



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION  
 OF THE RALEIGH-WAKE COUNTY  
 DENTAL SOCIETY

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Greetings fellow professionals,

I am extremely honored to serve as the Present of the Raleigh-Wake County Dental Society in 2015. For the past 2 years serving on our board, I have come to learn the intricacies of our dental society and understand the foundations of why we exist. Our mission is to promote oral health in the Wake County community by providing a comprehensive lecture series for continuing education to our fellow dentists. We provide this by the support of your membership and dues. Foremost, thank you for continuing to support and believe in the Raleigh-Wake County Dental Society. Our dental society continues to face similar challenges we have seen in the past. Costs of meeting events are increasing as we face potential decreases in revenue from membership. We are continually exploring different avenues and their costs to host our meetings in the future. I encourage all of you members to share the vision and mission of our society to any of your dental colleges with the aim for them to join and support this organization. The Program of speakers for 2015 is filled with a great variety of qualified experts in their respective dental fields. Some of the areas covered are oral pathology, pediatric dentistry, orofacial pain, sleep apnea, restorative and cosmetics. Being informed and involved in the legislative side of dentistry has become an utmost priority to our profession, especially in recent years. We continually receive legislative updates in our meetings to keep us up to date on current challenges that may affect the way you practice. I encourage our members to stay informed, know your legislators, and support any cause that promotes our profession and the oral health welfare of our community. Lastly, I challenge us to extend our focus beyond our work and into the realm of volunteering. Personally, giving back to our community gives me a sense of fulfillment in service. I look forward to seeing you in the new year,

Nazir Ahmad DDS, MPH

### 2015 WINTER/SPRING CALENDAR

- |            |             |   |
|------------|-------------|---|
| <b>Jan</b> | <b>13th</b> | Executive Board Meeting   |
|            | <b>20th</b> | General Members Meeting & CE<br><b>“The Effects of Bisphosphonates in the Oral Cavity”</b><br>Dr. Valerie Murrah                              |
| <b>Feb</b> | <b>9th</b>  | Executive Board Meeting   |
|            | <b>16th</b> | General Members Meeting & CE<br><b>“Practical Update in Pediatric Dentistry”</b><br>Dr. Michael Ignelz  |
| <b>Mar</b> | <b>9th</b>  | Executive Board Meeting   |
|            | <b>16th</b> | General Members Meeting & CE<br><b>“Conditions Commonly Mimicking Temporomandibular Disorders and Oral Facial Pain”</b><br>Dr. John Stockwell |
| <b>Apr</b> | <b>13th</b> | Executive Board Meeting   |
|            | <b>20th</b> | General Members Meeting & CE<br><b>“Introduction to Dental Sleep Medicine”</b><br>Dr. George Jones  |
| <b>May</b> | <b>11th</b> | Executive Board Meeting   |
|            | <b>18th</b> | General Members Meeting & CE<br><b>“Implant Dentistry Update”</b><br>Dr. Sompop Bencharit   |

*General Members Meetings are held 6:15 p.m. at North Ridge Country Club, 6612 Falls of Neuse Rd., Raleigh, the 3rd Tuesday of each month. There are no meetings in June, July, August and December. Social time begins 6:15 p.m. with the buffet line opening at 6:45 p.m. The business meeting commences at 7:00 p.m. followed by a CE lecture.G*



**Lisa D Mayer**

Thank you to all of the Members who have renewed their RWCDs memberships for 2015. Renewals were due on January 1st and are considered late after February 1st, so there is still time to complete and return your application (included in this Newsletter) along with your dues if you have not already done so. You can also complete a membership application on the RWCDs.org website and submit your dues using PayPal. Please continue to support organized dentistry in Wake County and consider inviting a colleague to join!

We also are requesting a voluntary contribution to the RWCDs Foundation . The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization and all donations are tax deductible.

Among other dental health related endeavors, the Foundation is supportive of Wake Tech's Dental Hygiene & Dental Assisting programs, the Poe Center for Health Education, the UNC School of Dentistry, Wake Smiles, and Wake County's Children's Dental Health Month. The recommended contribution is \$75. **For IRS compliance a check separate from the dues check is necessary, payable to the RWCDs FOUNDATION.**

I look forward to seeing you at our 2015 meetings. Happy New Year!

AGD Washington Briefings  
Jan. 8, 2015

### **114th Congress Convenes, GOP Outlines Agenda**

The 114th Congress officially convened on Jan. 6, with Republicans taking control of both the House and Senate for the first time in eight years. Republican leaders have announced their plans to confront the President on a number of top issues including the Keystone XL pipeline, immigration, health care and national security. GOP leaders say they want to start with compromise bills that they hope will be successful in bridging the ideological gap between the most conservative members of the Republican Party and a small group of centrist Democrats who might vote with them.

The new Senate majority leader, Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) will have to find a way to make legislation passed by the House attractive to enough Democrats to assemble the 60 votes needed for passage in the Senate. Much attention also will be focused on the actions of the incoming Senate committee chairs, who will now have the power to steer legislation and help shape the national debate. Senate Finance Committee Chairman, Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), has already stated that he plans to use his position to chip away at the President's signature health legislation, specifically through repeal of the medical device tax. Incoming leader of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) has called the Affordable Care Act (ACA) a "historic mistake," and has expressed his support for a full repeal. He also says modernizing the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is a necessity. Sen. Alexander also vowed to update the Higher Education Act and push for the National Labor Relations Board to take on more of an "umpire role."

**Impact on General Dentistry:** The AGD looks forward to working with new and existing members of Congress to educate them on issues of importance to the profession and to oral health.

### **New Congress to Make Medical Device Tax Repeal a Priority**

The push to repeal the medical device tax has gotten off to a strong start in the new Republican-controlled Congress, with many predicting it to be one of the first issues taken up this year. Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-MN) wasted little time and introduced a bill on the first day of session to repeal the 2.3 percent excise tax. The bill, H.R. 160, the Protect Medical

Innovation Act, not only repeals the tax, but it retroactively eliminates it as well which would mean a refund for companies that have already paid it. The latest bill was introduced with 254 original cosponsors, assuring easy passage.

Despite bipartisan support for repeal in both the House and Senate, challenges remain. The tax was originally placed in the ACA to subsidize the cost of providing health insurance for the uninsured. To the White House and some Democrats, the loss of this revenue stream would signify a major blow to the ACA. Specifically, repeal would result in a budget gap of at least \$29 billion through 2022. At this time, no lawmaker or industry group has proposed a replacement for the lost revenue. The White House has threatened to veto repeal legislation in the past, but has recently hinted that it may be willing to agree to a repeal measure if it contained a reasonable offset.

To further complicate matters, some Republicans are opposed to supporting any changes to the ACA, arguing that such piecemeal efforts will only serve to make full repeal of the ACA more difficult. Ironically, a number of Democrats, including Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), have also been weary to modify the ACA, citing fears that any changes would ultimately lead to an unraveling of the law.

Impact on General Dentistry: The AGD opposes the excise tax on medical devices in its current form and will continue to push for its full repeal.

### **CMS Presents Ninth Webinar in Learning Lab Series**

The Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is hosting a series of webinars to support states and their collaborative partners in their efforts to improve access to dental services for children enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP. The ninth webinar in the series, “Advancing Program Integrity for Medicaid Dental Programs: Federal, State and Stakeholder Efforts,” will be held on Jan. 28, 2015. The learning objectives for the webinar include:

- Gain knowledge about the process and reports on Office of Inspector General (OIG) evaluations on Medicaid dental billing.
- Gain knowledge about the process and implications for audits of state Medicaid programs.
- Gain knowledge about how a state can help educate providers to avoid audits and non-compliance.
- Gain knowledge about how stakeholders may work with state Medicaid programs to improve program integrity.

Impact on General Dentistry: The AGD will continue to update members on upcoming webinars and the CMS’ efforts to implement the goals of its Oral Health Initiative.

### **Member Article**

“..I couldn’t have done that without you!...” How many times have we as dentists shared that thought with our Dental Assistants? I hope your answer is “often”.

We all enjoy being acknowledged for hard work and dedication and it’s that recognition that fosters a sense of pride and accomplishment for our TEAM members. Dental Assistants enhance the quality of dental health care and are critical members of our office families. The role of Dental Assistants has evolved over the years, with assistants now involved in many aspects of an often busy and successful dental practice. Detailed information and DARW kits can be found at [www.dentalassistant.org](http://www.dentalassistant.org).

I am asking that you join me in recognizing your Dental Assistants this year. March 1- 7, 2015, has been designated by the American Dental Assistants Association, along with the American Dental Association, as the perfect time to acknowledge and celebrate the versatile, multitalented member of your dental TEAM — your Dental Assistant!

America’s oldest and largest dental assisting association, the ADAA serves an estimated 300,000 dental assistants in the United States. Recognition items can also be found at [www.jimcolemanstore.com/da](http://www.jimcolemanstore.com/da).

Robert D. Elliott, D.M.D., M.S.  
Diplomate, American Board of Pediatric Dentistry  
Advisor, North Carolina Dental Assistants Association

## JUMPING A SNAKE

Whenever my Dad escapes grave danger, he says, “Well, I certainly jumped a snake on that one!” A few months ago, some North Carolina dentists “jumped a snake” in connection with a lawsuit alleging violations of the federal Anti-Kickback Act and the False Claims Act.

Current and former employees of a major dental supply company filed the suit. They claimed that their employer gave dentists illegal kickbacks for buying its supplies, including dental implants. These “incentives” included cash, all-expense paid trips to international symposiums, and free dental equipment. It also paid them to speak at numerous workshops in exchange for buying the supplies.

The dentists who accepted these illegal incentives used the supplies in treating patients. They then billed dental insurance carriers as well as Medicare and Medicaid for that treatment. A dentist who files a false or fraudulent claim for payment violates the False Claims Act. A claim is fraudulent if the dentist violates the Anti-Kickback laws in connection with treating the patient. The Court viewed these incentives as kickbacks.

The dental supply company told the Court that it had not filed any claims with the government or insurance companies. It argued that the dentists were the ones who accepted the kickbacks and filed the fraudulent claims. Accordingly, it reasoned, the dentists were the proper defendants.

The Court rejected this argument. It held that the dental supply company would be liable if it induced the dentists to accept the illegal kickbacks. It ordered the case against the company to go forward to trial.

The Court noted that the complaint failed to identify the dentists who accepted these kickbacks. It did list the states where these dentists practiced. North Carolina is one of the states listed. Fortunately the Plaintiffs did not file claims against the dentists. The dentists have jumped a snake – for now. Still, it is important to take note of the case and the types of “incentives” that the courts view as illegal kickbacks. Very few folks can jump the same snake twice.

*Patrice Walker, Attorney At Law*  
*wlkrlaw@gmail.com*

### Editor’s Note

Happy New Year! Welcome back! The New Year is filled with a very diverse array of clinical topics and speakers. I would like to encourage each one of you to attend these meetings and absorb of all of the information that will help you in your day-to-day practices.

As always, keep us informed of topics and concerns that you have about local organized dentistry. If you have a letter or paper that you would like printed in the newsletter or posted on the website please contact me, or Doug Macleod. As always your input and participation into the process is needed and invaluable. If you have any comments, suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

*Dr. Chauncy Nelson*  
*nelortho@nc.rr.com*

## RWCDS Photos



*Dr. Ibrahim with Drs. Neshat and Jelic.*



*Dr. Hana Hobbs with Drs. Sopko and Hamrick*

## Classifieds

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### DENTISTS

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**Dr. Ted Mayer**- available to check hygiene can be contacted at 919 819-9400.

**Dr. Harold J. Kear**- available to substitute on a daily or weekly basis for vacations/days off to handle in- office emergencies and/or monitor dental hygiene; experienced, fully insured; and licensed. Resume and references available upon request. Phone 919-468-8293; email- hrldear@gmail.com.

**Dr. Thom Buttler** - available to check hygiene; please contact at 919-801-1167 and/or tkbuttler@gmail.com

**Dr. Bill Wynne** - If anyone is interested in selling their practice in the near future please contact me: 919-851-3716 office-919-469-0761 home.

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### MISCELLANEOUS

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If you are interested in performing pro bono work for the Pretty in Pink Foundation for breast cancer please contact **Dr. Todd Engstrom** at 919-870-4443 or engstromorthodontics@gmail.com.

#### Dental Office Space for Lease:

Greystone Village: 901 A Paverstone Drive Raleigh, NC 27615.

Space available for a specialist in the summer of 2015 or a General Dentist in January 2016. Ground Floor, direct entry, 5-6 ops, central nitrous, signage, lots of windows and light, with an abundance of parking.

This location has supported two very successful practices since 1987. It is located at the intersection of Leadmine Rd. and Old Leadmine Rd., across from the Greystone Village Shopping Center. Contact Dr. Ron Salem at 919-413-6969 or ronsalemdds@nc.rr.com

#### Commercial Real Estate Services

PR Commercial Properties, Inc.

Lloyd Rothschild, DDS/ Principle Broker

Buyer/Tenant Representation, Investment Real Estate, Consultation

Representing Dentists for their Commercial Real Estate Needs

919-787-0059, 919-264-5002 cell, lrrothschild@cs.com.

## New Members

Dr. Haris Iqbal Raleigh info@northcarolinaendodontics.com

Dr. Cameron Cavola Raleigh dr.cavola@capitalofs.com

Dr. Eric Cole Chapel Hill ericer@email.unc.edu

Dr. Jake Reynolds Wake Forest drjakereynolds@gmail.com

Dr. Simon Melcher Raleigh raleighdds@hotmail.com

Dr. Neal Patel Rocky Mount nealhp.dds@gmail.com

Dr. Chad Kimbrough Wake Forest drchadkimbrough@gmail.com

Dr. Xueying Wang Rocky Mount wxueying@gmail.com

Dr. Christopher Vo Dunn chrisvodds@gmail.com

Dr. Emmett Ackerman Youngsville dr.ackerman66@gmail.com

**RALEIGH-WAKE COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND DUES STATEMENT**

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL MEMBERS (INCLUDING LIFE MEMBERS) MUST COMPLETE THIS FORM ANNUALLY.**

**PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY** Membership Year \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (Middle)

Business address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Bus Ph \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Home Ph \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Ph \_\_\_\_\_

Work e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Home e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Practice Website address \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status: (Please circle) S M Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Education Background \_\_\_\_\_

(Dental School Attended/ Degree) (Advanced or Specialty Training/School)  
Type of Practice: General / Ortho / Pedo / Endo / Perio / Oral Surg / Pros / Public Health /  
Path / Radiol / Orofac Pain

Volunteer Opportunities (Please indicate interests)

\_\_\_\_\_ RWCDS Board Position \_\_\_\_\_ Wake Smiles \_\_\_\_\_ NCDS MOM (Missions of  
Mercy Clinic)

Membership Classifications (Please Check One)

\_\_\_ **A. Active Member** - A person who is licensed to practice dentistry in North Carolina and resides in Wake County or whose professional practice site is in Wake County may be elected to Active Membership..... **\$225.00**

\_\_\_ **B. Associate Member** - A person who holds a professional dental degree and is currently practicing may be elected to Associate Membership.....  
...**\$225.00**

C. Life Member - A dentist who meets Life Member requirements as written in the current RWCDs By-Laws may, upon application to the Treasurer, be elected to Life Membership. Life Members who petitioned and were approved prior to Jan. 2015 are not required to pay a fee, however contributions and assessment payments are encouraged.

D. Disabled Active – A member in good standing who has incurred or developed a physical condition that renders the person incapable of performing clinical dentistry for an extended period of time or permanently. Application must be made in writing to the Executive Board. There is **no fee** for this classification.

**A voluntary contribution to the RWCDs Foundation is requested. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization and all donations are tax deductible. Among other dental health related endeavors the foundation is supportive of Wake Tech’s DH & DA programs, Poe Center for Health Education, Wake Smiles and Give Kids A Smile. Recommended contribution is \$75. For IRS compliance a check separate from the dues check is necessary. Make your donation check payable to the RWCDs FOUNDATION..... \$75.00**

**Dues are due on or before January 1, and are considered late if not paid by February 1, MAKE YOUR DUES CHECK PAYABLE TO THE RALEIGH-WAKE COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY AND MAIL TO:**

*RALEIGH-WAKE COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY c/o Lisa Mayer*

**12217 Beestone Lane  
RALEIGH, NC 27614**

**For additional information: Please contact the Administrative Assistant, Lisa D.**

**Mayer**

**[AdminAssistant@rwcds.org](mailto:AdminAssistant@rwcds.org) or 919-263-1162**

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**Raleigh-Wake County  
Dental Society**  
