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The Second District Dental Society of New York SDDS BULLETIN

Serving the counties of Kings and Richmond since 1868

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2026

WWW.SDDSNY.ORG

VOLUME 43 Number 1

2026 SDDS President's Message

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Thank you for the privilege and honor of serving as your president of the Second District Dental Society (SDDS) for 2026. I am deeply grateful for your trust and confidence, and I approach this role with humility, enthusiasm and a strong sense of responsibility.

My path into dentistry was anything but traditional. I began my professional life as a registered nurse at Beth Israel Hospital. At that time, nursing was a very different profession—one with a limited scope of practice and little autonomy. While I respected the work, I quickly realized it did not provide the fulfillment or independence I was seeking. I wanted to be my own boss, to build something meaningful and to secure a stable financial future without committing to another eight or more years of education.

Dentistry, it turned out, fit the bill perfectly.

I applied to 10 dental schools and was accepted to one—SUNY Buffalo, located in the snow capital of New York. My years there were cold and grueling, but they were also transformative. I graduated in the top 10% of my class and, more importantly, I left Buffalo with



2026 SDDS President Dr. Valerie Venterina

an excellent education and the confidence to practice dentistry well.

Returning to Brooklyn, my mother—who was truly the “mayor” of our neighborhood—made it her mission to regularly visit our family dentist and remind him that her daughter was in dental school. “Tell her to come see me when she graduates,” he said. And so, I did. Little did I know at the time that this was a fairly common path to practice ownership. I worked for him for two years, entered into a partnership for 10, and eventually bought him out when he decided to retire.

Dr. Stephen Nachbar was board-eligible in periodontics, loved prosthodontics and was an early adopter of implantology.

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Upcoming Events

***Advance registration is required for all events.**

Visit sddsnny.org to register.

MONDAY
**MAR
09**

Via Zoom, 7 P.M.

SDDS Board of Trustees meeting

THURSDAY
**MAR
12**

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

**SDDS General Membership Meeting:
Hospital Residents Night**

*“Pediatric Dental Trauma Essentials: From Guidelines to Chairside Application”
by Meeta Grewal, D.D.S.*

Visit sddsnny.org for registration and meeting information.

FRIDAY
**MAR
13**

SDS Headquarters, Brooklyn, 9 A.M. – 4 P.M.

Continuing Education Course #2026-03

“Full Mouth Rehabilitation and Changing Lives: Aesthetics, Implants and Occlusion” by Dean C. Vafiadis, D.D.S.

Visit sddsnny.org for registration and meeting information.

TUESDAY
**MAR
17**

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

RCDS General Membership Meeting

“Dentistry: Designed, not Default” by Dean M. Saccomanno, D.D.S.

Visit sddsnny.org for registration and meeting information.

FRIDAY
**MAR
27**

Live webinar via Zoom, 10 A.M. – 12 P.M.

Continuing Education Course #2026-04

*“Contemporary Strategies for the Management of Deep Carious Lesions” by
Julianna Bair, D.M.D.*

Visit sddsnny.org for registration and meeting information.

MONDAY
**APR
06**

Via Zoom, 7 P.M.

SDDS Board of Trustees meeting

FRIDAY
**APR
10**

Hilton Garden Inn, Staten Island, 9 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Continuing Education Course #2026-05

“CPR and Medical Emergencies in the Dental Office”

by Michael Kaliroff, Certified Instructor

Visit sddsnny.org for registration and meeting information.

SDDS BULLETIN



A Publication of the
**SECOND DISTRICT
DENTAL SOCIETY**

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He became a mentor in many ways, both professionally and personally, and together we built a practice that truly flourished. That experience shaped not only how I practice dentistry, but how I view mentorship, collaboration and professional growth.

So, how did I become involved in organized dentistry? Quite by chance. One day at the gym, I ran into Dr. Louis DeSantis, who is a past president of Richmond County Dental Society (RCDS), the branch society of SDDS. We started talking about dentistry, as dentists often do, and he asked if I wanted to attend the RCDS meeting that evening. I had recently opened a satellite office in Staten Island and thought it might be a good opportunity to meet local colleagues.

That night changed everything.

Dr. Edward Jastremski was RCDS president at the time and, along with RCDS Past President Dr. Marc Meiselman and others, they had me hooked almost immediately. Around that same time, my twins informed me that they wanted to go to dental school. I figured if my children were entering this profession, I had an obligation to become more involved and better informed.

That was 10 years ago. Since then, I've learned a great deal about organized dentistry and about the many challenges facing our profession today.

We are under pressure from insurance companies that seek to control our fees and dictate treatment plans. In many cases, fees have not increased in 20 years and have certainly not kept pace with the cost of living. Insurance maximums have stagnated as well, leaving patients confused and frustrated. Too often, patients believe their primary relationship is



SDDS President Dr. Valerie Venterina with her three children Jonathan, Katherine and Stephen

with the insurance company rather than with their dentist. Insurers have convinced many that they—not we—have the patient's best interests at heart.

We are also witnessing the rapid expansion of private equity into dentistry, prioritizing profit over patient care and luring younger dentists—burdened by overwhelming student debt—into unsustainable employment contracts. Many new graduates would like to own or join private practices but find themselves limited to salaried positions with little autonomy. Add to this increasing government regulation that restricts scope of practice and, at times, appears to align with insurance interests rather than patient care and we must be honest with ourselves—we allowed much of this to happen.

Yet, despite all of this, I still believe, deeply, that dentistry is a noble, rewarding and essential profession. But now is the time to stand our ground. We have an image problem, and we must address it head on. First, we need to educate our colleagues who are not members of organized dentistry about what we do and why it matters. Second, we must educate our patient, at every opportunity, about the importance of oral health and why we, as trained professionals, are best equipped to provide that care. They need to understand that insurance companies are beholden to shareholders, not subscribers, and that patients have options, including

out-of-network care and in-office membership plans. Ultimately, it is the patient, not the insurance company, whom we serve.

We must also educate our legislators and advocate forcefully for our profession.

And finally, we must work together.

To our more seasoned dentists: it is time to give back to a profession that has given us so much. If you are not a member, I urge you to become one. Encourage your colleagues to do the same. Reach out to new graduates and younger dentists. Become mentors—clinically, professionally and financially.

To our younger doctors—and yes, I am speaking to my children as well—you are our future. Be bold. Think outside the box. Ask questions. Challenge assumptions. Know that we are here to support you, guide you and learn from you.

As your president, I am committed to working alongside the SDDS board of trustees and each of you to strengthen our Society, advocate for our profession and ensure that dentistry remains both viable and fulfilling for generations to come. I'd like to especially welcome our new executive director, Christine Terrio, under whose guidance we will continue to flourish as a strong organization. I look forward to the work ahead and to serving with and for you in the year to come.

Thank you.

Valerie A. Venterina, D.D.S.

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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.

Member Publication
AADEJ
American Association of Dental Editors & Journalists

SDDS 2026 Installation of Officers and Awards Luncheon

by Alyson K. Buchalter, D.M.D., SDDS Bulletin Editor

On Sunday, Jan. 11, over 100 Second District Dental Society (SDDS) members, family and friends gathered to celebrate the installation of our 2026 officers and thank many of the volunteers who gave their time and expertise in 2025. The SDDS annual Installation of Officers and Awards Luncheon took place at Giando on the Water, located in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. A stunning venue with views of the East River and Manhattan, it was the perfect setting to honor those who work so hard for our membership.

After a moving invocation delivered by Richmond County Dental Society (RCDS) Past President Dr. Charles Mistretta, our outgoing SDDS president, Dr. Paul Teplitsky, gave a funny yet serious reminder of all that transpired during his term in 2025. His leadership was instrumental in moving our Society forward in many ways. With the retirement of our long-time Executive Director Mr. Bernard Hackett, Dr. Teplitsky guided our transition to our new executive director, Ms. Christine Tierrio. He tasked the SDDS Constitution and Bylaws Committee, led by SDDS President-Elect Dr. Phyllis Merlino, to update the rules that govern our Society. Through many large and small initiatives for the SDDS, he leaves a legacy to be proud of.

Dr. Paul Leary, New York State Dental Association (NYSDA) secretary/treasurer and Dr. Amariis Jacobo, NYSDA president-elect, reminded us of the importance of organized dentistry and the role NYSDA plays in shaping the future of dentistry in New York.

Then came the main event. Guided by our installing officer, our NYSDA trustee, Dr. John

Demas, President Dr. Valerie Venterina, President-Elect Dr. Phyllis Merlino, Vice President Dr. Cherry Libramonte, Secretary Dr. Joseph Merola and Treasurer Dr. Aia Shalan were sworn in as our 2026 officers. This impressive group of leaders guarantees the SDDS continues in good hands.

After taking her oath of office, Dr. Venterina swung her gavel for the first time. She gave an inaugural address that highlighted her unusual path to dentistry and her love and pride in her family. Her son, Stephen, is a graduate of New York Law School and now practices in Naples, FL. Her twins, Jonathan and Katherine, followed in her footsteps and, having recently completed their dental general practice residencies, are both in private practice in the New York metro area.

Dr. Venterina then honored the many SDDS members who served the SDDS and organized dentistry last year. First, of course, was our past president, Dr. Teplitsky and his wife, Joanne. She pointed out that he is an “individual of tremendous vitality, talent and commitment to the SDDS and the profession.” She awarded him our traditional Certificate of Recognition and past president’s pin.

Next to be honored were the SDDS members who have reached the milestone of ADA life membership status, an honor conferred on members who have at least 30 consecutive years or 40 total years of membership. That group included our now president, Dr. Venterina, as well as Drs. Jonathan Gerstman, Thomas Planzos, Michael Kohl, Alexander Mikhailov and William Waldinger.

Dr. Venterina recognized Drs. Saad Butt, Marc Meiselman, Mitchell Mindlin and Brian



From left to right: Installing officer, Dr. John Demas, SDDS President Dr. Valerie Venterina, President-Elect Dr. Phyllis Merlino, Vice President Dr. Cherry Libramonte and Treasurer Dr. Aia Shalan



SDDS President Dr. Valerie Venterina



Dr. Valerie Venterina and her family

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Perrone, who have completed their respective terms on the SDDS board of trustees. Dr. Charles Mistretta was thanked and honored for completing his four-year term on the Greater New York Dental Meeting's

Organization Committee. Drs. Kirstin Wolfe and Paul Teplitsky were thanked for their service on NYSDA Councils. Dr. Wolfe served on the NYSDA Council on Professional Liability Insurance, while Dr. Teplitsky served

on and chaired the NYSDA Council on Ethics.

Remember, all SDDS members are invited to this event. Beyond speeches and awards, it is a fun event filled with camaraderie. I highly recommend you join us

next January for our ongoing celebration of the volunteers who lead us. AND PLEASE consider becoming one of those volunteers. The future of our profession needs you to help guide it.



Editor's Message: HAPPY NEW YEAR, SDDS! Welcome to the SDDS's season of change.



SDDS Bulletin Editor Dr. Alyson Buchalter

In our previous issue, we bade a fond farewell to our much beloved, long-time executive director, Mr. Bernard Hackett. We now turn the page to a new year, new executive director, new staff and new president. Change is often not easy but, as I personally know each of these individuals, I know we have very capable hands to guide us to the future.

First, I want to congratulate my dear friend and colleague, Dr. Valerie Venterina. I am confident that she will shine as our president in 2026.

Next, please welcome Ms. Christine Terrio, who has transitioned into her new role as our executive director. I am confident that with Christine's expert guidance, SDDS will continue to be the envy of all local components.

Finally, I want to welcome Allison Serpico to the SDDS team, where she will work alongside Stephanie Carter and Shayo Farinre.



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

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Julius R. Berger – University of Buffalo, 1965

Dr. Carl Gold – Temple University, 1957

Dr. John S. McIntyre – University of Pennsylvania, 1979

**Dr. Ronald A. Rosa – University of Medicine and
Dentistry of New Jersey, 1967**

Dr. Robert Weller – New York University, 1952

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

REINSTATEMENTS

DR. CHUN PAE CHO

(Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery; New York University)
574 Bay Ridge Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11209

DR. FREDERIC COHEN

(General Practice; Temple University)
3215 Avenue H, Apt. 1C, Brooklyn, NY 11210

DR. PAULO ALEJANDRO COLLAZO-MOLINA

(General Practice; University of Puerto Rico)

DR. SHARON GARMA

(General Practice; University of Southern California)
555 Route 211 East Suite B, Middletown, NY

DR. MEHRNAZ GOLMAKANI

(Periodontics; New York University)
422 5th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11215

DR. MARGARITA KATSER

(Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology; Stony Brook University)
1906 Mermaid Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11224

DR. ROGER LEE

(General Practice; Columbia University)
2094 Pitkin Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11207

DR. JAMES RODRIGUEZ

(General Practice; New York University)
475 Seaview Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10305

DR. SUSAN SUNOK SINGER

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

DR. PADMA SUNDARAM

(General Practice; University of Pennsylvania)
57 Bay Street, Staten Island, NY 10301

DR. TEERAWEE UNCHALIPONGSE

(General Dentistry; New York University)
580 Myrtle Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11205

TRANSFERS

DR. ALEXANDER BLACK

(General Practice; Touro College of Dental Medicine at NYMC)
185 Montague Street, Floor 3, Brooklyn, NY 11201
Transferred from Ninth District Dental Association

DR. HO JUNG HWANG

(General Practice; Temple University)
439 Port Richmond Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10302
Transferred from Philadelphia County Dental Society

Message from Our New Executive Director



New SDDS Executive Director Ms. Christine Terrio

As I step into the role of executive director, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the leadership and strong foundation that our former executive director, Mr. Bernard Hackett, has built over the last 34 years with the Second District Dental Society (SDDS). His legacy of steady guidance, deep institutional knowledge and commitment to member service has left a lasting impression on this organization and on me personally. Having worked

closely with him these past four years, I've seen firsthand what it takes to lead SDDS with integrity and care.

I also recognize that leadership transitions, especially after someone as respected as Bernard, can bring a sense of uncertainty. My goal is to make this a smooth transition for everyone involved. While I know I won't fill Bernard's shoes overnight, I'm ready to bring my own, grounded in collaboration, transparency and a continued focus on our members.

Before joining SDDS, I spent my career in hospitality management, where I developed a deep appreciation for service, organization and creating meaningful experiences. Those skills translated naturally to association management in how I support our committees, coordinate events and ensure our members feel valued and engaged. I've now been part of the team for nearly five years and from the start, I was

drawn to the close-knit community of dedicated volunteers and members who truly care about each other and the profession. That sense of connection continues to inspire me every day.

I know that new dentists often feel isolated when starting out and can struggle to see the value of organized dentistry at first. But once they connect with other members, they experience the sense of belonging and support that defines SDDS. They begin to see how their voice matters and how they can help shape the future of the profession.

My hope as executive director is to help bridge the gap between generations of dentists as the profession evolves, communicate the true value of membership and create opportunities for connection that remind every member why this community matters. Whether you've been part of SDDS for decades or are just starting your journey, I want you

to feel that same sense of purpose, camaraderie and pride that makes this organization so special.

After attending the ADA Conference in Chicago, it became clear that we are at the end of an era, both nationally and locally, and we are stepping into something new. Dentistry, like many professions, is evolving. We are being called to reimagine how we serve and engage members across four generations, each with different expectations, communication styles and professional needs. The question before us is how we adapt to ensure that membership continues to provide value, connection and community in an ever-changing world.

As we look ahead, I see opportunities to strengthen our voice as a component, to make membership more meaningful and to ensure that SDDS remains a place where every dentist feels connected and supported. I am grateful for the trust you've placed in me and for the partnership of our members, volunteers and staff who make this organization what it is. Together, we can build on the foundation Bernard created, while shaping a future that reflects the needs and voices of the next generation of SDDS members.

I look forward to the journey ahead, learning from you, working alongside you and continuing to make SDDS a place we're all proud to call home.

With Gratitude,
Christine Terrio
SDDS Executive Director

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SDDS Short Topics, Small Talk, Good and Welfare

CONGRATULATIONS

to SDDS Board of Trustee Member Dr. Joann DeLeonibus on the marriage of her daughter, Francesca Giordano, to Jonathan Mattera on December 12, 2025.



CONGRATULATIONS

to SDDS Board of Trustee member Dr. Matthew Sciascia on his engagement.



SDDS WINS ICD AND GEIS AWARDS:

Congratulations to Dr. Stuart Segelnick on receiving the International College of Dentists Journalism 2025 Newsletter Award for the September/October 2024 GNYDM SDDS Bulletin issue and receiving third place for the American Dental Education Association Gies Editorial Award for his 2024 editorial, "Sepsis is Serious. Recognize the Signs."



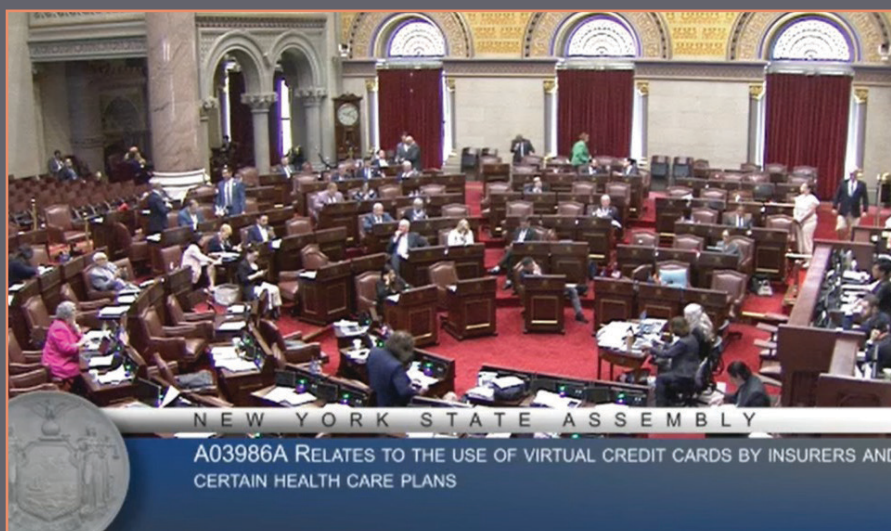
From left to right: Dr. Eliot Paisner (president, ICD USA section), Dr. Stuart Segelnick, Dr. Leighton A. Weir (chair, ICD Journalism Awards Committee) and Dr. Richard Roadcap (editor, ICD USA section)



Dr. Stuart Segelnick (middle) with the ADEA Gies Foundation Editorial Award, Dr. Chris Smiley and Dr. Kathy Gibson, who stepped in to help with the ADEA presentations

GOVERNOR SIGNS VCC BILL INTO LAW

After years of fighting for our members' right to be paid without incurring additional expenses to receive that payment, a NYSDA-sponsored bill was passed by both chambers of the state legislature and in the late hours of Dec. 20, 2025, Governor Kathy Hochul signed it. It essentially states that you, the provider, must be asked to OPT-IN before an insurance company sends you a virtual credit card (VCC), where your merchant services provider charges you processing fees, or an insurance company pays you via electronic fund transfer (EFT), where your bank charges you a fee. This bill goes into effect 180 days after it was signed, which will be on or around June 18, 2026. If you continue to receive unwanted VCCs after that date, please inform NYSDA or SDDS.

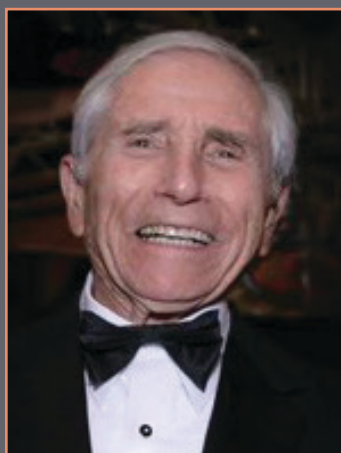


Sad News

The past few months have also brought some very sad news to the SDDS.



Dr. John McIntyre passed away in December 2025. Dr. McIntyre was very proud of his work for organized dentistry. He was a past president of SDDS and the 2006–2007 general chair of our Greater New York Dental Meeting (GNYDM). An oral surgeon who practiced in Brooklyn until he retired in 2024, Dr. McIntyre was also an attending surgeon at Long Island College Hospital and NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital. Dr. McIntyre was an athlete, competing in many marathons. One of his proudest achievements was completing the New York City Marathon with a time of 3 hours, 12 minutes. He was a tennis player and an avid long distance bicycle rider, completing several 200-mile in one day bike rides called “The Longest Day Ride” in New Jersey. Dr. McIntyre is survived by his wife, Terri, his children, Christopher and Julia, and his grandchildren, Denis and Harper.



Dr. Robert Weller, known to many SDDS members for his enlightening lectures and demonstrations over the years, both at GNYDM and at SDDS, passed away in October 2025. He practiced until he was 87—more than 50 years. He was a founding member of the American Society for Dental Aesthetics (ASDA).



Dr. Julius Berger passed away in October 2025. He was a well-respected dental educator, innovator, and public servant. His colleagues remember him as an outstanding clinician and a generous teacher. He was professor and chairman of the Department of Dental and Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery at Kings County Hospital Center; director of dentistry at Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center; director of dentistry at Maimonides Medical Center; director of Dental and Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery; interim medical director and senior associate dean at Downstate Medical Center College of Medicine; and director of the Cleft Lip & Palate Program at Maimonides Medical Center/Kings County Hospital Center.

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

SDDS AT THE ADA HOD

by John P. Demas, D.D.S.

The American Dental Association held the 166th annual meeting of its House of Delegates (HOD) in Washington, D.C. from Oct. 25 to 28, 2025.

New York State is the ADA's Second Trustee District and delegates and alternate delegates from each of the New York State Dental Association's (NYSDA) 13 components gathered in our nation's capital with their colleagues from across the country representing the other 16 caucus districts.

The delegates and alternate delegates were all assigned to one of four study groups: Business, Membership and Administrative Matters; Dental Benefits, Practice, Science, Health and Related Matters; Dental Education and Related Matters, or Legislative, Governance and Related Matters.

The Second District Dental Society (SDDS) members who attended as part of the of the Second Trustee District Caucus were, as delegates, Drs. Cherry Libramonte, Richard Oshrain and John Demas, and as alternate delegates, Drs. Tricia Quartey-Sagaille, Kirstin Wolfe and Paul Teplitsky. Just as we do at our own NYSDA HOD, our delegates and alternate delegates entered and left the House floor as necessary so that each could speak and vote on various resolutions as they were debated.

The past year saw upheaval and changes at the ADA level, not the least of which was the resignation of our executive director and the expenditure of \$142 million from our reserves from March of 2022 until March of 2025, \$53 million of which was spent on the

Salesforce and Fonteva programs (new association management systems, replacing Aptify), the rollout of which was an abysmal failure affecting virtually every constituency to their state component levels.

Additional frustrations came in the form of a loss of support for the strategic forecasting initiative which seemed, to a large swath of our membership, to have accomplished nothing.

Consequently, considerable attention was directed towards cost cutting, a number of related resolutions having come directly from delegates (rather than trustee district's).

Ultimately, the House voted to eliminate strategic forecasting, raised the dues for 2026 to \$627 (in 2023, the ADA's full membership dues were \$600. For 2024, the dues were lowered to \$570, a reduction of \$30 that carried over into 2025. The board of trustees recommended that that the \$30 reduction be reversed for 2026 and that a 3% increase (\$18) be added to account for inflation, bringing the proposed 2026 dues rate to \$618. The House added on \$9 in order to fund those new initiatives approved by the House this year but were not accounted for in the proposed budget – a fiscally responsible act) and, perhaps as a rebuke to those members who ran for elective office AND had been a member of the board of trustees over the past three years, elected a president-elect, a second vice president and a speaker, who were not in any type of leadership position when our finances withered.



The SDDS caucus at the ADA HOD. From left to right: Dr. Richard Oshrain (ADA delegate), Dr. John Demas (NYSDA trustee), Dr. Tricia Quartey-Sagaille (ADA alternate delegate), Dr. Cherry Libramonte (ADA delegate) and Dr. Paul Teplitsky (ADA alternate delegate)

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GNYDM 2025 attendees during one of the live workshops



A view of the GNYDM 2025 exhibit floor

GNYDM 2025: Building on a Century of Excellence and Innovation

by Dana Soltis, GNYDM Marketing and Sponsorship Manager; GNYDM Education Manager

GNYDM 2025: Building on a Century of Excellence and Innovation

The Greater New York Dental Meeting (GNYDM) returned in 2025 with renewed momentum, following the record-breaking success of its centennial celebration in 2024. In 2025, the GNYDM welcomed over 32,000 registrants and highlighted more than 400 exhibitors, setting a powerful foundation for the Meeting's next chapter as the premier face-to-face dental event in the United States.

A Dynamic Year Awaits: The Momentum Continues in 2026

The GNYDM 2026 continues this legacy with enhanced programming and expanded educational pathways. Inspired by last year's vibrant mix of seminars, hands-on workshops, scientific sessions and main stage presentations, the upcoming Meeting will continue to expand on their one and two hour session, as well as free CE courses highlighting

cutting-edge clinical trends, breakthrough technologies and practical skills designed for every dental professional from students to seasoned specialists.

At the 2026 Greater New York Dental Meeting, the exhibit floor will continue to serve as a hub of innovation, showcasing the latest advancements in digital dentistry, imaging, materials, AI-driven technologies, and patient-focused solutions. With the transition to a three-day exhibit floor, attendees will experience an enhanced environment featuring hands-on demonstrations, new product launches and meaningful opportunities to engage directly with leading companies shaping the future of dentistry.

The GNYDM will continue to cultivate and expand meaningful collaborations with key partners, including Conexiant, the New York State Dental Association, the American Dental Association, local dental associations, specialty organizations, dental schools and

professional groups. By maintaining longstanding relationships while initiating new partnerships, the Meeting brings together diverse segments of the dental community under one roof, creating a collaborative environment that supports shared learning, drives innovation and strengthens the profession through collective expertise and connection.

Powered by Leadership and Community

The strong partnership between Second District Dental Society (SDDS), dedicated volunteers and the GNYDM leadership of GNYDM General Chair Dr. John Young, Jr., the GNYDM team worked tirelessly to create an unforgettable experience for all attendees. Thanks to SDDS chairs on the GNYDM Organization Committee: Drs. Saad Butt, Steven Gounardes, Charles Mistretta and Lawrence Flaum, as well as incoming committee member Dr. Christopher Bowers, this year's

efforts positioned the Meeting for an even brighter future, and that foundation of teamwork and commitment will once again shape an exceptional experience in 2026.

Looking Forward

As GNYDM charts its path beyond its 101st year, its mission remains clear: to provide high-quality, innovative education and unparalleled networking opportunities that support the growth of dental professionals worldwide. GNYDM 2026 promises to be an inspiring continuation of a century-long tradition bringing the global dental community together to learn, connect and shape the future of dentistry.

Mark your calendars:

Friday, November 27–

Tuesday, December 1, 2026

GNYDM 2026 will be **five days of education** and a **three-day Exhibit Hall** experience. Please note: **There will be no Wednesday courses or exhibits.**



Visitors awaiting entry into the packed GNYDM 2025 exhibit floor



Welcome to Our New Resident Members!

It is our pleasure every year to welcome the graduate students of our various residency programs as new members of organized dentistry's tripartite. We welcome them with open arms, encourage them to actively participate and invite them to continue their membership in the future.

Brookdale Univ. Hospital and Medical Center

- Dr. Hasib Ahmed - New York Univ., 2021
- Dr. Priya Chandok - Tufts Univ. School of Dental Medicine, 2025
- Dr. Parneet Chhatwal - Univ. at Buffalo, 2025
- Dr. Peter Dibbini - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Dina Dolnick - Baltimore College of Dental Surgery: Univ. of Maryland, 2025
- Dr. Chadi El-Jebrine - Univ. of Montreal, 2025
- Dr. Chisom Eni-Kalu - Univ. of Pennsylvania, 2025
- Dr. Justin Frankel - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Cristel Galindo-Zevallos - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Pooja Gupta - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Raye'Anna Hoff - Howard Univ., 2025
- Dr. Claire Hsiung - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Aaron Kaplan - Touro College of Dental Medicine at NYMC, 2025
- Dr. Minkyu Kim - Touro College of Dental Medicine at NYMC, 2025
- Dr. Payal Kumar - Boston Univ., 2021
- Dr. Maiden Rosicell Padilla - Nova Southeastern Univ., 2025
- Dr. Daniela Pereira - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Umar Salim - Univ. at Buffalo, 2025
- Dr. Nidhi Shankar - Temple Univ., 2025
- Dr. Max Shender - Boston Univ., 2019
- Dr. Rachel Swed - Stony Brook Univ., 2025
- Dr. Mohamed Tamara - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Megana Ram Tangella - Tufts Univ. School of Dental Medicine, 2025
- Dr. Juochi Tsai - Texas Tech Univ., 2025
- Dr. Joubin Vafamansouri - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Colby Vuong - Univ. of the Pacific, 2025
- Dr. Leon Wright - Univ. of Maryland Dental School: Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, 2025
- Dr. Hyeji Yoon - Touro College of Dental Medicine at NYMC, 2025

The Brooklyn Hospital Center

- Dr. Sonal Lahoti - Columbia Univ., 2025
- Dr. Deborah Lee - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Anika Mody - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Roxanne Rogers - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Sonia Saakian - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Ted Sananikone - Univ. of Tennessee HSC College of Dentistry, 2025
- Dr. Brelynn Wray - Howard Univ., 2025

Interfaith Medical Center

- Dr. Alexis Parris - Howard Univ., 2025
- Dr. Daryll Ana Hill Selden - Baltimore College of Dental Surgery: Univ. of Maryland, 2025

Maimonides Medical Center

- Dr. Zejian Chi - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Mahwish Hamayun - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Danny Khaimov - Touro College of Dental Medicine at NYMC, 2025
- Dr. Bekzod Rahimov - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Habiba Sikander - New York Univ., 2025

NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital

- Dr. Sammy Ahmed - Touro College of Dental Medicine at NYMC, 2025
- Dr. Elizabeth Bagley - Columbia Univ., 2025
- Dr. Anya Braverman - Touro College of Dental Medicine at NYMC, 2025
- Dr. Stephanie Esquivel - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Yutong Fan - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Taylor Greenberg - Roseman Univ. of Health Sciences, 2025
- Dr. Nicole Grinkevich - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Diwana Lucero - Univ. of Pennsylvania, 2025
- Dr. Sowmya Mannimala - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Anthony Monaco - Stony Brook Univ., 2025
- Dr. Elina Nourmand - Stony Brook Univ., 2025
- Dr. Simone St. Paul - Howard Univ., 2025
- Dr. Tamilla Tariverdieva - New York Univ., 2025

NYC Health + Hospitals/Coney Island

- Dr. Ariella Aronova - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Sally Chen - Stony Brook Univ., 2025
- Dr. Stanley Faynblut - Stony Brook Univ., 2025
- Dr. Madina Malik - Columbia Univ., 2025
- Dr. Marvin Pierre - Howard Univ., 2025
- Dr. Arik Sionov - New York Univ., 2025

NYC Health + Hospitals/Kings County

- Dr. Derica Burwell - Western Univ., 2025
- Dr. Yuriy Garaev - Stony Brook Univ., 2025
- Dr. Matthew Hoang - Univ. of Colorado, 2025
- Dr. Ashley Kim - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Hojun Kweon - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Jillian McGough - New York Univ., 2025

- Dr. Surya Patel - Temple Univ., 2025
- Dr. Ameer Rum - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Fengjun Shen - Tufts Univ. School of Dental Medicine, 2025
- Dr. Eda Zhang - New York Univ., 2025

NYC Health + Hospitals/Woodhull

- Dr Ahmed Albakry - Univ. at Buffalo, 2025
- Dr Michelle Bernstein - Columbia Univ., 2025
- Dr Jason Chang - Univ. of the Pacific, 2025
- Dr Therese Cooney - Univ. of Nebraska, 2025
- Dr. Grace Heo - Tufts Univ. School of Dental Medicine, 2025
- Dr Anhad Kapila - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr Dennis Kellerman - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr Luke Kim - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr Hasan Kuliev - Touro College of Dental Medicine at NYMC, 2025
- Dr. Yeonji Lee - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Clara McHugh - Univ. of Minnesota, 2025
- Dr Paul Mensah - Univ. at Buffalo, 2025
- Dr. Marisa Murphy - Univ. of Minnesota, 2025
- Dr. Taylor Murrell - Univ. of Michigan, 2025
- Dr Alyssa Nedell - Univ. of Michigan, 2025
- Dr. Farhan Rahman - Univ. at Buffalo, 2025
- Dr Shriya Rao - Univ. at Buffalo, 2025
- Dr. Lidya Rizkalla - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr Caroline Salazar - Columbia Univ., 2025
- Dr Diana Silva - Univ. of Puerto Rico, 2025
- Dr. Edmund Song - Univ. at Buffalo, 2025
- Dr. Amogh Thalanki - The State Univ. of NJ: Rutgers, 2024

NYU Langone Hospitals

- Dr. Dean Bartlett - Roseman Univ. of Health Sciences, 2020
- Dr. Noel Bello - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Ryley Bennett - Tufts Univ. School of Dental Medicine, 2025
- Dr. Karishma Bhavsar - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Iqra Bibi - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Iqra Bibi - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Nana Boakye - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Chloe Brioche - Nova Southeastern Univ., 2025
- Dr. Bin Chen - Stony Brook Univ., 2025
- Dr. Bin Chen - Stony Brook Univ., 2025
- Dr. Robert Deleon-Kollmer - Tufts Univ. School of Dental Medicine, 2025
- Dr. Gabrielle Fernandez - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Christopher Frazzette - Temple Univ., 2025
- Dr. Rami Habib - New York Univ., 2025

Continued on Page 12 »

NYU Langone Hospitals Cont.

- Dr. Jacob Hamelburg - Tufts Univ. School of Dental Medicine, 2025
- Dr. Mika Hayashi - Virginia Commonwealth Univ., 2025
- Dr. Chrisney He - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Seth Hintze - Univ. of Iowa College of Dentistry, 2018
- Dr. Joseph Huang - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Joseph Huang - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Courtney Jones - Columbia Univ., 2025
- Dr. Megha Kanabar - Tufts Univ. School of Dental Medicine, 2025
- Dr. Abraham Kariyev - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Abraham Kariyev - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Ramanpreet Kaur - Tufts Univ. School of Dental Medicine, 2025
- Dr. Paresha Khan - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Abbey Lepor - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Chun Li - Tufts Univ. School of Dental Medicine, 2025
- Dr. Marcela Maria - Univ. of Southern California, 2025

- Dr. Jordan McCullough - Midwestern Univ., 2025
- Dr. Sara Mourtada - Temple Univ., 2025
- Dr. Hayeon Park - Temple Univ., 2025
- Dr. Jayanne Pierre - Columbia Univ., 2025
- Dr. Shayan Porooshasp - Touro College of Dental Medicine at NYMC, 2025
- Dr. Lavannia Raguthu - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Talia Sakhaee - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Sara Salcedo - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Krishna Schachter - Loma Linda Univ. School of Dentistry, 2024
- Dr. Sarah Shimonova - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Tejasvi Singh - Roseman Univ. of Health Sciences, 2025
- Dr. Sara Stubbendieck - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Yiji Suh - Stony Brook Univ., 2023
- Dr. David Wall - Univ. of Pennsylvania, 2025
- Dr. Shannon Wu - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Holly Yue - Roseman Univ. of Health Sciences, 2025
- Dr. Alice Zhang - Columbia Univ., 2025
- Dr. Kevin Zhang - Stony Brook Univ., 2025

Staten Island Univ. Hospital

- Dr. Manwing Chiu - New York Univ., 2024
- Dr. Samantha Gavin - Univ. at Buffalo, 2025
- Dr. Yasmin Ludianski - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Eema Manzoor
- Dr. Yehudis Newman - Touro College of Dental Medicine at NYMC, 2025
- Dr. Angelika Pupiec - Univ. at Buffalo, 2025
- Dr. Michelle Rybak - Univ. at Buffalo, 2025
- Dr. Saul Schnitzler
- Dr. Rebecca Varsky - LECOM College of Dental Medicine, 2025
- Dr. Omer Yetiskul - New York Univ., 2025
- Dr. Jenna Zerino - New York Univ., 2024
- Dr. Cindy Zheng - Touro College of Dental Medicine at NYMC, 2025



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Second District Dental Society

SDDS

Dental Student Loan Forgiveness Program

Awards up to \$10,000 for new dentists. 2026 application period OPEN NOW!



Awards up to \$10,000

Eligible applicants must:

- Be licensed in New York state and have completed a 1-year residency training program at a CODA-approved institution within the last five years
- Hold Active membership with Second District Dental Society of New York, the New York State Dental Association and the American Dental Association. Associate members are not eligible.
- Have a minimum of \$50,000 in outstanding dental school loans
- Have a maximum of five years of verifiable full-time employment as a licensed dentist (majority of employment must be in either Brooklyn, NY or Staten Island, NY)
- Meet additional eligibility requirements as stated at: www.sddsny.org/loanforgiveness

For full program details and to begin your application visit:

www.sddsny.org/loanforgiveness

*You will need to create an account to view details and begin your application.



Application deadline is March 31, 2026. APPLY TODAY!

FREE Shredding Event

Friday, April 10, 2026

**Second District Dental Society Headquarters
111 Fort Greene Place
Brooklyn, NY 11217**

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY | 10 A.M. - 1 P.M.

Friday, April 17, 2026

**Hilton Garden Inn
1100 South Avenue at Lois Lane
Staten Island, NY 10314**

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY | 10:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

Documents shredded securely onsite in a mobile shredding vehicle by Time Shred Services

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Limited spaces available. Sign up today!

Call SDDS at **(718) 522-3939** or email info@sddsny.org
to reserve your spot.



Second District Dental Society of New York

SDDS

SDDS Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

MARCH 3, 2025 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

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

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

EXCUSED: Dr. DeLeonibus, Demas, Sager and Rusi

GUESTS: Drs. Flamer-Caldera, Mindlin, Oshrain, Shekib, Turchak, Parki, Sciascia, Bauer and Young

Motion passed: To accept the minutes of the February 2025 board of trustees meeting

ELECTION OF MEMBERS

NEW MEMBERS:

Dr. Tzvi Menachem Krupka – University of Maryland: Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, 2020

Dr. Brianna Tucker – Meharry Medical College, 2020

Dr. Mark S. Henin – Columbia University, 2022

TRANSFERS:

Dr. Elizabeth M. Maas – New York University, 2019 (Transferred from Passaic County Dental Society)

Dr. Katarzyna Izabela Gilewicz – New York University, 2014 (Transferred from Ninth District Dental Society)

Dr. Robert Yan – Columbia University, 2014 (Transferred from New York County Dental Society)

Dr. Kyle Joshua Sevel – Columbia University, 2021 (Transferred from Bronx County Dental Society)

Dr. Geena Marie Bell – The State University of New York: Stony Brook University, 2021 (Transferred from Suffolk County Dental Society)

Dr. Paul Chin-Fan Li – Columbia University, 2006 (Transferred from Central Dental Society)

Dr. Michele Nguyen – Louisiana State University, 2015 (Transferred from New York County Dental Society)

RESIDENT MEMBERS:

NYU Langone

Dr. Olivia Tardif – New York University, 2002

Veteran Affairs

Dr. Alexia Blackhurst – University of Pennsylvania, 2019

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

See “Upcoming Events” calendar.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Email dated March 3, 2025 from Dr. Reneida Reyes acknowledging our sympathies on the loss of her husband Stephen
2. Email dated March 3, 2025 from Dr. Babak Bina acknowledging our sympathies on the loss of his father
3. Email dated March 3, 2025 from Dr. Sandy Rusi acknowledged our congratulations on the birth of her baby boy

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND STAFF

President – Dr. Paul Teplitsky:

- Constitution and Bylaws committee to have a review. He then identified the members of the Bylaws Committee
- Chair of House committee is Dr. Howard Lieb
- GNYDM forming a personnel committee for the general manager’s contract renewal
- Dr. Demas is chair of the Finance and Budget Committee. Eleven members are going to form a subcommittee which will appoint three to four people
- Search committee for SDDS for executive director. Dr. Venterina will serve as chair with Dr. Teplitsky
- Working on nominations for the nominating committee

President Elect – Dr. Valerie Venterina:

- Dr. Christopher Bowers announced as appointee to the Greater New York Dental Meeting effective Jan. 1, 2026

Secretary – Dr. Cherry Libramonte:

- Read the emails from correspondence

Treasurer – Dr. Joseph Merola:

- Account balances as of March 3, 2025 were read aloud

Executive Director – Mr. Bernard Hackett

- NYSDA HOD on May 30, 2025 in Long Island. SDDS will have 10 delegates and 10 alternates. SDDS will reimburse alternates for two days excluding Thursday
- Spring meetings from NYSDA about to commence important to review all the committee reports
- The loan forgiveness program application period is in its final month. The Awards Committee will meet in April
- NYSDA sent hard copy dues statements to those who have not paid 2025 membership dues
- House committee to establish date for meeting
- April 3: Past presidents’ dinner at Gargiulo’s
- March 25: Constitution and Bylaws committee meeting via Zoom
- Dr. Teplitsky to appoint four or five people who are going to be on residents committee

NYSDA REPORTS:

Special Committee on Dental Medicaid – Dr. Steven Backer (previously emailed)

SDDS REPORTS:

Greater New York Dental Meeting –

Dr. John Young (previously emailed)

Richmond County Dental Society –

Dr. Brian Perrone:

- RCDS: Planning lectures for next year. Please contact Dr. Perrone with any ideas for speakers

GOOD & WELFARE:

- Dr. Steven Gounardes’ son, Gregory, was ordained as a priest
- Birthday greetings to Dr. Stephanie Sager
- Dr. Albicocco’s daughter got a job
- Dr. Teplitsky’s daughter, Sarah, has passed her certification as nurse practitioner
- Dr. Merola going to Africa with medical mission program “Healing the Children” in October
- Mention was made regarding accuracy of a scheduled clinician’s bio

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

SDDS Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

APRIL 7, 2025 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

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

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

EXCUSED: Drs. Shalan and Guzman

GUESTS: Drs. Sconzo, Flamer-Caldera, Oshrain, Shekib, Turchak, Sciascia, Bauer, Lerner, Pavlakos, Agosto, Desai and Samadi

Motion passed: To accept the minutes of the March 3, 2025 board of trustees meeting

DECEASED MEMBERS:

Dr. Jay Rubin – University of Pennsylvania, 1987

ELECTION OF MEMBERS:

NEW MEMBERS:

Dr. Brandon McDonald – Columbia University, 2019

Dr. Mary E. Camarano – The State University of New Jersey: Rutgers, 2021

Dr. John J. Jenks – New York University, 2018

REINSTATEMENTS:

TRANSFERS:

Dr. Anthony Agosto – The State University of New York: University at Buffalo, 2023 (Transferred from Nassau County Dental Society)

Dr. Kimberly Mei – Columbia University, 2022 (Transferred from Bronx County Dental Society)

Dr. Shahab Cohen – New York University, 2005 (Transferred from Nassau County Dental Society)

RESIDENT MEMBERS:

Brooklyn Hospital

Dr. Brandon J. Grieser – The State University of New Jersey: Rutgers, 2024

Motion passed: To approve the election of new members transfers and residents as named

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

See “Upcoming Events” calendar.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Email dated March 7 from Stacy McIllduff. The New York State Dental Foundation is soliciting sponsorship for the annual brunch at the NYSDA House of Delegates meeting
2. Email dated March 19 from Stacy McIllduff, New York State Dental Foundation, regarding SDDS involvement with Veterans Day event at New York City College of Technology

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND STAFF

President – Dr. Paul Teplitsky:

1. NYS Dental Foundation soliciting sponsorships — \$1,000 for four seats on the brunch (additional \$600 cost) or \$2,500 for eight tickets same listing plus listing on the website additional
Motion Passed: To sponsor the NYS Dental Foundation luncheon at the \$1,000 level
2. Motion passed to support New York City Tech event in November on Veterans Day to provide free dental care to veterans
3. Bylaws Committee moving forward with update
4. House Committee moving forward with reviewing the building
5. Finance Committee is going to be chaired by Dr Mindlin
6. Nominating Committee – Five people were nominated. Election to be held at the April membership meeting
7. Search committee for executive director includes Drs. Venterina, Albicocco, Demas, Wolfe, Shalan and Teplitsky
8. Dental residents committee was approved at March membership meeting. Will pick five to be announced at next meeting
9. Past presidents’ dinner was held at Gargiulo’s on Thursday

President-Elect – Dr. Valerie Venterina:

- Two weeks ago at NYSDA’s president-elect meeting, it was announced that non-covered services bill was passed by the NYS legislature but vetoed by governor
- ADA Lobby Day addressed DOC Access Act, REDI Act, NIH new fluoride study request and cuts to Medicaid funding (handout given)

Vice President – Dr. Phyllis Merlino:

- Working with Bylaws Committee

Treasurer – Dr. Joseph Merola:

- Account balances as of April 7, 2025 were read aloud
- Executive Director – Mr. Bernard Hackett:
- Zoom meeting for loan forgiveness results
- Inform Dr. Teplitsky if you would like to volunteer for residency committee
- Will Schedule SDDS caucus for zoom HOD NYSDA

NYSDA REPORTS

NYSDA Trustee Report – Dr. John Demas:

- Has not been another trustee meeting
- Legal review still pending

Council on Dental Practice – Dr. Quartey-Sagaille (EMAILED)

Council on Dental Education and Licensure – Dr. Goumardes (EMAILED)

Council on Peer Review – Dr. Richards (EMAILED)

Council on Ethics – Dr. Teplitsky

- Asked to represent NYSDA on ADA CDA

SDDS REPORTS

Greater New York Dental Meeting – Dr. John Young (report attached)

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to approve up to \$15,000 for the New Dentist Committee activities

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (none)

GOOD & WELFARE:

- Dr. DeLeonibus’ son and daughter-in-law had a baby girl
- Dr. Merola will be giving us his CPR contact, who is starting his own company
- Dr. Buccigrossi is a grandpa
- Dr. Eliscar-Hewett thanks those who donated to her kid’s fundraiser
- Dr. Albicocco’s daughter became executive director for the Hugh Carey Center for Dispute Resolution at St. John’s University law school
- Birthday greetings to Dr. Mindlin and Mr. Hackett

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE #2026-02 |

The Dr. Meryl J. Efron Memorial Lecture

Advance Registration Required—Register online at sddsny.org

Friday, February 27, 2026 ♦ Hilton Garden Inn, Staten Island ♦ 9 A.M.—4 P.M. ♦ 6 HOURS



From Simple to Complex: What's New in Digital Design and Technology, Veneers, Complex Aesthetic Cases and More AND The Complex Aesthetic Case: When and How to Open the Vertical Dimension, Occlusion, Bite and Function

Featured Clinician: **JOYCE L. BASSETT, D.D.S., F.A.A.C.D., F.A.G.D.**

Clinical Instructor, KOIS Center

*Dr. Bassett receives an honorarium from Bisco and Shofu.

***This course consists of two parts. Attendees must attend BOTH parts to receive continuing education credits.**

PART 1: From Simple to Complex: What's New in Digital Design and Technology, Veneers, Complex Aesthetic Cases and More

This innovative, fast-paced presentation will explore frequently seen problems that occur during restorative treatment, showcasing a variety of modes of failures. You will learn systematic techniques that can be used to both prevent and remedy these failures. This digitally generated approach will guide the dentist and expedite important design decisions, provide unique patient communication options and improve the predictability of the aesthetic outcome. You will develop presentation skills and verbiage to instill confidence with your patients, offer realistic patient expectations and brand yourself as the go-to dentist. You will leave the course with the whole package necessary to catapult your practice to the top level of aesthetic dentistry. There is something for everyone to learn in this presentation. Upon successful completion of this course, attendees will:

- Master the usage of systemized techniques to treat simple to complex cases with veneers, crowns and implants
- Elevate their verbal skills and boost their case acceptance.
- Learn how to evaluate the digital mockup in the analog world, chairside and make corrections to enhance the prototypes before final restorations are created.
- Learn how to utilize digital libraries and choose the proper tooth forms that will optimize the illusion of harmony and balance in complex space management cases.

PART 2: The Complex Aesthetic Case: When and How to Open the Vertical Dimension, Occlusion, Bite and Function

Failures in dentistry are frequently blamed on materials but many times we, the dentists, are the culprits. We treat the anterior teeth as cosmetic challenges and we forget to look at the relationship of form and function. This presentation will simplify occlusion by combining dental facial treatment planning in combination with function. By applying a few basic principles, we can design the proper amount of restorative space for our restorations. This innovative, fast-paced course will explore aesthetics that are BUILT TO LAST. Upon successful completion of this course, attendees will:

Learn how to diagnose and treatment plan an aesthetic case.

- Evaluate the patient's incisor position and morphology, their dentofacial requirements, determine the appropriate vertical dimension and create synergy between form and function.
- Understand distinctive steps to simplify restorative preparations and identify which adhesives and restorative materials work the best for maximum predictability.

SDDS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, March 12, 2026 ♦ Dyker Beach Golf Course, Brooklyn, NY ♦ 6:30 P.M. ♦ MCEU—1 HOUR



Pediatric Dental Trauma Essentials: From Guidelines to Chairside Application

Featured Clinician: **MEETA GREWAL, D.D.S.**

Associate Program Director, NYU Langone Hospital—Brooklyn

Dental trauma is a frequent occurrence in children and adolescents, often requiring immediate and informed intervention to preserve function, esthetics and long-term oral health. This lecture is designed specifically for all dentists to enhance their confidence and competence in managing traumatic dental injuries in pediatric patients. Through a review of current evidence-based guidelines, including those from the International Association of Dental Traumatology (IADT), participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of the diagnosis, emergency treatment and follow-up protocols for injuries involving both primary and permanent dentition. Topics will include fracture types, luxation injuries, avulsions, splinting techniques and considerations for the growing patient.

Interactive case discussions and clinical decision-making scenarios will help translate theory into practical, real-world skills. The lecture also emphasizes effective communication with parents or guardians, appropriate referral timing and prevention strategies. Whether you occasionally treat children or regularly provide family dental care, this lecture will prepare you to deliver timely, appropriate and confident care for pediatric dental trauma cases. Upon successful completion of the lecture, general dentists will be equipped with the knowledge and clinical competencies necessary to accurately diagnose, manage and provide appropriate follow-up care for common traumatic dental injuries in pediatric patients, using current evidence-based protocols and interdisciplinary care principles.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE #2026-03 |

The Dr. Irving E. Gruber Memorial Lecture

Advance Registration Required—Register online at sddsny.org

Friday, March 13, 2026 ♦ Second District Dental Society Headquarters, Brooklyn ♦ 9 A.M.—4 P.M. ♦ 6 HOURS



Full Mouth Rehabilitation and Changing Lives: Aesthetics, Implants and Occlusion

Featured Clinician: **DEAN C. VAFIADIS, D.D.S.**

Associate Professor of Prosthodontics, New York University College of Dentistry

*Dr. Vafiadis receives grant/research support from Shining 3D Dental, Ritter Implants, DMG, Vatech and FMR Consulting.

Since our dental school education, we have always been told that we “could not open the bite.” Many clinicians avoided this treatment and others had great success. This program will help demystify this process with practical methods of how to restore occlusal vertical dimension (OVD) up to 10 mm. The long-term success of these patients with these techniques has been documented and recorded both radiographically and with photographs, with up to 18 years. Using sound prosthodontics principles, and digital analysis of the OVD, these restorations can become the standard of care in our private practices. Anterior determinants and posterior determinants can show us the way through this gray area of occlusion. Utilizing photography, AI integration, CAD/CAM technologies and printing, and smile simulations, we can get a clear picture of where we want to be with every case.

Understanding different digital technologies and applying them to every day dentistry helps the clinician be more efficient, predictable and understand occlusion with every patient. We will demonstrate the process from consultation to final delivery. Different materials and preparations will be discussed. Digital analysis, CAD/CAM technology and digital printing will help to get the provisionals to their ideal proportions. The provisionals are a key component to the results of the final restoration. The laboratory communication is vital, with videos, photos and 3D facial scans all helping the technician get the ideal shape and proper proportion of every tooth in the smile line. This program will highlight 3D digital technology and digital smile designs that accent the final result for ideal smile and occlusion and aesthetics.

Upon successful completion of this course, attendees will have a new perspective of treating complicated cases with new technologies and efficient treatment plans. New concepts of occlusion and treating the worn dentition will be discussed. Utilizing CAD/CAM analysis of occlusion, the clinician can better determine ideal OVD position. Implant materials and ceramics will be discussed. Participants will learn:

1. Techniques to restore the “worn dentition.”
2. CAD/CAM analysis of occlusion.
3. Provisionalization to restoring OVD.
4. Materials and ceramics for ideal aesthetics and implants.

ADA CERP® | Continuing Education Recognition Program

Second District Dental Society is an ADA CERP Recognized Provider. ADA CERP is a service of the American Dental Association to assist dental professionals in identifying quality providers of continuing dental education. ADA CERP does not approve or endorse individual courses or instructors, nor does it imply acceptance of credit hours by boards of dentistry. Second District Dental Society designates each activity in this brochure for the stated number of continuing education credits.



SECOND DISTRICT DENTAL SOCIETY
Locally Approved PACE Program Provider for FAGD/MAGD credits.
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7/1/2023 to 6/30/2025
Provider ID# 212348

Second District Dental Society is a recognized sponsor by the N.Y.S. Education Department, ADA CERP and the AGD.

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.

RCDS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 ♦ Max's Es-Ca, Staten Island ♦ 7 P.M. ♦ MCEU – 1 HOUR

Dentistry: Designed, not Default

Featured Clinician: **DEAN M. SACCOMANNO, D.D.S.**

Owner, ONE ENDO Endodontics Specialty Practice

Clinical excellence remains central to dentistry and outcomes today are shaped by how that excellence is supported by systems, technology and design. Dentistry is increasingly influenced by decisions made beyond the operator, including workflow, infrastructure and practice structure. This lecture examines dentistry through an intentional design lens, highlighting how thoughtful systems support predictable outcomes and sustainable private practice. The presentation connects clinical decision making with practice design, exploring diagnosis, case planning, workflow consistency and the role of technology as part of a broader care continuum. It also addresses how small, thoughtful improvements compound over time and how independent practices are adapting to economic pressure and industry consolidation while preserving autonomy and clinical standards. Attendees will leave with a clearer understanding of how dentistry functions when it is designed rather than inherited and how applying intentional structure beyond the operator supports better outcomes for patients and practitioners. Upon successful completion of this lecture, attendees will learn:

- How clinical outcomes in dentistry are shaped by intentional design choices made before, during and after patient care.
- How systems, workflows and technology support predictability, efficiency and long-term success in dental practice.
- How privately owned dental practices can apply structured thinking and incremental improvement to adapt and thrive.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE #2026-04

Advance Registration Required—Register online at sddsny.org

Friday, March 27, 2026 ♦ Live webinar via Zoom ♦ 10 A.M. – 12 P.M. ♦ 2 HOURS



Contemporary Strategies for the Management of Deep Carious Lesions

Featured Clinician: **JULIANNA BAIR, D.M.D.**

Diplomate, American Board of Endodontics

Dental caries is one of the most prevalent dental diseases worldwide, commonly leading to pulp inflammation. Root canal treatment is widely recognized as the standard approach for managing teeth with inflamed pulps resulting from caries. With advancements in the understanding of pulp biology and in dental materials, specifically calcium silicate biomaterials, vital pulp therapy has become an increasingly predictable treatment option even for mature, permanent teeth and teeth diagnosed with irreversible pulpitis.

This case-based presentation will review the histopathology of caries and the healing potential of the inflamed pulp, review various treatment options such as minimally invasive techniques, indirect pulp capping, partial pulpotomy, full pulpotomy, root canal therapy, extraction and the expected outcomes of each approach. We will review the steps of performing vital pulp therapy and the applications of different materials. This presentation will give you the tools and confidence to tackle any clinical challenges in treating deep carious lesions. Upon successful completion of this course, attendees will learn:

- Case selection for various treatment options and understanding the expected outcomes for each approach.
- A comprehensive understanding of the essential steps involved in performing vital pulp therapy.
- A review of materials in managing deep carious lesions.

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

Buy more, SAVE MORE! Register for any TWO SDDS courses and get ONE course of equal or lesser value for free (excluding CPR). To redeem this offer, download a course registration form at www.sddsny.org and mail, fax or email to SDDS Headquarters.

#2026-02 The Dr. Meryl J. Efron Memorial Lecture		9 A.M. – 4 P.M.		MCEU – 6 hours		"CPR and Medical Emergencies in the Dental Office"	
"From Simple to Complex: What's New in Digital Design and Technology, Veneers, Complex Aesthetic Cases and More" & "The Complex Aesthetic Case: When and How to Open the Vertical Dimension, Occlusion, Bite and Function"		MCEU – 6 hours		Breakfast and lunch included		*excluded from discount offers*	
		#2026-03 The Dr. Irving E. Gruber Memorial Lecture:		#2026-04 "Contemporary Strategies for the Management of Deep Carious Lesions"		SDDS Members	
		"Full Mouth Rehabilitation and Changing Lives: Aesthetics, Implants and Occlusion"				SDDS Member's Staff	
SDDS Life Members	\$122.50	SDDS Life Members	\$122.50	SDDS Life Members	\$52.50	SDDS Residents	\$125
SDDS Members	\$175	SDDS Members	\$175	SDDS Members	\$75	ADA Members/Staff	\$200
SDDS Member's Staff	\$100	SDDS Member's Staff	\$100	SDDS Member's Staff	\$50	Non-ADA Members/Staff	\$295
SDDS Residents	\$50	SDDS Residents	\$50	SDDS Residents	\$25	Michael Kaliroff	
ADA Members	\$200	ADA Members	\$200	ADA Members/Staff	\$100/	MCEU – 4.5 hours	
ADA Member's Staff	\$150	ADA Member's Staff	\$150		\$75	Hilton Garden Inn, Staten Island	
Non-ADA Members	\$275	Non-ADA Members	\$275	Non-ADA Members/Staff	\$110	(9 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.)	
Non-ADA Member's Staff	\$175	Non-ADA Member's Staff	\$175	Julianna Bair, D.M.D.		#2026-05 Friday, April 10, 2026	
Joyce L. Bassett,		Dean C. Vafiadis, D.D.S.		Friday, March 27, 2026		SDDS Headquarters, Brooklyn	
D.D.S., F.A.A.C.D., F.A.G.D.		Friday, March 13, 2026		MCEU – 2 hours		(9:30 A.M. – 3 P.M.)	
Friday, February 27, 2026		SDDS Headquarters, Brooklyn		*Link to join the meeting will be sent to all registrants one week prior to the meeting.		#2026-07 Friday, May 1, 2026	
Hilton Garden Inn, Staten Island		9 A.M. – 4 P.M.					

NEW DENTISTS!

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Newly graduated dentists entering private practice for the first time immediately following the completion of training can now qualify for a **flat-rate premium of \$50** for either a first-year Claims Made policy or an Occurrence policy - at limits of \$1,000,000/\$3,000,000.

Plus, keep the MLMIC savings going for four years!

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- 2nd year: 60%
- 3rd year: 25%
- 4th year: 10%

Even if you don't qualify for the \$50 flat-rate premium, **you may still be eligible for a 75% first-year discount** off the standard rates for either Claims Made or Occurrence coverage.



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to inquire today.

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or e-mail dental@mlmic.com.



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SDDS Job Board

POSITIONS WANTED

GENERAL DENTIST AVAILABLE PART-TIME: Experienced General Dentist available 1–2 days/ week and alternate Saturdays. Bay Ridge area, Park Slope, North Brooklyn and Staten Island. **Contact:** Dr. Jack Bender | (917) 301-4436

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 | brndntl@aol.com

ORAL SURGEON—NYP BROOKLYN METHODIST 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

ASSOCIATE DENTIST WANTED: Modern private practice in Brooklyn (Kings Highway) is seeking an associate dentist proficient in performing all phases of dentistry. There are both part-time and full-time opportunities. If you are looking for a career opportunity with unlimited professional growth potential or a partnership track, please contact us or email your resume. **Contact:** Dr. Safonova | (718) 376-1090 | taladentalinfo@gmail.com

ADVERTISING IN THE SDDS JOB BOARD

The SDDS Job Board is a free member-benefit program for all Second District members who are seeking employment and for all SDDS members who have positions available at their office address in Brooklyn or Staten Island. This member benefit is available only to Second District members in good standing. **Visit** bit.ly/SDDSJobBoard to submit your ad via our online submission form or email Shayo Farinre at sfarinre@sddsny.org

Classifieds

FOR RENT: 1-8 dental ops for rent in large fully functional ground-floor dental office in Bensonhurst, BK. 1-3 ops available in New Dorp, SI; both in prime locations. Perfect for transition, start-up or winding down, flexible days/ops dependent on your needs. Call for more info: (917) 689-3911.

DENTAL OFFICE FOR RENT/SALE: Modern dental practice in a very busy area of Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, 11204 / 1st floor / corner building / approx. 1000 sq. feet (high ceiling). Three fully equipped operatories / custom cabinets / flat screen

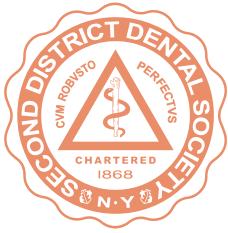
TVs / computerized / central AC & heat. Nitrous oxide / pulse oximeter. Eagle software system, digital schick X-rays, panoramic machine, waiting room area & nice size reception area plus flat screen TV. Fully equipped laboratory area/kitchen/ storage room/ basement. Alarm & stereo system/phone system/24 hrs surveillance camera. Private office (separate entrance). Near public transportation. Long term lease / available immediately. **Please Contact Us At:** (718) 435-0045

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to expand. Storefront on a busy street near the bus and subway. Dentaquest plus PPO and unions and private. Gross 996K. For more details, **contact** (917) 332-8439.

ADVERTISING IN THE SDDS CLASSIFIEDS

If you are interested in placing a classified ad online and in the SDDS Bulletin, please download the SDDS 2025 Advertising Contract at www.sddsny.org, which details ad rates, submission guidelines and submission instructions. Further inquiries may be directed to Shayo Farinre at sfarinre@sddsny.org



Second District Dental Society

SDDS

111 Fort Greene Place
Brooklyn, NY 11217-1418



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The Dental Auxiliary Training Center's (DATC) "Fundamentals of Chairside Dental Assisting" course which started in September 2025 ended in December 2025 and graduates are ready for employment.

As a service to SDDS members, DATC invites you to post your job openings on our website, dentalauxiliarytrainingcenter.com, for **FREE**. Listings are posted on the same day we receive your request and we inform students on a weekly basis about new job openings. Visit dentalauxiliarytrainingcenter.com/submit-job-listing/ to submit your job posting today!

Questions? Please call Lisa Lyle at 1(888) 595-3282 for more information.