



Raleigh - Wake County Dental Society

NEWSLETTER

www.RWCDS.org

Volume 24 | Number 1 | January 2023

2022 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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2023 Winter/Spring

Jan 17th	General Members Meeting Legislative Night
Feb 21st	General Members Meeting Dr. Greg Chadwick "An ECU School of Dental Medicine update"
Mar 21st	General Members Meeting Dr. George Blakey "Medical emergency management: hypertension, diabetes, chest pain"
Apr 18th	General Members Meeting Dr. Si On Lim "Special care dentistry: What we do and case presentations"
May/June	Social Event with NCDS Details TBA

Unless otherwise noted: 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.

President's Message

Happy holidays and Happy New Year.

My name is Chauncy Nelson, and I am honored to serve as your president for 2023. This year is setting up to be an exciting and interesting year. We begin the year with a meeting with our state legislators. We have not met with them for over four years. If you haven't attended this meeting, I encourage you to do so. It is very important that we put views and concerns of the dental community directly to the people who make the rules and regulations. We have six lectures on tap for this year with two social events. Our speakers and topics this year will be diverse and interesting. The October meeting will be the opioid course required by the state dental board.



This year I would encourage each one of you to get involved in organized dentistry. We have several events and volunteer clinics for you to get involved in. Wake Smiles clinic is the charitable arm of the RWCD society and provides important and needed care to our community. It is very important that we support Wake Smiles and volunteer there. The dental hygiene and assisting programs at Wake Tech are also very important to the productivity and success of Wake County dentist. The training of ancillary staff is more important now than ever. There are several ways to participate with Wake Tech in helping to train our future staffs. You can instruct at the school and/or allow the students to rotate in your office. This is an excellent way to insure we have well trained staff.

We are looking forward to a great year and we are hoping to see you.

With regards,

Chauncy Nelson, DDS, MS
 President, RWCDs



A FEW WORDS FROM OUR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

I want to say thank you to each member who has already renewed with the Raleigh Wake County Dental Society for 2023. We had several wonderful lectures in 2022 and we are looking forward to an even better 2023.

We hope you'll join us at the North Ridge Country Club for these lectures and for our Spring Social in May. Membership renewal time is here and if you have not yet had a chance to renew, I encourage you to submit an application by mail or online at the RWCDs.org website. Dues are considered late after February 1st and there will be a \$40 late fee applied after this date. Please respond soon and invite others to join the membership!

- Kimberly Lee
adminassistant@rwcds.org



WELCOME to our NEWEST RWCDs MEMBERS

Dr. Don Lane

Dr. Eric Jimenez

Dr. Sahil Manhas

Dr. William Konicki

Dr. Miranda Kalaskey

Fuquay Varina

Raleigh

Raleigh

Raleigh

Raleigh

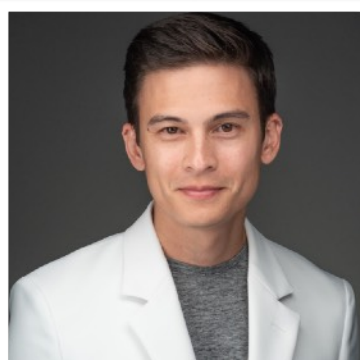
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drkalaskey@carolinapedo.com



EDITOR'S NOTE || I hope that everyone's had a great holiday. I would like to encourage each one of you to submit articles, opinions and photographs to the RWCDs related to dental and dental service issues that are important to our profession. It is your voice that is important to our profession, and we all need to hear it. If you have a letter, photographs or a paper that you would like printed in the newsletter or posted on the website please contact me or our webmaster Dr. Cameron Cavola. 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. Chris Vo
chrisvodds@gmail.com

GENERAL UPDATES



Wake Smiles

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



Making Smiles Bright

The last few years have been a global whirlwind of uncertainty. All of us have navigated so much unknown territory and have grown and adapted as a collective through this hard time.

I am so thankful Wake Smiles has continued to exist through it all.

Thank you for standing with us through a time when more people in Wake County needed support. Thank you for ensuring that we were able to provide over \$1 Million dollars worth of care in 2022. Thank you for giving your time and resources so that we could magnify it through our impact.

We are grateful.

So many members of the Raleigh-Wake County Dental Society contribute to Wake Smiles by volunteering or giving financial support. Your membership has helped to sustain our impact for over 20 years! 2023 will be an opportunity to celebrate and we invite you to plan now to attend our Fall Gala!

You can help contribute toward our cause by scanning the QR code below.

With Gratitude,

Sommer Wisher, RDH, BS
Executive Director, Wake Smiles



GENERAL UPDATES

PEARLS FROM DR. GARY OYSTER:

Reflections on Dentistry in the year 2022

As COVID and various viruses continue to hang on and mutate, work force issues are still a problem for many offices. Some hygienists and assistants are not ever going to return to the profession, so the challenge for the ADA and NCDS is how to get more people in the pipeline. Several new dental schools are going to be opening, so are there going to be enough staff members to enable practices to be efficient? The ADA and NCDS are looking at various ways to address this situation.

The ADA Smilecon meeting in Houston generated a lot of energy by having interactive podcasts, street vendors, a great band, and many more transactional events. Dental students from different schools competed in games of skill and fun. Over 500 first time dentists attended the meeting. I asked several of them if they might attend next year and got a resounding 'yes'. Hopefully we will build on this meeting to have even greater attendance at next year's meeting in Orlando.



The Strategic Forecasting Committee has been chosen, and a time line has been established by our Executive Director for the Caucus chairs with help from the Trustees of the regions to establish how subcommittee and work group members are chosen. This will require a lot of work but once in place should help the ADA and NCDS be more effective and interactive with members.

The Mobile App has about 7000 members signed up at this time and is being designed to be personally directed to the member. In other words whatever products or services the member uses it will direct information to that person based on their previous usage. Microsoft 365 is now set up for the ADA staff and is going to be shortly set up for Board members. Eventually it will be available for all members and will replace Aptify and ADA connect.

The recent success of passing Medical Loss Ratio for dental plans in Massachusetts by 71% has the ADA encouraging all states to introduce legislation asking for at least 83% being paid toward treatment. This was a great effort by many individuals, dental societies, and consumer groups. As of now over 30 states plan to introduce legislation. This is a consumer issue and is a positive public relations win for Dentistry. The ADA State government affairs is putting out a tool kit to help states with their legislation. At the ADA Lobbyist conference in March of 2023 legislative initiatives will be discussed and we will have a report on how states are doing with their MLR legislation.

Thanks to Catie Cunningham for hosting dinners in her home for new members and nonmembers. The one I attended had about 20 new members and the enthusiasm and interaction was very positive. E-mail addresses were exchanged and opportunities to join study clubs or other gatherings were well received. We need to make all new members feel welcome.

PEARLS FROM DR. GARY OYSTER:
Reflections on Dentistry in the year 2022 (cont'd)

As I have stated before membership in the tripartite system remains our number one priority. Working with ASDA and the Dental Schools in developing values to encourage young dentists to join the ADA is critical. We have more members but are losing the market share. It is now 59% and has been going down for a decade. We must make all dentists feel welcome regardless of their work model. The ADA is working with DSOs to find common ground to have their members join since every year a greater number of dentists work with DSOs.

The North Carolina state meeting will be in Myrtle Beach. The recreational areas have been rebuilt and the family areas look great. Please come and bring a nonmember friend - May 18-20, 2023. The CE and the social events will be top notch.

The recent state election went as our lobbyists and NCPAC predicted. Our NCDPAC batted 100% in supporting candidates that have supported dentistry on both sides of the aisle. This will be critical for our legislative efforts.

The Dental Board voted and the revised rules are more acceptable to most dentists who do sedation. They now go to the RRC and to the General Assembly where we hope amendments will not happen.

We hope to keep Dental Medicaid in the fee for service model, and, if expanded, that reimbursements be adequate for participation. Many states have increased Medicaid reimbursements so we can point this out to legislators. Several dental insurance companies have a low reimbursement rates so it remains to be seen how many practices can afford to participate. The HIE situation is still fluid and we hope to keep dentistry excluded as recommended by the N.C. Health Information Exchange Advisory Board. There are two Dental Practice Act Revisions: Add guidelines to existing legislation that allows foreign trained dentists with instructor licenses to immediately be eligible for licensure by credentials. Second enable the NCSBD to allow either human subjects or an approved alternative method including manikins during dental clinical exams. We plan to introduce our own Dental Loss Ratio bill similar to the one passed in Massachusetts by a vote of 71%.

As always I recommend that each of you get to know your legislator and participate in the legislative process. The January RWCDs meeting is a legislative night and many of our local legislators have signed up to come. I challenge you to find out who your legislator is and sit with them during the dinner.

I am enjoying being the 16th District Trustee to the ADA, but I especially enjoy the state and local events that I attend. Text, e-mail, or call me if you have concerns

-Gary

oystergd@aol.com

GENERAL UPDATES



The NC Dental Society is geared up for another great year.

We recently appointed a Diversity, Equity, Belonging and Inclusion Task Force. This group has just completed its first charge of developing a policy statement for the NCDS. Next, the task force will focus on ways to bring that policy to life.

Are you new to North Carolina? [Reach out to us](#). We're hosting small group events across the state to help dentists who are new to the area make connections.



In 2022, The NC Dental Society Foundation hosted two free dental clinics; one in Gastonia and one in High Point. More than 900 volunteers cared for 1,200 patients and provided \$720,000 in donated care. [Our next clinic will be April 21-22 in Sparta.](#)

Planning to participate in Give Kids a Smile? Please [register your events](#) and efforts. It's important for us to know all the good work dentists across the state are doing. It's critical information when we are negotiating with members of the state legislature. Also, we've put together a tailored lesson plan, activities, posters and additional resources to keep your children's smiles happy and healthy. [Download the toolkit now.](#)

If you're a member of the North Carolina Dental Society, please remember your membership expired at the end of the year. If you have not yet renewed, you can do so online at www.ncdental.org/renew. If you've been thinking of joining, there's no better time. For a limited time, we're offering 50% off the cost of 2023 dues. [Find out more here.](#)

Mark your calendars:

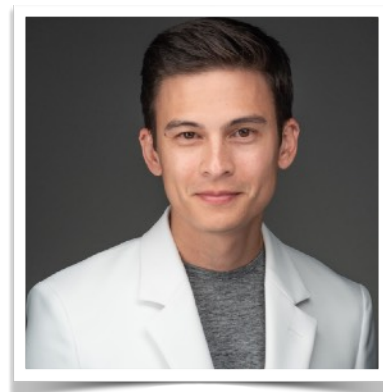
NCDS Fourth District CE and Par-Tee at Drive Shack Raleigh, Friday, February 3, 2023.
NCDS Annual Session, May 18 – 20, Myrtle Beach. [Registration](#) opens in January

Shelly Dates
Director of Marketing and Membership
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GENERAL UPDATES

—how artificial intelligence will transform dentistry

The advancement of technology has been a remarkable force throughout the years and has revolutionized healthcare and the dental profession in particular. In recent years, artificial intelligence (AI) has come to the forefront with its ability to further exceed our expectations. AI promises to revolutionize the dental profession from record-keeping and scheduling to diagnostics and patient care, disrupting the profession as we know it.



The dental profession has been greatly impacted by the implementation of AI, specifically in its ability to greatly reduce the time needed for diagnosis and accuracy of results. AI applications have been used in the dentistry for a variety of purposes, such as for automated diagnoses, caries identification, and enhanced oral cancer detection (Lahiri 46). AI-based tooth decay detectors have been proven to be more accurate than traditional methods of diagnosis (Dayon et al.). Furthermore, AI technology has allowed for increased speed and efficiency in dental practice, as its automated diagnostics are often faster and more accurate than human analysis. AI-based tools also have the ability to report images and statistics to patients in real-time, allowing for more comprehensive treatment plans (Takeda et al.). These advancements in technology have made dentistry a much more accurate and streamlined process providing both improved accuracy and efficiency in patient care.

Would it surprise you that, within about 30 seconds, AI wrote those first two paragraphs, with citations, when it was simply fed the topic of ‘how AI will change dentistry’? If you haven’t yet explored [ChatGPT](#) or [Caktus AI](#), free and general use AI that harnesses cutting edge natural language processing (NLP), I recommend checking them out. NLP is a domain of AI, that, as the name suggests, focuses on natural language interaction with humans; think chatbots, or in this article’s case, AI writing an essay. Most of the developments in NLP AI are text based, however there are some companies and researchers that are currently connecting text based NLP to speech based AI. In perhaps five years, I can imagine speech based AI taking over a number of the tasks of dental admin personnel.

Separate from NLP AI are AI technologies that focus on image processing. These are already having a big impact on dentistry. Current AI dental technologies such as [Pearl](#) interpret radiographs and provide diagnostic indications such as caries, bone loss, and periapical issues. I’ve had the opportunity to demo a handful of these dental “AI image analyzers”, and while they are not perfect in their diagnoses – I think they’re a little aggressive – I can imagine a day very soon where they are much more accurate. Additionally, these AI technologies are getting much better at charting. Imagine a day where a dental assistant takes a panoramic radiograph, some bitewings and intraoral photos, and, based on those images, your AI charts all existing and missing and gives you both a perio and caries diagnosis. And then, based on charting and radiographs, it generates 3-4 treatment plans suggesting fillings, crowns, RCT, implants, SRP, etc....and all before the dentist even enters the room.

Lahiri, S., et al. “Dental Artificial Intelligence: Current Status & Future Perspectives.” *Journal of Computer Science & Systems Biology*, vol. 7, no. 1, Jan. 2014, pp. 45–50.

Dayon, Pierre, et al. “AI-Detecting Tooth Decay with Accuracy.” *Nature*, vol. 521, Nature Publishing, May 2015, pp. 20–22.

Takeda, Y., et al. “Artificial Intelligence in Dentistry: An Update.” *Artificial Intelligence in Dentistry*, World Scientific, 2018, pp. 135–149.

GENERAL UPDATES

Give Kids a Smile

Kavita Ghai, DDS FAGD

WHEN: February 4th, 9AM-1PM

WHERE: Poe Center in Raleigh (224 Sunnybrook Rd)

Join us for Children's Dental Health Awareness Day on February 4th Saturday from 9 to 1 at the Poe Center in Raleigh. This is a family fun event so feel free to bring your family; Dr. Orander will be there dazzling the crowd with his magic show! Volunteers will help with dental screenings. We will provide lunch & free t-shirt to ALL the Volunteers.



WHEN: February 18th, 9AM-2PM

WHERE: Wake Smiles Clinic (1863 Capital Blvd)

Similar to the February 4th event, we will be providing dental screenings to children.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me, Kavita Ghai, at 919-741-3581 or crescentdental22@aol.com



ADA American Dental Association®

CLASSIFIEDS

Details online - <https://www.rwcds.org/classifieds/>

Hygiene Checks | Dr. Thom Buttler, DDS, PA - Experienced senior dentist available for supervising dental hygienists in a private practice setting, licensed, insured and updated CPR. Please contact at tkbutler@gmail.com and/or 919-801-1167.

****If you would like to submit a classifieds or miscellaneous ad, please post at www.rwcds.org/classifieds/**

RWCDS PHOTOS

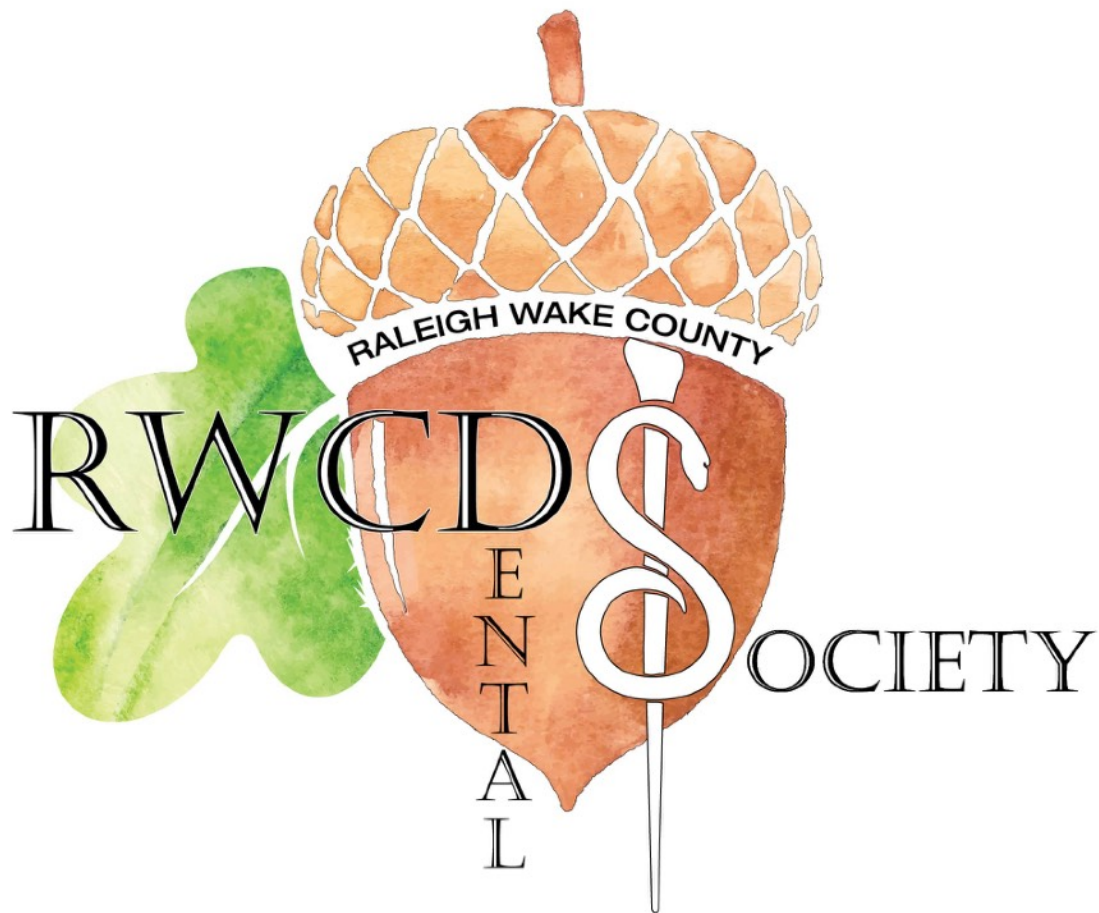




MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If you haven't yet renewed your Raleigh Wake County Dental Society membership, please considering doing so soon! Dues are considered late after February 1st and there will be a \$40 late fee applied after this date.

In order to renew, please go [HERE](#). Be sure to sign in to your account before renewing. If you have any problems, please contact Dr. Cameron Cavola, our webmaster, at webmaster@rwcds.org



- With special thanks to our 2022 holiday party sponsors -

