob Gehrig now is Chair of the Membership Committee! He voiced several great ideas to build membership, and under his capable direction I think the opportunity for the academy to increase members is the best it has been in a long time. We need to support Bob and his committee.

Florida AGD has quite an influence on national AGD, with Dr. Richard Kanter as Chair of the Benefits Council, Dr. Bob Gehrig as Chair of Membership, and several others on committees, councils or active in leadership. The Local Arrangements Committee for the Orlando AGD Meeting in 2008 is already planning a great convention, so you need to plan on attending.

Florida Focus won the ACE Award again this year, which makes four years in a row for the largest newsletters, and that is something we're very proud of in Florida AGD. It continues to be a leader in AGD newsletters for all constituents with over 1500 members.

The next Board of Trustees Meeting is in Vancouver, in January, and we're preparing for the San Diego Meeting. I welcome your comments as your trustee for Region XX, and to voice the Florida AGD concerns to national AGD.



Report from the Secretary/Treasurer

*by Dr. Harvey Gordon
Secretary/Treasurer*

Regional elections were held during the Region XX Caucus on Friday, August 6, 2006. I am pleased to report the following results: Dr. Larry Scheitler was elected unanimously to the position of Region XX Trustee. Dr. Pat Shepherd was re-elected to his first "official" term as our Regional Director. And, with the suspension of our "Regional Bylaws," Dr. Harvey P. Gordon was elected to an unprecedented third term as our Regional Secretary/Treasurer.

For those of you who don't know, Region XX is made up of the State of Florida, and the territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The Region maintains its own funds and prepares its own budget each year. All Region XX expenses, including travel, the Caucus at the AGD Annual Meeting, and staff support from the FLAGD are paid from the Region XX funds. In the fiscal year that just ended on September 30, 2006, we had a slight, but very manageable deficit. Further, at the end of this fiscal year, the Region is financially solvent.

I am happy to answer any questions from FLAGD members regarding Region XX, and how it interacts with the Florida AGD. I can be reached at 954-963-3535



FLAGD Component Societies

The Gold Coast AGD

Dr. Robert Fish, President
*Glades, Hendry, Martin,
Okeechobee, Palm Beach,
St. Lucie, Broward Counties*

The Southeast Florida AGD

Dr. Elizabeth De Aguiere, President
Dade and Monroe Counties

The Tampa Bay AGD

Dr. Luis Denizard, President
*Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco,
Pinellas, and Sumter Counties*

Northeast Florida AGD

*Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia,
Duval, Flagler, Hamilton, LaFayette,
Lake, Madison, Marion, Nassau,
Putnam, St. Johns, Suwanee,
Union, and Volusia Counties*

The Northwest Florida AGD

*Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden,
Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty,
Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Taylor, Wakulla, Walton,
and Washington Counties*

Suncoast AGD

Dr. Walter Jansen, President
*Charlotte, Collier, De Soto, Lee, Manatee,
and Sarasota Counties*

If you are interested in finding out more information about a component in your local area, or on how to initiate a component, please do not hesitate to contact the FLAGD office at 866-620-0773.



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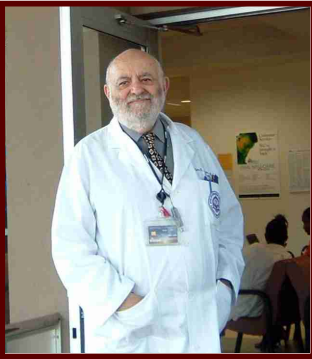
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the cumulative grade point average of each entering class. It is now above the national average.

The class of 2010 has a GPA slightly above 3.6, a science GPA above 3.5 and a DAT of 19. The averages for the nationwide class of 2010 are lower, putting NSU CDM solidly in the upper half. The current applicant pool for the class of 2011 is one-third larger than last year's and the cumulative GPA's are higher, too.



Dr. John D. Tabak

The predoctoral curriculum is evolving as new technologies move from the laboratory and scientific literature to the classroom and the clinic. Two relatively recent examples are

the introduction of clinical implantology and the use of the DIAGNOdent technology for early caries detection. The use of light in lieu of x-radiation to detect caries, particularly early caries, is one of the most interesting and intriguing advances in dentistry since Dr. Roentgen and the early Coolidge x-ray tube.

For years dentists have been taught to include cancer screening as an essential part of every initial comprehensive and periodic oral health examination. Today NSU dental students learn about options beyond the visual and tactile examination to look for lesions. Oral



pathologist Dr. Inez Velez lectures on brush biopsy, toluidine blue staining and the ViziLight Plus and makes sure the students understand the controversies that surround the reliability of these techniques. Approximately 30,000 oral cancers are diagnosed annually in this country and 7,000 victims die. It is essential that new dentists leave school understanding the diversity of tools available to them. Dr. Velez and Dr. Diane Stern operate the school's pathology

Robert A. Uchin, D.D.S. Dean of the Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine



As Dean of the Nova Southeastern College of Dental Medicine, Dr. Robert Uchin has been instrumental in turning a small, newly created dental school into a major dental program with a national reputation for excellence. Following his graduation from Temple University School of Dentistry in 1957, and completing his Fellowship in Endodontics in 1960, Dr. Uchin opened a practice limited to Endodontics in Ft. Lauderdale until August, 2001, when he was selected to be the new Dean of this upstart dental program in South Florida.

During his time in private practice, Dr. Uchin consistently served his profession and his community. Most Florida dentists know Dr. Uchin from his year as President of the Florida Dental Association, in 1991-1992, but he has also served as President of the American Board of Endodontics and the Broward County Dental Association, among too many others to mention.

In 2001, Dr. Uchin was selected as the second Dean of the Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine, due largely to his experience in dental education, his ability to exhibit excellence in leadership, and his vision for the future of the school. Since that time, Dr. Uchin has continued to upgrade the faculty and the quality level of the students, and to be creative in his curriculum design.

In addition to his work in dentistry and dental education, Bob Uchin also serves in a great many public service capacities, including the Board of Directors of the Foundation of the Jewish Federation of Broward County, the Performing Arts Foundation of Broward County, the Board of Directors of Covenant House of Florida, and the Broward County Design Master Steering Committee. He has served on the Board or in an advisory capacity of several banks, including the Landmark First National Bank of Florida, Commonwealth Savings and Loan Association, The Professional Bank of Denver, Colorado, and the First Southern Bank. He was the recipient of the Broward Chapter American Diabetes Association Award in 2006.

service and provide biopsy reports to the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and practitioners in private practice.

With the accreditation of the oral and maxillofacial surgery residency program last year, NSU now has seven postgraduate training programs; endodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics, pediatric dentistry, periodontics, prosthodontics, and advanced education in general dentistry (AEGD). There are 99 first, second, third and fourth year residents in the various postdoctoral programs. The AEGD with 30 residents is the largest



single-site general dentistry residency program in the country. It includes the unique Institute

for Special Needs Dentistry where general dentists are trained to care for people with developmental and acquired disabilities and the frail elderly who can no longer find dental treatment in the community because of their complex medical status. Senior students also rotate in this area.

The College of Dental Medicine also conducts an extensive outreach program which is both a community service and an important complement to the on-campus clinical experience provided to the predoctoral and postgraduate students. The off-campus sites include a rehabilitation hospital, several nursing homes, a volunteer clinic that treats the children of migrant farm workers and several federally qualified community health centers in Collier and Palm Beach Counties.

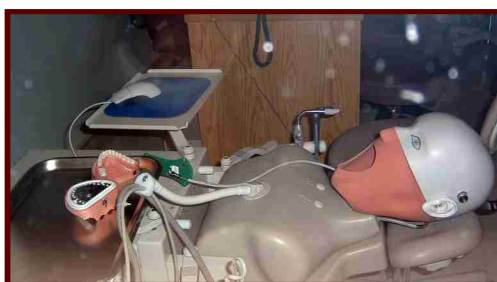
The NSU College of Dental Medicine's student body is a microcosm of the diversity of North America.

Approximately 50% of the students are from states other than Florida. They have come from Hawaii, Alaska, all the western states, most of the midwest, all



of the eastern seaboard as well as several Canadian provinces and Mexico. The student body is a multiracial, multi-ethnic composite of the population of any large cosmopolitan area. And, the sexes are almost evenly represented as well. Include the many foreign dental graduates retraining to qualify for licensure in an American jurisdiction and the students, collectively, are the picture of the globalization of dentistry in the coming decades.

The college administration understands the changing face of dentistry and recognizes the shifting patterns of immigration that have brought so many foreign trained dentists to south Florida. As a committed community partner the college is assisting these international dental graduates (IDGs) to assimilate into the dental community. This year the new second-year class has about a dozen IDG members. A significant increase in the number of available spaces for international graduates is in the planning stages for next summer or 2008.



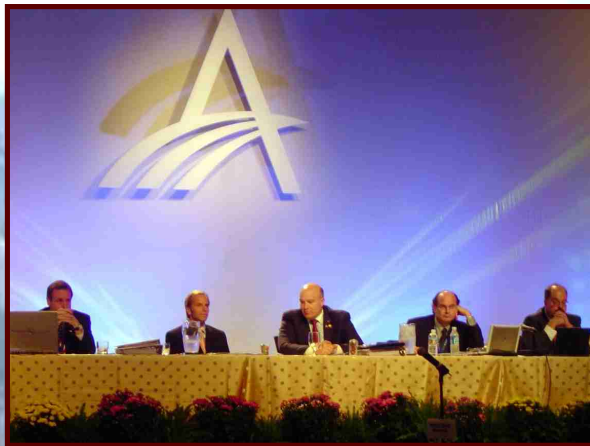
Predictions are difficult to make, but if the experience of the past nine years is any indication of what is to come, bigger, brighter and better days are still ahead for the Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine.

Dr. John Tabak practiced general dentistry for many years in Miami before joining the NSU faculty in 1999. He is a past-president of the South Florida District Dental Association and several state and national dental societies. Dr. Tabak is currently busy working with the other postgraduate program directors preparing for the school's accreditation site visit in May, 2007. We thank Dr. Tabak for his interesting and informative article.

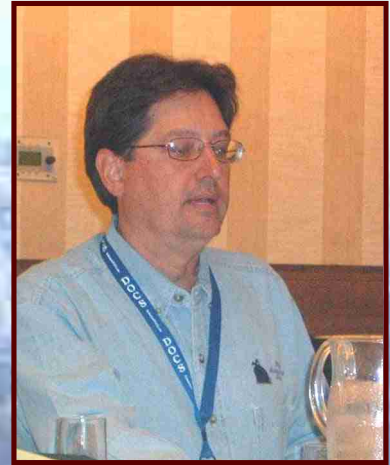
Scenes from the AGD 2006 Annual Meeting



AGD Outgoing President, Dr. Bruce Burton, attended Region XX Caucus



AGD Officers on the Dais



Dr. Robert Gehrig at Region XX Caucus



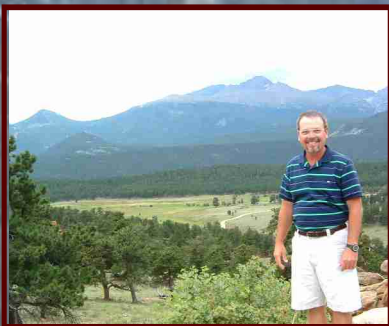
Color Guard at AGD House of Delegates



Dr. Sam Hanania and Dr. Larry Scheitler represented the FLAGD in a Reference Committee



AGD Executive Director, Ms. Christie Tarantino



Dr. David Stillwell, FLAGD V-P



Region XX Caucus, Dr. Larry Scheitler, Dr. Richard Kanter, and Dr. Rod Shaw



An Elk Grazing in the Rockies, photo taken by Dr. Irma Tassi

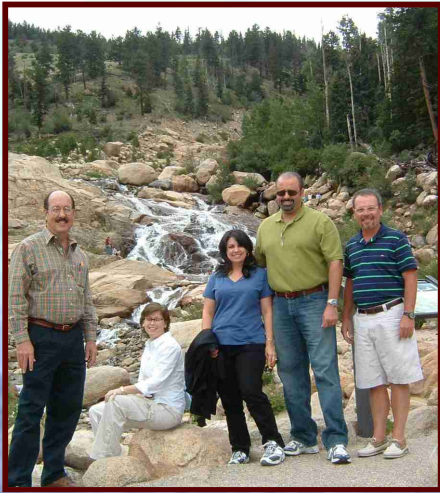


Region XX Caucus: Dr. Pat Shepherd, Dr. Irma Tassi, Rosie Small, Dr. Richard Kanter, Dr. Rod Shaw, Dr. David Stillwell and Dr. Bob Gehrig



Dr. Irma Tassi, FLAGD Secretary

August 6-9, 2007 Denver, Colorado



Dr. Rod Shaw, Dr. Irma Tassi, Dr. Sam & Donna Hanania, & Dr. David Stillwell enjoy a waterfall in the Rockies.



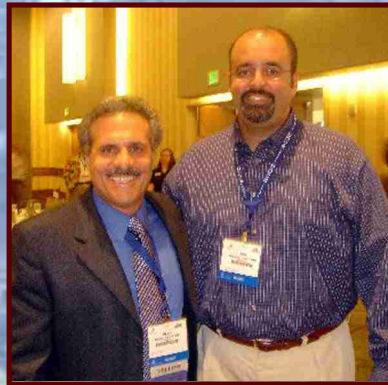
Dr. Patrick Shepherd, Region XX Director



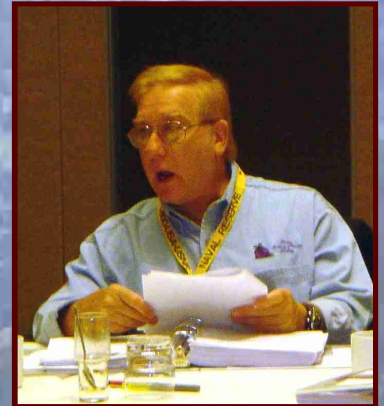
Dr. Bruce Burton & AGD President, Dr. Bruce DeGinder at Region XX Caucus



Dr. Mel Kessler at Region XX Caucus



Dr. Marc Tindell with Dr. Sam Hananaia



Dr. Harvey Gordon at Caucus



Erik Weihenmayer, Blind Mountain Climber and AGD Keynote Speaker



Region XX Delegates, Dr. Bob Gehrig, Dr. Kelly Peters Halligan & Dr. Bipin Sheth



Dr. Paula Jones, new AGD Vice-President



Dr. Sam Hanania and Dr. Larry Scheitler at the Opening Session



There really are moose in the Rockies. That's a baby to the left of the mother.



Guest Editorial



2006-2007 Inaugural Remarks of Academy of General Dentistry President, Bruce DeGinder, DDS, MAGD

Good morning! It's a tremendous pleasure to speak with each one of you today, and I hope we will have many opportunities over the coming year to interact on a more individual basis. I really believe if we genuinely listen to each other, and the people we are here to represent-our grass roots members-the Academy of General Dentistry will thrive and become the most successful professional organization in the world.

Each one of you in this room today has demonstrated a commitment to be a leader in our profession. One of the greatest benefits of being involved in leadership is the opportunity to interact with leaders and speakers from all over North America. I especially enjoy this opportunity because it challenges me to think outside of the box-to realize there are many creative approaches to consider when we discuss solutions to issues or problems we may encounter. I've observed that most of these issues or problems we face are not unique to dentistry.

One of the most interesting speakers I have had the opportunity to enjoy was Ms. Sheila Thorne, who spoke on the topic of "Addressing Diversity." In her discussion, she highlighted how globally interactive the world has become-she asked the participants at that conference-and I ask you now-to take a moment and imagine that you are part of a global village of 100 people. I would like to describe what the statistics of our Planet Earth village would look like. I think you will find these statistics intriguing. Of 100 people:

53 of you would be female,
47 of you would be male
33 of you would be kids,
67 would be adults
6 of you would be over the age of 65
6 of you would be U.S. citizens
2 of you would be gay, lesbian, or bisexual

6 of you would have over 50% of the wealth
50 of you would be malnourished
66 of you would have good water to drink
80 of you would be living in substandard housing
58 of you would be Asian
70 of you would be persons of color
9 of you would speak English, and
1 of you would have a college education.

The more you contemplate these fascinating statistics, the more you realize how lucky we are to be North Americans as well as the tremendous potential we have as an organization to have a positive impact on humanity. But if we don't learn to think more globally and look for win-win opportunities for collaborations, both within and outside our profession, our usefulness as an association will become self-limiting. We must actively seek out and seize these opportunities.

Why is diversity a specific concern? We all know that the diversity of our AGD membership and leadership is not keeping pace with the rate of increasing diversity in either our population or within our profession. For example, one of the fastest growing ethnic groups in the dental profession is Asians, and the most rapidly growing group in our population is Hispanics. We are not seeing that reflected in our membership or leadership. Likewise, African American and Hispanic entry into the dental profession is not proportionate to their increasing numbers in our society. I'm asking for your help because if we are not able to reverse this trend in our membership and leadership, our advocacy efforts will be severely diminished for both our profession and the public.

We have a terrific opportunity to become the most successful professional organization in the world, because our name aspires to that title....the Academy of General Dentistry, not the Academy of General Dentists. We all understand how critical each member of our team is to our day-to-day success in dentistry. Imagine how exciting it would be to have your whole team as energized and motivated to expand their skills and knowledge base-just as you aspire to do with your AGD membership. I encourage us to rapidly pursue this wonderful opportunity to provide service, education, and training for the whole dental team-and watch our patients reap the benefits.

Your Board of Trustees has spent a great deal of time this past year trying to expand our knowledge base on how to

function as a strategic and visionary Board. We should all be proud of their extraordinary efforts to enhance the value of AGD membership for our existing and future members.

Glenn Tecker, another excellent speaker, highlights the three biggest challenges and key elements to good governance within associations: They are knowledge, trust, and nimbleness. I think it is very important for all of us to have a good understanding of these principles.

Knowledge-Mr. Tecker refers to knowledge as the ability to transform large amounts of information into relevant knowledge. This is key to effective leadership, because it allows each of us to focus on desired outcomes instead of the activity required to achieve those outcomes. It allows us to also focus on what should be happening next, instead of what has already been done. Effective governance is about using information in the decision-making process, not just collecting more and more information before you finally decide to make a decision that may no longer even be relevant.

Trust-A trusting environment creates an enjoyable culture that engages other interested members who want to make a difference. This type of environment encourages involvement and tolerance-community building, open access to information, support for grassroots lobbying efforts, and a general sense that the association is at the center of relevant activity in our profession.

And finally, nimbleness. Nimbleness is about being responsive; it's the ability of the organization to seize opportunities. Associations of the future are focused on what will create value for members, including the benefits the organization seeks to provide, both tangible and intangible. Technology also has contributed to higher and more complex expectations for customized member service by both our existing and prospective members. We must successfully understand and use all three of these concepts if we want the Academy of General Dentistry to be the premier dental organization for general dentists.

Microsoft Research Asia opened in 1998 after Microsoft sent multiple teams to Chinese universities to administer I.Q. tests-so they could recruit the best brains from China's 1.3 billion people. Out of the 2,000 top Chinese engineering and science students tested, Microsoft hired 20. Microsoft management now has a saying about their Asia center, which captures the intensity of the type of

competition it takes to win a job there, and explains why it is already the most productive research team at Microsoft. They say, "Remember, in China, when you are one in a million, there are 1,300 other people just like you!"

We cannot afford to be that one organization out of 1,300 others. The Academy of General Dentistry must focus our energy and resources on our AGD2010 strategic plan to consistently demonstrate exceptional member value.

I also would like to share my vision with each of you today for my upcoming year as your president. My two primary goals this next year are to more effectively engage and

We have begun to reach out to our membership with our initial market research to understand their primary concerns and what they value in their AGD membership.

energize our grassroots members, and to enable the successful completion of our goals and the objectives of the AGD2010 Strategic Plan that were actually created by our grassroots members. People may find me dogmatic in my

focus on these goals, but I respectfully believe that our grassroots members are the very people we are all here to serve. One of my favorite quotes is, "Goals are absolutely necessary and sometimes limiting...but it's amazing what you can accomplish when you don't know what you can't do."

We have begun to reach out to our membership with our initial market research to understand their primary concerns and what they value in their AGD membership. We have also begun collecting information from our members to better learn about their passions and expertise with our Call for Volunteers program. If you have not yet filled out a Call for Volunteers application, please do so as soon as possible. As we have a need for special task forces or work groups during the year, we are trying to involve more of our members with relevant expertise in those areas, so we need you to log onto www.agd.org and tell us about all of your talents.

We also are planning over this next year to survey our members on a regular basis through our AGD website. We want to know your opinions on topical issues within our profession, as well as get your feedback on topics important to our future.

Membership is the responsibility of each one of us! One of the first president-elect speeches I listened to was from Dr. Frank Collins. His advice-always carry a few AGD membership applications in your coat pocket. His

recommendation has served me well over the years and has allowed me to expose many of my esteemed colleagues to the benefits of membership in the Academy of General Dentistry. So I ask you to personally make an effort over this next year to share your excitement about what is going on in the AGD, and actively recruit some new members to help us achieve our mission. Since our strategic plan is so aptly named, AGD2010, I would like to challenge each of you, as well as our grassroots membership and entire leadership team, to recruit 2,010 new members over the next year.

We also have begun to form a critical alliance for our future with the American Student Dental Association by establishing a formal liaison between the ASDA president and immediate past president and the AGD president-elect and vice president. These liaisons will enhance our communication while providing opportunities for networking, coalition building, mutually beneficial programs, and leadership transition and opportunities within the AGD.

And finally, I want to recognize the extraordinary efforts and commitment of both our Board of Trustees and our incredibly talented and dedicated staff this past year to address multiple challenges in an effort to strengthen the

AGD. I especially want to highlight the tireless dedication of our previous president, Bruce Burton, and his incredible wife Connie.

Rare gems are found by shifting through tons of useless rock. Bruce Burton is truly one of the most unique individuals I have ever met or had the privilege to call my friend. He has devoted countless hours to our association: West Coast Bruce has taken more red eye flights in the last year than I hope I will ever take in my lifetime. He has single-handedly helped long-distance telephone carriers become profitable, he never failed to put the AGD's best interests ahead of his own personal preferences or opinions, and he always managed to keep a positive outlook on all of the challenges that surfaced. His speech last year highlighted that there was no "I" in "TEAM" and HE practiced that statement on a daily basis.

Being successful as your president requires everyone in this room to consistently provide your best efforts to fulfill our goals. I humbly ask each of you today for your help over this next year and thank you for the privilege of serving as your president. I am excited about our future and the extraordinary opportunities that lie ahead for the Academy of General Dentistry. Thank you!

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General Dentistry Update Course

The University of Florida College of Dentistry and the Florida Academy of General Dentistry will offer an update course in general dentistry which can be very useful in passing the written examination for the AGD Fellowship and the American Board of General Dentistry written examination. This three day symposium will consist of one day of questions and answers to prepare the applicant for the written examination and will be presented by Dr. Boyd Robinson and Dr. Frank Collins of the College of Dentistry faculty. Approximately 100 questions related to all topics covered in the written examinations will be discussed.

The following two day seminars are designed to assist the practicing general dentist in updating their general practice with a thorough review of selected topics in general dentistry. Dr. James Haddix will present timely information in Endodontics; Dr. James Ruskin will cover Oral Surgery; Dr. James Green will discuss Oral Medicine; Dr. Robert Primosch will bring the practitioner up to date in the area of Pediatric Dentistry; a tag team of Dr. Solderholm and Dr. Anusavice will present a unique

insight into the area of Dental Materials; Dr. Henry Gremillion will develop a current understanding for the practitioner in the area of Temporomandibular Disorders; and finally Dr. Tom Ford will discuss the current thinking and techniques in Implant Dentistry to include restoration of implants.

The course will include the Fellowship examination Review manual and approximately one hundred examination questions for review and discussion.

A breakfast bar and luncheon will be served each day and there will be ample time for discussion with each faculty member. The course will be presented at the Disney Hilton in Disney Village in Orlando on March 29-31, 2007.

For more information and registration please contact the UF College of Dentistry toll free at 1-888-550-4950 or register on line @www.dental.UFL.edu/ce.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTICES

A Service to FLAGD Members

Congratulations to the newest class of Fellows and Masters who received their awards at the AGD meeting in Denver earlier this year!

FELLOWSHIP AWARDS:

Marci Beck, DMD, FAGD
Orlando Bienes, DDS, FAGD
Terry C. Blanks, Jr., DDS, FAGD
Christopher J. Bonham, DMD, FAGD
Daniel J. Brennan, DMD, FAGD
James E. Covan, DMD, FAGD
Ulises A. Guzman, DDS, FAGD
Michael H. Hards, DDS, FAGD
Bruce G. Knecht, DMD, FAGD
Thomas H. Pyritz, DDS, FAGD
David W. Rose, DMD, FAGD

MASTERSHIP AWARDS:

Luis F. Gutierrez, DDS, MAGD
Wayne G. Moesching, DDS, MAGD
David R. Olinzock, DDS, MAGD, ABGD

Florida Focus Wins ACE Award Fourth Year

For the fourth year in a row, Florida Focus (Florida AGD Newsletter) won the ACE Award at the National AGD meeting in Denver last August. This prestigious award was presented to Dr. Larry Scheitler by Dr. Roger Winland, Editor, and Dr. Bruce Burton, President of AGD. The award was presented at the annual awards luncheon, and this year's honor was especially appreciated because the issue which won the award was rated at least 10 points above the others, as scored by an independent board of editors from other publications. The format, the layout, the content and the editorials/articles were presented "in a pleasing and colorful manner, and could easily be read".

As always, we welcome your comments, suggestions and articles. Take a moment and send us an idea or article you would like seen in your Florida Focus.

Editor



President's Message, continued from page 2

Now on the bright side, the Academy has developed a CE transcript that has been accepted by the Florida Board of Dentistry. This now means that if you are not registering your credits with CE Brokers, you will be able to use the Academy CE Transcript as proof of CE compliance. As the Academy stands for CE, we are very pleased to have this back as a benefit of membership.

In August I attended the 2nd Annual Comprehensive Dentistry Program Reunion at UF School of Dentistry. Our two organizations are closely intertwined. I graduated from the program in 1989. Dr. Frank Collins was program director at the time and he went on to become the President of the Academy of General Dentistry. I achieved my Mastership through the CDP and recommend it highly to anyone seeking a CE experience or as a path to become a Fellow or Master.



In this issue we are highlighting Community Smiles, previously known as the Dade County Dental Research Clinic. Before I go further, anyone that knows me, knows that I am not an egotist. I am NOT only for myself, I am for you. With that said, I was president of the clinic 1994/1995. I have been a member for 25 years and have taught orthodontics to general dentists one day a month for 24 years. I pay \$90 per year for that privilege and we provide services to those that would otherwise be unable to afford quality care. The clinic was established nearly 60 years ago to provide CE, serve the community and train dental assistants.

And if not now, when? The answer is now! Our organization has great goals and it needs your help and the help of your friends. Follow what Frank Collins has done. He would always have AGD applications in his pocket and would always give them to prospective members. Volunteer to help at your local component level and volunteer to help at the state level. We have many committees and are always looking for members to help.

Who is Your New President, Dr. Mel Kessler?

Dr. Kessler is one of those men who will take on any task requested of him, and do an outstanding job of it - no matter the difficulty. He is an acknowledged "CE Junkie" who earned his MAGD award in 1990. A 1966 graduate of the Medical College of Virginia, Dr. Kessler has been in private practice since 1969. He currently practices in South Miami.

A quick glance at his accomplishments reveal that Dr. Kessler does not hesitate to take leadership positions in every organization he joins.

For the Southeast Florida AGD, he served as President in 1989/1990, President Elect in 1988/1989, Vice President in 1987/1988, Secretary in 1986/1987, Treasurer in 1985/1986, and Editor from 1985 to 1989 and again continuously since 1994.

At the state level, the Florida AGD, Dr. Kessler has been a Director since 1985, was the Editor in 1993/1994, was Chairman of the State Meeting in 1995, was Vice-President in 2004/2005, President-Elect in 2005-2006, and has now ascended to the Presidency.

Dr. Kessler is extremely proud of his work on behalf of the Dade County Dental Research Clinic, now called "Community Smiles." He served as President in 1994/95, President Elect in 1993/1994, Vice President in 1992/1993, Secretary in 1991/1992, and Treasurer in 1990/1991. He continues to belong to the Clinic and serves as an Instructor for their Continuing Education program.

Another organization that Dr. Kessler actively supports is the Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity. He served as Treasurer of the AO Annual Meeting in 2005, and has worked actively for the Greater Miami Chapter of AO, serving as President in 2001/2002 and again in 2004/2005, and editor from 1995.

Dr. Kessler has been married to Sharon for 41 years. They have two children, a son, Alan Eric, 39, and a daughter, Glynn, 36. The Kesslers are blessed with three grandchildren, Eric, Alison and Tobias Ezekial, their greatest joys.

2007

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Sep 7-9, 2007

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Sep 21-23, 2007

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AGD Remains Steadfast Against AAP Guidelines

History

In June 2005, the AGD was invited by the AAP to provide comments on their draft document, "Referral Guidelines for the Co-Management of Patients with Periodontal Diseases." In July 2005, the AGD submitted a thorough review and expressed substantial concerns to AAP leadership about many of the draft items.

When the AAP released its final guidelines in August of this year, the majority of AGD's input was apparently disregarded. When the AGD received the AAP letter and guidelines this August, the AGD Executive Committee raised the alarm, and then the AAP letter was shared with the AGD's Board of Trustees (BOT). The BOT directed legal counsel to respond immediately to the AAP, after receiving additional input from the AGD's Council on Dental Care. The AGD does not endorse this document and the AGD's BOT communicated through legal counsel to AAP about its concerns.

The AGD's goal is to continue to set the record straight within the dental profession and to educate the public about the fact that many general dentists can and do treat periodontal disease.

AGD Response

The letter on page 21 was sent by the AGD attorneys to the President of the AAP. Please take a moment to read it and familiarize yourself with the AGD stand on this issue.

AGD Action Alert to Members

Over 1,200 AGD members have already written e-mails to the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) asking them to rescind their "Referral Guidelines for the Co-Management of Patients with Periodontal Diseases." The AAP solicited input from the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD), but the AAP has apparently ignored that input. It is incorrect for the AAP to state or imply that the AGD supports the guidelines as they are currently written. AGD members should be aware that there are possible legal consequences for general practitioners should the guidelines become a standard of care.

Now we need you to take action again. Please take a moment right now to e-mail not only the Executive Director of AAP, Alice DeForest, but their Executive Board of Directors as well. Act now to request that the AAP take all necessary and appropriate remedial action and rescind these guidelines as soon as possible. Your rapid response is critical!

Even if you have already sent an action alert, you can always send another one!

Talking Points for AGD Members dealing with Dentists

Do the AAP guidelines apply to general practitioners (GPs)?

No. Please explain to the specialists you work with that the AAP guidelines do not apply to GPs. Why? First, the guidelines specifically state that the guidelines are not a medicolegal standard, and the AGD categorically rejects any future inference or claim that they are a medicolegal standard. Second, the AAP guidelines did not take into account the fact that there are many well-qualified AGD members who are not only skilled in periodontal treatment but who also frequently accomplish periodontal treatments. Also, you should note in your conversation with your colleagues that the AAP guidelines imply that the AGD endorsed the document. The AGD categorically does not endorse it and the AGD finds offensive the implication that it did.

Does the AGD have its own set of referral guidelines GPs can use?

Yes. The AGD has its "General Guidelines for Referring Dental Patients to Specialists and Other Settings for Care." You are encouraged to download or print this document and share a copy with the specialists who you work with in your community.

What supporting material was used to develop the AGD guidelines?

The AGD guidelines were developed by the AGD's Council on Dental Care and they were approved by the AGD's House of Delegates (HOD). The guidelines are based on the American Dental Association's (ADA) code of ethics, a code that the AGD (and assumably, the AAP) supports. The AGD guidelines were developed to address the mechanics of dental referrals. The guidelines assume that all dentists who use the guidelines have the requisite skill and knowledge in diagnosis and treatment planning to determine when a referral is needed.

Did the AGD always have its own set of referral guidelines, or were the AGD guidelines developed in response to the AAP guidelines?

The AGD developed its own guidelines in 1990 and these AGD guidelines are reviewed on a regular basis. They were not developed as a response to the AAP guidelines. The AGD encourages you to explain to your colleagues that the AGD has its own referral guidelines, and the AGD encourages you, as well as other members of the dental community, to read and reference these guidelines. These guidelines place a special emphasis on communications, as well as facilitating and improving the referral process.

The guidelines define that it is the role of the general dentist to manage the overall dental health care of the patient. When appropriate, any care rendered by a specialist should be coordinated with that of a general dentist, with a clear understanding of the role of each in providing care to the patient.

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Kenneth Krebs, DMD
President, American Academy of Periodontology
737 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Dr. Krebs

We are counsel to the Academy of General Dentistry (“AGD”). On behalf of the AGD, we would like to thank the American Academy of Periodontology (“AAP”) for inviting the AGD to comment on the initial draft of the AAP’s proposed Guidelines for the Management of Patients with Periodontal Diseases (the “Guidelines”). As you know, AGD responded to that invitation providing numerous comments and setting forth its concerns on the draft Guidelines.

AGD is now in receipt of AAP’s final version of the Guidelines and finds that its concerns and comments were ignored in total. AAP can, of course, adopt guidelines without addressing AGD’s concerns. AAP has, however, listed the AGD as one of the organizations that were invited to comment on the initial draft of the Guidelines. The Guidelines go on to state that AAP’s taskforce “revised the Guidelines based on the comments received.” this misstatement implies that AGD’s comments were incorporated into the guidelines.

As noted, the fact of the matter is the AAP did not modify, alter, or incorporate the AGD’s recommendations and/or concerns in the final Guidelines. This misuse of the AGD trade name and trademark implies that AGD endorses, agrees with or approves of the content of the Guidelines and constitutes unfair competition. The AAP never asked for, nor did the AGD ever give the AAP permission to use the AGD’s name in the Guidelines.

Further, this use of the AGD’s name in conjunction with the above statement results in a misrepresentation of the AGD’s position related to the treatment of periodontal disease, namely, that a general dentist should treat periodontal disease to the level that he or she has attained appropriate continuing education. the AGD position in this respect mirrors the American Dental Association’s position as enunciated in the ADA’s code of ethics.

The AGD members make every effort to adhere to its standard of quality of care through lifelong learning. given this directive, an AGD member who has taken reputable courses in the management, diagnosis and treatment of periodontal disease and who treats periodontal patients on a routine basis in his or her office, will have substantial concerns when seeing the Guidelines, with the AGD’s name on it, recommending referral to specialists.

The AGD cannot allow its name and goodwill to be used to promote the Guidelines as the AGD gave no such permission for this use of its name and as the AGD strongly disagrees with much of the content of the Guidelines. We, therefore, demand that AAP cease and desist any use of the AGD name and trademark contained in the Guidelines and from AAP’s website. The AGD also demands that AAP include a retraction statement in its publications stressing the fact that the AGD was not a collaborative partner in the formulation of the Guidelines. And furthermore, the AGD requests that the AAP reconsider the guidelines and rescind them in their current form, until such time as there can be a true collaborative effort involving all interested parties.

This is a most urgent matter to the AGD and its members. Therefore, we need the AAP’s confirmation that AAP agrees to the demands above within the next 5 business days, on or before, October 13, 2006. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

BARNES & THORNBURG
(signed)
Paula Cozzi Goedert

The AGD encourages you to share this message with your colleagues. We hope that these AGD guidelines will help you enhance the relationship and increase the dialogue you have with your specialists.

What is the latest update on the AAP's response to the AGD's request to remove the AGD's name from the AAP guidelines?

On October 12, 2006, the AAP replied to the AGD. The AAP stated that the AAP stands by its guidelines and is prepared to defend its guidelines. The AGD remains steadfast and continues to support the fact that the tone and implication of the AAP's guidelines are a detriment to the general dentist.

Why doesn't the AGD agree with the AAP guidelines?

The AGD has four objections to the AAP guidelines. First, the AAP ignored much of AGD's feedback on the original AAP draft guidelines, the AAP did not incorporate the AGD's feedback, and the AAP did not send the final draft of the guidelines to the AGD for review prior to their adoption and publication. Second, the AAP misused the AGD tradename and trademark in a manner that implies that the AGD did in fact endorse the final AAP guidelines. Third, the AAP guidelines ignore the fact that general dentists should treat periodontal disease to the level that he or she has attained appropriate continuing education. Finally, the original draft document presented to the AGD by the AAP was two pages. The final guidelines were five pages, and the increased in size was not attributable to AGD comments.

Why does the AGD find that the AAP guidelines are unacceptable to general dentists?

First, there are inaccuracies in the AAP guidelines that require the general dentist to abstain from procedures that many of our members are qualified to administer. General dentists do receive

education and training in periodontal therapy while in dental school and many received advanced training in periodontal treatment modalities following dental school. The AAP guidelines do not address the general dentist who is confident in his or her knowledge and ability to treat periodontal disease.

Second, the AAP's guidelines overlook the fact that some general dentists elect to perform periodontal procedures on patients who need treatment. A more accurate statement would have read "referral to a periodontist should be discussed and offered to the patient" if the general dentist does not provide corrective dental services for periodontal procedures.

Why did the AGD choose to respond to the AAP guidelines?

The AGD's Board of Trustees (BOT) wanted to take a firm position and set the record straight. They found the AAP guidelines to be extremely offensive to general dentists, especially the well-qualified AGD member who is not only skilled in periodontal treatment, but who frequently accomplishes periodontal procedures. An even greater transgression is the AAP's implication that the AGD endorsed such an erroneous document. Also, the AGD wants the dental community to know that it is being vigilant and standing up for the rights of the general dentist.

Is there anything I can do to voice my support for the AGD?

Yes, we would encourage you to use these talking points and the AGD guidelines to take an active role in increasing communications with your local specialists about the AGD guidelines and how the AGD disagrees with the current AAP guidelines. You also have the option of submitting a pre-written letter that you can personalize and send to the AAP president, Dr. Preston Miller, via our AGD Web site.



Attention AGD Members:



Join the Florida Association of Periodontists for a Family-Fun Weekend Event — August 10-12, 2007!

“Updates in Fixed Prosthodontics” presented by Dr. Avishai Sadan

Dr. Sadan will lecture on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, information you will not want to miss!

Family activities and social events the entire weekend!

Meeting registration fees:

Periodontists (Non-FAP members)	\$275.00	AGD Members	\$225.00	General Dentists	\$275.00
All Spouses	\$50.00				



Relax and be pampered at the beautiful Ritz-Carlton Beach Resort in Naples, Florida

Take advantage of the FAP Meeting room rate of \$189.00/per night

Call 239-598-3300, mention the “FAP Room Block”
(Limited number of rooms at this rate, so reserve early!)

Visit www.floridaperiodontists.org for registration information!

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