



Eighth District
DENTAL SOCIETY

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SUMMER 2026

www.8ddsny.org

bulletin

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MEET THE TEAM

Volume 62, No 2, Summer 2026

8th DISTRICT BULLETIN

Eighth District Dental Society
of the State of New York

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The Eighth District Dental Society is organized for the purpose of encouraging improvement of the health of the public, to promote the art and science of dentistry, and to represent the interests of the members of the profession and the public which it serves.

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FROM THE EDITOR



Dr. Marcelo Araujo, Dean of the UB dental school, told the Eighth District's Executive Council at its May meeting, the Oral Surgery post graduate program has been closed. Dr. Araujo said this was a very difficult decision to make, but needed to be done due to the fact the program cannot meet the requirements established by CODA to be accredited. For accreditation, the program needs five full-time, board-certified oral surgeons on staff and currently only have three. The current residents in the program are being placed in other oral surgery programs around the country. He also said the faculty practice in oral surgery is closing July 1 this year after a vote of the faculty.

The oral surgery department was one of only two oral surgeries accepting Medicaid patients for treatment. As an orthodontist, with Medicaid patients, I referred to UB often for exposures of impacted teeth and surgical corrections of skeletal problems. Now there is only one practice accepting Medicaid. Why is that? Why don't more oral surgery practices accept Medicaid? It all comes down to reimbursement from Medicaid for procedures. And that reimbursement is meager.

When I returned to Western New York and joined Dr. Gerry Gugino in practice, the practice accepted Medicaid patients for treatment. Dr. Gugino explained this is our way to give back to the community by treating patients who had significant malocclusions but could not afford orthodontic treatment. The fees paid by Medicaid were less than the fees the practice charged private pay patients. He felt this was acceptable and I agreed with him. At that time, the Medicaid program for orthodontics operated much differently than it does now. For patients to be accepted into the program, they went to a clinic held quarterly where they were examined by orthodontists to see if the treatment qualified to be covered under the program. If they qualified, they were referred back to the orthodontist for treatment.

Today it is much different. There are no more quarterly clinics. The orthodontist examines the patient to decide if the patient would qualify for treatment. There is a form the orthodontist fills out to see if the patient qualifies. There are six automatically qualifying situations. If the patient doesn't meet any of those criteria, a numerical score is determined. The score must reach a value of 26. It is very difficult to reach 26.

The fees paid by Medicaid have not kept up with inflation. When I joined Dr. Gugino, the fee paid by Medicaid was approximately 80% of our usual and customary fee. The fees for DentaQuest are now 70% of usual and customary and Liberty Dental is around 55% of usual and customary. The typical office overhead in an orthodontic practice is approximately 60%.

From what I understand from oral surgeons I have spoken with, reimbursement from Medicaid is worse than that. I understand why oral surgeons do not take part in Medicaid. Reimbursement levels are too low to run a successful practice. If those fees were increased, would more oral surgeons take part in the program? Who knows, but the incentive would be there.

New York State is one of the highest, if not the highest, states for taxation in the country. It's time for those taxes to help with the dental health of the citizens of New York State. Contact your state representatives and lobby for more equitable reimbursement schedules for dental services for those in need.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Where is Spring? Hopefully Summer will be better. For all of us golfers, it has been difficult to get out and play. Speaking of golf, we look forward to the 8th district golf outing on June 1st at the Transit Valley CC. I am not a meteorologist, but it must stop raining at some point. So, I am predicting a great day for golf!

Also, in June the 8th district looks forward to sponsoring the Chautauqua Dental Meeting. The meeting will take place at the Harbor Hotel on June 18th and 19th. We will be honoring Dr. Seb Ciancio who originally started the Chautauqua Dental Congress. Please join us for a great program for all Dentists, Hygienists and staff.

In April I had the honor of joining other 8th district leaders in Albany for Lobby Day. What a great event. We met with lawmakers from both sides of the aisle and lobbied for issues pertinent to our profession. I was impressed with how attentive our lawmakers were and left the meetings feeling we had accomplished something. Your NYSDA membership benefits at work for you. I would like to also acknowledge Brown and Weintraub, our lobbyist team, for a job well done.

Your executive team is always trying to look for new member benefits. This year we are adding a company named Unified Smiles. Unified Smiles is a company that can help you save money in your practices on equipment and supplies. Please look at the e-mail that was sent to our members and see how they can help your practice.

I would also like to thank our team Dr John Craig (our ED) and his team Kari and Dana for all their hard work behind the scenes on your behalf.

With Sincere Respect

Michael D Ehlers DDS
President

EIGHTH DISTRICT DENTAL SOCIETY
MEMBER SHRED
DAY 2026

WHERE & WHEN
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TRUSTEE'S CORNER

Eleventh Letter from the ADA Second District Trustee to the NYSDA Components

Hello to all my fellow New York State Dental Association members. It is my pleasure to update you on the latest news at the American Dental Association. First and foremost, we have hired a new Executive Director. His name is Dr. Nader Nadershahi and he began his term on March 23rd of this year. As a member of the search committee, I saw firsthand how Dr. Nadershahi shined throughout the interview process, and I am confident he is the perfect choice for the position. Prior to his hiring as the ADA ED, he was Senior Vice President of Education and Professional Affairs at the ADA. Before that, he spent nine years as the Dean of the University of the Pacific Arthur A Dugoni School of Dentistry. His experience in turning around and running a large organization, as well as his financial background, culminated in the search committee and the ADA Board of Trustees unanimously choosing Dr. Nadershahi. It is a new day at the American Dental Association, and I look forward to assisting Dr. Nadershahi leading us into the future.

The Baxter Credit Union agreement with the ADA continues to grow since its' inception last fall. In the first three months, the ADA Credit Union obtained 189 new members with deposits totaling \$3.57 million. Month over month, loans increased 10.5% to \$1.85 million. I encourage all NYSDA members to investigate joining. Home and car loans at favorable interest rates are available to members and their families as well as office staff members. In addition, bridge loans up to \$25,000 are available to students to cover for extra costs, such as book purchases or test fees. The loans are interest free up to a year. This is a tangible benefit membership offered to ADA and NYSDA members that can help you with your bottom line and decrease interest payments over many years.

The Membership and Engagement Model (MEM), which launched in November 2024 in New Jersey, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Washington DC, as well as the state of Washington, primarily focused on testing membership price sensitivity. Preliminary results have shown improvement in recruitment and retention with early career dentists, along with relative stability and improved retention among dentists practicing six years or more. Secondly, engagement packages from the ADA and each specific pilot state were offered in a limited capacity to provide insight about member engagement in optional purchases.

Executive Directors from four of the five participating associations joined the ADA Board of Trustees virtually in early March to report on the initial results and their thoughts on the pilot. All of them joined due to the decline in membership and the interest in looking at membership in a different way. Each of the Executive Directors felt the pilot was going well and were excited to continue the program over the next two years. They also talked about challenges and the lessons they have learned during the first year of the pilot. Although the results were preliminary, the Board of Trustees felt the program showed enough promise and strongly agreed to continue the program for the duration of the three-year pilot.

Earlier this year, in accordance with House Resolution 521-H-2025, the ADA Board of Trustees Governance Committee, as well as the Governance and Organizational Health Evaluation Advisory Task Force, researched several different private companies that specialize in association governance and structural management. The Governance Committee interviewed five of the private firms and decided to hire Vista Cova, a company with expertise in governance redesign and modernization. The firm has begun collecting the background information it will need over the next few months to formulate insights and customized recommendations for our Association.

The annual ADA Lobby Day was held in Washington, DC this year from March 22nd through the 24th. Topics of discussion with US Senators and House of Representatives included the Resident Education Deferred

Continued on Page 26

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Welcome to summer! Hopefully, the rain-soaked spring season is well behind us now and we can get out and enjoy the season with family and friends. Our annual golf outing is trending as I draft this article as well as the NYSDA House of Delegate meeting, which this year, is taking place in Atlantic City, NJ, hosted by the New York County Dental Society. This year's session, the Society thanks Dr. Raymond Miller, our NYSDA Trustee, for the past four years of service. We appreciate Dr. Miller for his dedication and support, which has been an interesting few years with many twists and turns in governance and staffing. At the HOD in June, we will welcome Dr. James Hoddick, who will take over for Dr. Miller for the next four years as our representative for the state association.

As many members may already know, we are hosting the 2026 Chautauqua Dental Congress this month on Thursday/Friday, June 18-19 at the Harbor Hotel in Celoron, New York. This was an event created and hosted by Dr. Sebastian Ciancio for close to 40 years. We are bringing this program back to support his efforts and seek ways to engage members in their continuing education requirements. If you have not registered for this program, we certainly would appreciate your support or that of your staff, if possible.

Our annual Shred Day is Saturday, June 13th at the Society Offices from 10am to 1pm. If you plan to attend and drop off materials, please be sure to separate X-ray film from patient records for the shred trucks from Lincoln Archives. Many people arrive early, so plan accordingly. This year's program is sponsored, in part, by Ivoclar and Walsh Insurance, thank you!

The Society is working to develop a larger following for our partnership with Unified Smiles, a retail and supplier of everything dental related. This relationship could provide sorely needed non-dues revenue to our Society & Foundation as well as our operations. A recent update was shared via email last week and we will continue to highlight the benefits of membership through this group as the year moves along. Dr. Ehlers and the leadership thank Dr. Nate Riexinger for his work on this collaboration. His new practice has already seen great discounts on dental supplies, equipment, and resources they use every day. More information is available in this edition (see the last page).

The Foundation is planning another fundraising event, which will take place on Friday, September 25th at 6pm at the George Lamm American Legion, located at 962 Wehrle Drive in Cheektowaga. The 8th District's 1st Annual Meat Raffle is sure to be an exciting venue to raise money and fill your freezer or refrigerator with a fine selection of products. Details are coming together and if you have never been to a raffle, they are an effective way to socially gather and support local charities and causes. Save the Date!

Finally, the leadership is seeking to fill a few upcoming vacancies on the council for January 2027. Dr. Joseph Modica will be completing his term as Treasurer this December and we need to appoint a new person in this vital role, which is annual appointment but traditionally is a 5-year term. The leadership is also seeking a member to run the chairs and come on as the new Secretary in January 2027. If you have any suggestions for nominees or would like to be considered, please reach out to Dr. Joseph Rumfola, Nominations Chairman at rumfola@buffalo.edu

As always, if you have a question, concern, or an issue to resolve, we can help. We are here to assist you and your staff. Contact me at jcraig@8ddsny.org or call 716-995-6300. Have a great summer!



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 Liz Kapral, Nicole Hinchy and Joseph Modica



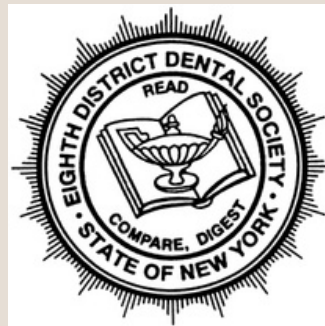
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1



URGENT THREATS

Scammers threaten arrest, license suspension, or legal action if you don't comply immediately.

⚠ They use fear to pressure you into making quick decisions.



This is the DEA. You are under investigation.

Your license will be suspended or you will be ARRESTED!

2



CALLER ID SPOOFING

Scammers fake caller ID to make it look like the call is coming from a government agency or local office.

🛡 Don't trust the number on your caller ID.



The number may look real, but it's fake.

3



REQUESTS FOR DEA/LICENSE NUMBERS

Scammers ask for your DEA number, license number, or other personal information to commit fraud.

🔒 Never share or confirm personal or credential information.

"Please verify your DEA number and license so we can update your file."



4



FAKE SUBPOENAS

They may send fake subpoenas, warrants, or official-looking documents to appear legitimate.

🛡 Verify all documents directly with the issuing agency.



Fake documents are often filled with errors and don't hold up in court.

5



"ACT IMMEDIATELY"

Scammers create a false sense of urgency and demand immediate payment or action.

⚠ Take a breath. Real agencies don't demand immediate action.

You must act **NOW!** Pay today or face arrest and charges!"



STOP. VERIFY. REPORT.

When in doubt, hang up and verify independently.

REPORT FRAUD

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DENTISTS & BOTOX: KNOW THE RULES. PROTECT YOUR PRACTICE.

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Al Anthony Mercado, Esq.
Attorney at Law



In New York, dentists may use Botox—but only within the scope of practice as defined by law. Understanding the rules helps protect your patients, your license, and your liability coverage.



KEY TAKEAWAY

Use Botox only for dental-related conditions to stay within the law and within your coverage.



BOTOX USE WITHIN THE SCOPE OF DENTAL PRACTICE

Under NYS Education Law §6601, Botox may be used when it is related to restoring and maintaining dental health. Examples include:



TMJ disorders



Bruxism



Orofacial pain



Masseter hypertrophy



Asymmetric smile caused by muscle dysfunction related to dental treatment



These uses are tied to a dental diagnosis and treatment and are within the scope of practice.



BOTOX USE OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF DENTAL PRACTICE

Botox used solely for cosmetic purposes that is unrelated to restoring and maintaining dental health is likely outside the scope of practice. Examples include:



Forehead wrinkles



Crow's feet



Pure aesthetic facial rejuvenation



Cosmetic brow lift



RISKS OF OUT-OF-SCOPE USE:

- Claims may be denied by your professional liability carrier
- Exposure for professional misconduct
- Complaints to the NYS Office of Professional Discipline and other regulatory agencies

CRITICAL REMINDERS



KNOW THE LAW

NYS Education Law §6601 defines dentistry as treating conditions of the oral and maxillofacial area related to restoring and maintaining dental health.



BE COMPETENT & PROPERLY TRAINED

You must have the education, training, and experience to safely and effectively use Botox.



READ YOUR POLICY CAREFULLY

Many policies exclude Botox and dermal fillers. Verbal assurances are not a substitute for actual coverage.



JUST BECAUSE OTHERS ARE DOING IT DOESN'T MAKE IT OK

Widespread use does not expand the legal scope of practice.



BOTTOM LINE

Use Botox only for legitimate dental diagnoses and treatment. When in doubt, ask yourself: Is this related to restoring and maintaining dental health?



BEST PRACTICES

- Document the dental diagnosis and medical necessity
- Obtain informed consent
- Use conservative dosing and proper techniques
- Stay current with training and NYSED guidance



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MEMBERSHIP DESIGNATIONS AND UPDATES

During these past few years, we have witnessed some inconsistencies with membership due to several factors. Some of them are related to the Salesforce/Fontiva AMS member portal transition, where member data and details didn't transfer from the old system to the new one, so members may not have been contacted regarding their membership status.

While this transition is in a better state currently, we still see some inconsistencies with the notation of certain member statuses whether a member is officially retired, could qualify for a partial or full waiver of dues, based on working status or several other personal reasons.

Here are a few things to keep in mind as your status of working in a full-time capacity changes. If you move into a part-time capacity change, you may qualify for a partial financial hardship waiver. You may also be eligible for a full membership waiver if you are no longer working at all. You may be teaching part-time at the dental school, in which case, your status in membership has shifted. Full-time faculty enjoy a 50% waiver of dues because of their employment status.

We also see many members fully retire from practice, but forget to submit an ADA Retirement Affidavit, which needs to be submitted to maintain your Lifetime membership, and you are no longer required to pay dues, but enjoy those member benefits.

Both waivers and affidavits can be shared via email by contacting the office and submitting them so we can process them digitally on the new platform.

If you have any questions regarding your membership status or you would like to seek more information or a waiver form for consideration, please contact the office at 716-995-6300 or email us at admin@8ddsny.org and we will be happy to share the required forms for you to complete and send in to us.



IN
MEMORIAM

DR. DAVID GAETH
APRIL 2026



Attention New Dentists! If you or someone you know in the dental field is a new dentist (working 10 years or less) and would like to be featured in our NEW DENTIST SPOTLIGHT in our quarterly Bulletin, please reach out to us! It's a great way to gain exposure and have the members learn about you and your accomplishments to date. Interested dentists can email admin@8ddsny.org.

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The Groove



Colleagues and Friends,

As summer begins, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has already been an exciting year for the Erie County Dental Society.

On a personal note, my family recently welcomed our first baby, making this season especially meaningful for me. I am incredibly grateful for the support and kindness from so many colleagues and friends within our dental community.

This spring, we had a fantastic turnout at the Buffalo Bandits game in March, with a Meet & Greet at Southern Tier Brewery prior to the game. It was wonderful to see members and their families come together for such a fun evening, while cheering on another great Buffalo team. Events like these remind us how important it is to stay connected outside of the office and continue building the strong relationships that make our Society so special.

Looking ahead, we are excited to host our Member Appreciation Party at the Buffalo Launch Club on Sunday, August 9th. We hope you will join us for a relaxing summer gathering as we celebrate our members and all that you do for our profession and community. More details will be shared soon, and we look forward to seeing many familiar faces there.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in the Erie County Dental Society. Wishing you and your families a safe, enjoyable, and healthy summer season.

Sincerely,

Katherine (Kate) Pauly
President, Erie County Dental Society



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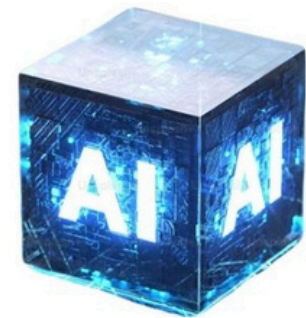


Risk Management Insights

Exploring the Potential Risks of Emerging Artificial Intelligence Use in Healthcare

By: Clark R. Hudson, Esq. and Laura V. Stingl, Esq.- Neil Dymott Hudson, APLC

While Artificial Intelligence (AI) is certainly not new, this technology is growing, quickly advancing, and gaining much press. Within growing AI healthcare technology there are surgical robots, disinfection robots, imaging diagnostic software, scribe applications, automated scheduling, AI-powered chatbots with virtual assistance – among many other available tools.ⁱ As of a July 2025 update from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the United States, the pace of FDA approvals appears to be accelerating and the FDA has authorized over 100 AI medical devices.ⁱⁱ



AI technology offers the promise of greater practice efficiency, but – as was evident in the adoption of EHR – its successful integration depends on thoughtful implementation and adequate provider training to manage the challenges that often accompany new health information tools. At the same time, AI should be viewed as a support tool rather than a substitute for a doctor’s patient-specific clinical assessment and judgment. This article examines the potential risks and complexities associated with this rapidly evolving technology; it is not intended to cover the AI topic in its entirety.

Scribing and Medical Documentation

AI has been adapted for scribing and generating medical documentation. Certain AI applications listen to doctor-patient verbal interactions and can generate documentation based on technology that converts voice interaction to text. Doctors may leverage this technology to improve patient engagement by focusing on active listening, sustaining eye contact, and observing body language. However, unless verbalized, these observations along with physical exam findings would not be incorporated into the record. If utilizing AI for scribing purposes, human proofreading and oversight is recommended to ensure that essential patient encounter information is not omitted from the record. Doctors are also encouraged to consider these due diligence questions: Is there documented patient consent to be recorded? Where, and for how long, are the recordings stored? Who has access to the recordings?

Early Intervention Uses

AI technology may be used to support early intervention and preventative treatment such as caries detection and periodontal disease detection. In endodontics, doctors have begun using it for identifying periapical lesions, crown and root fractures and assessing the quality of existing root canal treatment.ⁱⁱⁱ While this technology may improve efficiency for dentists, it is not free from error. Accuracy issues can arise when a factor or characteristic is missed by the algorithm, or false-negatives, false-positives, or misinterpretations are made. These are further use cases that demonstrate the need for human oversight.

Risk Management Insights

Exploring the Potential Risks of Emerging Artificial Intelligence Use in Healthcare

AI Technology and the Unknown Liability Considerations

What occurs when AI software influences a less-than-ideal outcome? What if AI generated content misinforms a doctor impacting a treatment decision? In such cases, plaintiff attorneys may argue provider liability in the absence of a doctor independently reviewing or evaluating the AI generated content. Courts have not yet established clear guidelines on what constitutes the “standard of care” when AI is involved, or whether such cases might be viewed in the context of product liability issues. As of today, while AI software and algorithms are not considered tangible objects, the unpredictable nature may or may not be covered by product warnings or design defects. As more traction develops with this technology, courts may decide whether they are categorized as products under the law.

As with any claim, liability will depend on the facts of each case and is sometimes shared between two or more defendants. When considering cases involving AI and potential liability, it is important to remember that everyone involved with a patient’s care and treatment has a responsibility to provide accurate and safe patient care, as well as understand each medical device and AI technology that is utilized when caring for patients.

The Main Takeaway: Doctor Oversight is Still Necessary

Doctors are encouraged to consider the pros and cons, understand any AI technology before using it, and remember that it does not replace their professional judgment. From a risk management standpoint, if a practice intends to utilize AI, use it to supplement or support human practices and clinical decision making, not as a replacement. Human involvement and oversight are still necessary; most importantly, users must understand AI’s inherent limitations.

References

¹U.S. Food & Drug Administration. (2025, July 10). Artificial intelligence-enabled medical devices. <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/software-medical-device-samd/artificial-intelligence-enabled-medical-devices>

²Kankar, A. (2025, July 14). The 2025 index: 100 FDA-approved AI-driven medical devices. MedTech Spectrum. <https://medtechspectrum.com/analysis/12/24541/the-2025-index-100-fda-approved-ai-driven-medical-devices.html>

³American Dental Association. (2022, December 30). Dentistry- Overview of Artificial and Augmented Intelligence Uses in Dentistry. ADA SCDI White Paper 1106. www.ada.org

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This article is intended to provide information only on certain risk management topics, and is not to be construed as providing legal, medical, or professional advice of any form

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is intended to serve as legal advice or to establish any standard of care. Legal advice, if desired, should be sought from your attorney. www.dds4dds.com

NIGHT OF HEART, ART & SMILES

Recently, the Eighth District proudly helped sponsored a night of art, heart and smiles at another successful Women in Dentistry event, this time at the Burchfield Penney Art Center in Buffalo. This was an intimate evening celebration that brought together women in dentistry to network and connect, while enjoying a lovely dinner and creating a piece of art to bring home.



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EVENTS

JUNE

- 1st - William J. Knauf Memorial Golf Outing & CE, Transit Valley CC, 8am-8pm
- 4th - 6th - NYSDA House Of Delegates, Atlantic City, NJ
- 13th - Shred Day, Society Office, 10am-1pm
- 18th - 19th - Chatauqua Dental Congress Lectures - Harbor Hotel, Celoron, NY

JULY

- 3rd - Independence Day, Office Closed

AUGUST

- 3rd - Basic Life Support, Society Office, 5-9pm

SEPTEMBER

- 2nd - Defensive Driving Class, Society Office, 5-9pm
- 7th - Labor Day, Office Closed
- 8th - Executive Council & Foundation Board Meeting, Society Office, 7pm
- 22nd - Erie County Board Meeting, Society Office, 7pm

OCTOBER

- 12th - Columbus Day, Office Closed
- 13th - Executive Council Meeting, Society Office, 7pm
- 27th - Erie County Board Meeting, Society Office, 7pm

NOVEMBER

- 2nd - Basic Life Support, Society Office, 5-9pm
- 4th - 6th - Buffalo-Niagara Dental Meeting, Convention Center, 8am
- 10th - Executive Council Appreciation Dinner & Meeting, TBD, 6pm
- 11th - Veteran's Day, Office Closed
- 26th & 27th - Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER

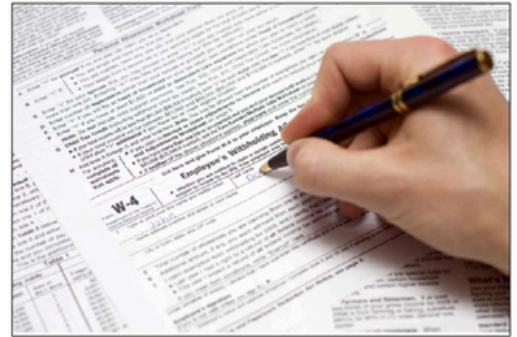
- 4th - Dr. Richard Fink Memorial CE Seminar, Salvatore's, 8am-4pm
 - 5th - Children's Holiday Party, Transit Valley CC, 10am-12pm
 - 24th & 25th - Christmas, Office Closed
 - 31st - New Years Eve, Office Closed at Noon
-

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Eighth District Dental Society

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY

Party

A breakfast buffet will be served. Santa will make an appearance with gifts for all children in attendance. This event is for EDDS members and their immediate family.

Please RSVP by Nov 27th by calling 716-995-6300
or email admin@8ddsny.org

2026

DECEMBER | 5 | 10AM - 12PM

TRANSIT VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB
8920 TRANSIT RD * E. AMHERST NY

DR. MARSHALL FAGIN SPRING SEMINAR



Drs. Marshall Fagin & Donald Tucker

Another successful Dr. Marshall Fagin Spring Lecture was held in late March, with Dr. Chris Griffin, who came in from Ripley, Mississippi. He lectured on two subjects that day: "Catch the 3D Wave" and "Building A Dental Practice of Tomorrow with Technology and Teamwork Today".

We would like to express our appreciation to each of our sponsor vendors who made the day possible: Wlash Insurance, Fortress Insurance, DDSmatch, Ivoclar, Curve Dental, , Align Technology, and Genesee Regional Bank.

FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER W/CENTRAL GROOVE

Our thanks to Wayne, Jay and the entire staff at The Sportsmen's Tavern in Buffalo for hosting our fundraiser for The Foundation in late March. This tavern is one of the greatest music venues in the region, and this particular night it was electric as it featured live music by Western New York's ONLY all-dentist band, Central Groove.

We also want to thank our sponsors, basket raffle donors, UB Dental Student Voluneers, and those who purchased tickets and supported the entire evening!



RISK MANAGEMENT

We were happy to be at a UB Dental School Resident & Student event at The Saturn Club with Dr. Michael Ragan in mid-April where Dr. Michael Ragan spoke about dental risk management topics. This event was sponsored by the Fortress & Walsh Insurance groups with outstanding support from Christine Garvelli. We would like to once again thank them for all they do for our students & dental health professionals!



BOWLING LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

After a competitive season running from October through April, Ivoclar emerged as champions in a 12-team, fully dental-industry bowling league that has been a staple of the Buffalo community for over a century. The league, widely regarded as the oldest sanctioned league in the area, has seen generations of competition, and this year's victory adds another proud chapter to Ivoclar's legacy.

The team's success was powered by a strong and consistent lineup, including Hamza Alnehari, Gerald Jackson, Tom Hill, Shawn Mooney, Brian Velzy, Alyse Hifko, Jeff Smith, Gary Osborn, Cody Titterington, Martin Schmid, and Andrew Fera. Matches took place Thursday evenings at 6:45 PM at Transit Lanes, where the team steadily outperformed the competition over the course of the season. Ivoclar has been a fixture in the league since 2009, but its roots trace even further back. The company was previously represented decades ago when Williams Gold—part of the Ivoclar family—competed in the league during the 1970s and 80s and also captured a championship.

"This year's win not only reflects the team's dedication but also reconnects Ivoclar with its long-standing tradition in the league," said Dr. Tom Hill of Ivoclar. "It's a full-circle moment—blending history, teamwork, and a little friendly competition."

Pictured from left to right are: Gary Osborn, Shawn Mooney, Alyse Hifko, Tom Hill, Jeff Smith, Cody Titterington, Gerald Jackson, Andrew Fera, Brian Velzy, and Hamza Alnehari. Not pictured: Martin Schmid.





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Interest (REDI) Act, ERISA and the Improving Dental Administration Act, as well as expressing concerns with changes at the Health and Human Services Department since the beginning of last year. The REDI Act would defer interest on student loans while residents completed their residency program. This would decrease the burden during residency when there is reduced income or no income at all. The bill already has 13 cosponsors in the Senate and 78 cosponsors in the House. The purpose of the Improving Dental Administration Act is to narrowly amend the ERISA Act of 1974 to have self-funded dental insurance plans be subject to the same provisions as other dental insurance companies. These provisions include prompt payment, noncovered services, dental loss ratios, network leasing stipulations, virtual credit card requirements and pre-authorization continuity. Legislators heard our thoughts about HHS, including a vacant Chief Dental Officer at CMS, the elimination of the Chief Dental Officer at HRSA and the concern oral health programs will be managed in silos. The CDC, CMS and HRSA play very important coordinated roles in advancing the oral health and overall health of our citizens.

As always, if you need to reach me, you can contact me at dowdb@ada.org or call me on my cell phone at 716-510-3217. Thanks again to everyone for their contributions to our profession and organized dentistry.

Respectfully,
Brendan Dowd DDS
ADA Trustee, Second District

FOUNDATION CORNER

President – Dr. Nicole Hinchy Treasurer – Dr. Joseph Modica

Established in 1952, the EDDS Foundation has played an important role in the development of programs and services to not only our members, but to students, the community, and those in need of dental care and support. As we embark on our 74th year of outreach and fund development and we need to continue to utilize this special entity status as we move into the future of organized dentistry.

Foundation Fundraiser – Save The Date!



Society Meat Raffle
Friday, September 25th at 6:00pm

George Lamm American Legion
962 Wehrle Drive Cheektowaga

For Tickets: We are working with a partner organization to assist with the coordination of the event.

NEW DENTIST SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Nathan Riexinger recently celebrated the Grand Opening of his beautiful new practice: White Maple Dental (460 Ransom Road, Lancaster, NY 14068) in the Fall of 2025! In addition to building his own solo practice, he helps to build the skills of future dentists in his role as a part time Associate Clinical Professor at the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine. He also holds an Associate Dentist position providing emergency dental care at the local Urgent Dental Care in West Seneca, NY.

When asked what he loves about dentistry and his job, Dr. Riexinger's immediate response was "the opportunity to change a patient's perspective on dental care. Many patients come in with anxiety, fear, or negative past experiences, and I find it very rewarding to help reshape that experience into something more positive, comfortable, and trusting." He takes pride in being able to address a patient's acute concern, guide them back toward oral health, while building a long-term relationship with them as a patient. It's no surprise that Dr. Riexinger's areas of interest in dentistry are Emergency Dental Care, Oral Surgery, and practicing Comprehensive Patient-Centered Dentistry.

Dr. Riexinger's long term professional goal is to continue growing White Maple Dental into a practice with multiple providers, allowing him to expand availability and serve more individuals and families within his hometown community. While his short-term goal is to continue establishing balance during this exciting season of life, both professionally as a new practice owner and personally as he and his wife, Dr. Laura Cavallari settle into their new home.

Outside of dentistry, he enjoys spending time with his wife and their dog. Not one to sit still, Dr. Riexinger also shares a woodworking business with his father. Although it has slowed down somewhat with the opening of his practice, Dr. Riexinger still enjoys getting into the shop and creating things by hand whenever he gets the chance. Woodworking has always been one of the reasons dentistry appealed to him as a profession. Both combine problem-solving, attention to detail, and the ability to work with your hands to create something meaningful.

When asked to share any advice he has for other New Dentists, Dr. Riexinger advised: "Be open to change. One of the few certainties in life is that your path will likely not be perfectly straight, and that is okay. Dentistry offers a tremendous amount of flexibility and opportunity, but it requires a willingness to adapt, keep learning, and stay open to where the profession may take you." He also encourages new dentists to "maintain the relationships they built in dental school and continue developing a strong professional network. Dentistry can feel isolating at times, and it is important to have colleagues who understand the unique challenges of the profession. Those relationships are valuable not only for clinical discussions and career advice, but also for navigating life outside of dentistry."

If you know of a new dentist who you feel should be featured in an upcoming "New Dentist Spotlight," please e-mail your nomination to econley3@ecmc.edu





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Gale Burstein, MD, MPH - STIs and Oral Health
Betsy Vazquez-Aradio - Stress Relief Through Mindfulness
Arthur Weissman, MD - Cannabis

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Fri. 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Chun Wang (Reinhard) Chau, BDS, MSc, CPH, FICD
Adam Foresman, MSE, MBA, CSSBB
Mark Whitefield, DDS, AFAAID, AAACD
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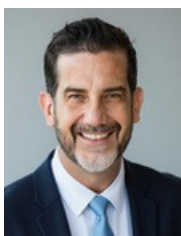
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