

Raleigh - Wake County Dental Society

NEWSLETTER

www.RWCDS.org

Volume 25 | Number 2 | October 2024

2024 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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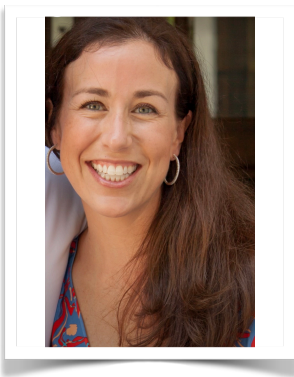
2024 Winter/Spring

Oct 15th	General Members Meeting Dr. Bill Clayton NC Opioid CE Requirement
Nov 19th	General Members Meeting Dr. Leigh Miller and Dr. Boris Bernadsky "PT and Acupuncture as Adjunctive Therapy for TMD Patients"
Jan 21st	General Members Meeting Dr. Bill Clayton NC Mental Health CE Requirement <i>State Required Mental Health CE</i>
Feb 18th	General Members Meeting Dr. Jessica Lee Dental Trauma
Mar 18th	General Members Meeting TBD

Unless otherwise noted: General Members Meetings are held 6:15 p.m. at North Carolina State University Club, 4200 Hillsborough St, Raleigh, NC 27606, 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 6:30 p.m. The short business meeting commences at 7:00 p.m. followed by a CE lecture.

President's Message

As your 2024 President, I'm excited to welcome you to a new year with the Raleigh Wake County Dental Society. I'm grateful to our past leadership team for their hard work and dedication in 2023 and 2024, setting the stage for another successful year.

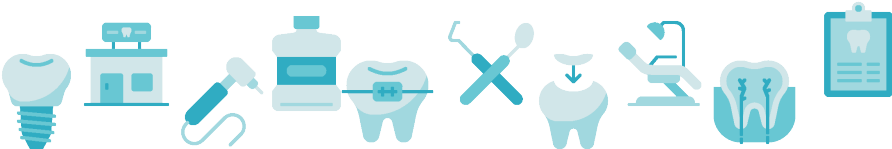


This year, we're continuing to focus on providing high-quality continuing education opportunities, including our annual Opioid CE this fall and Mental Health CE in the spring. These courses not only help fulfill state requirements but also offer valuable insights into important topics that impact our profession.

Additionally, I want to highlight the amazing work being done through Wake Smiles. I encourage everyone to consider getting involved, whether through donating your time or resources. Our society's impact on the local community is something we should all take pride in, and your support makes a difference.

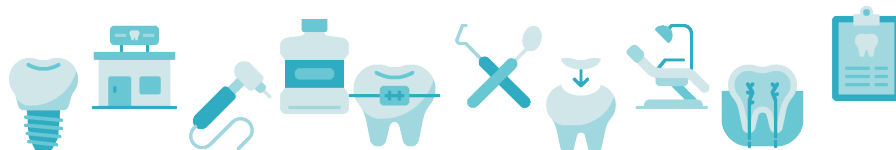
Lastly, we're aiming to grow our membership this year. If you know any colleagues who haven't joined RWCDS yet, please invite them to a meeting or event. Strong membership is vital to keeping our society thriving.

Thank you for your continued involvement and support. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings!



WELCOME to our NEWEST RWCDs MEMBERS

Dr. Anthony Immediata	Raleigh, NC	drimmediata@ncimplant.com
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Dr. Jordan Reading	Raleigh, NC	drreading@carolinapedo.com
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Dr. Jeff Casbier	Morrisville, NC	jeffcasebierdmd@gmail.com
Dr. Ryan Cook	Raleigh, NC	ryancookddsms@gmail.com
Dr. Chad Dammling	Raleigh, NC	dammling@gmail.com



A FEW WORDS FROM OUR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Hello RWCDs Members!

We hope you enjoyed your summer and were able to join us for our September meeting! We're thrilled that for the remainder of 2024 we will be meeting at our new location, NC State University Club (Centennial Biomedical Campus: 4200 Hillsborough St, Raleigh, NC 27606).

Here are the excellent events that you can look forward to for this Fall:

October 15th:	Dr. Bill Claytor (Opioids)
November 19th:	Dr. Leigh Miller & Dr. Boris Bernadsky (TMD)
December 19th:	Holiday Party at Cafe Luna



We hope you'll join us for these amazing lectures and our Holiday party!

The 2025 renewal process begins October 1st so be sure to register soon before dues increase.

Any questions? Reach out to Kimberly at: adminassistant@rwcds.org



EDITOR'S NOTE || As we move into the fall season, I hope you've had a productive and fulfilling year so far. We've had a fantastic year with great speakers, a change in our meeting location, and a number of new members joining our society. We're also proud to feature updates from each of the dental schools in the state, adding valuable insights to our community.

Your articles, opinions, and photographs on dental and service issues continue to enrich our collective knowledge and camaraderie. Whether it's an informative paper, a thoughtful letter, or a memorable photo, we welcome your submissions for publication in our newsletter or on our website. For any comments, suggestions, or to discuss potential topics, feel free to reach out to me or our webmaster, Dr. Cameron Cavola.

Dr. Harold Frazier III

GENERAL UPDATES



Wake Smiles

For over 23 years, Wake Smiles has proudly served as the philanthropic arm of the Raleigh Wake County Dental Society, making a profound impact on the lives of those in our community. Each year, we touch the lives of over 900 individuals, improving their oral health through dedicated services funded by generous donations and grants. We are incredibly fortunate to have the support of our community, enabling us to continue our mission of enhancing dental care accessibility for all.

In the last seven years, Wake Smiles has evolved significantly, expanding our clinic to provide comprehensive dental care tailored to the needs of our patients. Our offerings now include endodontics (root canals), crowns, and dentures, ensuring that we address a wide range of dental issues. This growth has been facilitated by a dedicated team, expanding from just one executive director and a part-time dental assistant to six full-time staff members and a part-time dentist.



This evolution reflects our commitment to not only provide immediate dental solutions but also to foster long-term oral health. We understand that oral health is a vital aspect of overall well-being, and our goal is to empower our patients with the care and education they need to maintain healthy smiles.

We are thrilled to announce that in 2025, Wake Smiles will be expanding our footprint within The Salvation Army Judy D. Zelnak Center of Hope! This significant development includes the addition of two new operatories and dedicated administrative space, allowing us to serve over 300 more individuals annually.

Thanks to the generous support from the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation and a committed individual donor, we have successfully raised \$300,000 for this expansion. However, our journey doesn't stop here. We still need to raise additional funds to ensure we can fully operate and sustain our expanded services, and you can play a crucial role in making this vision a reality.

In addition to increasing our capacity, we are excited to introduce a much-needed urgent care clinic. This initiative aims to divert individuals experiencing non-traumatic dental pain from seeking care in emergency rooms, which can often lead to unnecessary delays and costs. By providing timely dental care, we hope to alleviate pressure on emergency services and ensure that our community members receive the appropriate treatment when they need it most.

Your support is vital in helping us achieve our goals. By contributing to our fundraising efforts, you can play an essential role in expanding our services and improving the oral health of our community. Whether through donations, sponsorships, or spreading the word about our mission, every effort counts. Thank you for being part of what we do!



Donation Link: <https://www.wakesmiles.org/donatenow/>

GENERAL UPDATES



Wake Smiles

Back to the 80's Prom

November 2nd, 2024

Time to Shine in 80s Prom Style! - <https://www.wakesmiles.org/gala-2024/>

Get ready to step back into the vibrant 80s and party like it's 1984! Wake Smiles is hosting an 80s Prom at Young Hearts (225 S Wilmington St, Raleigh, NC), and it's your chance to show off those bold outfits and big hair. Whether you're perfecting your moonwalk or rocking a neon gown, confidence is key!



For the Ladies: Big hair, sequins, and statement accessories will take your look to the next level.

For the Gents: Think bold suits, skinny ties, and a classic 80s hairdo.

Join us for an unforgettable night of fun, fashion, and dancing to support a great cause! And please [click here](#) to sign up for our [Lip Synching Battle!](#)

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!

With Gratitude,

Sommer Wisher, RDH, BS
Executive Director, Wake Smiles

UNC Adams School of Dentistry Update

UNC Adams School of Dentistry (ASOD) launched a new school year in August, readying students, faculty and staff for a year filled with transformation and evolution. We are looking to the future, exploring new ideas and initiatives for students, faculty and staff to stay at the forefront of oral health education and practice across North Carolina and beyond.

As part of our Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) reaccreditation site visit in November 2025, our leadership, students, faculty and staff recently took part in a mock site visit, where we welcomed visitors from other dental institutions as they evaluated our dental education program. This was an important milestone, as our peers helped us identify areas of improvement ahead of our official site visit in 2025.

We are also working hard on a new strategic plan for our school that outlines our vision and culture. We've prioritized involving our entire community -- faculty, staff and students -- in the planning process. We have identified six strategic areas of focus, and we have held several sessions to share the work done so far and to gather feedback on the ideas proposed for the plan. We are encouraged by the thoughtful responses to this work, and we are excited to implement this plan in 2025.

Improving the school's academic structure has been a top priority for ASOD since Dean Janet Guthmiller, DDS, PhD, arrived in 2022. A series of focus groups gathered feedback from constituents and drafted various structures. Our faculty approved a new departmental structure which was implemented in July, consisting of the following seven departments: biomedical sciences; craniofacial and surgical care; diagnostic sciences; orthodontics; pediatric dentistry and dental public health; periodontology; endodontics and dental hygiene; and restorative sciences. Key leadership searches for several departments are currently underway.

ASOD has also been able to celebrate some good news for our staff. Our leadership team made it a priority to increase compensation for staff members. In a review by our University Human Resources team, we learned that 75% of our SHRA staff were not being compensated at market rate. During the course of May through August, we were able to adjust staff salaries to the new, more competitive rates! Recruitment and retention of faculty has also been a priority. We have been successful in filling key faculty and leadership roles throughout our school.

It's our people that we value the most at the ASOD, and we want to make sure that our staff members are able to grow professionally and have access to resources to support this growth. Partnering with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's University Ombuds Office, ASOD offered trainings on communication, workplace conflict and active shooter events to help staff members achieve career goals and address challenges that may arise in the work place.

Our school is truly a community effort, with our faculty, staff, students and alumni working together to help us succeed. We could not be the school we are without each of these important groups. Our people truly help us grow and evolve, and when we invest in our people, we are stronger together for North Carolina and beyond.



**Dr. Janet Guthmiller, DDS,
PHD**

*Dean, UNC Adams School of
Dentistry, Chapel Hill, NC*



**THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL**

ECU School of Dental Medicine Update

ECU dental school's county-based oral health care programs thrive

For the past two years, the East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine has operated the Hyde County Outreach Clinic from the back of the Swan Quarter post office building. Students, residents, faculty and staff travel once a month from Greenville to care for patients in a county that currently has no practicing dentists.

The school also has programs in place in Bertie and Jones counties to address oral health care in schoolchildren, creating a virtual triangle of care that encapsulates rural populations in critical need of dental care and services.

“Our county-based programs are a testament to the dedication of our faculty, staff, students and residents to reach patients in rural areas where care is needed most,” said Dr. Greg Chadwick, dean of the ECU School of Dental Medicine. “The enthusiasm of our community partners and our patient bases also speaks volumes, validating that what we are doing is not only working, but also serves as a vital part of our school’s mission.”



**Dr. Maggie Wilson DDS,
MBA**

*Vice Dean, ECU School of Dental
Medicine, Greenville, NC*

Bringing smiles to Swan Quarter

Just over two years ago, a ribbon was cut and a promise was kept.

Today, the Hyde County Outreach Clinic is bustling with patients and providers. Neighbors chat with neighbors while they await their appointments — “How’s the farming?” “How’s the family?” — and seasoned dentists introduce students and residents to the challenges and rewards of rural dentistry.

In 2019, the Anonymous Trust — a philanthropic group that aims to support rural and underserved communities — provided the School of Dental Medicine a grant award of \$144,000 for portable dental equipment and personnel to launch the Hyde County Outreach Clinic. In December 2022, the Hearst Foundations — national philanthropic resources for organizations working in the fields of culture, education, health and social services — approved funding in the amount of \$100,000 for the school to provide dental care to underserved, uninsured and low-income rural patients.

“It’s incredibly fulfilling to know that the students who are selected to attend this school continue to demonstrate and grow their passion to serve rural communities,” said Dr. Rob Tempel, associate dean for extramural clinical practices.

The Hyde County office provides care for anywhere from 15 to 25 patients per monthly clinic. Since the clinic’s creation, close to 170 unique patients have undergone cleanings and procedures, keeping them close to home and bypassing the sacrifice of time and gasoline traveling to Greenville or dental offices in other counties. More than 120 dental students have traveled to Swan Quarter to provide care.

“Engaging with the local community helps students understand the importance of building trust and rapport with patients,” said fourth-year student Markus Mosley. “Participating in community-oriented service-learning projects helps students recognize the broader social determinants of health and the importance of public health initiatives.”

To Luana Gibbs, director of the Hyde County Health Department, the clinic is a partnership that also represents combining state and local resources for the good of the residents.

“Vision, desire, support, collaboration and determination have been key,” she said. “Multiple people with a passion to help our community have come together and succeeded in this partnership.”

Smiles for schoolchildren

The dental school’s School-Based Oral Health Prevention Programs also ensure that similar homegrown smiles start out early in life.

Launched in Bertie County in 2019 through a \$400,000 grant from the Duke Endowment and in Jones County in 2023, the program places ECU hygienists in select schools to provide oral health care and preventive education to children. The program offers comprehensive dental exams, X-rays, cleanings, fluoride varnish application and dental sealants to all public elementary and middle school children.

The Jones County program is jointly funded by the BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina Foundation and the Duke Endowment; in addition to planning funding, the school received a \$400,000 implementation grant in late 2022. For the past two years, the Delta Dental Foundation has provided a grant to offset the cost of care for uninsured children. The Bertie program is now self-sustaining through insurance, while Jones county’s is still grant-funded. Costs are also significantly reduced by the use of teledentistry, through which hygienists in the schools can connect with dentists on campus to discuss and diagnose cases.

“Seeing the students get more confident in their smiles and actually getting problems addressed is really rewarding for all of us,” said Rachel Stewart, dental hygienist and supervisor of the School-Based Oral Health Prevention Programs.

To date, more than 1,300 children have been served across Jones and Bertie counties, according to Stewart, including nearly 6,000 appointments during which more than 16,000 procedures were completed. Of the children served, 76% are on Medicaid — easing the challenges of patients connecting with Medicaid providers in rural counties — while 20% are uninsured and 4% have the cost of care covered privately. Most children enrolled in the programs are between 4 and 12 years old and range from kindergarten to 12th grade.

Educational leaders in Bertie and Jones counties are also celebrating the strengthening collaborations.

“This partnership is totally aligned with the district’s strategic plan as we try to ensure that our students have increased academic, social and emotional outcomes,” said Dr. Otis Smallwood, superintendent of Bertie County Schools.

The win-win spirit of these county-based programs is catching on among future dentists.

“Having grown up in a rural county, I’ve always felt a deep connection to these communities and knew that I wanted to give back by practicing in a similar setting, or ideally, in my hometown,” said fourth-year dental student Rebecca Sutton. “My first experience providing care in a rural area was profoundly rewarding and solidified my passion for serving the place that shaped me.”

—*Spaine Stephens, Communications Specialist, ECU SoDM*

HPU Workman School of Dentistry Update

Welcome to Our Inaugural DMD Class at High Point University and the Innovation Faculty Team

High Point University (HPU) is thrilled to introduce its first-ever DMD class of 2028 at the Workman School of Dental Medicine (WSDM), marking a historic moment for the institution. This exciting milestone coincides with the 100th anniversary of HPU, an impressive journey that began in September 1924 when it was founded as a small Methodist college. Over the past century, HPU has grown into a vibrant, dynamic university, thanks to the visionary leadership of President Nido Qubein. The university has expanded to include numerous schools offering graduate and professional programs, such as Physician Assistant Studies (PA), Physical Therapy (PT), Nursing, and Pharmacy. Dentistry and Law are the most recent additions, further solidifying HPU's commitment to fostering innovation and academic excellence.



**Dr. Sompop Bencharit,
DDS, MS, PhD**

*Associate Dean for Innovation ,
Chief Innovation Officer
Workman School of Dental
Medicine, High Point, NC*

A New Era for Dental Education at HPU

The Workman School of Dental Medicine (WSDM) is a unique addition to the HPU family, offering a modern and innovative approach to dental education. The inaugural DMD class consists of 60 talented and eager learners who represent the future of dentistry. These students will pave the way for future generations, as they embark on their journey to become compassionate, skilled, and innovative dental professionals.

The main educational facility, Workman Hall, is currently under construction and is expected to be completed by Fall 2025. This state-of-the-art facility is designed to support cutting-edge dental education, featuring the world's largest VR-Haptics system. VR-Haptics technology offers a groundbreaking approach to dental training, allowing students to experience realistic simulations of dental procedures in a virtual environment. This immersive learning experience enhances their clinical skills, dexterity, and confidence before they even begin working with real patients.

In addition to the VR-Haptics system, Workman Hall will house two digital dentistry laboratories equipped with the latest technology to ensure that our DMD students are trained using the most advanced tools and techniques in the field. These labs will provide invaluable hands-on experience, preparing students to become proficient in digital workflows that are rapidly becoming the standard in modern dental practices.

Introducing the Innovation Faculty Team

HPU WSDM has assembled an exceptional innovation faculty team to lead this exciting venture. The digital innovation team includes world-renowned experts Dr. Sompop Bencharit, Dr. Christian Brenes, and Dr. Chance Hunsaker, who bring extensive experience and expertise to the program.

- **Dr. Sompop Bencharit:** As a respected leader in digital dentistry, Dr. Bencharit has been instrumental in shaping digital education at several dental schools. With a strong background in prosthodontics, academic leadership, and digital innovation, he brings a wealth of knowledge to HPU WSDM. Dr. Bencharit's contributions to the field include developing digital centers and implementing digital technologies into both graduate and DMD programs. His work ensures that HPU students will be at the forefront of dental technology and innovation.

- **Dr. Christian Brenes:** Another driving force in digital dentistry, Dr. Brenes has a reputation for excellence in digital workflows and implant dentistry. He has collaborated with leading experts to develop comprehensive digital programs that integrate CAD/CAM technologies, 3D printing, and digital scanning. Dr. Brenes's experience and passion for teaching make him an invaluable asset to HPU WSDM as he helps guide the next generation of dental professionals.
- **Dr. Chance Hunsaker:** Joining the team as a new generation innovator, Dr. Hunsaker brings his expertise in digital technology to the program. His contributions will help ensure that HPU's curriculum remains dynamic, evidence-based, and forward-thinking, providing students with a well-rounded and comprehensive education in digital dentistry.

Together, this exceptional team has recently launched an innovative DMD digital curriculum that is revolutionizing dental education. Their vision emphasizes experiential learning, hands-on training, and the integration of advanced technology to prepare students for the rapidly evolving world of dentistry. Additionally, they have begun recruiting digital dentistry fellows who will further enhance the school's mission of fostering innovation and excellence in dental education.

The CARE Curriculum and Pledge

HPU WSDM's DMD curriculum is inspired by the university's commitment to innovation and experiential learning. It emphasizes a holistic approach to dental education, incorporating four core pillars—Clinician, Advocate, Researcher, and Entrepreneur—collectively known as the "CARE" model. This model ensures that HPU's DMD students not only develop clinical expertise but also grow as compassionate healthcare advocates, inquisitive researchers, and innovative leaders in the dental field.

On September 13, 2024, the first DMD class took their CARE pledge during the white coat ceremony, an important rite of passage that signifies their commitment to the dental profession. The white coat ceremony marked the official start of their journey, and now, these talented learners are actively working alongside our Oral Health Network team in the community. This early integration into community-based dental care provides them with invaluable real-world experience, allowing them to apply their knowledge, build relationships, and develop the skills needed to provide exceptional patient care.

Looking Forward

The future of dental education at High Point University is incredibly bright. With the support of an innovative faculty team, state-of-the-art technology, and a forward-thinking curriculum, the Workman School of Dental Medicine is poised to become a leader in dental education. Our goal is to produce graduates who are not only skilled clinicians but also compassionate advocates, creative researchers, and entrepreneurial leaders in the dental profession.

As the inaugural DMD class embarks on this journey, they are setting the stage for future generations of dental students. Their experiences, achievements, and growth will undoubtedly shape the culture and legacy of HPU WSDM for years to come. We are excited to see the positive impact they will make on their communities and the dental profession as a whole. Join Us in Celebrating

We invite you to join us in celebrating this historic moment at HPU. The launch of our inaugural DMD class and the formation of our innovation faculty team represent a significant step forward in dental education, not only for High Point University but for the entire dental community. We look forward to sharing this journey with you and witnessing the incredible accomplishments of our students, faculty, and alumni in the years to come.

GENERAL UPDATES

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer.

I'm excited to update you about our 2024 events. Please mark your calendars for the events below. As always, we welcome your participation:

Children's Dental Health Awareness

WHEN: February 1st, 9:00AM to 1:00PM

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

On February 1st, Saturday, we're hosting Children's Dental Health Awareness Day at the Poe Center from 9:00AM to 1:00PM. For this event this year, if you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering, please have them contact me.



**Kavita Ghai, DDS
FAGD**

Give Kids A Smile

WHEN: February 22nd, 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 22nd, 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.

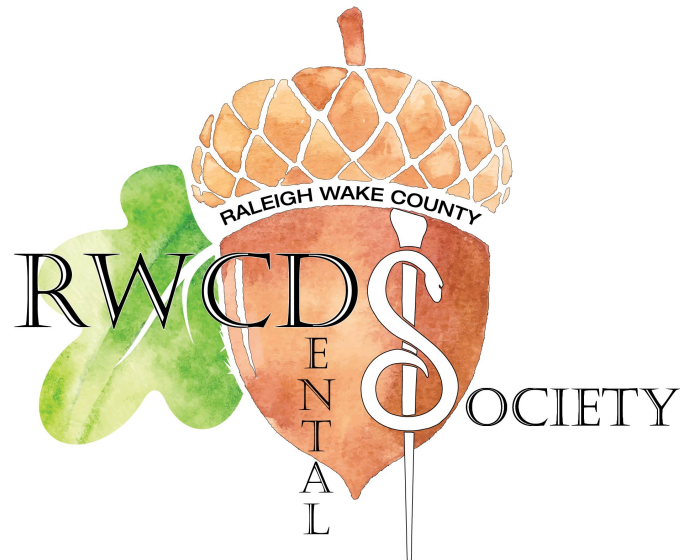
Kavita Ghai, DDS FAGD



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If you haven't yet renewed your Raleigh Wake County Dental Society membership, please considering doing so soon!

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



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