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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 MAY '25 NO. 5

NODA News

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



First, a heartfelt thank you to Dr. Mike Block for delivering a truly engaging and informative lecture at our March General Membership Meeting. For those of you who attended, I think you'll agree—it was a night filled with learning, inspiration, and great conversation.

April brought us the much-anticipated New Orleans Dental Conference & Louisiana Dental Association's Annual Session, and what a success it was! I'm so proud of what we accomplished together. A huge round of applause goes to Dr. Jimmy Burns and the entire Conference Committee for organizing a top-notch event. Your hard work and dedication showed in every detail, and it was wonderful to see such a strong turnout from our members and colleagues.

Also in April, many of our members took part in the Louisiana Dental Association's House of Delegates meeting. I'd like to extend

my sincere thanks to everyone who served as a delegate and contributed to the important conversations shaping the future of dentistry in our state. Your involvement helps ensure our voices are heard and our profession continues to thrive.

Looking ahead, I hope you'll join us for one of NODA's most beloved traditions—the Annual Crawfish Party! Mark your calendars for Friday, May 9th at 4:30 PM at The Kamp. It's the perfect opportunity to kick back, enjoy delicious crawfish, and spend time with friends, family, and staff in a relaxed setting. Be sure to register soon—we'd love to see you there!

Thank you all for being such an active and engaged part of our dental community. Your enthusiasm and commitment are what make NODA such a special organization. Wishing you a joyful spring and looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

Happy Spring, NODA family! As the flowers bloom and the days get longer, our calendar has been just as vibrant and full of life. I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible momentum we've built this spring and thank each of you for your continued support and participation in our events.



Send your school news to:

The Tiger's Tooth Probe!

...Where students, faculty and administration can submit a photo, news, and/or announcements relating to organized dentistry and charity events at LSUSD! Please submit your entry to both kmsperio@gmail.com and info@nodental.org.

THANK YOU!

by James Burns, D.D.S. – NODC/LDA Annual Session Committee Chair



Hello my NODA Family.

On behalf of New Orleans Dental Conference & Louisiana Dental Association’s Annual Session 2025, I would like to thank all of our registrants for this year’s meeting. It was an honor and a pleasure to be this year’s chair. Next year, I will pass the reigns off to Dr. Kay Jordan, who will do a wonderful job.

The meeting will be back to our ole’ stomping grounds, the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, on April 9-11, 2026. Being just 6 months removed from ADA’s SmileCon®, we asked our LDA and NODA constituents to step up to the

plate. Not only did you step up to the plate, but you knocked it out of the park! Here’s to the best Local and state component in the world! I might be a little biased but I truly believe we are all blessed to be a part such a great profession and organization. God Bless NODA and LDA.

In closing, remember 2 Corinthians 13:11 *“Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.”* Until the next Conference..... I’M OUT!



It’s time to get out of the house and gather around the crawfish pot with your NODA family.

CRAWFISH PARTY

MAY 9, 2025

4:30PM – 7:00PM

The Kamp

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The Use of Dental Pulp Stem Cells for Pulp Regeneration and Tissue Repair

Dental caries, widespread throughout the world, has maintained its incidence and prevalence over the past two decades.¹ If left untreated in a timely fashion, this can lead to infection and significant pain.² Dental pulp plays a crucial role in the maintenance and repair of periodontal tissue in the case of both infection or trauma, and maintains the vitality of the tooth by acting as a medium for both blood vessels and neural networks to supply nutrients to the tooth.¹ Currently, the typical treatment of pulp diseases, known as “root canal” therapy, is performed by filling the canals with an inorganic material which results in a permanently devitalized tooth that is left somewhat more susceptible to structural failure.³ While root canal treatment does have a high success rate, the immune function and vitality of the dental pulp is lost, which can weaken the tooth and make it more prone to fracture.¹

Due to the various limitations of these traditional approaches for preserving the dentin-pulp complex, there is a need for novel methods for dentin-pulp reconstruction.⁴ The development of stem cell-based tissue engineering has given rise to

the possibility of combining dental stem cells with a tissue-reparative microenvironment to promote dentin-pulp complex regeneration. Using a platelet concentrate as a growth factor gives promise as a scaffold for the treatment of dentin-pulp complex disorders, especially seeing as how concentrated growth factor has gained popularity in medical and dental fields for repairing bone defects and promoting soft tissue healing.⁴

While a range of regenerative endodontic treatments have been applied clinically, the most appropriate method seems to be cell transplantation-based regenerative endodontic treatment, wherein dental pulp stem cells are isolated from dental pulp because these stem cells are able to differentiate into odontoblasts as well as glial cells and neurons.¹ Further, dental pulp stem cells have a strong angiogenic capacity, which means they have the ability to revascularize the tissue. This is crucial for tissue host engineering because the circulatory system must supply the necessary oxygen and nutrients as well as remove waste products generated in the tooth.¹ In order for this to



Blair Weiss, Pre-dental student at Tulane University

properly occur, growth factors must be added to promote the stem cells’ proliferation and differentiation. Concentrated growth factor, which contains a combination of various growth factors, has been used frequently in this clinical practice to promote the release of other growth factors that help with the healing of both hard and soft tissues.⁴

The final core component of successful dental pulp regeneration, aside from dental pulp stem cells and growth factors, are the scaffolds used to support the stem cells. These scaffolds interact with the surrounding microenvironment in order to influence the signal pathway required for regeneration. They must not only support the adhesion

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The Use of Dental Pulp Stem Cells for Pulp Regeneration and Tissue Repair . . . *Continued from Page 3*

and differentiation of stem cells but also replicate the original matrix of the tissue that they were generated from.¹ Based on clinical studies conducted to test various scaffolds, it has been shown that combining two or more materials when making the scaffolding is a preferred option for dental pulp regeneration.²

Even though cell-transplantation-based regenerative endodontic treatment has proven to retain tooth vitality by regenerating pulp and dentin in the tooth, more research and clinical studies must be done before this treatment can move forward. One main issue with this

technique is the availability of pulp tissue due to ethical considerations. While ideally the best options for isolating dental pulp stem cells would be using third molars or orthodontically extracted teeth, this is not practiced at the present time.¹ In order for regenerative treatment to be successful, cell banks would be essential, as well as funding for more clinical studies to better understand the remedial properties of dental pulp stem cells to ensure that patients do not undergo immunological rejection from the use of allogeneic cells.¹

The future of dentistry is

constantly evolving in the hopes of providing endodontic therapy to provide the best possible care for a disease that has remained a challenging entity in dentistry for decades. In order to make this therapy a reality, more clinical trials must continue to address both ethical and regulatory issues. Further, the molecular mechanisms behind pulpal regeneration and the interactions amongst the combination of the cells, scaffolds, and growth factors need to continue to be studied in order to make way for this innovative technique in the field of dentistry.²

References:

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2. Li XL, Fan W, Fan B. Dental pulp regeneration strategies: a review of status quo and recent advances. *Bioact Mater.* 2024;38:258-275. doi:10.1016/j.bioactmat.2024.04.031
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4. Li Z, Liu L, Wang L, et al. The effects and potential applications of concentrated growth factor in dentin-pulp complex regeneration. *Stem Cell Res Ther.* 2021;12:357. doi:10.1186/s13287-021-02446-y

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Student and Professionalism and Ethics Association (SPEA) reorganizes after dormancy since 2020



LSU Faculty and ACD Member, Dr Cathy Honoré, Speaks to LSU School of Dentistry's SPEA Membership on Dental Ethics

SPEA provides students with the opportunity to develop their ethical values in dentistry. It offers a membership program and encourages collaboration among dental students and professionals.

The LSU Chapter was started under the direction of Dr. Robert Barsley by then first year students Katie Kirkpatrick and Alexander DeGenova. It had its first meeting since the Covid years on April 9, 2025 in Auditorium C.

Last year, SPEA representatives

from many schools met in New Orleans, alongside the ADA meeting, for their two-day annual seminar. The group continues to thrive in most schools across the country and is overseen by the American College of Dentists, whose members often times will be guest speakers for big group's meetings.

Faculty mentors include Drs. Cathy Honoré, Nicholas Mosca, Margaret Nuttli, and Kristi Soileau.



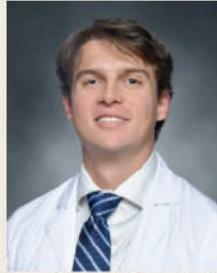
Student and Professionalism and Ethics Association (SPEA) reorganizes after dormancy since 2020 . . .

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Meet the Officers



President: Emily Eberts



Vice President: Eliott Reimann



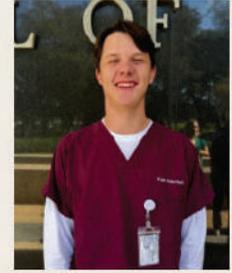
Secretary: Lauren Schafer



Treasurer: Devan Morrison



D4 Rep & Member at Large: Joseph Tassin



D2 Rep: Kade Edenfield

SPEA meeting clips from March 2019 NODA Newsletters



SPEA meeting clips from March 2019 NODA Newsletters...

LSU School of Dentistry Forms SPEA Chapter

LSUHSC School of Dentistry

Photos courtesy of Joanne Courville

On February 18, LSU School of Dentistry students attended their first SPEA meeting. SPEA stands for Student Professionalism and Ethics Association, of which there are over fifty such dental student chapters around the country. At their first meeting, Dr. Erik Klintmalm, a national SPEA representative, spoke to the group on accepting responsibility, developing leadership, and making right choices in patient care. The group aspires to meet monthly, with different lectures on ethics and professionalism to be given by local members of the American College of Dentists, which is closely tied to the student group. Dr. Robert Barsley is the SPEA on-campus advisor.



Dr. Erik Klintmalm, National Co-Director of SPEA and American College of Dentists Board Intern, addresses the students at the first ever LSU School of Dentistry SPEA meeting.



LSU Dental Students in attendance at the first LSU School of Dentistry SPEA meeting.



Dr. Kristi Soileau (off-campus advisor and LA Section ACD President-elect), LSU School of Dentistry SPEA Co-founders Katie Kirkpatrick and Alex DeGenova and Dr. Erik Klintmalm (National Co-Director of SPEA and American College of Dentists Board Intern).



LSU School of Dentistry SPEA Co-founders Alex DeGenova and Katie Kirkpatrick following their first SPEA meeting.

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LDA House of Delegates Meeting Astor Crowne Plaza New Orleans

Photos courtesy of Dr. Kristi Soileau



NODA members attend the 2025 LDA HOD.



NODA members serve as Delegates to the LDA HOD.



Delegates representing NODA during the LDA HOD



Dr. John Gallo attends LDA House of Delegates meeting.



Past ASDA President Dr Tiffany Morgan again attends the LDA HOD this time as a Delegate for NODA.



Dr. Gizelle Richard receives the LDA Distinguished Service award from her daughter, Dr. Gabrielle Richard.



Dr. Glenn Dubroc, Jr., presents the LDA Distinguished Service award to Dr. Vincent DiLeo, Jr.



LSU ASDA Students attend LDA House of Delegates meeting.

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LDA House of Delegates Meeting Astor Crowne Plaza New Orleans

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ASDA Students vote on adding fluoride to the list of legislative priorities.



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ACD/ICD Business Meeting — Antoine's Restaurant

Photos courtesy of Dr. Kristi Soileau



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Dr. Mark Chaney, ICD Regent for Area 12, introduces Dr. Eliot Paisner, President of the International College of Dentists, USA Section.



Mr. Mike Graham, Executive Director of the American College of Dentists, gives an update on the College's leadership programs and ethics education projects.



Dr. Eliot Paisner addresses the Fellows.



Dr. Fred McMullen gives an update on the LSU School of Dentistry.

ACD/ICD Business Meeting — Antoine’s Restaurant

Photos courtesy of Dr. Kristi Soileau



Miss Emily Eberts, President of both ASDA and SPEA, gives an update on LSU Student leadership activities.



Dr. Laurie Moeller, President of LA Pierre Fouchard Academy, thanking everyone for attending.



Dr. Laurie Moeller, President of LA Pierre Fouchard Academy, initiates Dr. Sean Owens into membership at the ICD/ACD meeting.



Dr. David DeGenova, Treasurer of both ACD and ICD, gives financial reports.



Antoine's famous Baked Alaska with ACD engraving.



Dr. Marlon Henderson gives the invocation for the dinner.



Antoine's famous Baked Alaska with ICD engraving.



Flambé for the Baked Alaska meringue.



Dr. Kristi Soileau, ACD Regent for Area 6, Vice-President for ICD LA Section, and off-campus representative for LSU SPEA, with Emily Eberts, LSU ASDA and SPEA President.



Dr. and Mrs. Eliot Paisner on the French Quarter balcony.



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NODC & LDA Annual Session Astor Crowne Plaza New Orleans

Photos courtesy of Dr. Kevin Collins & LDA Staff



Hancock Whitney representatives Tiffany Ebersole and Amanda Moulliet @ NODC & LDA Annual Session.



New Orleans Dental Enterprises booth @ NODC & LDA Annual Session.



Dr. Corky Willhite receives the Normalee Ward Distinguished Award from NODC & LDA Annual Session Chair, Dr. James Burns.

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