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Board on Page 18.



The Second District Dental Society of New York SDDS BULLETIN

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2025

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VOLUME 42 Number 5

Registration for the 2025 Greater New York Dental Meeting NOW OPEN!

Enjoy Courses and Events Friday,
November 28 – Wednesday,
December 3

by Dana Soltis, GNYDM Marketing Manager



The main stage at the 2024 GNYDM

The Greater New York Dental Meeting (GNYDM) is thrilled to welcome you to its 101st annual event, taking place FREE of charge at the world-renowned Jacob K. Javits Convention Center from Friday, November 28 through Wednesday, December 3, 2025.

Get ready to connect, learn and experience dentistry like

never before. Join thousands of colleagues from around the globe on the expansive exhibit floor, featuring over 500 exhibit booths showcasing the latest innovations, products and cutting-edge technology. This is your chance to meet directly with leading companies, discover groundbreaking solutions and build lasting professional relationships.

Continued on Page 2 »

Upcoming Events

**Advance registration is required for all events.*

Visit sddsny.org to register.

MONDAY
NOV
03

SDDS Headquarters, Brooklyn, 7 P.M.

SDDS Board of Trustees meeting

THURSDAY
NOV
13

Dyker Beach Golf Course, Brooklyn, 6:30 P.M.

SDDS General Membership Meeting

"All-on-X: Treatment Option for Full Mouth Rehabilitation"
by Mitchell A. Mamorsky, D.M.D.

Visit sddsny.org for registration and meeting information.

TUESDAY
NOV
18

Max's Es-Ca, Staten Island, 7 P.M.

RCDS General Membership Meeting

"Prosthodontics and Aesthetic Dentistry: Past, Present and Future"
by Louis F. DeSantis, D.D.S.

Visit sddsny.org for registration and meeting information.

FRIDAY
NOV
28
-
WEDNESDAY
DEC
03

Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, NY

101st Annual Greater New York Dental Meeting

Visit sddsny.org for registration and meeting information.

FRIDAY
DEC
12

SDDS Headquarters, Brooklyn, NY, 9:30 A.M. – 3 P.M.

Continuing Education Course #2025-17

"CPR and Medical Emergencies in the Dental Office"
by Michael Kaliroff, Certified Instructor

Visit sddsny.org for registration and meeting information.



Continued from Page 1 »

There's Never a Pre-Registration Fee!

With over 200 seminars and hands-on workshops, the GNYDM education program offers something for everyone. Dive into specialty tracks including the World Implant Expo, Global Orthodontics Conference, Pediatric Summit, Sleep Apnea Symposium, 3D Printing & Digital Dentistry Conference, Public Health Symposium, Oral Cancer Symposium, Special Care Dentistry Forum, Special Care Dentistry, Women Dentists Leadership Conference and Lab Symposium.

Don't miss your chance to pre-register for free or take advantage of the CE Passport for significant savings. Bring your entire team and save!

2025 GNYDM Highlights: Free Main Stage Programs

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- **New Dentist Tracks** for early-career professionals
- **Happy Hour on the Exhibit Floor**—network in a fun, social setting
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- **Free Giveaways** with course purchases
- **Free Broadway Matinee—MJ the Musical**

- **Discounted CE Packages** to maximize your learning while saving

Get Involved

Want to make a difference at this year's Meeting? Volunteer opportunities are still available! Contact Victoria Calas at victoria@gnydm.com for more details.

Mark your calendars today—the 2025 GNYDM is the only major dental meeting where registration is always FREE!

Visit gnydm.com or follow us on social media @GNYDM or #GNYDM for the latest updates, program announcements and insider news.



Attendees at one of the many 2024 GNYDM CE seminars



Attendees participating in hands-on workshops at the 2024 GNYDM

Editor's Message



SDDS Bulletin Editor Dr. Alyson Buchalter

Welcome to the September/October issue of the Bulletin. In this issue, we are introduced to two members who have special non-dental avocations.

Dr. Frank Sapienza is a general practitioner in Park Slope, Brooklyn. Born and raised in Brooklyn, he started his dental career assisting in his father's office. By age 20, his interest in technology in healthcare settings led him to write a dental practice management software package. He then published a computer tutorial for dentists. His passion for technology led him to the field of genetics.

The proliferation of commercial DNA testing companies, including those offering preservation of stem cells from extracted baby teeth, inspired an examination of the potential for abuse of this sensitive information and the publication of his latest book, *"The Greater Good: A Medical Conspiracy Thriller."*

Dr. Jeffrey Galler practiced general dentistry in Brooklyn for over 45 years. He was a managing editor of the SDDS Bulletin, as well as editor of the *Journal of the American Academy of Clear Aligners (Invisalign)*. He also served as the chair of NYSDA's Council on Peer Review and Quality Assurance. He is a visiting lecturer at NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital, Staten Island University Hospital and CUNY City Tech's Dental Hygiene Program. He has been honored as a master in the Academy of General Dentistry, a fellow in the American Society of Dentistry for Children, a fellow in the International Congress of Oral Implantologists, a member of the American

Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry and a fellow in the International College of Dentists. Dr. Galler lectures internationally and has authored close to 100 articles in various dental journals and dozens in **scuba diving magazines**. As you can tell, he rarely sits still professionally or personally. In this issue, we join him on a "deep dive" into his favorite hobby on page 6.

I hope you enjoy getting to know your colleagues as much as I did. I am hoping you too will consider submitting a story about you—your hobbies, avocations, or family. As your editor, with your help, I want to get to know all 1,400 of you and share it with our SDDS family.

Warmest regards,

Alyson Buchalter, D.M.D.
Editor, SDDS Bulletin
editor@sddsny.org

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

NEW MEMBERS

DR. SUSAN SUNOK SINGER

(Pediatric Dentistry; Midwestern University, Illinois)
540 East New York Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225

The Bulletin is the official publication of the Second District Dental Society. It is published bimonthly, by the Journal of the Second District Dental Society, Inc. The opinions expressed are those of the writers and are not necessarily those of the Second District Dental Society. Subscription rates: members, \$4.50 per year; others, \$5.50 per year.

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The Bulletin reserves the right to alter or reject any copy.

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The SDDS Bulletin and website welcome advertising as an important means of keeping the dentist informed about new and better products and services for the practice of dentistry. Such advertising must be factual, dignified, tasteful, and intended to provide useful product and service information. The publication of an advertisement is not to be construed as an endorsement or approval by the SDDS Bulletin and website and/or its publisher, the Second District Dental Society, of the product or service being offered in the advertisement unless the advertisement specifically includes an authorized statement that such approval or endorsement has been granted. As a matter of policy, the SDDS Bulletin and website will sell advertising space when the inclusion of advertising material does not interfere with the purpose of their publication. The SDDS Bulletin and website reserve the right to accept or reject advertising, at its sole discretion, for any product or service submitted for publication.

SDDS

BULLETIN



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SDDS Vice President Dr. Phyllis Merlino at the Richmond County Medical Society

by Phyllis G. Merlino, D.D.S.

On May 9, 2025, I was invited to be a guest of the Richmond County Medical Society (RCMS) at their annual legislative meeting, where they invite local legislators and put them on a panel to answer questions on issues important to the medical doctors of Staten Island. Representatives on behalf of Congresswoman Nicole Malliotakis, New York State (NYS) Assemblyman Sam Pirozzolo, NYS Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton, Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella, Richmond County District Attorney Michael McMahon and NYC Council Member David Carr, as well as the Staten Island representative to Governor Kathy Hochul, were present.

Questions were pre-made and the members of the panel were prepared to answer them. The topics included questions about bills in the state senate regarding e-bike helmet wearing and speed limits for safety, low reimbursement rates from insurance companies and Medicaid, pre-authorization limits, insurance companies being too "for profit" and the look-back time for malpractice claims. All are important issues for doctors in Staten Island and NYS.

Another big issue is that NYS trains the majority of medical doctors in the country, both at the medical school and hospital residency levels, yet due to high taxes, high malpractice premiums and the highest percentage of lawsuit wins against doctors, a very low percentage of those new grads actually stay in NYS. Therefore, there is a tremendous physician shortage here.

The five boroughs of New York City make up the First District of the Medical Society of the State

of NY (MSSNY). The current MSSNY president, Dr. David Jakubowicz, from the Bronx and Dr. Donald Martinelli, president of Kings County, were present. Both were vocal in speaking with

all the representatives in support of the issues. Taking care of the patients first and foremost and secondarily making sure doctors are treated fairly. The discussion was heated and lively at times,

but rightfully so. Physicians are passionate about making sure they can continue to practice medicine, care for their patients and be active parts of the community they serve.



From left to right: SDDS Vice President Dr. Phyllis Merlino with the current Kings County Medical Society President Dr. Donald Martinelli and her aunt, Dr. Lina Merlino, who is a past president of the Richmond County Medical Society



Dr. Phyllis Merlino with Dr. David M. Jakubowicz, current president of the Medical Society of the State of New York

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Out of the Intraoral Environment but Remaining in an Aqueous Environment



Dr. Jeffrey Galler

Dr. Jeffrey Galler may have retired from the clinical practice of dentistry but his love for exploring aquatic environments remains strong. He feels that scuba diving is the ideal hobby and idyllic exercise for sedentary seniors because, “The most demanding and important skill is learning how to sink properly.”

Dr. Galler recently took a group of children and grandchildren scuba diving in the beautiful, crystal-clear, aquamarine waters of the Cayman Islands.

They paused to form an underwater heart and pose for a memorable photo. He reported that, “A family that dives together, forms heart-shaped memories together.” (#1)

He spent a week exploring Australia’s Great Barrier Reef. While performing an intraoral exam on a giant sea clam, he worried about getting into trouble with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention because he failed to wear his exam gloves. (#2)

Here, he’s introducing his granddaughter, Michael, to the wonders of snorkeling, in a stunning Mexican Cenote (underwater cavern). Little did they know that a family of toothy residents had already made the Cenote their home and were lounging nearby. You can spot a friendly-looking crocodile basking in the sun right behind them. Luckily, they survived the encounter, and Dr. Galler was grateful that the crocodiles were all smiles. It’s hard to scream underwater! (#3)

After the trip, he worried that a group of grandchildren snorkeling on the surface of the cenote might have looked like a tempting buffet to the resident family of crocodiles. (#4)

Dr. Galler’s wife teases him about how excited he gets when he dives alongside a giant sea turtle. He explains that he identifies with turtles because on land they seem awkward and wrinkled, but underwater they appear sleek, smooth and graceful. “It’s like practicing dentistry – it’s all about grace under pressure.” (#5)

He explained that practicing dentistry for 50 years and learning how to manipulate skillfully in very tight spaces was invaluable preparation for exploring tight, underwater cave systems in the Bahamas. (#6)

Jeffrey rationalized that despite no longer treating patients, checking a dolphin’s dentition helps give him “porpoise” in life. (#7)

Dr. Galler is a certified Master Diver through the Professional Association of Diving Instructors, or PADI.



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 6



Photo 7

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Bruce Maltz – New York University, 1965
Dr. Bertram Don Sands – New York University, 1958
Dr. Jacob Gordon – Columbia University, 1944

Medical Advancement and Genetic Security: From Curiosity and Excitement to Concern | A Dentist's Perspective



Dr. Frank Sapienza

As a practicing general dentist of 40 years, a lifetime member of the American Dental Association, New York State Dental Association (NYSDA) and Second District Dental Society (SDDS), I have witnessed significant changes in our profession. For those of us practicing this long, we have seen dramatic changes in the daily practice of our craft. From using reversible hydrocolloid and copper bands for crown and bridge impressions ("What?" I can almost hear my young associates thinking) to digital scanning. From spending an hour instrumenting the canals of a molar (with the finger calluses to prove it), to completing this task in minutes with reciprocating NITI files. In-office milling of crowns. Digitally designed orthodontic aligners. CBCT scanning for implant case design in partnership with our surgical colleagues. Better and more esthetic bonding materials and techniques. Pretreatment cosmetic simulations. I can go on and on.

Some of my younger colleagues, including my associates, will likely say that here's another old guy talking about how easy we have it now. On the contrary. I would argue that the need

to learn and investigate new techniques and materials is even greater now. Advances in the practice of dentistry have not only improved efficiency, but have vastly improved results, both functionally, esthetically and in terms of optimizing our patients' general wellbeing. My love for our profession has never waned and I attribute this to the ever advancing technology, coupled with our never ending desire to learn and provide the best possible outcomes for our patients. This has been my overriding obsession and has kept the practice of dentistry satisfying, engaging and invigorating, even after these many years.

My interest in genetics began during my numerous genetics courses as an undergrad at New York University College of Dentistry. I became fascinated by how the seemingly random sequence of ACGT base pairs in a double helix could define not only our physical traits but also influence the more obscure characteristics of our personas. Our souls, perhaps? Okay, that's a little too metaphysical, even for me, but I think you get what I mean. The amalgamation of our genetic coding with our environmental influences and life experiences creates who we are as living, sentient beings. Fascinating stuff.

Modern genomics has revolutionized medicine, both in terms of diagnosis and development of targeted therapies. CRISPR. Personalized medicine. The applications, especially with the burgeoning field of AI, seem almost endless.

My interest in the potential security issues in this realm began with the endless parade of commercial genetic testing

companies, who make a significant portion of their income from selling anonymized data to pharmaceutical companies and other entities. My concerns did not fully manifest until I started receiving marketing materials from companies offering to store stem cells from extracted primary teeth. When this seed was planted in my brain, it was hard to stop it from sprouting. With this data so prevalent, how secure was it, especially in a world of regular data breaches and ransomware attacks.

I began to research the state of genetic security and realized that some real security issues exist. Consider the recent hack of 23andMe, where nearly seven million records were breached and the data of approximately one million individuals of Ashkenazi Jewish heritage was offered for sale in a shadowy corner of the dark web.

My debut novel, "*The Greater Good: A Fatal Choice*," is an investigation into the world of genetic testing and research. A thriller, the book delves into the potential for nefarious use of this data, if inappropriately obtained and used. Granted, this is fiction and some of the scenarios presented are extreme, but the potential of what is possible is still relevant. In this case, the extreme examples illuminate these issues in ways we can all understand.

I am not a researcher, lawyer or geneticist, nor do I profess to be an expert in these complex fields. However, the risks involved seem self-evident. Just two examples include the use of this data for employment or insurance underwriting decisions.

There are some protections. The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA)

strictly applies to employment and insurance decisions. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) provides some protection from the sharing of personal health information without written consent, but this does not strictly cover the commercial testing entities, as they may not necessarily be considered healthcare providers and therefore do not fall under the definition of regulated entities.

Legislatively, we need to continually monitor the state of this rapidly evolving industry, update and expand GINA when indicated and possibly enact new legislation to keep up with this ever changing landscape. Since regulations vary significantly from state to state, federal regulation may be appropriate.

The goal, however, should be to protect privacy, not stifle innovation.

I truly believe that we are in a golden age of diagnosis and treatment, not only in dentistry but in the entire therapeutic realm. We should be excited about what the future holds for our profession as we embrace our innate curiosity and desire to expand our knowledge, something that has defined our profession since its inception. We truly are poised to advance the concept of the greater good, both in our profession and in the larger healthcare arena.

What a great time to be a dentist! When people ask me what I want for my upcoming birthday, I reply, another forty years!

Dr. Frank Sapienza is the author of "The Greater Good: A Fatal Choice." Visit his website at franksapienza.com for more information.

SDDS Short Topics, Small Talk, Good and Welfare

Summer Social

On Friday, Aug. 15, the SDDS New Dentist Committee held a summer social for our incoming and graduating resident members! It was a wonderful evening of socializing and forming connections for the future. Many residents are existing New York city denizens and look forward to staying in the area after residency. Two of our attendees won amazing raffle prizes, including an instant Polaroid camera and gift card to Starbucks with a Yeti tumbler.



Mr. Bernard Hackett

Our own executive director, Mr. Bernard Hackett, received an honorary ADA membership in recognition of his 34 years of service to the Second District Dental Society (SDDS). ADA President, Dr. Brett Kessler, personally bestowed the honor at the June 2025 NYSDA House of Delegates.



SDDS Executive Director Mr. Bernard Hackett with ADA President Dr. Brett Kessler



Pennsylvania State Trooper Philip Buccigrossi, III receiving the Trooper of the Year award

Buccigrossi

On Oct. 25, 2024, Pennsylvania State Police Troopers Philip Buccigrossi, III, son of SDDS Past President Philip Buccigrossi Jr., and his partner Justin Yozsa responded to an apartment fire in Whitehall Township, Pennsylvania. The troopers knocked on every apartment door, waking all residents to alert them about the fire ripping through their building. On Aug. 1, 2025, Staten Island native and alumnus of Monsignor Farrell High School, Philip Buccigrossi, III and his partner were honored as Pennsylvania State Troopers of the Year for safely escorting all the residents out of that building.



Philip Buccigrossi, III with wife, Nichole, and daughter, Sadie

ADA Advocacy

The ADA and several other dental groups have expressed support for a bill that seeks to strengthen the scientific basis behind federal water fluoridation regulations. The coalition sent a letter in support of the Protect Our Treatment for Enamel, Erosion and Tooth Health Act, also known as the Protect Our TEETH Act. The legislation would require the Environmental Protection Agency to commission an independent review from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine before proposing updates to drinking water regulations that affect community water fluoridation.



Summer Workshop

On Aug. 7, SDDS held its first ever mid-summer workshop, "Treatment Guidelines for the Immediate Provisionalization of Dental Implants in the Esthetic Zone," which was generously sponsored by ZimVie. Certified Dental Technician Mr. Wayne Szara guided attendees in the theory and technique of creating esthetic temporary restorations for maxillary anterior single implants. Attendees had the opportunity to play with all the bits and pieces necessary to create these simple yet esthetic temporary restorations. All attendees gave great reviews expressing eagerness for future programs.



CDT Wayne Szara leading workshop

Black Men's Health Event by Dr. Emma Guzman

On June 6, the best borough in the city, Brooklyn, a dynamic pulse of energy emerged as Heart, Body & Soul, Inc. hosted a transformative two-day community experience dedicated to the wellness and empowerment of Black men. The event wove together vibrant culture, intentional healing and joyful connection, creating a safe space where attendees could be seen, celebrated and uplifted. From morning fitness challenges and mental health workshops to chair massages and photo shoots, each moment centered on holistic care and self-love. Barbers offered affirmations with their fades, while local leaders sparked powerful conversations around fatherhood, legacy and resilience. It wasn't just about health — it was about honoring the humanity, complexity and creativity that defines Black men's brilliance.

On the lawn of the Weeksville Community Center stood a beautifully curated dental suite led by Dr. Emma J. Guzman, whose vision blended clinical excellence with cultural affirmation. Joined by a team of exceptional volunteer dentists which included New York State Dental Association President Dr. Maurice Edwards, the suite provided free dental screenings, one-on-one education and meaningful access to oral care goods. Guests left with goodie bags filled with essentials: toothbrushes generously provided by Second District Dental Society and mouthwash donated by Colgate. These offerings reflected something deeper than products — they symbolized a community investing in preventive care, dignity and long-term wellness.



From left to right: Drs. Emma Guzman, Ruth Simeon, Maurice Edwards (NYSDA president) and Nikki Kapo at the Black Men's Health Event



Dr. Emma Guzman examines patient



Dr. Nikki Kapo and patient



Dr. Ruth Simon



NYSDA President Dr. Maurice Edwards (right) and Dr. DeAngelo Ingram



From left to right: ADA President Dr. Brett Kessler, Christine Terrio (SDDS staff), SDDS Vice President Dr. Phyllis Merlino and Stephanie Carter (SDDS staff)

SDDS headed to Chicago for the Annual ADA Conference!

Dr. Phyllis Merlino, SDDS vice president and chair of the SDDS Membership and Communication Committee, joined SDDS staff at the annual ADA conference, where attendees learn, grow and build relationships throughout the tripartite to help shape the future of organized dentistry. Dr. Merlino and SDDS staff members Christine



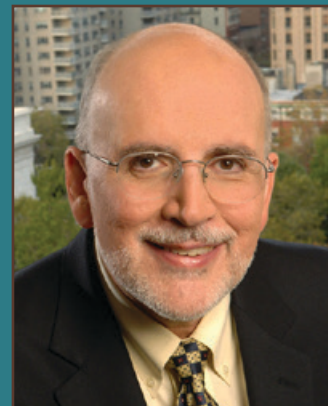
From left to right: SDDS Vice President Dr. Phyllis Merlino and SDDS Staff Christine Terrio and Stephanie Carter

Terrio and Stephanie Carter had the opportunity to connect with ADA President Dr. Brett Kessler; hear from the keynote speaker, Sarah Sladek, on the future of membership; and connect in different think tank sessions covering an array of key topics like governance, AI, innovation and best practices. It was a quick day and a half packed with lots of information, collaboration and a fresh perspective on what's ahead.

Continued on Page 10 »

In Memoriam

In August 2025, dentistry lost one of our bright lights. Dr. Michael Alfano was a great leader, a dental education pioneer and researcher. He received his dental degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (now Rutgers University), in addition to a doctorate in nutrition from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, advanced training at Harvard University School of Dental medicine and a certificate in periodontics from Fairleigh Dickinson University. His varied career ranged from maintaining a periodontal practice in New Jersey to becoming the senior vice president for research and technology and serving on the board of directors at Block Drug Company. Dr. Alfano was an assistant dean for postgraduate affairs and research, chairman of oral biology and founder of the Oral Health Research Center at Fairleigh Dickinson University School of Dentistry. In 1998, he became dean of the College of Dentistry at New York University (NYU) and ultimately an executive vice president at NYU. He never stopped giving to us, his colleagues—he will be missed.



Dr. Michael Alfano

SDDS Student Loan Forgiveness Award

Second District Dental Society (SDDS) has done it again. This year, 18 young dentists have seen their student loan balance decreased by \$10,000. The 2025 SDDS Student Loan Forgiveness Program distributes grants to offset the tremendous liability of crushing student loan debt for new dentists who are active members of the SDDS and completed a one-year residency training program within the last five years. For these well-deserving recipients, the grant is delivered directly to their loan administrators. Congratulations to Drs. Benjamin Babaev, Weng Si Chan, Christina Eskew, Mark Goodenough (RCDS officer), Magda Jeznach, Alan Meskin, Paulina Micek, Kasey Muchnicki, Maxine Navi, Mariah Pewarski, Mariam Pincus, Sejndi Rusi (SDDS BOT member), Nathaniel Saed, Arman Ghafarian, Danielle Grushkovskiy, Thema Hepburn, Rebecca Solomon and Jessica Vitale.

These newest SDDS members have already shown interest in being active members of organized dentistry. Many of them have joined the SDDS and RCDS board of trustees, SDDS committees, NYSDA councils and have participated at the NYSDA House of Delegates. The SDDS is proud to be able to help reduce the heavy burden so many young dentists face due to their student loan debt. More information is available at sddsny.org/member-center/dental-student-loan-forgiveness



2025 loan recipients

To see your good news in the Bulletin, email it and any high quality photos to go with it to editor@sddsny.org.

ADA Trustee's Letter

It's hard to believe but summer is coming to an end and we are closing in on the end of the first quarter of the 21st century. Personally, I have officially retired from the University of Buffalo School of Dental Medicine after being a faculty member for 18 years. Overlap that with 30 years of private practice and I can honestly say that it has been a wonderful ride. I will continue to serve the Second District as your trustee until the annual meeting next year in Indianapolis. Congratulations to my colleague, Dr. Payam Goudarzi, on his selection as the next trustee for New York State. As I have mentioned before, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve the profession at the American Dental Association (ADA).

You recently received several correspondences from the ADA about our current finances. Suffice it to say that adjustments were needed to this year's budget. With the leadership from our Finance Committee, the board of trustees approved an approximately \$20 million dollar reduction from the 2025 budget. There were some very difficult decisions made, such as eliminating and pausing specific ADA programs and laying off several hard-working employees. The board of trustees knows this is a difficult time, especially for the people who worked or volunteered with these programs. Included in these reductions were daily travel stipends for board

members, as well as the elimination of spouse travel stipends. We also added the chair and vice chair of the Strategic Forecasting Committee as consultants to the Finance Committee. We appreciate your support, understanding and patience during this time. Unfortunately, there is still a deficit as we plan for the year 2026. The Board began the process of putting the 2026 budget together at the end of August at our meeting in Chicago. We will continue to keep members apprised of our financial situation through leadership communications and the ADA Treasurer's Letter, as well as the ADA Leader Reader and the ADA Power of Three Emerging Issues Webinars.

The Fonteva Account Management System (AMS), which began in September of 2024, is undergoing a corrective implementation. It was a difficult beginning and problems were uncovered in late 2024. Since that time, there have been some noted positive results around the country, with a few states coming along at a slower pace. Unfortunately, the New York State Dental Association (NYSDA) is part of the latter cohort. The ADA has established a PMO (Project Management Office) to monitor, oversee and measure this project with the help of an outside agency, Crowe LLP. There is also a Steering Committee to oversee the entire project. Our goals include stabilization of 90% of the data entries for October renewals, making it seamless

for members to pay for events and register for continuing education and resulting in fewer errors and reduced support needs. The ADA IT team is working with the NYSDA IT and membership teams to improve the AMS as it pertains to NYSDA. I would like to thank the staff at NYSDA for their hard work and contributions to this project and helping it become successful.

As many of you heard, a decision was made to make the 2025 SmileCon in Washington, D.C. the last SmileCon celebration. Unfortunately, the event has lost a substantial amount of money over the past several years and the board of trustees felt the financial results were not going to change. The House of Delegates will still meet in Indianapolis, Indiana from October 10 to October 13, 2026 and plans to have the annual scientific session in the same location are in discussion. The ADA is required under the bylaws to have a scientific session every year. The House of Delegates will still take place in Denver, Colorado from October 29 to November 1, 2027.

The ADA Membership Engagement Model program that is taking place in four states (New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico and Washington) and Washington, D.C. following the accelerated transition to the AMS/CRM (Fonteva/Salesforce) has shown a small improvement in membership numbers. Although it is early in the three-year pilot and we will have more

information with the completion of the implementation of the Fonteva Association AMS, it is a promising sign that the ADA is heading towards the correct value proposition for membership in our association. At this point, it was decided to pause the addition of other states to the pilot for one year. Results of the pilot from the first year will be available soon.

I would like to take a moment of personal privilege to congratulate our own Dr. James Wanamaker from the Fifth District for his contributions as the New Dentist Committee member of the ADA board of trustees. Dr. Wanamaker has represented NYSDA extremely well and should be commended for his leadership and representation of new dentists at the ADA. Organized dentistry is in good hands for many years into the future with leaders such as Dr. Wanamaker.

Please enjoy the rest of 2025 and I am looking forward to a happy and healthy 2026. As always, you can reach me at dowdb@ada.org or on my cell phone at (716) 510-3217.

Sincerely,
Brendan Dowd, D.D.S.
ADA Trustee, Second District



Report of the Nominating Committee — 2025

The following slate of nominees for 2026 elective positions, designated by the Nominating Committee, will be reported to the membership at the October 9, 2025 General Membership Meeting. Elections will take place at the General Membership Meeting on November 13, 2025.

OFFICERS

President-Elect Phyllis Merlino
Vice President Cherry Libramonte
Secretary Joseph Merola
Treasurer Aia Shalan

ALTERNATE DELEGATES TO A.D.A.—1 Year

(in order of preference)

1. Valerie Venterina
2. Kirstin Wolfe
3. Alyson Buchalter
4. Sandra Scibetta
5. Tricia Quartey-Sagaille

ALTERNATE DELEGATES TO NYSDA—1 Year

1. Treasurer—
Aia Shalan
2. President Elect RCDS –
Joseph Albanese
3. Mitchell Mindlin
4. Christen Carute
5. Matthew Sciascia
6. Bryan Pieroni
7. Anthony Agosto
8. Michael Donato, Jr.
9. Jose Santana
10. (p) Christopher Bowers

BOARD OF TRUSTEES—2 Years

1. Christopher Bowers
2. Michael Donato, Jr.
3. Theresa Eliscar-Hewett
4. Yaela Faitlowicz-Gayer
5. Tricia Quartey-Sagaille
6. Gisele Richard
7. Matthew Sciascia
8. Kirstin Wolfe

DELEGATES TO NYSDA—1 Year

(in order of preference)

1. President—
Valerie Venterina
2. President Elect –
Phyllis Merlino
3. Vice President -
Cherry Libramonte
4. Secretary –
Joseph Merola
5. RCDS President –
Brian Perrone
6. Kirstin Wolfe
7. Paul Teplitsky
8. Emma Guzman
9. Sandra Scibetta
10. (p) Theresa Eliscar-Hewett

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1 Year Slot to fill vacant slot when Dr. Aia Shalan takes office as treasurer

1. Paul Albicocco

DELEGATES TO A.D.A.—1 Year

(in order of preference)

1. John Demas
2. Paul Teplitsky
3. (p) Cherry Libramonte

REPRESENTATIVES TO NYSDA BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND COUNCILS

NYSDA Board of Trustee
(four years to expire June 2030)
Paul Teplitsky

Council on Dental Practice
(four years to expire June 2030)
Tricia Quartey-Sagaille

Council on Ethics
(four years to expire June 2030)
Yaela Faitlowicz

Council on Nominations
(one year to expire June 2027)
John Demas

MEMBERS OF THE 2025 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Paul Teplitsky—**Chair**, Valerie Venterina—**Recording Secretary**, Christine Terrio—**Staff**

Paul Albicocco, Babak Bina, Joann DeLeonibus, John Demas, Michael Donato, Jr., Cherry Libramonte, Mitchell Mindlin, Tricia Quartey-Sagaille, Kirstin Wolfe

(p) President



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SDDS Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

FEBRUARY 3, 2025 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING (VIA ZOOM)

President Dr. Paul Teplitsky, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

PRESENT: Drs. Shalan, Buchalter, Perrone, Mistretta, Libramonte, Richard, DeLeonibus, Demas, Santana, Merola, Wolfe, Meiselman, Donato, Jr., Albicocco, Teplitsky, Merlino, Butt, Rusi, Eliscar-Hewett, Quartey-Sagaille and Venterina; Mr. Hackett.

EXCUSED: Dr. Sager

GUESTS: Drs. Flamer-Caldera, Sconzo, Mindlin, Buccigrossi, Oshrain, Shekib, Bina, Halikias and Turchak

MOTION PASSED: To accept the minutes of the January 6, 2025 board of trustees meeting

DECEASED MEMBERS:

Dr. Jack L Levy – New York University, 1960

Dr. Walter S Siegelman – New York University, 1951

Dr. Alan J March – New York University, 1973

Dr. Jack Beim – 1957

ELECTION OF MEMBERS:

NEW MEMBERS:

Dr. Steven Davis – New York University, 2022

REINSTATEMENTS: (none)

TRANSFERS:

Dr. Oana G Opariuc – Columbia University, 2009 (Transferred from Passaic County Dental Society)

RESIDENT MEMBERS: (none)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

See “Upcoming Events” calendar.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- **January** – Thank you note from family of Dr. Bryan Pieroni on loss of family member
- **January** – Thank you note from family of Drs. Pavlakos and Ferriola on loss of family member

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND STAFF:

President – Dr. Paul Teplitsky:

- Will proceed with recruiting members to visit the GPR programs and give the presentations; next year will have the dental residence outreach committee
- Forming an ad-hoc committee to review our finances
- As per Constitution and Bylaws, search committee for the ED position needs to be formed. It will be chaired by the SDDS president-elect
- NYCD and SDDS to form a personnel committee to deal with employment and contractual concerns of the GNYDM general manager

President-Elect – Dr. Valerie Venterina:

- Working on our education committee

Vice President – Dr. Phyllis Merlino:

- Working with Mr. Hackett to review constitution and bylaws before meeting with the Bylaw Committee

Treasurer – Dr. Joseph Merola:

- Account balances as of Feb. 3, 2025 were read aloud

Executive Director – Mr. Bernard Hackett (previously emailed)

NYSDA REPORTS:

NYSDA Trustee Report – Dr. John Demas:

- Discussed issues with regard to the Salesforce software, Fonteva with every component in the state
- Due to software issues, we do not have our NYSDA and HOD allocation
- Foundation exceeded fundraising from last year
- Blue member assistance up and running on website
- Investigation redissmissal of ED almost complete. A report is expected at the end of month
- Delegates leaving early from HOD will not be reimbursed

SDDS REPORTS:

Greater New York Dental Meeting – Dr. John Young / Dr. Flamer-Caldera (previously emailed)

Richmond County Dental Society – Dr. Brian Perrone:

- Will be sending out the RCDS meetings

GOOD & WELFARE:

- Dr. Buchalter would like to have you send her any good and welfare of any members of SDDS
- Dr. Flamer-Caldera being installed as the chair of the American College of Dentists New York section

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Special Election of Board Members – Dr. Libramonte (previously emailed)

Board went to executive session to vote on vacated one-year and two-year positions

Board reconvened from executive session. Dr. Teplitsky announced that Dr. Mindlin would fill the remainder of Dr. Merola's two-year term until December 2025. He also announced that Dr. Guzman would fill the vacated two-year term of Dr. Flagiello until December 2026.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.

Annual Installation of Officers & Dinner Dance

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026

RICHMOND COUNTY COUNTRY CLUB
135 FLAGG PLACE, STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK 10304

COCKTAILS: 7 P.M. • DINNER AND DANCING: 8 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT

**CELEBRATING THE INSTALLATION OF INCOMING PRESIDENT
DR. BRIAN PERRONE & THE 2026 RCDS OFFICERS**

BLACK TIE PREFERRED | FORMAL INVITATIONS TO FOLLOW

For more info, please contact Dr. Michael Costa at (718) 442-3982

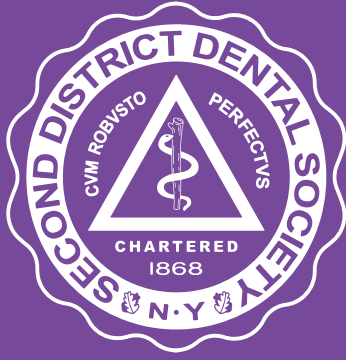


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photos and original articles for consideration
for publication. You are the SDDS - your voice
is important!

*Please forward YOUR comments,
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EDITOR@SDDSNY.ORG

THANK YOU!



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2026

SECOND DISTRICT DENTAL SOCIETY
CORDIALLY INVITES
ALL MEMBERS TO JOIN US FOR OUR

ANNUAL INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND AWARDS LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026

RECEPTION 12 P.M.
LUNCHEON 1 P.M. TO 4 P.M.

GIANDO ON THE WATER
400 KENT AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY 11249

CELEBRATING THE INSTALLATION OF INCOMING PRESIDENT
DR. VALERIE VENTERINA AND THE 2026 SDDS OFFICERS

\$75 PER PERSON | BUSINESS ATTIRE

FORMAL INVITATION TO FOLLOW

RSVP ONLINE BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

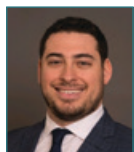
FOR MORE INFORMATION: (718)522-3939 INFO@SDDSNY.ORG

SDDS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: State Officers, New Members, Senior Dentists and Past Presidents Night

Advance Registration Required—Register online at sddsny.org

Thursday, November 13, 2025 ♦ Dyker Beach Golf Course, Brooklyn ♦ 6:30 P.M.

MCEU—1 HOUR



All-on-X: Treatment Option for Full Mouth Rehabilitation

Featured Clinician: **MITCHELL A. MAMORSKY, D.M.D.**

Member, American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

This lecture will begin with a brief history of the All-on-4 or All-on-X, followed by a discussion of the basic mechanics behind how this treatment option works. Next, we will examine which patients are optimal candidates versus which patients are better suited for other rehabilitation methods. The conclusion of this presentation will be an interactive session using radiographs, in which participants will discuss how they would treat a certain patient and if they would utilize the All-on-4 or All-on-X concept. Upon successful completion of this course, attendees will understand the basics of All-on-4 and when it can be utilized and offered as a treatment option for their patients.

RCDS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Advance Registration Required—Register online at sddsny.org

Thursday, November 18, 2025 ♦ Max's Es-Ca, Staten Island 7 P.M. ♦ MCEU—1 HOUR

Prosthodontics and Aesthetic Dentistry: Past, Present and Future

Featured Clinician: **LOUIS F. DESANTIS, D.D.S.**

Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Postgraduate Prosthodontics, New York University College of Dentistry

This lecture was originally scheduled to take place during the RCDS meeting on October 21, 2025.

To understand the future, we need to have a clear understanding of the past by looking at longitudinal studies and long-term clinical data. Dental implantology and digital dentistry, along with advances in dental material science, have all contributed to renaissance in prosthodontics and aesthetic dentistry. This presentation will look at a "revolutionary evolution," evidence-based long-term data and concerns based on relevant studies. It will also discuss how our treatments have changed both philosophically and in our approach to treatment care. Upon successful completion of this lecture, attendees will be able to visualize and appreciate the changes in prosthodontics and aesthetic dental technology, and how they influence technique and patient care prognosis.

Advance registration required for all listed events. Register online at sddsny.org

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"CPR and Medical Emergencies in the Dental Office"

excluded from discount offers

SDDS Members	\$180
SDDS Member's Staff	\$175
SDDS Residents	\$125
ADA Members/Staff	\$200
Non-ADA Members/Staff	\$295

Michael Kaliroff

MCEU – 4.5 hours

SDDS Headquarters, Brooklyn

(9:30 A.M.–3 P.M.)

#2025–17 December 12, 2025

CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

Advance Registration Required—Register online at sddsny.org

#2025–17 ♦ Friday, December 12, 2025 ♦ SDDS Headquarters, Brooklyn

9:30 A.M.–3 P.M. ♦ MCEU—4.5 HOURS

CPR and Medical Emergencies in the Dental Office

Instructor: **MICHAEL KALIROFF**

Certified Instructor, American Heart Association

This course provides dentists and their staffs with the knowledge and skills needed to properly respond to cardiopulmonary and other medical emergencies which can occur in dental offices. The specific advantages and disadvantages of performing CPR within the dental operator will be discussed. This program utilizes hands-on practice sessions for all participants. Topics to be covered will include heart attacks and strokes (signs and symptoms), sudden cardiac arrest/defibrillation, airway obstruction (choking), respiratory emergencies, anaphylactic reactions, emergency drug kits and more.

Upon successful completion of this course, participants will gain the knowledge and hands-on experience needed to administer CPR safely and effectively. Completion of this course will also satisfy the New York State Education Department's requirement for licensed dentists.*

This course may not fulfill the CPR certification requirements for staff/faculty of some hospitals/universities. CHECK WITH YOUR EMPLOYER BEFORE TAKING THIS COURSE.

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Unless otherwise stated, all featured speakers have disclosed that they do not have any relevant financial arrangements or affiliations with any corporate organizations that would constitute a conflict of interest concerning the continuing education activities stated herein.

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POSITIONS AVAILABLE

PROSTHODONTIST—ONE BROOKLYN HEALTH: Interfaith Medical Center. Part-time 1 day/week (8 hrs/week). Responsibilities: Supervise and teach general practice dental residents. **Contact:** Dr. David J. Miller, Chairman, Department of Dental Medicine | (718) 613-4707 | dmiller@interfaithmedical.org

ENDODONTIST—ONE BROOKLYN HEALTH: Brookdale and Interfaith Medical Center. Part-time 2 ½ days/week (20 hrs/week). Full benefits package including medical/dental/Rx insurance, malpractice coverage, vacation/personal/holidays/sick days, retirement plan 403(b). Responsibilities: Supervise and teach general practice and pediatric dental residents. **Contact:** Dr. David J. Miller, Chairman, Department of Dental Medicine | (718) 613-4707 | dmiller@interfaithmedical.org

GENERAL DENTIST—ONE BROOKLYN HEALTH: Interfaith Medical Center. Part-time 2 ½ days/week (20 hrs/week). Full benefits package including medical/dental/Rx insurance, malpractice coverage, vacation/personal/holidays/sick days, retirement plan 403(b). Responsibilities: Supervise and teach general practice dental residents. **Contact:** Dr. David J. Miller, Chairman, Department of Dental Medicine | (718) 613-4707 | dmiller@interfaithmedical.org

PT DENTAL ASSOCIATE PARK SLOPE: Busy dental office in Park Slope looking for an associate on Sundays and Thursday with possibility for a buy-in/buy-out for the right candidate. Please email resume to Dr. Matthew Lieberman. **Contact:** Dr. Matthew Lieberman | dentistparkslope@yahoo.com

DENTAL ASSOCIATE | PART-TIME DOWNTOWN BK: Seeking dental associate in Downtown Brooklyn. Once a week, option to buy in. Responsibilities: General Dentist. **Contact:** Dr. Ivan Chaplik | ivanchaplik@gmail.com

ASSOCIATE ENDODONTIST IN DOWNTOWN BROOKLYN: Seeking an associate endodontist in downtown Brooklyn. We have microscope, cone beam, latest technology. Pay 2–3K a day, 5–6 days a month. **Contact:** Dr. Robert Amirian | bkdentist@gmail.com

ENDODONTIST IN TODT HILL: Seeking Endodontist for busy Staten Island endodontic practice (Todt Hill area). PPO/Fee for service. Hours Flexible. High Pay (2k + per day). **Contact:** Dr. Brad Levine | Blevinem@aol.com

PERIODONTIST WITH PREMIER PRACTICE: Looking for a Periodontist with high quality practice to join/merge into my well established, restorative/cosmetic practice in Staten Island, NY. My practice is high end and focused on fee for service. The office is conveniently located near mass transportation and easily accessible. We have a professional and capable staff. For further details, please contact Steven G. **Contact:** (917) 428-8848 | steven.g@btqconsult.com

DENTIST WITH NUCLEUS PRACTICE: Looking for dentist with high quality practice to join/merge into my well established, restorative/cosmetic practice in Park Slope, NY. Potential for future buy out. My practice is high-end and focused on fee for service. The office is located conveniently by train lines; with a professional and capable staff. For further details, please contact Dr. Leonard Brenner. **Contact:** (516) 840-6153 | BRNRDNTL@AOL.COM

ORAL SURGEON—NYP BROOKLYN METHUEN HOSPITAL: Seeking part time oral surgeon to help with clinic and on-call coverage. You have the skills and expertise that these new dentists need. Compensation, free precious Park Slope parking, and the satisfaction knowing you have helped the new dentist be the best they can be. If interested please email your CV to Dr. Sconzo. **Contact:** Dr. Sconzo | jjs9014@nyp.org

ORAL SURGEON—ONE BROOKLYN HEALTH SYSTEM: Location: Brookdale Hospital Medical Center. Part-time 1 day/week (8 hrs/week). Responsibilities: supervise and teach oral surgery residents. **Contact:** Dr. David J. Miller, Chairman, Department of Dental Medicine | (718) 613-4707 | dmiller@interfaithmedical.org

GENERAL DENTIST—ONE BROOKLYN HEALTH SYSTEM: Part-time 2 days/week (16 hrs/week) at Brookdale Hospital Medical Center. Responsibilities: supervise and teach general practice residents. **Contact:** Dr. David J. Miller | (718) 613-4707 | dmiller@interfaithmedical.org

FULL-TIME LICENSED DENTIST: Full-Time Licensed Dentist to take over patients as soon as possible. Hours and salary will be discussed upon interview. **Contact:** Dr. Nicholas Mattia or Alyssa | (718) 442-8440 | nmattiadds@gmail.com

ORTHODONTIST: Full or part-time position, for a busy Staten Island general and multi-specialist practice. **Contact:** Jill | Jilldon310@gmail.com

ENDODONTIST AND PERIODONTIST (STATEN ISLAND): Multi-specialty practice is looking for an endodontist and periodontist to join our team. Flexible hours. **Contact:** hwdentalcare@gmail.com

GENERAL DENTIST: Large dental practice on Staten Island looking for General Dentist. Flexible hours. **Contact:** Jill | (718) 494-0100 | jilldon310@gmail.com

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DENTAL OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT | HOT LOCATION – JAMAICA, QUEENS (NEXT TO JAMAICA HOSPITAL / LIRR / E TRAIN) | DREAM COME TRUE: Very busy area of Jamaica, Queens. Ground floor, handicap accessible. Unique opportunity. Good for general dentist or specialist. **Contact:** m.raza1214@gmail.com or (212) 671-0745.

DENTAL OFFICE FOR RENT: Amazing location Bay Ridge area. Corner of 75th Street and 5th Avenue, a/k/a Doctors' Row. One flight up in private building. Two operatory rooms with sunlight. Approximately 550 square feet. Private waiting area. Private office. Laboratory room. Central AC/Heat. Private bathroom. Near public transportation. Available immediately. **Contact:** receptionjmw@aol.com

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Second District Dental Society

SDDS

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