

Raleigh - Wake County Dental Society

NEWSLETTER

www.RWCDS.org

Volume 22 | Number 1 | January 2021

2021 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Meenal Patel, DMD, **President**
 Matthew Holman, DMD, **President-Elect**
 Nahal Miller, DMD, **Secretary**
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 Cameron Cavola, DMD, MD, **Webmaster**
 Marineé Lees, DDS, MS, **Editor**
 Chauncy Nelson, DDS, MS, **Member at Large**
 Chris Vo, DDS, **Member at Large**
 Jim Martin, DMD, MS, **Past President**
 Kimberly Lee, **Administrative Assistant**

2021 MEETING SCHEDULE

Jan 19th **Virtual** General Members Meeting
 Dr. Ross Nash
"Conservative Smile Enhancement with Porcelain Veneers"

Feb 16th **Virtual** General Members Meeting
 Dr. Len Tau
"OMG, I Got a Bad Review, What To Do?"

Mar 16th **Virtual** General Members Meeting
 Dr. Jonathan Reside
Title to be announced

Unless otherwise noted: General Members Meetings will be held 6:00 pm virtually on Zoom. We hope to resume our in-person meetings as soon as it is safe at the North Ridge Country Club, located at 6612 Falls of Neuse Rd., Raleigh, the 3rd Tuesday of each month. There are no meetings in June, July, August and December. Our meetings are subject to change and if we can move our meetings to in-person sooner rather than later, we will notify

President's Message

Greetings! I hope you all had a wonderful and safe holiday season and are looking forward to a wonderful NEW YEAR!! My name is Meenal Patel and I look forward to serving you as the RWCDs' president in 2021. I admire our immediate past president, Dr. Jim Martin, with his ability to lead us through this especially challenging year. I would like to thank the executive board for allowing us to pivot during these trying times - without their dedication, our society would not function. Our organization is an amazing one and its foundation is dentists like you - our membership.

This past year we have all been tested in ways that we would have never imagined. One of the pillars of RWCDs is camaraderie - through this we are able to strengthen interpersonal bonds of Wake County dentists through regular meetings and fellowship. COVID-19 forced our board to make a difficult decision to cancel all in-person meetings at the North Ridge Country Club and host online CE Courses through the majority of last year. This organization spoke in volumes of its membership as many of you joined and enjoyed our courses during this time.



I am very proud to serve with an executive board with such collaborative and talented people. We were so fortunate to provide virtual CE courses and bring well renowned speakers from other locations as well as invite our neighboring dentists from Durham Orange Dental Society to join us as well.



President's Message (continued)

We missed out on opportunities to see and meet each other in person - cancelled our May social event - and had to finally cancel our Annual Holiday event as well. We hope to host these events this coming year!

Our group so graciously accepted the challenge of this change and quickly pivoted. I am thankful to be in a leadership position of such a wonderful organization - one that values continuing education, further study, service to the community, as well as the importance of bonding with one another especially during times like this.

As a member - you have expressed interest in more social events . We will keep this in mind for this upcoming year as we plan our calendar of events - all regulations permitting. We care about the safety and health of our membership and community. We hope to continue back to in-person monthly meetings and events as soon as we can provide.

Our schedule for early Spring 2021 is tentatively virtual; however, if allowed we may offer in-person meetings with NRCC. Our board will keep on top of the latest news and update our membership as soon as we have any changes.

I am proud to mention our collaborative efforts with community events through the year with our charitable arm - Wake Smiles - our dentists also continued giving and serving patients during COVID-19, even using virtual consultations.

It takes an organization like ours and dentists like you to feel a sense of community, safety, and togetherness in times that are so uncertain. This group is a platform which gives us the ability to reach out to a colleague in a time of need. I commend each and every one of you for your continued membership. Our society is continuously a growing one - please encourage your friends and fellow colleagues to join us.

On behalf of the executive board we thank you for your participation in support of the RWCDs and for the support you bring to our group. Please do not hesitate to connect with me or email president@RWCDs.org if you have any questions or ideas. I look forward to seeing you and meeting each one of you at a future in-person meeting.

I hope each and all of you all have been happy and healthy though this year and wish you the best for the year to come.

With future blessings and regards,



Meenal H. Patel, DMD

President, Raleigh-Wake County Dental Society

president@rwcds.com

A few words from our:

Administrative Assistant

Hi! My name is Kimberly Lee and I'm excited to be joining the RWCDS as the new administrative assistant. I'm originally from Georgia and have been living in the Raleigh area for almost three years now. My husband and I have a 4-year-old daughter and 18-month-old son and we enjoy being outdoors, woodworking, and hanging out with friends together.

I look forward to meeting each of you that are a part of membership and I'm looking forward to working with the board to promote the vision of the RWCDS. Membership renewals are growing steadily and if you have not yet had a chance to renew, I encourage you to submit an application soon. We would love for you to invite others to join the membership if you have contacts who you know may be interested.

I'd also like to thank Dawn Harris for serving in the administrative assistant role for the past three years. She has been a blessing in training me and guiding me in this transition. I've enjoyed working alongside her and learning from her over the past several months and I feel confident in my new position because of the knowledge and skills that she has passed on in our time together.

One interesting thing about Kimberly is that she lived in France for a short season and one of her favorite hobbies is traveling.

Drop a note and say hi to Kimberly at: adminassistant@rwcdds.org



WELCOME to our NEWEST RWCDS MEMBERS

Dr. Nathalie Rivero — Raleigh, NC — Dr.Rivero@ncimplant.com.

Dr. Alexandra Petraszko — Raleigh, NC — drpetraszko@ncimplant.com

Dr. Bridget Swope — Apex, NC — bswope15@gmail.com

Editor's Note



In welcoming a new year, I would also like to welcome you all to the latest edition of the RWCDS Newsletter. It's been an honor to step into the role of editor for the Raleigh-Wake County Dental Society. I am aware I have big shoes to fill with Chauncy Nelson moving from the editor position into the Member At Large role, and am grateful for his guidance during this transition.

Dentists, I would encourage each of you **contribute to this newsletter**. There are a number of ways to do so: 1) By submitting an interesting article for a new section entitled, "Reading Nook", where we will highlight an article our members feel is important to the profession, 2) Submitting photographs of yourself or other RWCDS members, 3) Bringing opinions and important dental issues to the table for valuable discussion.

Your voice is important to our profession and this newsletter serves to highlight our membership. If you have content you would like printed in the newsletter or posted on the website, please contact me or our webmaster Dr. Cameron Cavola. We look forward to hearing from you!

Dr. Marinee Lees
marineelees@gmail.com

COVID-19 Vaccine Update:

The ADA and The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have confirmed that dentists, dental teams and dental students are included in its initial recommendation for health care personnel to be among those receiving the COVID-19 vaccines in Phase I. To find a vaccine provider click here: covid19.ncdhhs.gov/findyourspot

CLASSIFIEDS

DENTISTS

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 - hrlldkear@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.

***If you would like to submit a classified or miscellaneous ad, please email editor@rwcds.org*

MISCELLANEOUS

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.

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, lrothschild@cs.com.

An update from the charitable arm of RWCDS:



From: Ms. Sommer Wisher, RDH, BS
Executive Director, Wake Smiles

Despite the pandemic, Wake Smiles had over **900 patient visits** and performed **\$323,000 worth of care** in 2020!



- We have our **20th Year Celebration** coming up in September and would love to raise **\$100K!** We are scheduled to host an in-person event on **September 25th, 2021** at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences. We'd love to have you join us.
- We will be launching a **Wake Smiles Pledge Promise with Private Practices** in our area. This gives your office the luxury of giving back while doing what you already do in a work week-with no extra effort! *More details to come.*

• We have been SO FORTUNATE to still be able to see patients in 2020, and safely! **We appreciate the support, PPE, hours, teledentistry care, donations, and supplies to help us stay true to our Mission!**

CONTRIBUTE TO WAKE SMILES

BASED ON YOUR PRACTICE'S PRODUCTION

	NEW PATIENT - \$1.00
	Donate \$1.00 for every new patient seen
	CROWN - \$1.00
	Donate \$1.00 for every crown you seat.
	EXTRACTION - \$1.00
	Donate \$1.00 for every tooth you take out.



Pearls with Dr. Gary Oyster

A LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

COVID-19 continues to wreak havoc on our nation and our profession, as well as our bodies, our psyches, our health care system and our economy. Because of the strength of our profession, we convinced political leaders to declare dentistry to be essential. This enabled dentists to choose to continue to see patients and give needed care. Legislation was also passed that helped us procure PPE and have liability protection from frivolous lawsuits pertaining to COVID-19.

We must be resilient and we look forward to continue introducing and monitoring legislation that may be helpful or harmful to the doctor/patient relationship.

On the positive side, we are going to introduce a bill for policies on teledentistry to protect the patient and guidelines for usage by dentists. A second bill to allow properly trained and supervised hygienists to administer local anesthetics will be introduced.

We will be considering some third party payer packages such as: dental loss ratio, joint endorsement on benefit checks, uniformity of insurance definitions, and several others. Success in getting any of these passed will require support from all dentists by contacting their legislators when any of these are written and introduced.

We are working hard to prepare and position the NCDS and the dental community should a transition to commercial managed care Medicaid occur. This could be a positive or negative transition depending upon how such a transition unfolds.

To support dentists during this abnormal year the NCDS has been busy. The career center, a Medicaid conference, NC Dental Connect, patient marketing, job networking, a leadership academy, and increased engagement with the dental schools are just a few of the accomplishments.

The North Carolina election resulted in few changes. The leadership of the House and Senate as well as the Governor will remain the same. We have worked hard to establish a working relationship with these leaders and hope to have input in any legislation that will involve oral health.

On the national level, Elder care, insurance modifications, Teledentistry, amending the McCarran-Ferguson Act, point of care testing by dentists, and COVID-19 vaccination by dentists are just a few of the policies passed by the ADA HOD.

Please be aware that by June 2021 you must be signed up for the NC Health Information Exchange in order to be paid for patients using the state insurance plan, Medicaid, or CHIP program.

In closing, I hope that members of the Raleigh Wake County Dental Society who are not members of the ADA will join. Monthly payment plans are available. Individually we cannot have the influence with insurance companies and government regulators that a strong organization can have.

LEGAL ISSUES

with

Patrice Walker, Attorney and Counselor at Law

Our state may soon ask dentists to help administer COVID-19 immunizations. Will a dentist who administers the vaccine be held liable for vaccine-related injuries?

In 2005, the US faced the threat of a worldwide pandemic of “Bird Flu.” To encourage the swift manufacture of a vaccine, Congress enacted the “PREP” Act. That law protects drug companies and others from liability in connection with the manufacture and use of “covered countermeasures.” Countermeasures include vaccines and other “prevention modalities” such as FDA-approved medical equipment and masks.

While the bird flu sputtered out, SARS and the swine flu were serious threats. Unfortunately, vaccines that were rushed to market during those outbreaks caused deaths, miscarriages, still births, narcolepsy, Guillain-Barre syndrome, and many other serious side effects. Numerous European countries banned one vaccine provider whose vaccine contained contaminants visible to the human eye. During those years, the PREP Act got quite a workout in the U.S. But PREP does not protect everyone.

In 2009, a patient suffered acute myelitis after receiving the first dose of the Novartis vaccine for H1N1. Two months later, his doctor gave him a second shot assuring him that there was no cause for worry. Sadly, after the second dose, the patient suffered a more severe case of myelitis. The federal court held that the PREP Act protected Novartis, but not the physician. A prudent doctor would not have given the second shot in view of the reaction to the first one. The PREP Act does not protect against malpractice.

In a case filed in 2020, the Plaintiff’s son sued a nursing home after his mother died from COVID-19. He claimed that the home failed to follow proper infection control protocols when it allowed an employee with symptoms of COVID-19 (a cough and a fever) to work among its residents. It did not provide the employee with personal protective equipment. It then allowed residents to continue to congregate even after the employee tested positive for the virus. Seventeen residents and two staff members became infected.

The home argued that the PREP Act precluded the suit. The Court disagreed noting that the PREP Act protects those who USE countermeasures, not those who FAIL TO USE countermeasures. Twelve other cases have been filed by patients and their families arising from this incident.

Shortly after COVID-19 immunizations began in Britain a few weeks ago, two health workers suffered severe allergic reactions to Pfizer’s vaccine. If similar problems arise in the U.S., the following suggestions will help dentists avoid liability.

First, be sure you know the contraindications for giving those shots.

Second, carefully document informed consent from your patients.

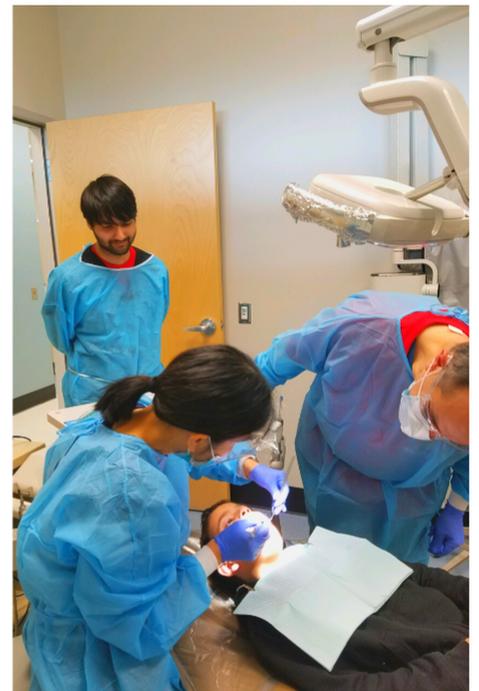
Third, record your compliance with vaccine administration **AND STORAGE** protocols.

Following these recommendations will go a long way to protecting you from vaccination-related liability.

Thanks for reading.

Patrice Walker

wlkrlaw@gmail.com



Children's Dental Health Awareness Day

*Saturday, February 6th, 2021
from 9 am - 1 pm
@ Poe Center in Raleigh*

**CALLING ALL
RWCDS
VOLUNTEERS**

Please volunteer
your time and
talent with us
this February!

To sign up, call
or message Dr.
Kavita Ghai at:
919-741-3581
or 919-674-6070

Give Kids a Smile Day 2021

COME AND JOIN US!



*Saturday, February
20th, 2021
from 9 am - 2 pm
@ Wake Smiles clinic
in Raleigh*

**To sign up, call or message:
Dr. Kavita Ghai at
919-741-3581 or 919-674-6070 today!**

— UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN —

