

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 JANUARY '25 NO. 01

NODA Welcomes New Leader

Gregory P. Guerra, D.D.S. is the 107th President of the New Orleans Dental Association. Dr. Guerra graduated from De La Salle High School in New Orleans and went to the University of New Orleans where he received a Bachelor of Science in Biology in 1995 and a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry in 1996. While earning his college and postgraduate degrees, Dr. Guerra served as an enlisted reservist in the Louisiana Air National Guard, where he worked as a photographer from 1987 until 2001.

Dr. Guerra earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery from the LSU School of Dentistry in 2001. While in dental school, Dr. Guerra served as class president. Upon dental school graduation, Dr. Guerra became an officer in the Air National Guard and served as a Reserve Dentist until 2010 when he retired as a Major completing 23 years of military service.

Dr. Guerra followed in the steps of his father, Humberto Guerra, and uncles Richard and Oscar Guerra, each practicing over 40 years in the field of dentistry. He is also proud to have his children following in his footsteps. His daughter, Morgan, will be graduating from LSU School of Dentistry this spring and will continue her education with an Oral Surgery residency beginning this summer. His son, Joel, has joined the Louisiana Air National Guard and is training to be a pilot.



Dr. Guerra has worked in private practice in the New Orleans area for over 20 years. He also served in the role of Clinical Assistant Professor at the LSU Dental School from 2022 through 2024 and as a surgical Implant Instructor for Implant Seminars, where he has been a part time instructor for over 10 years.

Dr. Guerra is a Fellow in the International College of Dentists, the American College of Dentists, and the Academy of General Dentistry. He is also a Diplomat in the International Dental Implant Association. Dr. Guerra has been and continues to be active in his community. In addition to volunteering as a USA Swimming Official, Dr. Guerra has served as a volunteer for Amigos For

Christ in Nicaragua, for Jesuit High School Parent Athletic Advisory Board, and for New Orleans Habitat for Humanity. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus and was the 2023 President of the Metairie Rotary Club.

Dr. Guerra enjoys traveling, swimming, running, and fishing. He is currently training for his first marathon. He enjoys spending time with his wife Regina and their two children, family and friends at their camp in Pearlington, Mississippi.

Dr. Guerra is honored to serve as president of NODA and is looking forward to working with his outstanding Officers and Board of Directors who he not only considers colleagues, but friends.

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



Happy New Year! I hope this message finds you refreshed and reenergized after a joyful holiday season spent with loved ones. As we turn the page to a new year, I am both humbled and thrilled to step into the role of president of NODA.

It is an honor to serve this organization, and I am deeply aware that I have big shoes to fill. The leaders who have come before me have left an indelible mark on NODA, shaping it into a vibrant community that fosters excellence in dentistry among its members. In particular, I would like to thank Dr. Linda Cao, our immediate past president, for her outstanding leadership and dedication. She did a remarkable job guiding NODA, and I am inspired to build on her incredible work.

As we begin this exciting chapter, I want to share some important events that will bring

us together as a community. I am pleased to invite you to the President's Installation Banquet, which will take place on Friday, March 14, at the Southern Yacht Club. This will be a special evening to celebrate the start of a new chapter for NODA, connect with colleagues, and reaffirm our shared goals as an association.

We are also looking forward to hosting the New Orleans Dental Conference and Louisiana Dental Association's Annual Session on April 10-12 at the Astor Crowne Plaza New Orleans. This premier event promises to be both engaging and educational, and I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Dr. James Burns, our Conference Chair, for his hard work in putting together such a wonderful Conference. His dedication and vision have ensured that this event will be a highlight of our year.

Additionally, the LDA House of Delegates will convene on April 12. This is a vital meeting that helps shape the future of dentistry in Louisiana, and we need delegates to represent NODA. If you are interested in serving as a delegate, I urge you to reach out to the NODA office. Your voice and perspective are essential to our mission, and this is a fantastic opportunity to make a meaningful contribution.

I am also eager to hear from you directly. If you have any input, ideas, or specific requests, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or the NODA office. Your feedback

is invaluable as we strive to make our association stronger and more impactful. I am particularly passionate about engaging younger dentists and encouraging their active involvement in NODA. Fresh perspectives and new energy are crucial to our continued growth, and I hope to see more of our younger members participating in meetings, events, and leadership opportunities.

On that note, I encourage everyone to attend NODA meetings and events throughout the year. These gatherings are a fantastic way to connect with colleagues and celebrate our vibrant dental community. Be sure to join us for events like our annual crawfish boil, which always promises great food, great company, and great fun!

As we embark on this new year, I am committed to bringing fresh ideas and initiatives to NODA. My goal is to continue fostering a sense of connection and growth among our members while addressing the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in our profession. Together, we can make meaningful strides to ensure a bright and successful future for NODA.

Thank you for trusting me with this role. I look forward to working alongside each of you to make 2025 a productive and memorable year for NODA. Let's embrace the opportunities ahead and make this a standout year for our association.

NODA News is published every month with the exception of June and August.
Deadline for ads and editorial material is the 10th of the month preceding publication.

Ads and news should be sent to: info@nodental.org

NODA News is a publication of the New Orleans Dental Assn.,
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Gregory P. Guerra, D.D.S.

107th President of the New Orleans Dental Association

Requests the Honor of Your Presence at the

*President's Banquet
Friday, March 14, 2025*

*Southern Yacht Club
105 North Roadway Street | New Orleans, LA 70124*

Reception: 6:00pm - 6:30pm

Dinner & Program: 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

\$80.00 per person

RSVP by February 26, 2025 (Black Tie Optional)



New Years Resolution: Register for NODC/LDA Annual Session 2025

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



The Chairman was Dr. Fred J. Wolfe, Sr. The first board consisted of 15 members with four Ex-Officio Members. Since that time, we've had many great people that have sacrificed their time to make this such a nationally respected conference. I think our forefathers would be proud of this Conference; in particular the support over the years from our NODA and LDA membership.

We have two of our speakers in our speakers spotlight this month. First is Dr. Waleed Zaid. Dr. Zaid is

Happy New Year my NODA family! Like a great person once said, "The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book waiting to be written". Let's hope that your next chapter will be one of love and prosperity. It wouldn't be a true New Year's article without a couple of predictions. Of course, number one will be that Drew Brees becomes the Saints Head Coach and leads the team to its second Superbowl win. Second is that all the potholes and drainage pumps in New Orleans will be fixed by the end of the year. Lastly, the 2025 New Orleans Dental Conference & Louisiana Dental Association's Annual Session will be the greatest dental meeting on record and the ADA makes a proclamation that our meeting is the greatest in all the land! It can happen. Ok, maybe not the first two, but the third is a possibility.

As we embark upon a new year for our Conference, we always must remember the history of our conference. Our Conference was started on October 24-27, 1948.



Dr. Waleed Zaid

an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon. He specializes in Head and Neck Oncology and Microvascular Reconstructive Surgery. Waleed is an Associate Professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Louisiana State University Health Science Center, where he is the Baton Rouge Site Director. Lastly, he is Chief of Dentistry and OMFS at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center. He will be speaking on Thursday April 10th. His morning

session will be "Updates on Oral Dysplasia and Oral Cancer". In the afternoon, the session will be "Our Role in Managing Obstructive Sleep Apnea".

The second is Dr. Robin Ainsworth. She will also be speaking on Thursday, April 10th. Dr. Ainsworth is a Forensic Consultant for the Pinellas County Medical Examiner's Office. She is also a U.S. Airforce/GC Civilian National Consultant for Forensic Dentistry. Lastly, but definitely not least, she is an Assistant Clinical Professor-Gratis at Louisiana State University Health Science Center. Her morning session will be "Forensic Science Overview (Dental Identification in Mass Disaster)". In the afternoon, her topic will be "Human Abuse/Neglect, Pattern Injury Analysis, Age Assessment".

Remember registration in full swing and classes are going fast. So go to NODC.org and register now! Have a great day my NODA Family!



Dr. Robin Ainsworth

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1951	Dr. Victor B. Marquer	1986	Dr. Carroll L. Wood, III	2021	Dr. Gizelle P. Richard
1952	Dr. L.L. Levy	1987	Dr. Anthony Miranda, Jr.	2022	Dr. James E. Burns
1953	Dr. Prescott E. Smith	1988	Dr. Peter L. Glaser	2023	Dr. Aubrey A. Baudean, Jr.
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Where ADA Forsyth Is Today

By Emily Tran, B.S.



Since my first article on the formation of the ADA Forsyth Institute (AFI) was published in the Summer (July) edition of NODA News, several exciting developments have taken place. These advancements promise to further improve dental practices and patient care.

In October 2024, AFI announced their new ADA Forsyth Certification Program to Evaluate Professional Dental Products, also known as AFI Certified, which is set to officially launch in Fall 2025. This program will serve as a tool to assist dental offices and clinicians in making well-informed decisions on product selection based on established scientific protocols. Not to be confused with the ADA Seal of Approval program, as AFI Certified will be more focused on ensuring professional-grade dental products meet the ADA's rigorous standards as opposed to over-the-counter consumer products. The ADA Forsyth Institute will be overseeing the product evaluation, while the American Dental Association will support the business administration side of the program. The specific

categories and requirements to become AFI Certified have yet to be released to the public and is said to be released closer to the official launch date. 1

In another groundbreaking development, the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research awarded AFI \$6.2M in November of 2024 to develop smart materials for dental fillings using physics-based artificial intelligence. This is said to be one of the first applications of AI in oral health research. The new dental composite will be able to automatically respond to changing conditions in each individual patient's mouth, made possible with the incorporation of nanofillers that will react to biological signals. For example, Dr. Jirun Sun, the principal investigator leading the research team, told ADANews, "If a crack were to develop, this smart material will be able to detect that change and repair the crack. Or, if your mouth has a lot of acid that lowers pH, which can break down the composite and tooth structure, the material will counteract the acid." Not only this, but it will also serve as a viable replacement for amalgam. Although current alternative replacements exist, they need to be replaced more often and are expensive to use. The purpose of this smart material is to create something easy to use and accessible to everyone. 2

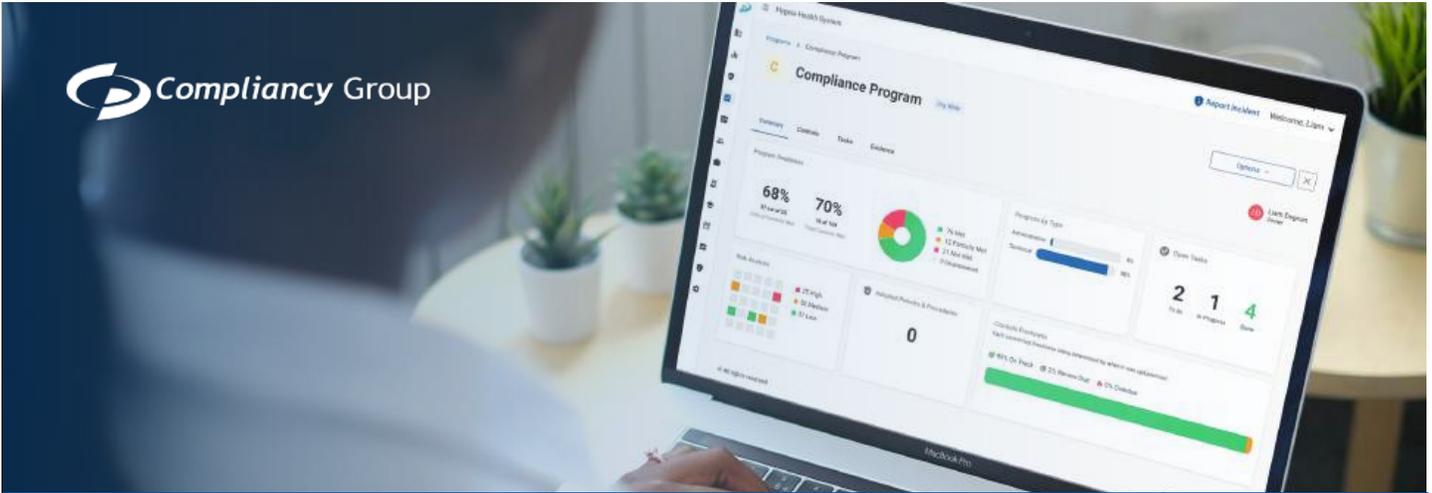
AFI has partnered with Optimuos, a digital engineering firm, to further accelerate the research. Optimuos specializes in creating virtual replicas of physical objects to simulate their behaviors, helping AFI test a wide range of parameters more efficiently. Dr. Sun

emphasized the importance of this collaboration, noting that, without it, testing would take decades. Incorporating AI and virtual lab simulations into the material development process, based on the laws of physics and chemistry, will help fast-track personalized dental care innovations. These approaches can also be applied to other cutting-edge research at AFI, such as managing drug-resistant biofilms and aberrant immunological responses. 2

In conclusion, the recent advancements at the ADA Forsyth Institute represent a significant leap forward with AI integration in dentistry. As Dr. Cohlmiia, executive director of the ADA, states, "This smart material could revolutionize dental care and improve patient outcomes. The future of dental restorations – and so much more – is happening now." 2 With these innovations, the ADA Forsyth Institute is not only enhancing treatment options but also paving the way for a more personalized and effective approach to dental care.

References

- Anderson, O. (2024, October 30). *AFI announces New Gold Standard for professional-grade dental products*. ADANews.ada.org. <https://adanews.ada.org/ada-news/2024/october/afi-announces-new-gold-standard-for-professional-grade-dental-products>
- Versaci, M. B. (2024, September 30). *NIDCR awards Ada Forsyth \$6.2M to design restorative materials using AI*. ADANews.ada.org. <https://adanews.ada.org/ada-news/2024/september/nidcr-awards-ada-forsyth-62m-to-design-restorative-materials-using-ai/>



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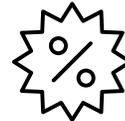
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GENERAL PRACTICE – NEW ORLEANS (#9526)

Gross Collections - \$829,126, 6 equipped operatories, 4,000 sq. ft. This well-established, but modern eleven year plus standing practice is located in western New Orleans. The practice is well-staffed and uses Dentrix management software. There were over 2,500 patients seen in the past eighteen months and the practice sees 25 new patients per month. The dentist is booked two and a half weeks in advance. The 4,000 sq. ft. office with six equipped ops and four more plumbed, but unequipped ops is available for purchase. This is an ideal base for merging more practices into this spacious office.

Hygienists are responsible for 23% of practice income as many services are referred out. Projected 2024 gross is \$800,000. For more information, contact Dr. Earl Douglas at 770/664-1982 or earl@adssouth.com.

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