

Raleigh - Wake County Dental Society NEWSLETTER

www.RWCDS.org

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2024 EXECUTIVE BOARD

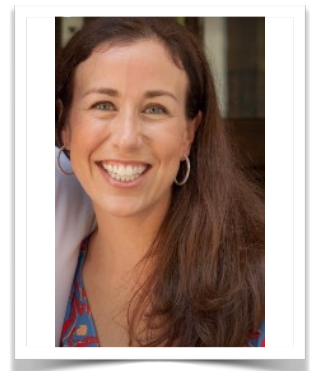
- Catie Cunningham, DDS, **President**
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- Kimberly Lee, **Administrative Assistant**

2024 Winter/Spring

- Jan 16th General Members Meeting
Dr. Yusif Umar
"Dental Anesthesia/Sedation"
- Feb 20th General Members Meeting
Dr. John Christensen
"Auto Transplantation"
- Mar 19th General Members Meeting
Bill Claytor
"Mental Health & Dentistry"
State Required Mental Health CE
- Apr 16th General Members Meeting
Dr. Aurelio Alonso
"TMD Treatment Modalities"
- 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



Hello, I'm Catie Cunningham, and I'm honored to be your 2024 President for the Raleigh Wake County Dental Society (RWCDS). I'm grateful to Chauncy Nelson and the team for their excellent work in 2023. Following the footsteps of our past presidents, I aim to uphold the high standards they've set. We're lucky to have such a robust local society.

I'm always open to suggestions that will further RWCDS and its mission - promoting oral health in the Wake County community, offering continuing education, and representing our profession's interests in the region.

In our dental practices, we promote oral health in numerous ways, large and small, and extending this commitment beyond our clinics, I encourage you to support Wake Smiles, our society's outreach program, by donating your time or resources. Your involvement is valuable, and I'm eager to hear from those interested in helping. Sommer Wisner's work with Wake Smiles is truly remarkable and benefits our community immensely.

Our continuing education events are a great opportunity for camaraderie, professional development, and good fun with other dental dorks! As the former program chair, I wanted to ensure that our events include courses to satisfy State requirements for Mental Health and Opioid education for dentists. Therefore, each fall we will have an Opioid CE and each spring, a Mental Health CE. Your input is crucial to make these sessions as effective as possible.



Representing the dental profession's interests in Wake County is another key goal. As Gary Oyster often reminds us, "if you aren't at the table, you're on the menu." It's vital that we stay engaged with our representatives, and I encourage any member interested in running for a position to do so.

Please share your ideas with me, and I will bring them to the Board's attention.

I look forward to our Tuesday meetings, welcoming new members and graduates, and collectively working towards our society's objectives.

With regards,

Catie Cunningham DDS

President, RWCDs

president@rwcds.com

WELCOME to our NEWEST RWCDs MEMBERS

Dr. Alexis Mady

Dr. Emily Gibson

Dr. Cristen Ayers

Dr. Alex Crisp

Dr. Jessica Keren Boc

Dr. Olutoyosi Coker

Raleigh, NC

Raleigh, NC

Pittsboro, NC

Raleigh, NC

Raleigh, NC

Raleigh, NC

alexis@drmady.com

emilystallings@gmail.com

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A FEW WORDS FROM OUR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year! Several of you have already renewed with the Raleigh Wake County Dental Society for 2024 and I'm am looking forward to getting more renewals in the new year. We had several wonderful lectures, a panel discussion, and great social events in 2023. Our board is working hard to ensure that 2024 is just as great! We hope you'll join us at the North Ridge Country Club for our upcoming lectures and for our Spring Social (details coming soon).



Our 2024 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. I will be sending regular emails with information on renewing in the coming weeks. As a reminder, 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



EDITOR'S NOTE || As we usher in another year, I hope you've all enjoyed a festive holiday season. It's time once again to invite your valued contributions to the Raleigh Wake County Dental Society's newsletter. Your articles, opinions, and photographs on dental and service issues enrich our collective knowledge and camaraderie. Whether it's an insightful letter, a captivating photo, or an informative paper, we welcome your submissions for publication in our newsletter or on our website. For any comments or suggestions, or if you wish to discuss potential topics, do not hesitate to contact me or our webmaster Dr. Cameron Cavola.

Dr. Harold Frazier III
harold.frazier@gmail.com

GENERAL UPDATES



Making Smiles Bright

Wake Smiles, legally known as "Raleigh-Wake County Dental Society Community Dental Health Program, Inc." was started in 2001 by a group of dentists—still involved in your Raleigh-Wake County Dental Society today! Over the years, the intent has been the same: help people! We have a mission to improve lives of under-resourced adults through better oral health and we are so thankful to partner with our community to make this happen.



We see over 900 individuals each year that would otherwise go without dental care due to lack of basic resources. We are able to provide comprehensive dentistry to our patients including preventive, restorative, and education. In recent years we have partnered with Wake Tech Community College and have dental assisting and dental hygiene students rotating through, serving our patients while learning. We also partner UNC Adam's School of Dentistry providing a space for their dental hygiene and endodontic resident students to rotate and provide care while learning. We are so thankful for the many hands that make this happen—offering invaluable additional services to our patients!

In addition, many local dentists and many members of RWCDs provide care at their offices for our patients, including:

Capital Oral & Facial Surgery, Cary Prosthodontics, Dr. H.H. Hancock, High House Oral Surgery, Dr. Hana Hobbs, Local Start Dental, Dr. Julia Mulnick, Dr. Thiago Morelli, NC Prosthodontic Specialists, Nu Image Surgical & Dental Implant Center, Dr. Gary Oyster, Raleigh Periodontics, Dr. Jake Reynolds, Dr. Christian Sheaffer, Dr. Robert Sopko, Wainright & Wassel, Dr. Tara Wiggins

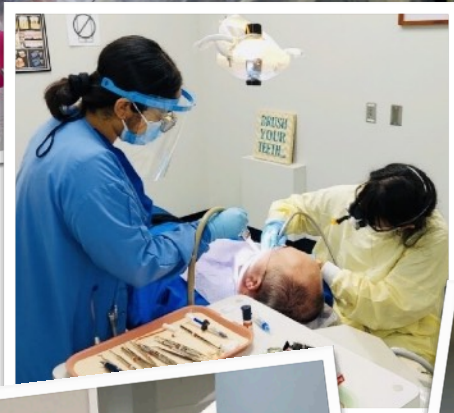
Wake County continues to grow and there are many in need of our services—we hope that you will want to partner with us financially in 2024 by becoming a Monthly Sustainer. Your contribution helps our community stay healthy and makes a life-long impact on those we serve! To give, simply go here: <https://www.wakesmiles.org/donatenow/>



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

With Gratitude,

Sommer Wisher, RDH, BS
Executive Director, Wake Smiles



GENERAL UPDATES

While 2024 will certainly bring new challenges to dentistry, there's one thing that remains unchanged year over year - the commitment of the North Carolina Dental Society and American Dental Association to fight on behalf of its members.

We start the new year with Senate Bill 382, Dental Practice Act Changes, stuck in conference committee. We are focused on getting this bill passed during the General Assembly's short session, which begins in May.

Provisions of the bill include:

A. **Health Information Exchange (HIE)** – makes dentist connection to HIE voluntary instead of mandatory, saving dentists tens of thousands of dollars.

B. **Faculty Licensure** – puts extra guidelines in place for foreign-trained dentists. Currently, a dentist trained outside of the U.S. is allowed to practice once they achieve an instructor's license. Under the proposed change, a foreign-trained dentist could practice only if they have been approved under credentialing standards of an accredited dental school and have been affiliated with that school for at least three years.

C. **Manikin Exam Option** – allows individuals seeking licensure as dentists to prove their clinical skills on manikins or human subjects.

D. **Student Education in Long-Term Care Facilities and Public Health Settings** – both in-state and out-of-state students would be allowed, as part of their education, to work in long-term care facilities, group care home programs, state-operated facilities with resident populations, hospitals, state or county health departments, Area Health Education Centers, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and other non-profit healthcare organizations recommended by the NCDHHS. Students would need approval from their dean and work under the supervision of a North Carolina dentist.

E. **Mental Health and Substance Abuse Examinations** – Would allow any medical, mental health, or substance abuse exam investigations mandated by the NC State Board of Dental Examiners to remain private and confidential. The Board of Dental Examiners already has the authority to mandate such exams, but this provision would keep it out of the court systems.

F. **Display Renewal Certificate** – dentists who practice in multiple offices would be required to display their dental license certificate in their main office and their current renewal certificates (which can be duplicated for free) in all other offices.

Other priorities in 2024 include supporting the Management Arrangement Review as it currently stands and getting Medicaid reimbursement rates increased.



Dr. Gary Oyster, Chair,
*NCDS Council on Government
Relations and
16th District ADA Trustee*



NORTH CAROLINA
DENTAL SOCIETY®

ON THE NATIONAL FRONT

American Dental Association Executive Director Dr. Ray Cohlma came up with the idea of a Strategic Forecasting Committee (SFC), made up of some Board members and twice as many House members. The goal is for the SFC to work with the ADA Board of Trustees as well as councils and committees to be more responsive to issues that arise throughout the year, as they flex and adapt our rolling five-year strategic forecast.

Recently, the joining of the ADA with the Forsyth Institute to form the ADA Forsyth Institute, is an excellent example of how the ADA quickly responded to an emerging opportunity, all done in much more rapid fashion than the ADA has traditionally approached business. This new venture will make the ADA one of the premier research institutes.

Interactions with the New Dentist Committee, the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) Board, and dental school deans were initiated and seem to be working toward the goal of a unified profession. By working with these three groups and strengthening the relationship with the tripartite members, we hope to reverse the downward market share of the ADA. We've also worked this year to re-emphasize the value of our tripartite infrastructure. The many ways the ADA helps dentists and our profession thrive are made possible in partnership with our state and local societies.

Replacing Aptify with Salesforce/Fonteva will provide a streamlined, single source of membership data, offering personalized value to all our members. Having a single system will enable all levels of our tripartite to follow members as their careers evolve. This new platform may help the RWCDs keep track of members moving into the Raleigh area and encourage them to join.

As most of you know, the pain points of workforce shortages and dental benefits programs, including Medicaid and Medicare, are constantly being addressed by all levels of the tripartite. Funding and administrative issues must be resolved. Dental Compacts and the relationship between the ADA and dental service organizations (DSOs) are also being assessed.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Registration for the NC Dental Society's Annual Session in Myrtle Beach May 16 – 18, 2024 will open in early February. If you plan on going, you might want to [book your accommodations now](#) as the discounted room block is filling up fast.

While you're at it, save the dates of October 17 – 19 for SmileCon. We'll gather in New Orleans work together to propel dentistry into the future. Stay tuned for more details.

Also, remember that as a member of the Raleigh Wake County Dental Society you are not automatically a member of the NC Dental Society and the American Dental Association. If you are a member, thank you. Make sure [you've renewed for 2024](#). Better yet, when you renew, select auto-renew so you can set it and forget it.

If you're not a member, consider becoming one. Through the perspectives, foresight, and collaboration of our tripartite, we're positioning our association – and all dental professionals – to thrive in this new day that's dawning for our profession.

Submitted by Dr. Gary Oyster, Chair, NCDS Council on Government Relations and 16th District ADA Trustee; and Shelly Dates, Chief Strategy Officer at the NC Dental Society.



Shelly Dates

*Director of Marketing and
Membership*

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GENERAL UPDATES

The transition of restorative dentistry from analog to digital is beneficial, but continues to have drawback and growing pains.

The field of restorative dentistry is continuing to undergo a significant transformation, shifting from traditional analog methods to digital technologies. As many have experienced by now, this transition, characterized by the adoption of digital scanning and 3D printing, offers numerous benefits but also presents its own set of challenges and growing pains.



The evolution of 3D printing in dentistry has been remarkable, especially in the last two years. Contemporary 3D printers in dental settings now achieve layer resolutions between 25µm to 100µm, a stark improvement from the 150µm to 250µm resolution typical of many traditional stone models. This advancement allows for the creation of dental restorations and models with unprecedented accuracy and detail, leading to better fitting and more esthetically pleasing dental prosthetics, given excellent implementation of proven digital workflows. Similarly, intraoral scanning has seen significant progress. Current scanners can capture dental structures with an accuracy of 5-10 microns, far exceeding the 20-30 microns accuracy of traditional analog impressions. This leap in precision ensures that digital impressions are incredibly detailed, providing an excellent foundation for accurate restorations.

The transition to digital technologies in restorative dentistry brings several advantages:

- 1) **Enhanced Accuracy and Fit:** The high resolution of digital scans and 3D printed models ensures restorations may fit more accurately, reducing the need for adjustments and remakes.
- 2) **Efficiency:** Digital workflows streamline the restoration process, from initial scanning to final production, saving time for both the dentist and the patient, not to mention the “advanced” impression a digital workflow communicates to the patient.
- 3) **Customization:** The digital workflow allows for greater customization of dental restorations with lower cost, as modifications can be viewed digitally without needing to manufacture each step.

Despite these advantages, the transition to digital is not without its challenges:

- 1) **Accuracy Concerns:** While digital scans are generally more precise, capturing every detail in complex or hard-to-reach areas can be especially challenging. Furthermore, soft tissue interference continues to be a pain point for many users, and a digital approach to removable prosthetics makes a traditional functional impression a near impossibility without hybrid analog-digital workflows.
- 2) **Software and Hardware Compatibility:** Integrating digital scans into existing systems can present compatibility issues, affecting the workflow efficiency. Likewise, newly developed software features that are GPU/CPU intensive render even today’s new, expensive machines a poor fit for the inevitable upcoming advancements, requiring repeated capital intensive investments.
- 3) **Material Limitations:** The materials used in 3D printing, although improving, still have limitations compared to those used in traditional methods, particularly in terms of durability and aesthetic qualities, as well as FDA approval for intraoral use as a permanent prosthesis.
- 4) **Learning Curve:** The shift to digital requires a significant investment in training and adapting to new technologies, even for younger generations. This can include many labs that often struggle to find technicians familiar with older and newer digital workflows, protocols, and parts.

The transition from analog to digital in restorative dentistry, symbolized by the shift from traditional impressions and stone models to digital scanning and 3D printing, represents a significant advancement in the field. However, it is not without its challenges, including issues with accuracy in certain scenarios, compatibility between different digital systems, material limitations, and the need for ongoing education and adaptation. As the field continues to evolve, these growing pains are an essential part of the journey towards fully realizing the potential of digital technologies in restorative dentistry.

GENERAL UPDATES

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season.

I'm excited to update you about our 2024 events. We've secured a grant for our events from Delta Dental, which is fantastic news! Please mark your calendars for the events below. As always, we welcome your participation:



**Kavita Ghai, DDS
FAGD**

Children's Dental Health Awareness

WHEN: February 3rd, 8:30AM-2:30PM

WHERE: Poe Center (224 Sunnybrook Rd, Raleigh, NC 27610)

On February 3rd, Saturday, we're hosting Children's Dental Health Awareness Day at the Poe Center from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM. For this event this year, we're thrilled to have the Baptist Dental bus rented for treatments for children. In addition to our dental screening at the Colgate bus, we'll also conduct our usual hands-on dental activities at the Poe Center. I've managed to enlist a volunteer dentist for this event. However, we still need volunteer Dental Assistants (DAII) and Registered Dental Hygienists (RDH). If you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering, please have them contact me.

Give Kids A Smile

WHEN: February 17th, 9:00AM-2:00PM

WHERE: Wake Smiles Clinic (1863 Capital Blvd, Raleigh, NC 27604)

Our second event, Give Kids A Smile (GKAS), is on February 17th, Saturday, at the Wake Smiles Clinic in Raleigh from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Thanks to our volunteer dentists, we'll provide free treatments for children. Please inform families in need about this opportunity.

Having organized these events for over ten years with RWCDs, I've seen their success thanks to all the volunteer doctors and volunteers. This includes the collaboration with Wake Tech Dental Assistant School, Wake Tech Hygiene School, Poe Center staff, Wake Smiles staff, and the Colgate bus. A heartfelt thank you to everyone for your help in making these events a success.

Kavita Ghai, DDS FAGD



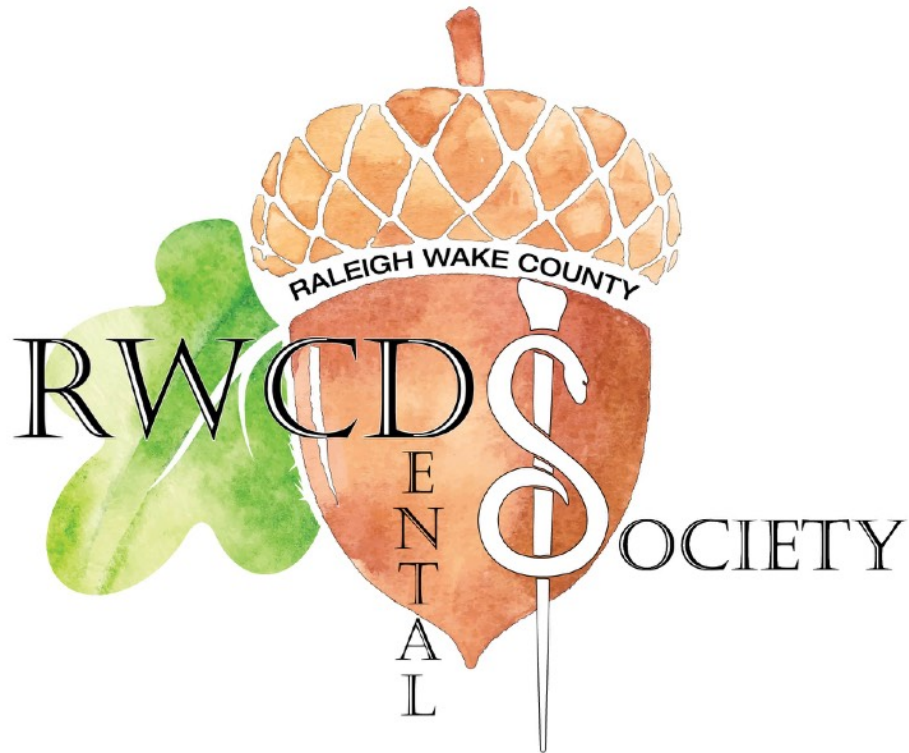
ADA American Dental Association®

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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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.forg

Rotaru, C., Bica, E. A., Butnărașu, C., & Săndulescu, M. (2023). Three-Dimensional Scanning Accuracy of Intraoral Scanners for Dental Implant Scan Bodies-An Original Study. *Medicina (Kaunas, Lithuania)*, 59(11), 2037. <https://doi.org/10.3390/medicina59112037>



- Many thanks to our yearly sponsor for 2024 -



- And special thanks to our 2023 holiday party sponsors -

