

NODA News

MISSION STATEMENT

To establish and maintain a cohesive organization that serves to promote the art, science, and professionalism of dentistry, and to communicate the value of oral health to the community.

VOL. XXVIII MAY NO. 5



DR. DAVENPORT

Big doings at May 17 meeting

Three events will feature the Wednesday, May 17 general membership meeting at LSU Dental School, the final NODA continuing education session before the summer break.

■ The grand drawing for a full year's dues rebate will be held.

■ A 2½-hour symposium on "Computer Software" will be given by Dr. William Davenport of the LSU School of Dentistry.

■ An exhibition of software will be held by companies active in the field.

The symposium from 7-9:30 p.m. will be **FREE** to NODA members. Non-members will be charged \$25. One (1) Continuing Education (C.E.) credit hour will be awarded.

The full year dues drawing could be worth as much as \$730, depending on the member's classification. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Dr. Davenport teaches "Introduction to Microcomputers" and "Selection and Use of Practice Management Software" to LSUSD seniors. He lectured on dental office computers at the recent ADA Annual Session in New Orleans.

His first 30-minute program will be for computer beginners. The second 30-minute program will be for the more experienced.

Companies that will exhibit include Dentrix Dental Systems, National Data Corporation, Softtech, Complete Medical Systems, Inc., Future Sell, Inc., Complete Systems, Inc. and Computer Ease Training and Support Service, Inc.

Dentists from the East Baton Rouge, Slidell and North Lake dental associations have also been invited.

CALL FOR MODELS
 Attention potential models . . . Come flash your smile or flex your muscles at the New Orleans Dental Conference Luncheon and Informal Style Show – Friday, September 1, 1995 at the New Orleans Hilton.
 Please contact Normalee Ward at the NODA Office (834-6449) if you or a member of your staff would care to model the latest fashions for the dental office or active wear for the exerciser, sportsman, or vacationer.
 Size? Not to worry. We encourage figures of all proportions and shapes to participate.

'Senior Smile Week' coming up

"A Healthy Smile Can Last a Lifetime" is the theme of National Senior Smile Week May 14-20, 1995.

Dr. Charles T. McCabe and Dr. James W. Briggs are once again serving as NODA's co-chairmen of the ADA-sponsored event.

They plan appearances at nursing homes, senior fairs, senior centers and other spots where the elderly gather to help them learn

how to preserve their natural teeth and maintain overall dental health.

The chairmen welcome assistance from other NODA dentists. Interested members may call Dr. McCabe at 392-4734 if they wish to offer their services.

Publicity efforts will also be made. Last year Channel 4 (WWL-TV) ran a NODA-arranged segment on periodontal problems. Periodontal disease is a leading cause of tooth loss in adults.

However, progress has been made. Today nearly 60 percent of adults age 65 and older have at least some of their natural teeth – a 20 percent increase since 1958.

Although they are retaining their teeth longer, seniors need to be aware of special considerations, including root decay, periodontal disease, dry mouth and oral cancer.

Dentists can also make oldsters aware of advances in dental technology, and new dental options, including implants, synthetic bone materials, adult orthodontics and cosmetic procedures such as bonding and veneering.

People over 50 account for 26 percent of the population and will reach about 30 percent by the year 2000.



HONOR DENTIST FETED: Dr. F. Ralph Dauterive, center, winner of the NODA Honor Dentist Award, is congratulated by former recipients Dr. Robert Charbonnet, left, and Dr. Edward Faget. The presentation was made at the Installation Dinner at Chateau Estates Golf and Country Club. (More Installation Dinner photos on page 3.)

President's Message

by RANDOLPH D. GREEN, DDS

It is indeed an honor and a privilege to serve as your 1995 president of the New Orleans Dental Association. I am looking forward to a successful and prosperous year. With your help and input, I am confident we will be able to accomplish all of our goals.

I would like to convey to you some of the goals we will focus on in the coming year:

1) to continue developing ideas for non-dues revenue sources so that NODA may become less dependent on the dental conference and more self-supportive,

2) and thereby begin to increase our reserves that have not grown in over 8 years;

3) to become more involved in charitable events around our community as an association by expanding our Dental Health Committee. More active participation in our Adopt-A-School Program and public health fairs will not only improve our local image, but provide a valuable community service;

4) to co-sponsor a full-day CE program with the LSU School of Dentistry;

5) to continue to aggressively recruit younger dentists as well as renew older members so that we may blend new ideas with years

of experience, for the good of our association;

6) to continue to upgrade our monthly CE program to help our members meet new state licensure requirements, which in turn will address the demands of the public as well as the demands we place on ourselves,

7) and to encourage greater participation and awareness of our membership, which will help us to become more knowledgeable and creative in influencing legislation that affects the way we practice dentistry. Issues such as health care reform, OSHA, managed care, AIDS discrimination and others need our utmost attention.

These goals along with the goals achieved by my predecessor, Dr. Debra Arnold, will allow NODA to build the type of momentum and continuity it takes to be a successful and progressive association.

Please get involved in the activities of your association. Our improvement begins with each and every NODA member. We need you to help us make a difference.

Randy Green
1995 NODA President



**46th Annual
New Orleans
Dental Conference**
August 30-September 2
New Orleans
Hilton Hotel

Attention all NODA Members

Do you realize how much your New Orleans Dental Conference supports NODA? Any profit made by the Conference goes into the NODA account and helps keep our dues manageable. And, in turn, the Conference depends on our exhibitors for their support. Most of our profit comes from the fees the exhibitors pay for their booths. They also have to pay for bringing their exhibit to town and supporting their personnel in hotels while they are here. We **have** to make it worth their while. Please won't you stop today and put together an order of your regular supplies that you can place in the Exhibit Hall at the Conference. We are not asking you to spend any money that you wouldn't be spending anyway. **Please order a couple of months' supplies at the Conference so that our exhibitors continue to support us.**

Anthea Grogono
1995 General Chairman

Pay dues the painless way

Wouldn't you rather pay your 1996 NODA/LDA/ADA dues in relatively small monthly installments instead of one lump sum?

Here's how it works:

Join NODA's Automatic Bank Draft Program (ABD) early in the year (preferably this month) and a monthly amount will be automatically deducted from your checking account through the end of the year.

Then, when January 1996 rolls around, you will be paid up (NODA, LDA and ADA dues) in full for 1996. Easy and painless. No invoices, no checks to write.

You can join the plan simply by writing or calling Mona Whittington at the Central Office (834-6449) and requesting the necessary forms. She'll take it from there.

TELL 'EM YOU SAW IT IN NODA NEWS

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Presenting a plaque to outgoing president Dr. Debra Arnold is Dr. Randy Green, new NODA president. The Installation Dinner was held at Chateau Estates Golf and Country Club.



Dr. Anthea Grogono, general chairman of the New Orleans Dental Conference, presents a check to Drs. Debra Arnold and Randy Green. The Conference helps support a number of NODA programs.



Mrs. Ed Levy, left, president of the Alliance of NODA, is congratulated by incoming NODA president Dr. Randy Green and outgoing president Dr. Debra Arnold.

20 MERIT SERVICE AWARDS

Twenty NODA members were honored at the recent Installation Dinner with 50-year and 25-year LDA service awards.

Cited for their years of service and commitment to their patients and organized dentistry were:

50-YEAR AWARDS: Dr. Joseph A. Blandino, Dr. Joseph A. Cuminale, Dr. E. Harold Faget, Dr. Austin G. Phillips, Dr. Angelo J. Segreto.

25-YEAR AWARDS: Dr. Thomas O. Adams, Dr. Edward V. Brown, Jr., Dr. Willard L. Dumas, Jr., Dr. Clifton O. Dummett, Jr., Dr. Frank B. Favaloro, Dr. Israel M. Finger, Dr. James F. Gardiner, Dr. John B. Gennaro, Dr. Joseph F. Giardina, Dr. Gene D. Hahn, Dr. Justin J. Hendricks, Dr. Edwin L. Kopfler, Dr. Robert D. Ory, Dr. Carl A. Scarpelli, Dr. James J. Young, III.

NODA News is published every month with the exception of June, July and August. Deadline for ads and editorial material is the 10th of the month preceding publication. Ads and news should be sent to Dr. Kristi Soileau, 2820 Napoleon Ave., Suite 470, New Orleans, LA 70115.

Dr. Soileau is editor and chairman of the NODA News Committee. Members are Drs. John Braud, Jr., Steven Collins, David DeGenova, Barry Goodspeed, Frank Herbert, Hector Maldonado and Wallace Serpas III.

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- Predeterminations are not required before major services are performed. This allows the patient to receive the necessary care immediately.
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- Paid Dental provides a toll-free number to employees and their dentists. Dentists utilize this number for benefit verification and authorization. These functions provide information to the employee regarding the level of financial responsibility assumed.
- Paid Dental offers *only* freedom of choice dental plans that allow the employee to use any licensed dentist.

THE HIV/AIDS CASE

A report from the American Dental Association

DATE: March 24, 1995
TO: Officers and Members of the Board of Trustees
FROM: John S. Zapp, D.D.S., executive director
SUBJECT: Morvant HIV Case

We learned last night that the federal judge hearing the Americans with Disabilities suit alleging HIV/AIDS discrimination against Dr. Drew Morvant, of New Orleans, has granted the Department of Justice's motion for summary judgment and entered judgment against Dr. Morvant.

This is the first case under the Americans with Disabilities Act (AwDA) against a dentist sued for HIV/AIDS discrimination that has resulted in a judicial determination. In other words, this is the first legal precedent under the federal law involving a dentist sued for HIV discrimination.

Among the victors in this case are "universal precautions," the health care professionals that use them, and the patients who benefit by their use. The court's 25-page opinion is fully supportive of the efficacy of universal precautions, which underscores dentistry's efforts to convey to the public that all patients can be confident of the safety of their dentists' offices. In legal terms, the court held that Dr. Morvant's defenses were unlawful pretexts for discrimination.

Although both parties cited American Dental Association policies, guidelines and publications in support of their positions, the Association was not a party to the case, and had never offered an opinion on the merits, as the facts were not fully known.

However, the court did rely on expert testimony offered on behalf of the DOJ by Dr. Enid Neidle, the Association's past Assistant Executive Director, Scientific Affairs, who stated in a written declaration to the court that Dr. Morvant's policy of sending HIV/AIDS patients to another general dentist contravened the Association's policies.

The ruling against Dr. Morvant is with respect to liability only. Damages will be determined at a later hearing, now scheduled for May 17, 1995. Dr. Morvant's attorney has indicated that he will file a motion for reconsideration to the judge who entered the opinion and, if necessary, appeal the decision to the United States Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit.

Pertinent Facts: Dr. Morvant and his professional corporation were charged with refusing to treat two HIV-infected patients and "other persons with HIV or AIDS" because of their serostatus.

According to the opinion, Dr. Morvant did not contest referring the individuals, or that he did so before examining them, even though both persons simply sought a prophylaxis. Rather, Dr. Morvant contended that the referrals were appropriate, because he believed that such patients required more specialized care and he had not kept abreast of things he needed to know to properly treat AIDS patients.

SEND US YOUR VIEWS

NODA News welcomes the comments of member dentists with respect to this case. Address all comments to Dr. Kristi Soileau, Editor, 2820 Napoleon Ave., Suite 470, New Orleans, LA 70115.

No letters will be published.

Motions Before the Court: The DOJ argued that summary judgment should be entered because Dr. Morvant's actions plainly violated the statute. Dr. Morvant raised defenses to that motion, contending that referral was appropriate because (1) HIV/AIDS creates "specialized complications for the patient's health which Morvant lacked the experience or knowledge to address," and could not be required by the AwDA to obtain, and (2) treatment posed a direct threat of transmission to Dr. Morvant and his hygienist that could not be eliminated through the risk of universal precautions.

Dr. Morvant also filed a motion to dismiss the case, on the grounds that if such referrals were prohibited by the AwDA, the statute was an unconstitutional intrusion on the exercise of his professional judgment.

In a motion for summary judgment, a court will look at the facts presented in the light most favorable to the party against whom the motion is brought. When the moving party has met its burden of proof, its opponent must present specific facts showing there is a genuine issue for trial. If the party against whom the motion is brought fails to do so, the party bringing the motion is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. The court will grant the motion and issue

judgment, as there are no material facts in dispute for the judge or jury to weigh at trial.

Like a judgment rendered after a trial, a summary judgment order may be appealed.

The Ruling as to Liability: The court reviewed an extensive pretrial record, including the facts of the case and testimony of the DOJ experts. The opinion relies extensively on opinions of DOJ witnesses Enid Neidle, Deborah Greenspan (of UCSF), and Don Marianos (of the CDC), all of whom testified as to the efficacy of universal precautions; the opinions of each of these experts is addressed for about a full page in the opinion. According to the court, Dr. Morvant failed to present any countervailing testimony from a single, qualified expert in the field. (Although Dr. David Lewis had been listed by Dr. Morvant as a defense expert, the opinion suggests that Dr. Morvant did not rely on Dr. Lewis' opinion in connection with the cross-motions.)

After measuring the facts of the case against the requirements of the AwDA, *the court found that Dr. Morvant's arguments were mere pretexts for unlawful discrimination. The court further rejected Dr. Morvant's argument that the AwDA was unconstitutional.*

The case plainly spells out the obligations health care providers have under the law to treat HIV-infected individuals. It particularly drives home the points that (1) there is no specialty education needed to treat such patients (specifically, "there is no such thing as a 'specialist' for cleaning teeth") and (2) universal precautions "reasonably" eliminate the direct threat of patient-to-doctor transmission of HIV. With respect to the direct threat defense in particular, the court supported the need for an "individual assessment" of direct threat, noted that "universal precautions as prescribed by the CDC are universally accepted as 'reasonable modifications' of practices that will significantly mitigate the risk, and determined that Dr. Morvant's purposeful ignorance was not a legal defense.

The court also rejected Dr. Morvant's position that the AwDA as applied was an unconstitutional interference with the exercise of his professional judgment. The court upheld as reasonable the law and its implementing regulations, which allow referral when the treatment

(Continued on next page)

HIV/AIDS CASE**(Continued from Page 4)**

sought is outside the referring provider's area of specialization, but prohibit referral if the provider would not make a similar referral for a person without a disability seeking the same treatment or services.

The opinion clearly intends to deter discrimination by others. As with all legal decisions, the case is limited to the facts presented to the court. Other courts, faced with other facts, may refine or disagree with parts of this case, especially with respect to the "direct threat" and "professional judgment" issues.

The Relief: The ruling is silent as to the \$50,000 the DOJ requested that Dr. Morvant be made to pay to the United States to vindicate the public interest. As noted above, the court will hold a hearing on the issue of damages to the two patients on whose behalf DOJ brought suit. Meanwhile, the court has ordered the following relief:

- the defendants (Dr. Morvant and his professional corporation) are enjoined from refusing to treat persons with HIV or AIDS, on the basis of their HIV status,
- the defendants are enjoined from having a blanket policy of "referring" out all such persons to other general dentists,
- the defendants are required to adopt and post a policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, including HIV and AIDS, and
- the defendants and their staff are required to undergo training concerning HIV and the practice of dentistry.

This type of relief is typical in discrimination cases, including other cases against dentists alleging HIV discrimination, like those noted below.

The Association's Role in the Case: In reaching its decision, the Court directly noted Dr. Neidle's past position as ADA's Assistant Executive Director, Scientific Affairs. The court characterized Dr. Neidle as an infection control and ethics expert, and described salient points of her written declaration submitted by the DOJ as follows:

"... the Association does not recognize a specialty in the treatment of persons with AIDS or who are HIV positive... Morvant's policy of sending all patients with HIV or AIDS to another general dentist – regardless of their then-current medical status, dental condition, or dental needs – is in direct contravention of the Association's policies and constitutes a breach of Morvant's professional and ethical obligations" (emphasis added).

As noted above, both parties had cited American Dental Association policies, guidelines and publications in support of their posi-

tions. However, the Association was not a party to the case. Further, the Association had never offered an opinion on the merits, as the facts of the case were not fully known.

Other Cases: Dr. Morvant was one of the first two health care providers sued by DOJ under the AwDA for allegedly discriminating against two HIV-infected individuals. The other case, against Dr. Castle of Houston, settled before trial for \$100,000, before motions were filed. A later matter involving a dentist, Dr. David of Houston, settled, during the investigation phase before suit was filed, for \$29,000. All three of these cases have also included the type of non-monetary relief noted

above. Further, numerous investigations against dentists and other health care providers are pending.

Media: The Association has prepared the attached standby statement to address media inquiries pertaining to the decision.

Constituent societies are also being notified of this action. If you have any questions pertaining to this important decision, please call:

Legal issues: Mr. Mark Rubin (x2851)

Media inquiries: Mr. Chris Martin (x2855)

Scientific questions: Dr. Brian Shearer (x2522)

NODA's role in dispute

BY DR. RANDY GREEN
President, NODA

On Saturday, March 25, I was installed as president of NODA. On Monday, March 27, the gavel was not even warm in my hand when phone calls began to pour in from irate NODA members complaining about the publicity regarding the Morvant AIDS discrimination suit.

As you can imagine, the opinions regarding this issue are as varied as the individuals calling. Some members requested I call the radio stations in support of Dr. Morvant, while others feel Dr. Morvant is publicly casting doubt on the safety of our dental offices.

In response to these concerned members, I immediately consulted with our legal counsel for the ADA, Mr. Mark Rubin, and the head of media relations for the ADA, Mr. Chris Martin.

At my request, they held a meeting in Chicago and later Monday afternoon faxed a stand-by statement to me for release to the media. That statement and a release from the executive director of the ADA, Dr. John Zapp, are printed in their entirety in this issue of the *NODA News* for your review.

On Thursday, as expected, I received an invitation to appear on the Angela Show to represent NODA as well as the ADA along with a panel composed of Dr. Drew Morvant, his attorney, Mr. Steve Pizzo; an attorney representing the Americans with Disabilities Act, Ms. Monica Lacks, and at my request, Mr. James Kellogg, the founder of AIDS/Law in Louisiana and an expert on civil liberties.

Although I was there representing NODA and organized dentistry, the discussion became more of a legal and constitutional debate among the attorneys than a question of dental ethics and safety in the dental office. In fact, the entire case seems to revolve around the key issues of refusing to treat a patient or referring a patient

to another general dentist on the basis of their HIV status.

Since there is no recognized specialty in dentistry for treating HIV positive patients, according to the Americans with Disabilities Act, it is unlawful to refer a dental patient to another general dentist on the basis of a patient's serostatus although it is perfectly within our rights to refer any patient to a recognized dental specialist. In fact, our own ADA code of ethics states that:

1) we must treat all patients with compassion and dignity

2) we must provide a safe, sterile environment for our patients through proper infection control and

3) we may not refuse treatment to anyone on the basis of race or disability. This includes HIV positive and AIDS infected patients.

After two weeks of assimilating all the information given to me from various sources, the following conclusions are apparent. While we the members of NODA may differ in our opinions – whether we believe HIV positive and AIDS patients truly constitute a disability, or that as long as we practice universal precautions and treat every patient that walks through our doors as if they were infected, it is safe for us to treat them – our opinions are irrelevant.

The fact of the matter is that you don't break the law to change the law. It is ultimately our responsibility to continue our education to know the law and obey the law as it relates to the field of dentistry. If we don't agree with the law, then we must pursue the proper channels to change it, via our congressmen and senators.

The worst thing we can do is blame organized dentistry for government interference in our practices. Without a unified effort through organized dentistry, we have no chance whatsoever of influencing legislation that affects us all.

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NODA'S ROLE

(Continued from Page 5)

Above all, please choose your words carefully when discussing this issue with patients and friends. Remember that this case is setting a legal precedent which has far-reaching, national impact. Right now the entire country is watching what we do and how we react and this includes the Department of Justice.

Yes, the first two weeks of my presidency have certainly been interesting and educational. I encourage your feedback on this article so that I may better represent you in the future. I will say this: the ADA and its legal counsel were there for us when we needed them. They kept in touch with me the entire week leading up to the Angela Show to make sure I was prepared to answer any questions regarding the safety of our offices and our code of ethics.

And if you have any questions regarding what the ADA has done for us lately, please read your *ADA News* and learn more about its Grassroots Campaign. One of the legislative goals of this campaign has been to moderate OSHA's impact on our private practices.

Whatever we do, we must weigh these vital issues carefully and respond to them in an informed and responsible manner rather than overreacting emotionally to things we may not fully understand. Please remember, my opinions are not important here but your ideas are! I will make it my responsibility to keep you informed through these articles in the *NODA News*. Thanks again for all of your support.

Sincerely,
Randy

ADA Statement on HIV Discrimination Case:

The American Dental Association is aware of the ruling by Judge Stanwood Duval, Jr., holding a New Orleans dentist liable under the Americans with Disabilities Act for HIV discrimination. The Association was not a party to the lawsuit and is not aware of all the facts presented in the case. However, the Association agrees with Judge Duvál's determination about the effectiveness of universal precautions. The Association believes that universal precautions are effective and play a key role in maintaining a safe dental office for all patients.

Association policy states that HIV-infected individuals should be treated with compassion and dignity. Furthermore, a dentist should not refuse to treat a patient whose condition is within the dentist's current realm of competence solely because the patient is HIV infected.

The Association concurs with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that strict adherence to universal precautions helps prevent transmission of bloodborne diseases such as HIV. Universal precautions is a concept in infection control whereby every patient is considered potentially infectious for bloodborne disease. Universal precautions include wearing gloves and masks; hand washing and changing gloves after each patient; sterilizing dental instruments; cleaning and disinfecting the treatment area; and disposal of needles, other sharp items, and regulated waste materials in special containers.

The Association will continue to work with dentists to help ensure that all patients receive the dental care they need.

NODA members are invited to 'Moonlight Relay'

Members of NODA are invited to compete in the "Moonlight Relay for Life" May 20-21 from 7 p.m. Saturday to 7 a.m. Sunday at "Muss" Bertolino Playground, 600 W. Esplanade Ave. in Kenner.

Purpose of the 12-hour event is to raise funds to fight cancer and raise awareness of cancer in the community. Dr. Randy Green, NODA president, has listed this event as a NODA summer activity and urges members to participate.

Teams of 8 to 15 people from corporations, hospitals, civic groups and families take turns in the relay. One team member at a time walks or runs around the track in 30-minute shifts. Teams pledge to have one team member on the track at all times.

Each team member is asked to raise a minimum of \$100 from donors before the event. Each person raising \$100 will receive a "Moonlight Relay for Life" tee-shirt. Additional incentive prizes are awarded to those who raise \$150 or more. Grand prizes will be given at the closing ceremony.

Honorary chairman of the American Cancer Society event is Frank Warren of the New Orleans Saints.

Interested members are asked to call Julio Torres at 833-5855 (W) or 837-5591 (H) or Digital Pager 528-6807.

NODA Summer Activities

1995 MOONLIGHT RELAY FOR LIFE
May 20-21 Muss Bertolino Playground
To raise funds to fight cancer and raise awareness of cancer in the community.

JEFFERSON PARISH MEDICAL SOCIETY CHALLENGES THE NEW ORLEANS DENTAL ASSOCIATION TO A SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT TO RAISE FUNDS FOR CHARITY
Lafreniere Park
Date and time to be announced

NEW ORLEANS DENTAL ASSOCIATION GOLF TOURNAMENT
Chateau Estates Golf and Country Club
Date and time to be announced

Please call the NODA office for details of these and other events as they become available. Thanks in advance for participating.

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Dawn Dufresne or Chris Nogue
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(504) 835-9185.

DENTAL DATA

HOW TO SOUND THE FRAUD ALARM

Fraudmasters selling phony health products and treatments victimize individuals of all ages but especially the elderly.

A 22-page booklet *Too Good to Be True!* tells about scams and how to protect yourself from them. It also lists federal, state and local organizations to contact for information or to lodge a complaint. For a free copy write Consumer Information Center, Dept. 597B, Pueblo, CO 81009. ■

PROGRAM TRAINS ACADEMIC RESEARCHERS

The University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine has received an \$818,000 National Research Service Award from the National Institute of Dental Research to begin an epidemiology postdoctoral training program to recruit and train dentists for academic research careers.

The Department of Behavioral Sciences will conduct the program. Dr. Ralph Katz is program director and Dr. David Pendrys is associate director. ■

PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST EMBEZZLEMENT

Business management consultant Carl M. Caplan, DDS, MBA, offers several ways dentists can protect themselves from embezzlement.

In an article in the January *Today's FDA* (Florida), Caplan suggests several ways to gain financial control in a practice. Some of the methods are:

1. Purchase a computer that will provide safeguards not possible with a manual system.
2. Separate patient-treatment and financial records.
3. Make sure all charges can be "irreversibly" entered into a patient's account. Once entries are made, they shouldn't be changed without using a security code that only the dentists should have.
4. Make a sign asking patients

to request a receipt for proof of payment and number all receipts.

5. Ensure that all deposits are made at the end of each day. ■

HEALTH CARE REFORM AND DENTAL EDUCATION

How oral health is handled in whichever of the health care plans eventually passes will affect millions of Americans and will have a major impact on dental education, according to an article in *Contact Point*, University of the Pacific School of Dentistry.

The article notes that if oral care is included in a national health care reform plan, the effects could be significant and "not all would be positive."

Author Armin A. Brott writes that the current fee-for-service structure may not survive health care reform and schools will have to change their approach to educating future dentists.

Brott says that under the current system a person without insurance can get excellent, discounted care at a dental school clinic. But if dental care is covered for everyone, "there may be less incentive to trade time for money and dental school clinics may end up seeing fewer patients," he notes.

And because dental school clinics operate at a necessarily slower pace, they will probably not be considered cost-effective alternatives by plant administrators, Brott says. School clinics could see a dramatic drop in revenue available to meet operating expenses.

Brott's article covers several of the changes likely to occur if oral care is included in a national health plan.

The drawbacks to including dental care in the overall national plan may seem severe but they pose much less of a threat to dental education than not including dental coverage, says Martha Liggett, general counsel and assistant executive director of the AADS. ■

HEALTH SCIENCE COURSES ON CAPE COD

The Cape Cod Institute will conduct a summer-long series of postgraduate courses for professionals in mental health, health science, and applied behavioral science.

Topics include psychodynamic therapy, behavioral medicine, brief therapy, humanistic psychology, psychological assessment, neuropsychology, family therapy, childhood and adolescence, and organizational development.

The program is sponsored by the Department of Psychiatry of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Sessions will be held weekday mornings June 26-September 1, 1995, from 9 until 12:15, leaving afternoons free for leisure and study. Optional discussion groups and social gatherings are arranged and Institute staff members provide abundant information about activities on Cape Cod.

Tuition is \$425 for one program and \$250 for each additional program attended. A student rate is available.

A complete course catalog may be obtained from: Cape Cod Institute, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, 1308A Belfer Building, Bronx, NY, 10461. Telephone 718-430-2307, FAX 718-430-8780. ■

DR. BLOCK NAMED

Dr. Michael S. Block, NODA member and professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery at LSUSD, has been named director of the LSUSD Center for Clinical Dental Research. ■

JOTTINGS

From Dr. Alex McKechnie's regular column in the *Pennsylvania Dental Journal* come these jottings.

• Last year more than 30,000 people visited emergency rooms, physicians and dental offices with in-line skating injuries. Add this statistic to 35,000 skateboarding

and 93,000 traditional rollerskating accidents.

• Oral cancer is still the sixth most common cancer in the world and strikes 43,000 people each year in the U.S. In the past 30 years, survival rates have only risen from 45 percent to 54 percent. Major risk factors are still smoking and alcohol.

Dentists' primary investments are mutual funds (37.5%), real estate (23.3%) and stocks (17.8%).

• Dentures are the most commonly left behind items by guests at 56 Hyatt Hotels worldwide. ■

DENTISTS HELP HANDICAPPED

A number of NODA members participate in activities of the Louisiana Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped.

A major activity is the donated Dental Services (DDS) program formed in 1986 by the Louisiana Dental Association with the assistance of several prominent legislators.

Nearly 500 dentists statewide have since volunteered for DDS. These dentists are matched with handicapped and elderly people who cannot afford needed treatment and are ineligible for public assistance. Thirty-six dental laboratories provide donations in the form of dentures, crowns and bridges.

An example of the program is a mentally handicapped woman who had not seen a dentist in over 15 years when her mother contacted Donated Dental Services. The volunteer dentist examined the woman and ultimately extracted four wisdom teeth under anesthesia. The dentist, hospital and anesthesiologist all donated their services; a total value of \$2,340.

NODA members wishing to volunteer their services may contact the Foundation at the LSUSD pedodontics department, 948-6141. ■

BULLETIN BOARD

WANTED: Oral Surgery Dental Assistant with current operating room experience. Certified Dental Assistant preferred. Computer experience desirable. Salary range \$24,323 to \$29,939 per year with excellent federal benefits package. Contact Human Resources Management, Ms. Karen Merrill at 589-5255. The VA is an Equal Opportunity employer.

FOR SALE; One Chayes Chair, one Adec Minitrol unit, two Hamilton sink cabinets, three filing cabinets, one Handler model trimmer with pen. For information call (504) 657-8161 or (804) 479-2615.

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE; Ritter Dental Chair like new – \$1,100.00. Dri Clave Unit \$200.00. Cavitron unit \$200.00. Also surgical supplies – some German stainless steel. Call A. J. Segreto, 454-6810.

DENTAL HYGIENIST for preventive oriented practice. Houma Blvd. area. 4-day week, Monday thru Thursday. Excellent pay and benefits. 887-3121.

DENTAL HYGIENIST NEEDED for maternity leave starting July 10 until Sept. 17. Metairie area. Monday thru Thursday. Excellent pay. 887-4475.

INTRAORAL VIDEO camera, mobile cart, monitor, floppy disk and printer for insurance purposes. 1/2 day instructions included. \$4,595.00 or best offer. 277-0147.

(Classified ads are \$25 each. Send ads and checks to Susan or Ellen in Dr. Kristi Soileau's office, 2820 Napoleon Ave., Suite 470, New Orleans, LA 70115.)

NODA News

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Metairie, LA 70001
834-6449

Kristi Soileau, Editor

Officers of NODA:
Randy Green – President
Terry Fugetta, President-Elect
Joe Kirn – Secretary
Sam P. Miano – Treasurer
Mona Whittington – Executive Secretary

Continuing Education Corner

In an effort to keep the membership attuned to available C.E. opportunities at the L.S.U. School of Dentistry, this area will be devoted to informational updates.

DATE	COURSE / TITLE		COST
June 2	F. Harold Wirth Memorial Lecture with Dr. Michael Schuster Morning – “The Pyramid of Practice Success” Afternoon – “Helping Patients Make Good Decisions”	Dentist Auxiliary	\$165.00 \$ 85.00
June 10	“Radiology for Dental Auxiliaries”	Course Full	\$ 95.00
June 9	“Periodontics for the General Practice in the 90’s” with Dr. Yukna & Ms. Lazarus 7 cr. hrs.	Dentist Hygienist	\$185.00 \$ 95.00
June 10	“Surgical Consideration for the Periodontal Patient” (Includes Friday’s course tuition w/one Assistant FREE) 14 cr. hrs.		\$445.00
June 23 & 24	“Gulf Coast Potpourri” with Drs. Jos. Moerschbaecher, Jim Weir, & Janet Leigh	Dentist Auxiliary	\$ 30.00 \$ 30.00
July 14-16	“Expanded Duty Dental Assistant” a/k/a “EDDA” Ms. Dorothy Austin	Auxiliary	\$369.00
July 14	“Creating Restorative Excellence: The Biologic Connection” with Dr. John C. Kois 7 cr. hrs.	Dentist Auxiliary	\$165.00 \$ 85.00
July 15	American Heart Assn. Class “C” CPR Re-certification 9-1:00 p.m.		\$ 60.00

LA Toll Free No. 1-800-223-1569

*** Please call (504) 948-8584 for fees not listed or for further information.

FAX: (504) 942-8376

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