

# NODA News

## MISSION STATEMENT

To maintain a cohesive organization that serves its membership by promoting the art, science and professionalism of dentistry, and by communicating the value of optimal oral health to the community.

**VOL. 63 DECEMBER '25 NO. 10**

## President's Message... by Gregory P. Guerra, D.D.S. – NODA President



As we close out another year with the New Orleans Dental Association community, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your support, involvement, and dedication. Serving as your President has been an honor, and I am grateful for the trust you placed in me throughout this past year.

Looking back, we have much to be proud of. Our meetings were well attended, our continuing education programs were engaging and relevant, and the enthusiasm and camaraderie within our membership were evident at every gathering. From reconnecting

with colleagues to welcoming new members, we strengthened our organization and continued to build on traditions that make NODA so special.

I also want to express sincere appreciation to the NODA Board of Directors for their steady guidance, collaboration, and tireless work behind the scenes. Nothing we accomplished this year would have been possible without their dedication.

Thank you again for allowing me the privilege of serving. I wish you a joyful holiday season and a successful, healthy, and fulfilling year ahead.

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relating to organized dentistry and charity events at LSUSD! Please submit your entry to both [kmsperio@gmail.com](mailto:kmsperio@gmail.com) and [info@nodental.org](mailto:info@nodental.org).



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# Upcoming Scientific Program

by Claudia A. Cavallino, D.D.S. - NODA Scientific Program Committee Chair

DATE   LOCATION   TIME	SPEAKER INFORMATION	SPONSOR / EVENT PARTNERS																								
<p><b>December 17, 2025</b></p> <p><b>The Ridgeway of Old Metairie</b> 2431 Metairie Road Metairie, Louisiana 70001</p> <p><b>Check In &amp; Dinner:</b> 5:30pm</p> <p><b>Meeting:</b> 6:00 pm – 8:30pm</p> <p><b>CE:</b> 1.5 clinical hours</p> <p><b>Registration:</b> Must register in advance for seat &amp; food guarantee.</p> <p><b>Early Registration price until:</b> <i>December 12, 2025</i></p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>NODA Member</td><td>\$20</td></tr> <tr><td>Resident</td><td>\$20</td></tr> <tr><td>Dental Student</td><td>\$20</td></tr> <tr><td>Non-NODA member</td><td>\$75</td></tr> <tr><td>Hygienist</td><td>\$75</td></tr> <tr><td>Other staff</td><td>\$75</td></tr> </table> <p><b>Late Registration price starts:</b> <i>December 13, 2025</i></p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>NODA Member</td><td>\$35</td></tr> <tr><td>Resident</td><td>\$35</td></tr> <tr><td>Dental Student</td><td>\$35</td></tr> <tr><td>Non-NODA member</td><td>\$85</td></tr> <tr><td>Hygienist</td><td>\$85</td></tr> <tr><td>Other staff</td><td>\$85</td></tr> </table> <p><b>Registration &amp; Payment:</b> Payment is required with registration, otherwise registration for the meeting is not guaranteed. A 25% administration fee will be applied to any refund request received after Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. If applicable, all no shows will be charged. All requests for refunds or cancellations must be received in writing no less than three days prior to the course. Refund requests will not be accepted after this deadline. Registration fees are for this meeting only.</p>	NODA Member	\$20	Resident	\$20	Dental Student	\$20	Non-NODA member	\$75	Hygienist	\$75	Other staff	\$75	NODA Member	\$35	Resident	\$35	Dental Student	\$35	Non-NODA member	\$85	Hygienist	\$85	Other staff	\$85	<p><b>General Membership Meeting with CE Lecture &amp; Dinner</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>Dr. Jessica Itani</b></p> </div> <p>A Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics, Dr. Jessica Itani grew up in Erie, Pennsylvania. She received her BS from Georgetown University. She received her DDS from the University of Maryland School of Dentistry and graduated Summa Cum Laude and salutatorian. Continuing at the University of Maryland, she achieved a 4.0 GPA in her orthodontic certificate and Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences, notably serving as the first two-time Chief Resident. Upon graduation, she received awards for the "top performing" resident. Dr. Itani has held leadership positions in the AAO, is a speaker and educator for Align and Smile Doctors, and a Key Opinion Leader for Invisalign® and Dental Monitoring. Dr. Itani has been recognized as a "Top Dentist", "Best of", and "The Face of Invisalign" in various publications. She currently practices at Northern Virginia Orthodontics, a global leader in Invisalign treatment.</p> <p><b>TOPIC - "The Role of Invisalign® Treatment in Comprehensive Oral Health"</b></p> <p>Join us for an exclusive lecture specifically designed for providers seeking to integrate clear aligner therapy more effectively into their comprehensive patient care model. We will explore the critical link between malocclusion and overall oral health, demonstrating how Invisalign treatment goes beyond aesthetics to improve periodontal health, occlusal function, and long-term restorative stability. The lecture will provide practical strategies for identifying ideal clear aligner candidates, tips for successful patient education, and a detailed breakdown of a highly efficient new patient exam workflow. Learn how to leverage the power of advanced technology, including the revolutionary Lumina scanner and the Align Oral Health Suite, to streamline your practice, enhance patient conversion, and deliver superior oral health outcomes.</p> <p><b>Learning objectives:</b> Upon completion of this lecture, participants will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1) Evaluate the comprehensive oral health benefits of clear aligner therapy,</b> moving beyond cosmetic enhancements to include improved periodontal health and occlusal stability.</li> <li><b>2) Identify suitable candidates</b> for Invisalign treatment within a general dental practice, recognizing malocclusions that, if left untreated, could compromise overall oral health.</li> <li><b>3) Effectively educate patients</b> on the tangible benefits of orthodontic treatment, increasing case acceptance by clearly articulating the positive impact on their long-term oral health.</li> <li><b>4) Implement an efficient new patient exam workflow</b> utilizing the Lumina scanner and the Align Oral Health Suite to enhance practice productivity, improve diagnostic accuracy, and drive successful case conversion.</li> <li><b>5) Integrate clear aligner therapy</b> seamlessly into existing comprehensive treatment plans, positioning the general dental practice as a complete oral health provider.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Sponsor</b></p> <p><b>Renaissance Dental Implant Center</b> Dr. Ehab Moussa Guirges 3131 Veterans Memorial Boulevard Suite 103 Metairie, Louisiana 70002 eguirges@renaissancedentalimplant.com www.renaissancedentalimplant.com 504/784-1045</p> <p><b>Event Partners</b></p> <p><b>AmeriClean, LLC</b> Brett Tribou Integrated Waste Specialist Cell: 985/789-3228 Office: 866-988-2536 brett@americleangroup.com www.americleangroup.com</p> <p><b>Hancock Whitney</b> Tiffany Ebersole Business Banker Assistant Vice President 504/729-8717 tiffany.ebersole@hancockwhitney.com www.hancockwhitney.com</p> <p><b>Darby Dental Supply</b> Zachary Berkey Account Manager – CHC Specialist 800-645-2310 Ext. 4178 zachary.berkey@darby.com www.darby.com</p> <p><i>New Orleans Dental Association is an ADA CERP Recognized Provider (November 2024 – December 2027). 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. Concerns or complaints about a CE provider may be directed to the provider or to the Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition at CCEPR.ADA.org. New Orleans Dental Association designates this activity for 1.5 credit hours of clinical continuing education credit.</i></p>
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# Upcoming Scientific Program

by Claudia A. Cavallino, D.D.S. - NODA Scientific Program Committee Chair

DATE   LOCATION   TIME	SPEAKER INFORMATION	SPONSOR / EVENT PARTNERS																								
<p><b>March 18, 2026</b></p> <p><b>Jaeger's Seafood &amp; Oyster House</b> 901 South Clearview Parkway Jefferson, Louisiana 70121</p> <p><b>Check In &amp; Dinner:</b> 5:30pm</p> <p><b>Meeting:</b> 6:00 pm – 8:30pm</p> <p><b>CE:</b> 2.0 clinical hours</p> <p><b>Registration:</b> Must register in advance for seat &amp; food guarantee.</p> <p><b>Early Registration price until:</b> March 13, 2026</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>NODA Member</td><td>\$20</td></tr> <tr><td>Resident</td><td>\$20</td></tr> <tr><td>Dental Student</td><td>\$20</td></tr> <tr><td>Non-NODA member</td><td>\$75</td></tr> <tr><td>Hygienist</td><td>\$75</td></tr> <tr><td>Other staff</td><td>\$75</td></tr> </table> <p><b>Late Registration price starts:</b> March 14, 2026</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>NODA Member</td><td>\$35</td></tr> <tr><td>Resident</td><td>\$35</td></tr> <tr><td>Dental Student</td><td>\$35</td></tr> <tr><td>Non-NODA member</td><td>\$85</td></tr> <tr><td>Hygienist</td><td>\$85</td></tr> <tr><td>Other staff</td><td>\$85</td></tr> </table> <p><b>Registration &amp; Payment:</b> Payment is required with registration, otherwise registration for the meeting is not guaranteed. 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He graduated from Indiana Dental school in 2010, practiced for 4 years as a general dentist, and earned his endodontic certificate in 2017. He has been published and has presented more than 45 lectures across the US and Europe.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>“Managing Endodontic Emergencies”</b></p> <p>Over the last 10 years of endodontic practice, I have worked with more than 50 general dentists across 5 locations, and the same questions seem to come up. This lecture was designed to answer those questions and has been utilized across the USAF as part of the annual readiness training. This presentation is designed to give providers a practical approach to managing acute endodontic pain in an urgent and time sensitive situation. It will explain the biologic concepts of pulpitis and how inflammation correlates to endodontic diagnostic challenges, treatment objectives and how to prevent endodontic emergencies. Lastly, it will discuss how to deal with anesthetic challenges of getting a “hot tooth” numb.</p> <p><b>Learning objectives:</b> At the end of this presentation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) At the end of this presentation, the participants will be able to determine if they are treating an infection or inflammation, and which treatment should be utilized in each situation.</li> <li>2) This lecture will explain the challenges of referred pain and give strategies to diagnose patients without periapical inflammation.</li> <li>3) The member will understand the indications for therapeutic pulpotomy, pulpectomy, and pulpal debridement.</li> <li>4) The participants will be able to understand how to safely and effectively shape the coronal portion of the canal without the fear of making a ledge.</li> <li>5) The attendees will be able to compare and contrast different anesthetic strategies to get a “hot tooth” numb.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Event Partners</b></p> <p><b>AmeriClean, LLC</b> Brett Tribou Integrated Waste Specialist Cell: 985/789-3228 Office: 866-988-2536 brett@americleangroup.com www.americleangroup.com</p> <p><b>Hancock Whitney</b> Tiffany Ebersole Business Banker Assistant Vice President 504/729-8717 tiffany.ebersole@hancockwhitney.com www.hancockwhitney.com</p> <p><b>Darby Dental Supply</b> Zachary Berkey Account Manager – CHC Specialist 800-645-2310 Ext. 4178 zachary.berkey@darby.com www.darby.com</p> <p><i>New Orleans Dental Association is an ADA CERP Recognized Provider (November 2024 – December 2027). 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**WE WANT YOUR NEWS!!**

**Anyone knowing of any dentist who has made a significant contribution, gained an elective or appointive office, written an article, delivered a paper, or rendered unusual public service, please let us know!**  
info@nodental.org

## Nominating Committee Announcement

by Claudia Cavallino, D.D.S. – 2025 NODA Nominating Committee Chair



The 2025 Nominating Committee has been formed. The Nominating Committee members are: Dr. Claudia Cavallino, Dr. Zachary Tanenbaum, Dr. James Burns, Dr. Mark Chaney, and Dr. Jeffrey Leeson.

If there is more than one candidate for any office or elective position, candidates will have an opportunity to address the membership at the December 17th meeting prior to a vote of the membership. All newly elected officers and directors will officially begin their term of office immediately upon taking the oath of office.

The accepted nominations for open elective positions for NODA in 2026 are as follows:

POSITION	NOMINATION	TERM
President	Dr. Claudia Cavallino	1 year
President-Elect	Dr. Hillary Wright	1 year
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Dr. Suzanne Fournier	1 year
2 Vice President	Dr. David DeGenova	1 year
Treasurer	Dr. Kristopher Rappold	2 year
At-Large	Dr. Kellie Axelrad	3 year
Director to Louisiana Dental Assn	Dr. Jorge Rodriguez	2 year
Alternate Director to Louisiana Dental Assn	Dr. Kevin Collins	1 year
Alternate Director to Louisiana Dental Assn	Dr. Gizelle Richard	1 year
Delegate to American Dental Assn	Dr. Kristi Soileau	3 year
Alternate Director to American Dental Assn	Dr. David Hildebrandt	1 year



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# “Greetings from the 2026 NODC & LDA Annual Session Committee”

by Kay Jordan, D.D.S.

NODC & LDA Annual Session Committee Chair

By now, you should have April 9-11, 2026 marked to attend the 2026 New Orleans Dental Conference & Louisiana Dental Association’s Annual Session at the New Orleans Hilton Riverside. All education courses will take place on the third floor of the Hilton, and the Exhibit Hall will be located there as well. This convenient location allows easy navigation to other venues to explore after the Exhibit Hall closes. Caesar’s and The Four Seasons Hotel with the lovely Chandelier Bar are just footsteps away from the Hilton, as well as the Riverwalk Outlets which can be accessed from inside the Hilton. Registration for the Conference begins in early December. Check NODC.org frequently for information.

We have a spectacular lineup of speakers offering updates on current topics relevant to our profession. Many are familiar (Tom Viola, Brian Novy, Stanley Malamed, Jacob Dent, Marco Brindis), and several are new. Carestream Dental and Planmeca both will sponsor hands on courses using 2D and 3D technology. Richard Madow and Steve Krasner are two dynamic speakers who offer something for the entire dental team, as well as Emily Letran and Kathryn Alderman. Dr. Jorge Palavacini returns with his “Makeup” Dentistry course where attendees will bring their own stents to add jewels, flags, tattoos and even fangs to their own teeth. Tricia Barker, RDH and Angie Reech, RDH will offer a special Saturday morning course specifically (but not limited to) for Hygienists discussing topics relevant to Dental Hygiene.



Kory Patrick, CISSP  
Principal, Cybersecurity & Risk  
Advisory, Kaufman Rossin  
Former FBI Agent

Former FBI agent Kory Patrick will be coming to town to enlighten us on a topic that is becoming more relevant each day: “Protecting Your Practice and Patients from Cyber Threats.” He will discuss why the dental industry is a prime target and how to identify the threats as well as our obligations under HIPAA and common pitfalls in protecting patient data. Mr. Patrick will identify the risks of AI as technology evolves and what to do when things go bad, and discuss the need for cyber insurance.

All of us on the Committee wish you and your friends and family a healthy holiday season spent doing the activities that are meaningful to each of you.

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## LSU School of Dentistry Students Attend National SPEA Annual Session in Washington, D.C.

Four third-year students from the LSU School of Dentistry recently attended the Student Professionalism and Ethics Association (SPEA) Annual Session, held this year in Washington, D.C. The conference brought together dental students from across the United States and Canada to engage in professional development, leadership training, and discussions on ethical standards within the dental profession.

Throughout the session, students attended presentations from notable guest lecturers and heard about topics ranging from business lessons, case studies, residency insights, dental market trends, and personal finances. Students also took part in breakout sessions where they discussed individual chapter growth and sustainability, conflict resolution, and creating a culture of professionalism and ethics in the

workplace.

LSU’s SPEA Chapter is a new and growing organization, and the student leaders who attended the conference are eager to bring back valuable insights and ideas shared by other successful chapters across the country. Their participation reflects the chapter’s commitment to building a strong foundation of ethical leadership and collaboration at LSU Dentistry.

Third-year dental students Emily Eberts and Lauren Schafer were elected to serve on the SPEA National Board as Regent 6 and Chief Information Officer, respectively. Both are honored and excited to step into these national leadership roles, where they aim to support the growth and success of SPEA chapters across the country while continuing to strengthen the organization at LSU. Through their



(from left) Emily Eberts, Lauren Schafer, MJ Hymel, Andrew Gottsegen

involvement, Emily and Lauren hope to inspire other students to uphold the highest standards of ethics and professionalism in dentistry.



(from left) Emily Eberts, Lauren Schafer

**Emily:** “I am very excited for the opportunity to serve on the National Board alongside many like-minded dental students who are striving to become leaders in the dental profession. As Regent 6, I hope to support existing chapters and help establish new ones across Alabama, Arizona, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas. I also look forward to continuing the momentum at LSU’s recently re-established chapter by fostering engagement and growth within our community. Throughout this journey, I am eager to make new connections through SPEA and the ACD, and I hope to inspire students to get involved and make a lasting impact in our profession!”

**Lauren:** “I am so honored and grateful for the chance to represent LSU and serve at the National level for SPEA. I have already learned so much and am excited to spread knowledge at LSU and beyond! As Chief Information Officer, I will manage our online presence and social media, as well as create deliverables for the National conference next year. I look forward to connecting with more students who also value leadership and want to contribute to our future profession as dentists. This experience has already been invaluable to me and I truly cannot wait to see what the future has in store. I also want to thank our SPEA Dr. Nuttli and Dr. Soileau, and without them this wouldn’t have been made possible.”



*LSU SPEA meets on November 4th after hearing an attorney speak on professional liability.*

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Dr. Vincent DiLeo, Jr.

## Dr. Vincent DiLeo, Jr. Selected as a 2025 Fellow at the Pierre Fauchard Academy

The Pierre Fauchard Academy, an international dental honorary organization, is proud to announce that Dr. Vincent DiLeo, Jr. has been selected as a 2025 Fellow in the prestigious honor society. Fellowship in the PFA is both a recognition of dental leadership and a promise to maintain the highest standards in the profession. Fewer than 1% of dentists worldwide are recognized for this honor.



Fellows in the Pierre Fauchard Academy pledge to consistently focus on professionalism, integrity, and ethics, and conduct themselves as worthy role models, by the advancement of dentistry to the highest level. PFA Fellows serve as worthy role models, advance dentistry to the highest level, support and honor colleagues for their distinguished work, conduct research, support public service, and provide excellence in programs, education, and leadership in oral health care.

Founded in 1936, the Pierre Fauchard Academy is based in Rockville, MD and has Sections in all 50 US States as well as 88 countries around the world. With 6,000 active Fellows, the PFA honors leaders in the dental profession, and provides educational programs to improve the leadership and professionalism of all dentists.



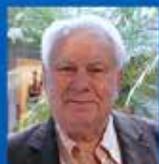
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## Louisiana Delegation for the ADA House of Delegates meets for a very long week of deliberating and attending law-making meetings



Delegates representing Louisiana in Washington, DC were Drs. Mark Chaney, Vincent DiLeo, Jr., and Kristi Soileau.

On the final day of the 2026 ADA House of Delegates, the Speaker for the ADA House, Dr. Mark Donald, pauses to take a photo of the 50/50 vote split in the House for one resolution. EVERY VOTE MATTERS! On the final day of the 2026 ADA House of Delegates, the Speaker for the ADA House, Dr. Mark Donald, pauses to take a photo of the 50/50 vote split in the House for one resolution. EVERY VOTE MATTERS!



## Bulletin Board

### APPRAISALS, SALES, ASSOCIATESHIPS, PRE-RETIREMENT PLANNING

ADS South specializes in valuations and transitions for dentists. Learn how to protect your practice in case of death. Call Dr. Earl Douglas at 770-664-1982 or visit our website [www.adssouth.com](http://www.adssouth.com). Four Metairie practices and one North Shore practice sold. All sold for full price, cash at closing. If you're thinking about selling, this a good time to call Dr. Earl Douglas 770-664-1982 or [earl@adssouth.com](mailto:earl@adssouth.com). If you do not have a Confidentiality Agreement with ADS South, please go to [www.adssouth.com/nd](http://www.adssouth.com/nd). Once you have completed the confidentiality agreement, click on Submit. Watch our website for an upcoming, quality New Orleans listing at [www.adssouth.com](http://www.adssouth.com).

#### GENERAL PRACTICE – NEW ORLEANS GP (#9541)

Gross \$318,136, 2 days a week, 3 operatories, 1,768 sq. ft. This practice, located in the Seventh Ward, is a perfect Trifecta! It offers three different transition options for a buyer to perform exceedingly well on low overhead and high potential for expansion in all three of these transition approaches. 1. It can work as a startup operation, netting \$100K on just fifteen hours per week, a great augmentation to any existing associateship. And it gives

this buyer the ability to build their own profit instead of someone else's. Contact Dr. Earl Douglas at [earl@adssouth.com](mailto:earl@adssouth.com) or 770-664-1982.

#### GENERAL PRACTICE – NEW ORLEANS GP (#9501)

Gross \$777,910, 3 days a week, 6 operatories, 2,500 sq. ft., 4 Employees. This extremely well-established Uptown area practice collecting over \$770K is now available for purchase. The practice was started fifty-four years ago and is in its second generation of ownership. It is an efficient six operator practice with low overhead. There is Dentrix management software, digital x-rays, cone beam, CAD/CAM, and other modern technology. The strengths of the practice include a seller who is willing to help mentor a new buyer in the high-end treatment that has been provided. The practice is totally fee for service and accounts receivable are negligible. The practice is expected to net over \$280K after all overhead and debt payments. Uncle Sam will also lower your income taxes by ~\$175K to put toward the price if you buy it. (If you don't buy it, you'll still pay \$175K in taxes). This can also work perfectly well as a merger, moving the buyer's practice into the seller's office. This approach will net a buyer over \$350K. If you don't want to take on the extra production, perform a Merger Purchase and have an associate perform all of the extra production for you and still net you can net \$167K just for being the owner. Interested? Contact Dr. Earl Douglas at [earl@adssouth.com](mailto:earl@adssouth.com) or 770-664-1982.

### GENERAL DENTISTS NEEDED

Whether you are a recent dental school graduate or an established practitioner interested in pursuing new opportunities, Louisiana Dental Center offers dentists the ability to perform in an autonomous and collegial atmosphere without the burden of managing a practice. With numerous modern facilities scattered across South Louisiana, our practice is in a unique position to offer flexible and convenient scheduling options. If you're interested in joining our team of professionals, please contact Terry Ernst at 985-893-2240 or [ternst@LaDentalCenter.com](mailto:ternst@LaDentalCenter.com).

### SATURDAY GENERAL DENTISTS

Louisiana Dental Center is seeking General Dentists interested in working Saturdays at its locations throughout South Louisiana. If you're interested in joining our team of professionals, please contact Terry Ernst at 985-893-2240 or [ternst@LaDentalCenter.com](mailto:ternst@LaDentalCenter.com).

### UPHOLSTERY

Are your dental chairs looking shabby? Reupholstery could make a huge difference. Call me for a free estimate. Fast pick-up and delivery. James Melerine Upholstery. 504-430-2307.

## Events Partners

