

AGD in Orlando 2008!



If you haven't marked your calendar for next July 16-20, 2008, you need to do so today. CAMIC and the AGD are pulling out all the stops to bring to Florida next summer the best AGD meeting ever, and you are invited!

It's time for you and your family to come to Orlando to see what AGD 2010 and the new "Voice of the General Dentist" is all about. If you're thinking of getting Fellowship or Mastership, this is the year to do it in Florida to save on travel expenses while you get the recognition you deserve.

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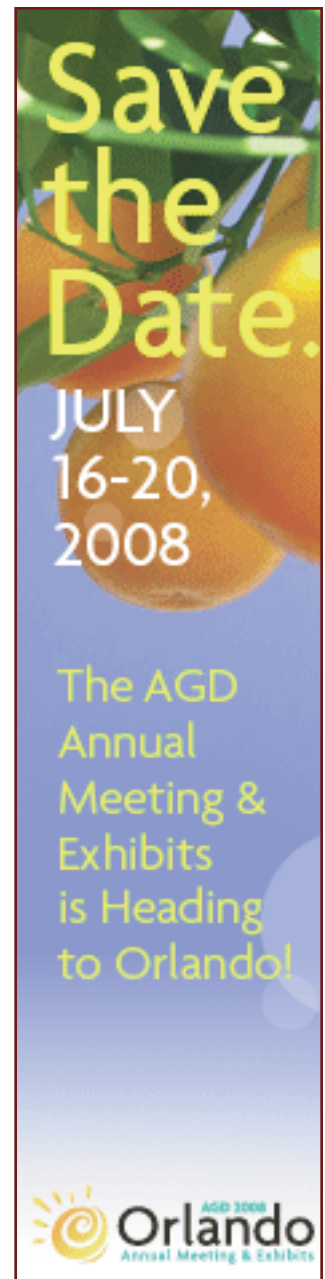
Your Local Advisory Committee (LAC) chaired by Dr. Marc Tindell is working with CAMIC to put the finishing touches on the arrangements. Yes, the AGD meeting is only a month after the FNDC meeting, and both are in Orlando. But the impact of the Orlando meeting will be a national initiative with more AGD resources devoted to education of the general dentist than ever before in recent years. This is the only meeting designed with only the general dentist in mind.

Registration is available now, and you can book your room online today to assure you're staying in the Dolphin or Swan Disney property, the host hotels for the meeting.

Speakers from all over the country will be coming to Orlando in July and the CE opportunities will be the best ever. More to come in the near future regarding speaker selections.

See you in Orlando in July! Bring the kids, the grandkids and the whole family. Have fun!

Editor



Save the Date.
 JULY
 16-20,
 2008

The AGD Annual Meeting & Exhibits is Heading to Orlando!

Orlando AGD 2008 Annual Meeting & Exhibits



President's Message



What's Up, Doc?

By Dr. Mel Kessler,
FLAGD President

* President's Address – for this issue of the award winning Florida Focus, I have chosen to use the address I gave at the General Assembly, held at the FNDC Meeting at the Gaylord Hotel. I have made minor changes to the address. If you missed it, please plan to attend our next GA luncheon on June 13, 2008.

FLAGD General Assembly Update – June 15, 2007

This is our ceremonial time to address the change of leadership. We recognize our incoming officers for 2007/2008 in front of the general membership, but they do not take office until November 1, 2007. And so at this point, I will be the same as President Bush, a lame duck President. Hopefully that is the only similarity. I do not have an immigration bill, but whereas the ADA wants reciprocity for all dentists, we did plan for licensure by credentials, with limitations. But alas, we did not need it. We proposed this in response to pressure from the State Legislature and the Board of Dentistry. However, the current crisis is over. The former chair of the Board of Dentistry has been replaced. I am happy to report that the changes on licensure ended with his replacement. The FDA policy now is: "Resolved, that the FDA oppose any

Florida legislation that allows licensing of a dentist in the State of Florida without successful completion of the Florida dental licensure examination as set forth in the Florida Dental Practice Act." End of subject, border closed!

I am sorry to report that our war with the AAP (the American Association of Periodontists) still drags on. There seems to be no end in sight. It has been nearly a year and the conflict can drag on for many more years. Do we need more troops? Just kidding.

Wednesday, June 13, 2007, at the FDA Specialty Forum, we had another skirmish. I had the issue of the AAP Guidelines placed on the agenda. I presented my case, stating that the guidelines are too restrictive; it states that cases involving furcas, vertical/angular bone loss, significant recession and periodontal abscesses SHOULD be treated by a periodontist. I stated that there has been a marked decrease in the % of adults 25 –65, and 65 and older that have periodontal disease. Since there is a significant decrease in periodontal disease, why is there a need for this change in their guidelines? Also the two major articles that they cited drew the wrong conclusions. They stated that since the percentage of referred type IV cases were higher than earlier, general dentists were not properly treating periodontal cases. I maintained that since they were seeing less type III cases, it meant that we were treating them better and therefore we did not have to refer as many type III cases. I cited the December 2006 ADA Board of Trustees meeting, where their original proposal, which was later softened, in part stated "The AAP has made clear to the ADA that its guidelines do not, and are not intended to serve as a standard of care. The ADA

President's Message, continued on page 18

FLORIDA FOCUS

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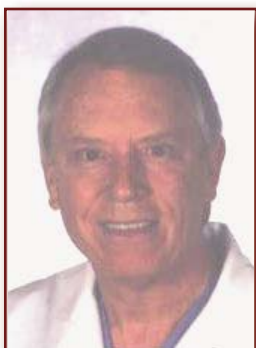
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Editorial



WHY ADVOCACY NOW?

by Dr. Larry Scheitler

I've been an AGD member since 1973, and to me AGD is synonymous with quality CE. In fact, when Dr. Peter Dawson accepted the Thaddeus Weclaw Award at our AGD Meeting in San Diego, he stated that he knew of no dental organization with stronger dedication towards quality CE than AGD and he commended our members for that focus.

A few years ago, Dr. Bruce DeGinder chaired the national AGD forum titled "AGD 2010" which looked outside the box at the very core of our academy and the directions we might take for the future. In this publication on many occasions, I've presented the results of AGD 2010, and the farthest reaching change has been that of political change. The AGD now assumes the position of advocacy for the general dentist as one of its top priorities.

True, the ADA has more general dentist members than the AGD, but the ADA has never taken up advocacy of any particular group of dentists including general dentists other than to represent all dentists to the public, to congress when lobbying and to other professional associations.

How timely this new advocacy position has been for the general dentist. With the AAP (American Academy of Periodontology) announcement of guidelines for the public regarding limiting periodontal therapy by general dentists, the AGD strongly represented you in direct opposition of the AAP guidelines and that opinion has been heard across the nation.

Interestingly, Dr. Bruce DeGinder was the first AGD President under the AGD 2010 guidelines where advocacy became an issue, and he lead the charge with skill and determination.

Other issues under discussion are the Title VII and Medicaid issues as it directly affects access to care and funding for children's dental care, and the ADA Sedation Guidelines as they affect general dentists in the provision of sedation. CE Broker initially did not accept the AGD Transcript nor did the Florida Board, but they do now thanks to AGD Advocacy.

Truly, general dentists need advocacy more than ever before in Florida.

Advocacy also has been the focus of your Florida AGD Board under the Presidency of Dr. Mel Kessler. We (I'm on the Board too) think that your voice should be heard, and this is a new idea within AGD as you now know, and one long overdue.



*Dr. David Stillwell (l),
Dr. Larry Scheitler (c), and
Dr. Pat Shepherd at the AGD's
Advocacy Conference in
Washington, DC*

But the problem comes at the grass roots level, and our need to hear from you regarding issues of concern to you. Without the knowledge of what younger dentists think is important, the FLAGD Board will continue to represent you with what we think you want rather than what you want or need.

In early June, over 70 AGD dentists went to Washington DC to meet with your senators and congressmen including four dentists on the Florida AGD Board. We visited 8 legislators and let them know how important the general dentist is in the provision of oral health care to patients in our State.

To say our visit was a success is an understatement. Doctors Kessler, Shepard, Stillwell and I left Washington DC energized on behalf of AGD and renewed in our efforts to be your advocate because believe me, no one else is! And that includes the ADA.

The AGD Advocacy Conference will be an annual event and think of it as a national "Dentists Day on the Hill". I encourage each of you to be advocates on behalf of Florida AGD and to make your membership count. Advocacy is really only having your elected officials hear about what's important for the general dentist in Florida and the key piece to this puzzle is you, and it always has been. Your dues now support advocacy, besides great CE and publications, Fellowship, Mastership and 38,000 general dentists with one voice.



Report from the President-Elect



Florida AGD – Moving Forward with You and for You

By Dr. David Stillwell
FLAGD President-Elect

The old saying “A kettle watched never boils” certainly could be applied to the level of diligence that has been required to monitor the dramatic changes that have occurred—and continue to evolve—within our chosen profession of dentistry. Over the course of the past decade or so, it seems that the mission of our excellent association has been driven to change. A tidal wave of technical advancements and socio-economic remodeling continually influences our current operating environment. Within this highly charged atmosphere, you may have even been tempted to ask—“What has the Academy done recently to safeguard my position as the primary gatekeeper for oral health and dental care in the State of Florida?”

In response, I can confidently answer that your FLAGD has been very busy on many fronts during 2006 and 2007, with significant effort expended and much progress made in the areas of membership, advocacy, communications, continuing education, and growth. Have a look at some of the various collaborations and activities your Board of Directors has undertaken:

1) Board members have regularly attended and monitored activities of the Florida Board of Dentistry and the FDA Specialty Forum to insure that FLAGD membership is updated and well represented in matters concerning general practice in our state. Issues tracked include National licensing examination, escalating disciplinary actions and fine assessments by the BOD, anti-fluoridation movement, Medicaid reform, various licensure issues, scope of practice;

2) Members attended the semi-annual AGD Leadership Conference in Chicago last November, and other Board members have just returned from the AGD National Advocacy Conference held in Washington, DC on June 11th and 12th. While in DC, FLAGD directors met with our own AGD Washington lobbyist Janet Kopenhaver. We discussed crucial legislative issues related to various

underserved children’s dental health programs (Title VII slashed by 50% in the last two years, SCHIP pending reauthorization of \$50 Billion) and traveled to Capital Hill to meet with three Florida Representatives and two Senators;

3) We have a great new FLAGD web site through the dedicated efforts of our executive administrator Rosie Small;

4) FDA and FLAGD will soon have mutual links on our home web sites;

5) For the 5th year in a row, our own newsletter, Florida Focus, was awarded the AGD’s Communication Award. We congratulate Editor Larry Scheitler for a superb job on the Florida Focus;

6) We are fortunate to have retained the considerable talent and experience of Bob Gehrig on our Board of Directors. Bob currently serves as AGD Membership Council National Chair, and mostly through his efforts our FLAGD membership grew by nearly 100 this past year---over 5% growth to 1814;

7) The Board was pressed into action at the request of President Sam Hanania in early 2006, and with his strong direction we were able to forge two very positive and strong Position Papers which were ultimately submitted to FDA’s CDEL on Feb. 6, 2006;

- “For” specialty licensure by credentials under very stringent guidelines
- Joined with the FDA as “opposed” to the dental laboratory mandate

8) Another more recent example of political activism on behalf of the membership occurred on June 4, 2007 when the Board submitted a Position Paper to the FDA, the Florida Pediatric Society, and the Florida Association of Pediatric Dentists vigorously supporting those three organizations’ efforts to force Medicaid reform in the State at the earliest possible time.

Currently, work is progressing in other arenas of interest important to our constituent members here in Florida:

1) FLAGD has started work on a new Position Paper addressing dental assisting expanded functions and delegatable duties within the dental practice act, and we



Moving Forward, Continued from page 4

hope to work closely with FDA's CDEL to assist in the development of new rules governing dental team members;

2) Our Legislative Committee, with approval by our Board, has submitted an FLAGD request to the FDA (care of newly installed FDA President Nolan Allen) to petition for a rules change or statutory change, possibly to FS 466.0135 (1), to affect an increase in the biennial CE re-licensure requirement from 30 hours to 50 hours. Regarding the current mandatory CE statute:

- It has not changed since instituted 22 years ago—in 1985
- Many states already have a more stringent 25 to 30 hour per year requirement (AR, CA, DE, KS, MN and MO are examples)
- A new Florida statute allows CE credit of 7 hrs/biennium for providing pro bono dental care to the underserved (FL 31470-2006) which should help many dentists to accumulate the extra hours
- The additional mandatory hours would bring the State's CE requirement into alignment with our AGD membership guidelines and this should be expected to improve attendance at events like the FNDC and other AGD component functions.

Now, if you would, shift your attention a bit towards next year and onward into the future. I would propose to each of you that there needs to be some novel thinking and planning expended to design a solution to the problem of the "underserved" public in our State. As your incoming FLAGD President, I am encouraging this membership to take an aggressive stand as dental professionals and caring human beings to address the "access to care" turmoil simmering within our State and around the Nation.

This issue has been identified by the AGD Board of Trustees as the NUMBER ONE legislative priority for 2007, and it could very easily become a priority for our own State legislators looking for a "magic pill" to fix the access problem. If you use your imagination, almost anyone can quickly envision a governmental "knee jerk" reaction that could be catastrophic for dentistry.

Here are some important facts taken from the May 2005 issue of FDA Today:

1) We have a reported patient/dentist ratio of 1900:1 in this state (1000:1 was the reported ideal during my practice era);

2) An estimated net of 1300 people per day are moving into Florida. By 2010, Florida is projected to have the largest projected population increase, with the least number of dental schools and the least number of graduates per capita;

3) Only 200 dental graduates per year are produced by our two schools, and 33% of them immediately leave Florida to practice in other states;

4) 45% of our UFCD graduates immediately enroll upon graduation into an advanced/specialty education residency program (national average 20%) and these new dentists depart with an average accumulated educational debt of \$120,000 plus accrued living expenses;

5) Florida is one of only three states (Delaware and Hawaii are the other two) not granting some form of licensure by credentials.

Here are some other interesting facts and recent developments that I have observed while working on the FLAGD Legislative Committee for the past two years:

1) Florida has not seen an increase in Medicaid provider reimbursement rates in almost 10 years;

2) The UFCD currently provides over 10% of all Medicaid care in the State, and the inflow of underserved patients has been increasing each week in our student clinics (personal observation);

3) AHCA Medicaid waivers passed into law by the legislature in 2005 allowed for the creation of capitation plans in certain counties of Florida, and studies have now shown that this action has statistically reduced the number of providers and the amount of care provided to the neediest in our state (rather than increase participation as was the stated goal of the Medicaid waiver);

4) Collier County Dental Association recently circulated a petition strongly opposing any FDA effort to change or rescind its long-standing position against licensure by credentials, and the FDA has responded by modifying its December 6, 2006 rescission of current policy on licensure by credentials;

5) It should be acknowledged that our own FLAGD Board of Directors (and likely our membership as a whole) has established a wide range of opinions on the various dental licensure issues.

Report from the Vice-President



Florida AGD Has Much Success This year

*By Dr. Harvey Gordon
FLAGD Vice-President*

You may not be aware of it, but what you are holding in your hands right now is an award winning newsletter. Not only that, but it is the fifth year in a row that our publication, Florida Focus, under the editorship of Dr. Lawrence Scheitler, has won the distinguished ACE award for the best constituent newsletter at the AGD's annual meeting. Congratulations to all of our contributors; the great photography of both Dr. Irma Tassi, our FLAGD Secretary & Ms. Rosie Small, our Executive Director. And congratulations especially to Larry, for all of his hard work and dedication.

In my first newsletter article as Vice President, I wrote that one of my goals was the establishment of an Orlando Component. I am happy to report that, through the hard work of our President, Dr. Mel Kessler, and many of our Orlando members - especially Dr. E. Donald Thomas, (dr2thfxr@earthlink.net), the Orlando Component has become a realization. In fact, as you will read in this issue of the Florida Focus, the FLAGD, along with the new Central Florida AGD, are hosting their first CE Seminar as a kick-off function for the new Component.

The participation of members throughout our State and especially those in the Orlando area is therefore strongly encouraged. The FLAGD Board will be holding its quarterly meeting during that weekend. Also, we will be conducting our Annual Strategic Planning Meeting. All members are all invited to attend, observe and participate. Come meet your elected officers and your Constituent Council & Committee Chairs. I look forward to seeing you all there in November.

With the job of forming a new component in Orlando well on its way, we now look forward to re-energizing some of the other components around our wonderful State. It takes

only the signatures of 30 active AGD Members to start a Component. And, as you can see, the effort has been very successful in so many other areas of the State. For an undertakaing this momentous, I stand ready to help in any way I personally can, and, I know that our illustrious Regional Director, Dr. Patrick Shepherd, stands ready as well. In fact, anyone who wants to establish a Component AGD in his or her area will have the full support of our State's Board of Directors.

So, if you would like to be a Florida AGD Volunteer and help or participate in any way, just go to our web site (www.flagd.org) and complete the Volunteer Form. I promise that you will be contacted. If for any reason you are not, just call me either at my office (954 963-3535) or contact me by e-mail at flashfl@earthlink.net.

Another of my goals as the Vice-President of the Florida Academy of General Dentistry was to see that our FLAGD Constitution & Bylaws more uniquely reflects the way the Academy functions as a Constituent Organization of the AGD. With "direction" from the AGD, and the invaluable help of Dr. Kessler, our President, and our Executive Director, Rosie Small, we forged a "living document" that will serve us well for many years to come. And if you attended our lively and informative General Assembly & luncheon, held during the FNDC last June, this new document was unanimously approved by our membership.

As you have learned from reading the Florida Focus, as a statewide academy that represents solely the interests of the general dentist, the FLAGD, out of necessity, has evolved into an advocacy organization as well. Here in Florida, the oral surgeons (or some believing they are acting on their behalf) want only board certified oral surgeons performing tasks we do routinely. Through the efforts of Dr. David Stillwell, our President-Elect and Legislative Chair, we have seen this measure temporarily tabled by the Board of Dentistry. But we can't become complacent - this threat still exists.

On the national front, our parent organization has evolved as well. Historically, the assaults on our practice were mainly from the insurance companies. Then came the burden of excessive Governmental Regulations to challenge us. Now, as you might have read, it is another group of our fellow dentists. In the recent mailing from



The Florida Academy of General Dentistry and the Central Florida AGD Present:

DENTAL IMPLANTOLOGY UPDATE 2007

A CE Seminar featuring Arun K. Garg, DMD

Dr. Arun K. Garg completed his dental degree at the University of Florida and subsequently his residency training at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital. Since 1989, Dr. Garg has conducted specimen, as well as live surgical courses on a variety of bone grafting, and soft tissue procedures. He has published numerous articles, book chapters, and well recognized textbooks which have been currently translated into 8 different languages. He is editor of Dental Implantology Update and serves on the editorial boards of other leading journals. Dr. Garg is past president of the ICOI and has served as an officer for many other associations and as program chairman for various conferences and symposia.

Dr. Garg has presented over 4,000 lectures and workshops, and training programs spanning a period of eighteen years and has positively impacted thousands of dentists with his training.



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Call 1-800-784-1180 to make hotel reservations directly

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Saturday, November 3, 2007

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Lunch from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

6 Credit Hours Provided

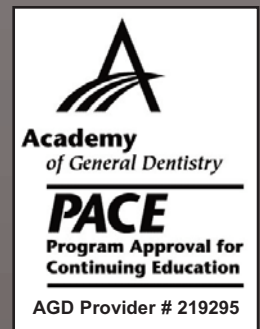
**SPECIAL GUEST & LUNCHEON SPEAKER:
DR. VINCENT C. MAYHER, DMD, MAGD
PRESIDENT, ACADEMY OF GENERAL DENTISTRY**

Cost to members of the Central Florida AGD - \$150

Cost to all other FLAGD members - \$200

Cost to non-AGD members - \$350

**Cost for staff members is \$50 less than employing dentist cost
(Lunch & Dr. Mayher presentation is included in the cost)**



Please accept my registration for the Seminar "Dental Implantology Update 2007" PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

_____ CFAGD members @ \$150 each

_____ FLAGD members @ \$200 each

_____ non-AGD members @ \$350 each

_____ # of staff members @ \$100 each

_____ # of staff members @ \$150 each

_____ # of staff members @ \$300 each

Registration forms with checks (only method of payment) should be mailed to:
Florida AGD, 14864 Enclave Lakes Dr. #T-1, Delray Beach, FL 33484

Continuing Education Report



FLAGD Will Start Offering Regional CE Programming This Year

By Dr. B. Laurel Casey,
FLAGD Board Member &
CE Committee Chair

**DOWNTOWN DELRAY BEACH WILL BE CELEBRATING
THE HOLIDAYS DURING THE FLAGD
CONTINUING EDUCATION MEETING 12/7 AND 12/8/07.**

Hey, what are you doing sitting around in your office trying to figure out how to navigate your practice and your career in a complex world and trying to find the right chart? What to buy, what to avoid, what to do? Ignore the negative naysayers who drag you down and say the “Earth is Flat.” Come out and meet some professional colleagues and potential friends who just might help you find your way. Retake the lead! Map your own course to the future with our guide from the FLAGD.

The Florida Academy of General Dentistry plans to offer some exciting opportunities for continuing education, in various venues around the state, during the coming months. Members, non-members, and staff are all invited to convene with the FLAGD for continuing education, meeting with exhibitors, and networking in a non-competitive, collegial atmosphere, ripe for giving and receiving mentorship, providing the opportunity for friendly social activities and the chance to learn more about the growing role of the AGD in being **THE Advocate** for the General Dentist. In particular the FLAGD would like to reach out to new dentists, in order to help you establish contacts with your more experienced colleagues, who can provide you with advice and guidance as you launch your professional career.

I will always remember the words of **Dr. Frank Collins**, an AGD Past President, teacher and mentor to many of us, in Florida and beyond, when I was a resident at the University of Florida, Jacksonville Clinic. Dr. Collins said “*I always wanted to be around the sort of people who were trying to improve themselves in life. I always found those kind of people in the Academy of General Dentistry.*”

Dr. Collins’ words have stuck with me. He is a private pilot and a navigator. I hold Dr. Collins in very high esteem for his many admirable qualities and skills. I personally find my association with the FLAGD to be extremely rewarding due to highly ethical, intelligent, friendly, and mentoring relationships I have developed with my member colleagues as a member of the Executive Board and as a Delegate to the AGD House of Delegates. Giving back to the AGD is so easy when you have the opportunity to associate with people of their caliber.

I thank you all for your dedication to our profession and our organization, as well as your friendship and support. These relationships have meant a great deal to me in recent months.

So what’s on the FLAGD calendar and where?

Seminar One

On November 3, 2007 the FLAGD, in conjunction with the newly formed **Central Florida AGD**, will present an outstanding CE program featuring internationally recognized dental speaker, **Dr. Arun Garg**, speaking on ***Dental Implantology Update 2007***. This program offers 6 hours of CE credits (with a one-hour lunch break) and will be held at the Royal Plaza on in Walt Disney World®, across the street from Downtown Disney® in Orlando, Florida. It is a lovely hotel in a great location, so you may want to bring your families. But make your reservations early, both for the Seminar and hotel rooms, as space is very limited (see flyer on page 5).

Dr. Garg will present from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with a one-hour lunch break. We are extremely please and proud to offer a special treat during the luncheon (which is included in the cost).

Dr. Vincent C. Mayher, MAGD, the newly installed national AGD President, will be honoring us as our luncheon speaker on Saturday, November 3, 2007. Anyone who has not heard Dr. Mayher speak about where the AGD is headed as an organization should attend, just for the opportunity to see and hear the plan and the charted course to get there, and to learn about what each of us, as individual general dentists, can do to advocate for our patients and ours practices in the current, highly politically-driven milieu, Get involved! Your future

FLAGD to Offer CE Programming, Continued on Page 14

From the Executive Office



FLAGD Photos of Interest

*by Rosie Small
Executive Director*

I am passing up my opportunity to speak with you this issue to display some photos that I thought might interest the FLAGD membership. I hope you enjoy these photos as much as I did, and I'll be back with a column in the next issue of the Florida Focus.



FLAGD President, Dr. Mel Kessler (r) presents award to Dr. John Joffre, former Region XX Trustee at the FLAGD General Assembly



Young members and not-so-young members all enjoyed the free lunch at the General Assembly



Region XX Officers, Dr. Harvey Gordon, Secretary/Treasurer (l) and Dr. Pat Shepherd, Director (r) at the General Assembly



FLAGD members enjoy lunch at the General Assembly



Dr. Bob Gehrig (l) and Dr. David Stillwell (r) participated in ASDA Day at the University of Florida



Dr. Mel Kessler holds an impromptu meeting with Dr. Don Thomas, President of the new Central Florida AGD Component Academy, during the General Assembly



The AGD had "Perpetual Plaques" made for the dental schools at the University of Florida and Nova Southeastern University, to display names of the AGD's Senior Dental Student Award winner each year



The FLAGD's Florida Focus has won the AGD's ACE Award for Outstanding Publication for five years. Here is how the awards are displayed on the wall of the FLAGD Office.

Region XX Report



Report from the Region XX Director

*by Dr. Patrick Shepherd
Region XX Director*

Just a reminder that the National AGD meeting will take place in Orlando Florida of 2008. Please know rooms are already being reserved. Visit our website or the AGD website, www.AGD.org, for more information and to register in advance.

The meeting in San Diego was one of the best attended. There are a lot of new faces in the AGD. Bring in a new member so they may also enjoy the camaraderie of our organization.

As you will read elsewhere in this issue of the Florida Focus, our illustrious newsletter won the AGD's ACE

Award for publications for the fifth year in a row. For this, we have to thank our editor, Dr. Larry Scheitler.

Although the Florida AGD did not win the AGD's Membership Award for student recruitment, the fact is that the FLAGD's membership Chair, Dr. Bob Gehrig, actually brought in more student members than the Constituent that won the award. Dr. Gehrig is a mild-mannered, self-effacing gentlemen who also serves as National Membership Chair of the AGD, and since he was the one giving out the awards, he chose not to nominate himself for this prize. The FLAGD membership should be aware, however, that Dr. Gehrig, along with Dr. Harvey Gordon and Dr. David Stillwell, recruited 143 student members so far this year, 41 more than the any other state.

There will be a Future Leaders Conference in Austin Texas the 15th-17th of November 2007. It is a time for our new younger leaders to get to know the ins and outs of the Academy. If you have an interest in attending please let me know. There may be a spot or two still available.

If you have any general questions about being involved in the leadership of our AGD feel free to email me at shep5440@bellsouth.net.



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The question begging to be asked (and answered) is: “Do we or do we not, have a dental manpower shortage in this State, and if we don’t have one now, will we have one in the future?” The Federal government says that we do, with 63 of 67 Florida counties identified by Health and Human Services as designated “Health Professional Shortage Areas”. If we can agree that we might have an access to care problem, I would like to propose a potential solution (before Tallahassee does) that could go a very long way towards addressing the needs of Florida’s dentally underserved.

This potential solution, well short of the cost of building and staffing an expensive new dental school, could follow along these lines:

- 1) The State of Florida would identify all “recognized areas of need (RAN)”;
- 2) Institute licensure by credentials for any qualified dentist by creating a stringent review board, and focus attention on bringing into the State more of the talented, experienced, motivated, and well-educated existing practitioners rather than footing the massive bill to educate more novice dentists who likely can’t afford to (and therefore won’t) practice in a RAN;
- 3) Use funds that would have been earmarked for a third school to provide low interest loans to any newly credentialed dentist or newly licensed graduate choosing to establish a practice inside a RAN;
- 4) Pull the dental license if the loan goes into default and sue for recovery of the loan balance after default (the dental license would be suspended until the loan balance is paid in full);
- 5) Any credentialed or new graduate dentist choosing not to establish a practice in a RAN would not be eligible for low-interest practice loans;
- 6) Lastly, institute a mandatory 7 hours per biennial licensure renewal of pro bono dental care to the underserved by all dental license holders in the State of Florida (these are the same hours already credited to the biennial CE re-licensure requirement).

If we do the math, with almost 7000 practicing Florida dentists committed to 7 hours pro bono every two years, we could produce about 25000 hours of care annually. Using an average rate of \$200 per hour as the value of services provided, nearly \$5 million of dental care would be

produced each year and the value of public trust would be incalculable. As a comparison, a 10% increase in Medicaid reimbursement rates would yield \$8 million/year and might be taken away during budget shortfalls.

To sum up my proposal, with increased numbers of practicing dentists locating in RAN regions because they voluntarily chose to establish in an underserved region of the State, and with each licensed dentist contributing a certain volume of dental care to the needy each calendar year, all Floridians would observe a very positive benefit through the improvement of health across all demographic groups and regions.

In my opinion, having had the personal experience of working within the Medicaid system of four different states and having enjoyed the opportunity to work in several different charitable dental venues, I believe that the growing societal burden of the underserved should not be borne by a few generous souls but assumed by the licensed profession as a whole. It seems to me that this becomes a responsibility associated with the privilege of practicing a health care profession.

We as a profession need to get out front on the access to care issue and craft our own solutions. If we don’t, others may decide for us in a manner that could severely hamper our practice environments. The approach doesn’t necessarily have to be licensure by credentials, or even mandatory pro bono service, but it should be crafted by us to best serve the needs of the public and simultaneously promote the best that dentistry has to offer—our ability to care for and heal others less fortunate.

To close, thank you for the opportunity to serve the membership of FLAGD as 2007-2008 State President, and I look forward to reporting on another great year of progress during next year’s General Assembly on June 13, 2008. Please remember to mark your calendars for both the 2008 General Assembly and for the AGD Annual meeting to be held next summer in Orlando (July 16-20, 2008).

Remember, this is your organization—of the members, for the members, and by the members. Your Florida Academy is strong, proactive, engaged, growing and cohesive, and we are always aware of the need to replenish our ranks with fresh perspectives. Help is always welcome, so please consider serving on the Board of Directors or recommending any deserving, interested colleague.

K. David Stillwell, DDS, MAGD
Incoming FLAGD President

Photos from the 2007 AGD Annual Meeting San Diego, CA



New AGD President, Vincent Mayher, Jr. with incoming President Elect, Dr. Paula Jones



FLAGD President, Dr. Mel Kessler (r) and Secretary, Dr. Irma Tassi (l) compare photos



(l to r) Dr. Larry Scheitler, Dr. Sam Hanania, Dr. Pat Shepherd & Dr. Bob Gehrig at the Region XX Caucus



Dr. Marc Tindell (l) and Dr. Richard Kanter (r) at the House of Delegates Luncheon



Dr. Laurel Casey (l) and Dr. Bob Gehrig (r) participate in the House of Delegates



FLAGD Delegates (l to r) Dr. Rod Shaw, Dr. David Stillwell, Dr. Richard Kanter and Trustee, Dr. Larry Scheitler at the AGD House of Delegates Meeting



FLAGD Editor, Dr. Larry Scheitler, accepts the AGD's ACE Award from President, Dr. Bruce DeGinder, for the 5th time in 5 years!



Onboard the USS Midway for the Saturday night reception, lots of old airplanes were on display



Dr. Harvey Gordon, center; wife, Terry, son, Joey and FLAGD President, Dr. Mel Kessler; try to work a fare card machine in San Diego



An overview of the AGD House of Delegates



The "AGD Singers" rehearse for their appearance on the Midway



Dr. Jeffrey Cole, AGD Treasurer, addresses the Region XX Caucus

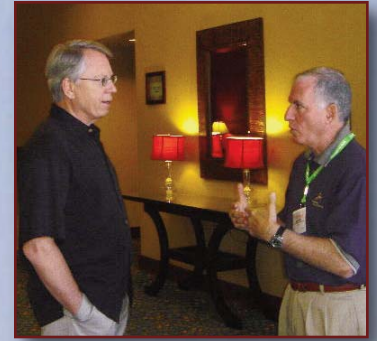
Photos from the 2007 AGD Annual Meeting San Diego, CA



AGD Speaker of the House, Dr. Howard Gamble, addresses the Region XX Caucus



FLAGD Delegates gather in San Diego for the Region XX Caucus.



Dr. Larry Scheitler (l) and Dr. Rich Kanter (r) share a conversation at the Annual Meeting



(l to r) Dr. Rod Shaw, Dr. Sam Hanania and Dr. Irma Tassi enjoy lunch during the House of Delegates meeting.



FLAGD Members of the 2008 AGD Annual Meeting Local Advisory Committee speak from the podium at the House of Delegates meeting



AGD Executive Director, Christie Tarantino, and outgoing President, Dr. Bruce DeGinder, visit the Region XX Caucus



(l to r) Dr. Pat Shepherd, Dr. Marc Tindell, Dr. Sam Hanania, Dr. Larry Scheitler and Dr. Rich Kanter



FLAGD President, Dr. Mel Kessler, with FLAGD Treasurer, Dr. Al Underwood, onboard the USS Midway (#41)



Dr. Rod Shaw and others enjoy the reception on the Midway



(l to r) Dr. David Stillwell, Dr. Aldo Miranda-Collazo, Delegate from Puerto Rico, and Dr. Mark Tindell



Dr. Aldo Mirando-Collazo enjoys lunch with Dr. Laurel Casey and Dr. Pat Shepherd



(l to r) Dr. Pat Shepherd, Dr. Aldo Mirando-Collazo and Dr. Al Underwood



depends on being informed and involved in the only organization, which is serving as an advocate for the General Dentist.

If you choose to attend this seminar, you and your family will enjoy the Royal Plaza, a Downtown Disney® Resort Area Hotel in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. As an Official Walt Disney World® Hotel, they offer complimentary transportation to all theme parks and the Downtown Disney® area. You'll also get priority seating for Disney dinner shows and theme park restaurants.

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Please join the **FLAGD** in Orlando for a taste of things to come for the **AGD**. I urge you to put the weekend of November 3, 2007 on your calendar now for this exciting event, and opportunity to meet the President of the **AGD**.

Seminar Two

On Friday, December 7 and 8, 2007, the **FLAGD** will offer three individual programs at a Continuing Education and

“rest & relaxation” weekend in Downtown Delray Beach, Florida. You can register for these programs separately, or take advantage of the one low price for the entire weekend (see the two-page flyer on pages 18 & 19).

The Friday program (December 7th) features former **AGD** President, **Dr. Howard Glazer**, on the topic of **“What’s Hot and Getting Hotter”** (6.0 CEUs) from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Delray Beach Marriott on Atlantic Avenue (at Ocean Blvd across the street from the beach).

Dr. Glazer is a frequent contributor to the publication **AGD IMPACT**, a Fellow and Past President of the Academy of General Dentistry and former Assistant Clinical Professor in Dentistry at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine (Bronx, NY). Currently he holds the academic rank of Adjunct Assistant Clinical Professor at several universities around the country including: SUNY-Buffalo, and the University of Florida, Gainesville.

The Delray Beach Marriott Hotel is offering a rate of \$195 per night, double occupancy, for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, December 6, 7 and 8, 2007. Valet parking is available for \$3 for the day. This hotel is an exceptional value for an oceanfront location with beach, pool, recreation, and relaxation for the entire family, as well as its proximity to the many local attractions in Delray Beach, some of which are detailed later in this article.

Please call the hotel directly for reservations and ask for the **FLAGD** rate:

561-274-3200
(Reserve early, hotel rooms are limited)

The **FLAGD** weekend program will continue on Saturday December 8th, with the seminars and lunch held at the **Delray Beach Public Library** (about a mile west on Atlantic Avenue, across the street from the historic Delray Beach Tennis Center) as two separate half-day sessions.

The morning session will feature **Dr. Indraneel Bhattacharyya**, Assistant Professor and Director, Residency Program, Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, University of Florida, who will present the very current program, **Diagnosis and Treatment of Burning Mouth Syndrome**. Many of us are seeing patients experiencing this chronic pain syndrome and need, as the general dentist and quarterback of the dental team, to recognize, diagnose, and appropriately treat and/or refer patients suffering from this syndrome.



Letter to the Editor

FLORIDA ACADEMY OF GENERAL DENTISTRY POSITION STATEMENT

FLORIDA PEDIATRIC SOCIETY et al v. LEVINE

Approved on July 11, 2007

Dear Dr. Scheitler,

I wanted to drop you a line to let you know how much I enjoyed and appreciated your editorial in the spring, 2007 Florida Focus. Minimally Invasive Dentistry should be foremost and primary in every dentist's mind. Somehow, it has skipped by the wayside in favor of over-treatment, over-charging, and over-egotism.

It always seemed to me that the patient's needs and wishes should be considered before the dentist's bank account. I've felt that way since before I graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, in 1968. About ten years ago, I listened to Dr. Stuart Rosenberg talk about MID, and I knew he was on the right track.

Since then, I have tried to use all the procedures and materials subscribed to by the World Congress of MID. After all these years in dentistry, I look forward every morning to come to my office and see how I can do "less of more" for my patients.

You spoke of treating the cause as well as the symptoms of dental disease. I have fought for Fluoridation for 25 years, and spoke before the St. Petersburg City Council when we got St. Pete to fluoridate.

Finally, when we were able to overcome the anti-fluoridation theatrics before the Pinellas County Commissioners in 2003, it was my palpating finger that flipped the toggle switch to start fluoridation in Pinellas County on 6-07-04. I am so proud of that finger (at least the people, the work, the time and dedication it represents!)

Thanks so much for all your time and good work for dentistry and the FLAGD. I have been a proud member for a long time and I will stay a member forever.

I look forward to your next edition of "Florida Focus."

Best personal wishes,

Richard E. Tomlin, DMD
Pinellas Park, FL

The Florida Academy of General Dentistry joins The Florida Pediatric Society, the Florida Academy of Pediatric Dentists, and parents of Medicaid children in requesting that the State of Florida reform its Medicaid funding procedures. Further, the FLAGD supports the legal action undertaken by these organizations and individuals, styled as Florida Pediatric Society, Florida Academy of General Dentists, Inc., et al. v. Levine, No. 05-23037 in the United State District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

The essence of this action condemns the State of Florida Medicaid program for violating the federal Medicaid law, which requires that children covered by Medicaid be provided access to health and dental care at intervals that meet reasonable standards of dental practice and medical necessity, and include at a minimum the relief of pain, infection, restoration of teeth, and maintenance of dental health.

According to a recent five year study, fewer than 25% of the 1.5 million Florida children eligible and entitled to Medicaid benefits have received dental screening or treatment in the course of an entire year. The FLAGD believes that these figures are appalling and can be directly attributed to the increased use of capitation plans and the failure to increase Medicaid provider reimbursement rates for almost ten years. In 2005, the Florida Legislature approved new language that allowed the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to seek a waiver from the federal government to change the entire Medicaid system. The AHCA reform waiver application outlined their intention to transition Medicaid recipients from a traditional fee-for-service structure to a managed care capitation-rate model. This change to the capitation payment model did not provide for more dental services being rendered or for more dental providers participating as outlined in a recent University of Florida study. In areas not currently affected by the capitation system, the current provider payment schedule does not remotely reflect the actual cost for providing dental services. These low rates are a significant barrier for increasing the number of dental providers in Florida's Medicaid program.

The Florida Academy of General Dentistry hereby goes on record as requesting that the State of Florida take whatever action is necessary to institute Medicaid reform at the earliest possible time through the restriction or elimination of existing or new capitation plans and by funding a significantly enhanced fee reimbursement schedule for all current and future Medicaid dental providers.

FLAGD Legislative Update



Current Legislative Items of Interest

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

April 17th and 18th saw the FDA's annual "Dentist's Day on the Hill" run smoothly and successfully again this year. Most of the FLAGD Board of Directors chose to take part in DDOH in support of the FDA project, as the board members were in Tallahassee to attend the regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting.

The regular session of the 2007 Florida Legislature has drawn to a close with Governor Crist still contemplating plans for a special session as of this writing. The Governor has already vetoed two pieces of legislation impacting dentistry along with just under \$460 million in other budget items:

- 1) Renewed funding to underwrite a student loan repayment program
- 2) Funding to expand the foreign-trained dental program.

A community budget issue request (CBIR) had been filed on behalf of the FDA to obtain \$1.9 million to fund student loan repayment assistance for dental graduates. Ultimately, about \$700,000 was included in the 2007-08 budget prior to the veto by Crist. About \$500,000 in funds would have gone to Nova University for their training program expansion. It has been reported that it is unlikely the Governor's actions will be reversed. Neither the House or Senate budgets included funding for a Medicaid dental fee increase.

Regarding other pieces of legislation, SB 1882 would have required all health care providers in Miami-Dade, Palm Beach and Broward counties to seek additional licensing or pay a fee and subject their businesses to AHCA billing practice inspections in order to receive a certificate of

exemption to the health care clinic act. Amendments were offered by Sen. Dennis Jones (R-Seminole) and these were adopted onto SB2354 (Sen. Al Lawson D-Tallahassee). The amendment was designed to exempt dentistry and remove any requirement to obtain the certificate of exemption. No house companion bill has surfaced to date and no further information is available at this time.

The House and Senate have both heard versions of the Florida KidCare bill. The Senate Health Policy Committee has adopted committee bill PCB HCC 07-04 as a companion to SB 930 by Sen. Mandy Dawson. Passage of this issue would restructure the state KidCare Program and create a Deputy Secretary within AHCA for the purpose of developing policies related to lack of access and affordability of children's health care services. Under the current language, the managed-care provider fees in the KidCare program would be reduced to Medicaid rates, effectively reducing payment for dental services under KidCare by half. Senator Jones once again rose up in support of dentistry and filed an amendment to exclude managed-care providers from being subject to this provision. The House bill (HB 7189 Rep. Galvano, R-Bradenton) does not include the exclusion. No further information is available at the time of this report.

AHCA continues to work with various stakeholders to prepare the State to move into electronic health records. HB 1121 (Rep. Grimsley R-Sebring) has been approved by the House and would create a 15 member Florida Health Information Network (FHIN). Senate companion bills (SB 2348 and 2582) have passed out of committee in an amended form that includes a dentist on the FHIN Advisory Council.

SB 2260, and companion HB 1343, would rename the Secretary of Health to the State Surgeon General. This position will require policy generation for the purpose of promoting healthy lifestyles, immunization practices, health literacy and assessment of the existing physician and health care workforce so as to meet the health care needs of the state. This legislation was slated to be debated during the general session and was expected to be passed, but no further information is available at this time.

Of additional interest is a recent declaratory statement from the Florida Board of Dentistry issued to a dentist regarding an inappropriate name placement in an Orlando

Legislative Items of Interest, Continued on page 19

Addressing the Public Health Problem

by Frank Catalanotto, DMD

I was very pleased to see a copy of your new president, Dr. David Stillwell's presidential address. His encouragement that the FLAGD membership "take an aggressive stand as dental professionals and caring human beings to address the "access to care" turmoil simmering within our State and around the Nation" was a strong call to action to all Florida dentists. In addition, he pointed out that the AGD Board of Trustees have placed access to care "as the NUMBER ONE legislative priority for 2007". I think it especially important that he pointed out that if the profession does not do its job in dealing with the access issue, then "it could very easily become a priority for our own State legislators looking for a "magic pill" to fix the access problem. If you use your imagination, almost anyone can quickly envision a governmental "knee jerk" reaction that could be catastrophic for dentistry." I have been saying the same thing for many years!

I would like to take this opportunity to address this public health problem in the nation and specifically here in Florida about disparities in oral health and access to oral health services. Recent studies by the Centers for Disease Control have confirmed the conclusions of the 2000 Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health that dental caries is an epidemic in certain segments of the US population, specifically in poor and minority children, as compared to majority middle income children. Of greater concern is the CDC finding of a 15% increase in dental caries among children ages 2-5 years over the past few years. There is much data to suggest that lack of access to regular oral health care is a cause of these disparities and the increase in dental caries in young children. This past spring, a 12 year old boy in the state of Maryland died from an untreated dental infection because his mother could not find a dentist who would take Medicaid. These tragedies must not continue!

There are at least three solutions I and others would propose to address these problems.

(1) While the upcoming national elections and the movie "Sicko" repeatedly point out that over 45 million US residents are without medical health insurance, there are over 100 million without dental insurance. It should be a national disgrace that the richest nation in the world, spending more per capita on health care than any other nation, has such poor health outcome measures, both medical and dental. Some form of national health insurance must be implemented in this country, and as part of health care reform, must include dental insurance for all! The lack of understanding of the importance of dental care is demonstrated by the lack of dental participation in Tuesday, July 24 night's discussion of national health

insurance at Sante Fe Community College.

(2) In the short term, dental (and medical) Medicaid fees must increase in Florida so that more dentists and physicians will be willing and able to accept Medicaid eligible patients in their offices. While there are many dentists who provide pro bono care rather than deal with the low fees and administrative burdens of Medicaid, philanthropic care is a band-aid for a major problem; we need better solutions. We should not have Medicaid recipients from South Florida traveling to Gainesville to the UF College of Dentistry because they cannot find a dentist who will accept Medicaid in their home town. Fortunately, there are some groups in Florida who recognize the importance of access to oral health care and the impediment that low Medicaid fees present to such patients. The Florida Pediatric Society has sued the state of Florida to increase Medicaid fees. This strategy has worked in all other states where it has been implemented; unfortunately the legal process takes time and money and passionate, sustained commitment. The general public needs to get behind this initiative.

A second Medicaid issue is the effect of Medicaid reform on access to dental care for Florida Medicaid recipients. Despite the obvious failures of the pilot project in Dade and other counties, this "reform" has now expanded to other counties with the result that even fewer dentists participate in the dental Medicaid program and fewer Medicaid recipients are getting dental care. As citizens of this state, we must demand that such "reforms" be stopped.

(3) There is much data to support the fact that there is a shortage and geographic maldistribution of the dental workforce in the US and in Florida specifically. The number of federally designated Dental Health Professions Shortage areas in Florida has increased significantly over the past decade or so. One solution, successfully implemented in at least 10 other states, is to allow reimburse physicians to provide limited oral health preventive services to children, particularly very young at-risk children. Pediatricians and family physicians see many of these children for well child visits but the majority of the parents of these children do not bring them to the dentist. By 2-3 years of age, it is too late for many of these children who show signs of early childhood caries, causing pain and infection and necessitating expensive treatment, sometimes under general anesthesia in a hospital. In fact, we are implementing this solution in Florida. The Department of Health will be initiating oral health training for all physicians in DOH facilities. The UF College of Dentistry



President's Message, Continued from page 2

respects the good intentions of the AAP. However, as the association for the entire dental profession, the ADA does not believe that the additional guidelines for referral are needed, and does not endorse the AAP guidelines as written.”

At this point the chair recognized Dr. Bob Ferris, a periodontist, to reply to my statements. Dr. Ferris is a past FDA president, a past ADA trustee and former president of the AAP. He has been a tireless worker for dentistry. I was later informed that in addition, he does not lose debates. He proceeded to say that the AAP replied to our AGD president in August but he never responded to the AAP. He stated that since they did not so much as get a reply from our president, they published their guidelines. . (This is incorrect, AGD President Bruce DeGinder did reply.) He also said that I would be right to be concerned about the legal implications if they used the words MUST REFER, but he saw nothing wrong with the word should. He then went on to push his points. I knew he was wrong with what he was saying, but rather than get personal, I let others speak. I came away from the experience saying to myself that this was reminiscent of the way we “upstart general dentists”, the AGD, were treated in earlier times. Thank goodness there is different leadership in the FDA today, and that any conflict between us is nothing more than old history. The leadership of the FDA and the FLAGD now work closely together, for the betterment of dentistry and the public.

Let's leave the war now. A major plus this year is that the AGD CE transcript is now accepted in 48 states, including Florida. This has always been a major benefit and convenience of our AGD membership. Another issue we addressed this year is the lawsuit by the Florida Pediatric Society, the Florida Academy of Pediatric Dentists and the parents of Medicaid children vs. the State of Florida for failure to provide adequate care. Currently the state only pays 25% of usual and customary fees for Medicaid services. In support of this lawsuit, the FDA just approved contributing a total of \$100,000, to be paid over a three-year period. The lawsuit should cost about \$400,000, with much of the legal services done pro bono. We have sent letters to these organizations to support their position on the lawsuit. We hope that the membership also feels that this is a fight worth joining. I am tired of hearing politicians say dentists will not treat these children, when they only pay at 25%. What is your overhead lately? Politics aside, if our country has a policy to help these

children have better access to care, we have to help. We also plan to support the lawsuit.

We had an excellent AGD Meeting in San Diego last June 27 to July 1. Let me congratulate the new Fellows and Masters who attended their Convocation at this meeting.

So it has been a busy year. We are here to serve the membership and explain why your participation is so important. CE is important as always, but advocacy has also come to the forefront. Welcome to the world we live in. I thank you for your support and look forward to David Stillwell, your incoming president, doing an even better job than I have done.

A thank you to Rosie Small, our executive director, and the excellent board of the Florida Academy of General Dentistry.

Your lame duck President,
Mel Kessler, DDS, MAGD



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FLAGD has Success, Continued from Page 6

The American Academy of Periodontology, their so-called “guidelines” are attempting to leave the general dentist out of the periodontal treatment equation.

As our Executive Director, Rosie Small, wrote in our last Florida Focus, there is only “strength in numbers”. So, first renew your membership. Second, get a fellow GP to join the AGD! Third, we need organized components throughout the State, like the new one in Central Florida.

Let me assure you that the sole responsibility for development of a Component academy will not be dumped on you. Further, there is no additional financial obligation. Our State Academy has funds earmarked for component development, and staff members willing to help with the administrative tasks.

I look forward to hearing from you with your willingness to volunteer, and especially to help form Components in other parts of our State. And, I promise to keep everyone informed on the developments with regards to the assaults on your practice, as well as any other issues that might affect your livelihood as general dentists.

**Stay current on AGD activities at
www.agd.org**

**Keep up with the FLAGD at
www.flagd.org**

Legislative Items of Interest Continued from page 16

advertisement. Board Rule 64B5-4.002 (Florida Administrative Code) prohibits all laudatory statements about a dentist including statements that relate to the quality of dental services provided as compared to other available dental services. This means dentists whose names appear in any listing of “best dentists” may be subject to prosecution and may have disciplinary action taken against them. Since the issue date of the declaratory statement, the ADA House of Delegates has adopted Resolution 21H-2005, which recommends that “any published lists of ‘best dentists’ incorporate a full disclosure of the selection criteria, including, but not limited to, any direct or indirect financial arrangements.” The ADA Code of Ethics prohibits “any form of communication in a manner that is false or misleading in any material respect.”

To conclude this report, the FLAGD Board of Directors voted unanimously on May 30, 2007, to approve a position paper on Medicaid reform in Florida. The final statement was delivered to the Florida Pediatric Society, the Florida Academy of Pediatric Dentists, and the Florida Dental Association under the FLAGD letterhead and signed by President Kessler. The final position statement appears later in this issue.

Other details regarding the FLAGD’s involvement with a pending lawsuit related to Medicaid reform are scheduled to be discussed during the June 2007 Board of Directors meeting. Dr. Nolan Allen, incoming State President for the FDA, has been asked to report on their organization's status on the Medicaid lawsuit during our 2007 General Assembly.

Addressing the Public Health Problem, Continued from page 16

has received a grant from the federal government to train pediatricians and family physicians to perform screening and preventive oral health procedures. The major impediment to full implementation is funding; as of today, the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration has not made a decision to reimburse physicians who provide such services to Medicaid recipients. We need to work together to make this happen. There are other solutions to increasing the oral health workforce, too numerous to mention here. For example, we need to allow dental hygienists to perform the services they perform in many other states, services that could potentially improve access to care and reduce oral health disparities. If such services are safe and efficacious in other states, why not in Florida?

In summary, oral health is integral to overall health. As a society, we need to recognize that relationship and design a health care system that helps all residents of this great country achieve optimum oral and systemic health. I look forward to the active and vigorous advocacy of the leadership and membership of the FLAGD in pursuing some of these goals.

Frank Catalanotto, DMD is a professor of community dentistry at the University of Florida, former Dean of the UF College of Dentistry and past president of the American Dental Education Association.



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— Vinny Mayher, DMD, AGD President



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ADA FOUNDATION





FLAGD to Offer CE Programming, Continued from Page 14

The afternoon session on December 8, 2007 will feature **Dr. Robert Gehrig, FAGD**. Dr. Gehrig is a Past President of the **Florida Academy of General Dentistry** and he maintains a private practice in Ft. Pierce, FL. Dr. Gehrig will give a presentation on *Treatment Guidelines for Special Needs Patients*.

The **FLAGD** is offering the option of a buffet lunch (including vegetarian lunch) on Saturday, at the Library's on-site Cookbook Café. The lunch buffet will be offered in conjunction with either the morning and/or the afternoon Saturday sessions and must be ordered in advance.

There is ample parking on the deck adjacent to the Library. Arrive early to park as this weekend is expected to be a busy one in downtown Delray Beach due to the Holiday activities scheduled. To help you plan your day, registration and continental breakfast for the morning session begins at 9:00 a.m., with the seminar from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Lunch will be held from 12:45 p.m. to 1:45 p.m., and the afternoon session begins at 2:00 p.m., and ends at 4:00 p.m.

A special package for all three courses (11 CEUs) is offered to members for \$275.00 and to non-members for \$425.00, if pre-registered before 10/1/07. Pre-registration for staff of members and non-members is also discounted before 10/1/07. In addition, non-members can become eligible for the lower members' fees by joining the **AGD** and paying the 2008 dues prior to the Seminars. Contact the **FLAGD's** Executive Director, Rosie Small, at 866-620-0773 for more information about membership in the **AGD** and **FLAGD**, and how to join to get the member rate for the upcoming **FLAGD** Seminars.

I urge you to take advantage of this opportunity to "beat the snowbirds" to South Florida by enjoying a family getaway weekend in Downtown Delray Beach for CE, professional contacts, and exhibitors, along with the beach, pool, shopping, dining, and more.

Here are some highlights from the Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce for our December 7 & 8 weekend:

- Dec. 7: Annual Boat Parade – Along the Intercostal Waterway from the Boynton Inlet south to the C15 Canal. Parade starts at 6:30 pm (561-278-0200 for information)
- Dec. 8-9: Delray Art League – Local artists display and sell their work, 10 am – 4:30 pm, Veterans Park, E. Atlantic Avenue at the Intercostal, 561-243-0958 for information.

Dec. 8: Holiday Parade – Presented by Delray Beach Parks and Recreation, parade begins at Venetian Drive at 6 pm, heads west on Atlantic Avenue to the Courthouse, 561-243-7277 www.mydelraybeach.com

Dec. 8: Kids Day at the Tree – Old School Square, visit Santa and play in the snow, special surprises at the 100-Foot Christmas Tree, 10 am – 4 pm, 51 N. Swinton Avenue, 561-279-1380 x17 or www.DowntownDelrayBeach.com

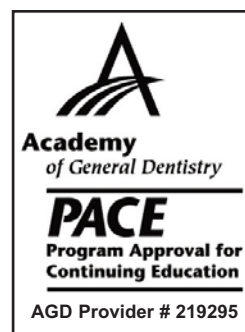
For information about the many local Delray Beach restaurants and jazz spots on Atlantic Avenue and beyond, check out the website www.downtowndelraybeach.com and click on merchants, then click on dining and nightclubs.

Personally, I am looking forward to meeting new and old friends and colleagues in Downtown Delray Beach on December 7 and 8, 2007. I expect it to be a weekend full of professional learning, both through the CE and with our exhibitors and sponsors, as well as an enjoyable time socializing, appreciating the local attractions, and convening with colleagues to share ideas in this "Village by the Sea."

Mark these dates on your calendar: November 3, 2007 in Orlando for Dr. Arun Garg on *Dental Implantology Update 2007* and keynote speaker Dr. Vincent C. Mahyer, national AGD President.

Dr. Howard Glazer, Dr. Indraneel Bhattacharyya, and Dr. Robert Gehrig in Downtown Delray Beach on Friday and Saturday, December 7 and 8, 2007. See you there!

Stay tuned to this channel for the next **Regional Seminar**. We are planning CE programs in 2008 in Jacksonville, Tallahassee, and the Naples area. Keep reading the *Florida Focus* for the latest news.



JOIN US FOR LEARNING AND RELAXING WHILE DELRAY BEACH CELEBRATES A HOLIDAY WEEKEND!
THE FLORIDA ACADEMY OF GENERAL DENTISTRY PRESENTS:



A Two-Day Continuing Education Seminar
Featuring Three Individual Programs Totalling 11 Hours of CE Credit
(Register separately or register for all three at one discounted price)

Friday, December 7, 2007 and Saturday, December 8, 2007
in Beautiful Downtown Delray Beach, Florida

Friday, December 7, 2007

**WHAT'S HOT AND
WHAT'S GETTING HOTTER!**

FEATURED SPEAKER:

DR. HOWARD S. GLAZER

DELRAY BEACH MARRIOTT

10 N. OCEAN BOULEVARD (ON THE OCEAN AT ATLANTIC AVE.)
DELRAY BEACH, FL 33483

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2007

8:30 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M.

6 CREDIT HOURS

8:00 A.M. TO 8:30 A.M. - REGISTRATION

SEE FEES ON NEXT PAGE

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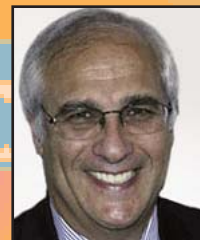
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About Dr. Glazer:



Dr. Glazer, a frequent contributor to the publication AGD IMPACT, is a Fellow and Past President of the Academy of General Dentistry and former Assistant Clinical Professor in Dentistry at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine (Bronx, NY). Currently he holds the academic rank of Adjunct Assistant Clinical Professor at several universities around the country including: SUNY - Buffalo, and the University of Florida, Gainesville. Dr. Glazer has lectured at the University of Missouri, University of California - San Francisco, and the University of Minnesota. He is a Fellow of the American College of Dentists, International College of Dentists, American Society for Dental Aesthetics, and the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. Dr. Glazer is an Attending Dentist at the Englewood Hospital (Englewood, NJ) and is the Deputy Chief Forensic Dental Consultant to the Office of Chief Medical Examiner, New York City.

About the Program:

This is a program about real dentistry for real people by a real dentist! Dr. Glazer will present a potpourri of materials and techniques that will make your day at the office easier, more productive and fun! Your entire dental team will benefit from learning about the latest products and benefits provided for you and your patients. Dr. Glazer writes a monthly column by the same title for AGD Impact magazine, and reviews new products and materials on a regular basis for his column.

Topics include:

- Curing lights..to light up your life (dental)
- Adhesives..a sticky subject made simple
- Composites for esthetic fillings not just white ones
- Impression materials..it's true..first impressions are important
- Provisional materials..provisionals should look great
- Burs..so many and so little time
- Endodontic instruments..getting to the root of the matter
- Cements..that which holds the relationship together
- Tissue retraction and fluid control...essentials of clear fields
- Reducing Sensitivity with topical paste application
- Matrix bands for perfect, predictable contacts..contact perfect every time
- Whitening systems..that work
- Oral cancer detection..dentists can save lives!
- Loops, instruments, equipment potpourri
- Digital revolution
- And more....

Special Note: Friday, December 7, 2007 in Delray Beach is the Annual Holiday Boat Parade along the Intercoastal Waterway, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 8, 2007 - Two Programs
 (no onsite registration - all registration must be completed in advance)

BURNING MOUTH SYNDROME

PRESENTED BY:
DR. INDRANEEL BHATTACHARYYA
 ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AND
 DIRECTOR, RESIDENCY PROGRAM
 ORAL & MAXILLOFACIAL PATHOLOGY
 UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

DELRAY BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY

100 WEST ATLANTIC AVENUE
 DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA 33445

REGISTRATION AND
 CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST: 9:00 A.M.
 PRESENTATION: 9:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.

3 HOURS OF CE CREDIT

SPECIAL CARE DENTISTRY

PRESENTED BY:
DR. ROBERT GEHRIG, FAGD
 PAST PRESIDENT,
 FLORIDA ACADEMY OF GENERAL DENTISTRY

DELRAY BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY

100 WEST ATLANTIC AVENUE
 DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA 33445

REGISTRATION: 1:45 P.M.
 PRESENTATION: 2:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

2 HOURS OF CE CREDIT

BUFFET LUNCH AT THE "COOKBOOK CAFE" IN THE LIBRARY MUST BE PRE-ORDERED (SEE BELOW)

Discounted Prices for Registrations Received Before October 1, 2007

	<u>AGD Members</u>	<u>AGD Members Staff</u>	<u>Non-AGD Members</u>	<u>Non-AGD Member Staff</u>
Entire Program (Includes lunches)	\$275 (\$295 after 10/1/07)	\$175 (\$195 after 10/1/07)	\$425 (\$445 after 10/1/07)	\$295 (\$315 after 10/1/07)
Friday Only Lunch is included	\$180 (\$200 after 10/1/07)	\$125 (\$145 after 10/1/07)	\$225 (\$245 after 10/1/07)	\$175 (\$195 after 10/1/07)
Saturday a.m.	\$75 (\$95 after 10/1/07)	\$60 (\$80 after 10/1/07)	\$130 (\$150 after 10/1/07)	\$105 (\$125 after 10/1/07)
Saturday p.m.	\$60 (\$80 after 10/1/07)	\$45 (\$65 after 10/1/07)	\$110 (\$130 after 10/1/07)	\$75 (\$95 after 10/1/07)
Saturday Lunch	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20

Copy this form and submit a separate form for each registrant - PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

I am registering for the following (please check all that apply):

Entire Program Friday Only Saturday Morning Saturday Afternoon Sat. Lunch

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

Registration forms with checks (only method of payment) should be mailed to:
 Florida AGD, 14864 Enclave Lakes Dr. #T-1, Delray Beach, FL 33484

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