

**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    MARCH '25    NO. 3**

# NODA News

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



Southern Yacht Club from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. This special evening will include the installation of the new NODA Board of Directors, as well as the presentation of the Honor Dentist Award to Dr. Byron Ganuchau. We will also recognize our esteemed 25-year and 50-year members for their dedication to dentistry and NODA. It promises to be a night of celebration, camaraderie, and appreciation for those who have helped shape our profession.

Later in the month, we will hold our General Membership meeting on Wednesday, March 19th, at The Ridgeway of Old Metairie. We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Michael S. Block, who will present on *“Simplifying full arch cases – use of digital methods to plan and orchestrate efficient treatment with all of your referrals – with minimal chairside conversion.”* This meeting is a fantastic opportunity to earn two (2) hour continuing education credits while engaging in meaningful discussions with peers.

I also want to take a moment to welcome our LSU Dental student members of the American

Dental Association, who are also part of NODA. We encourage our dental students to attend these events—it’s a great opportunity for networking, mentorship, and professional growth. To my fellow NODA members, I urge you to take the time to engage with our student members, as they represent the future of our profession.

And of course, the event we all look forward to—the New Orleans Dental Conference & Louisiana Dental Association’s Annual Session—is just around the corner! Mark your calendars for April 10-11, 2025, at the Astor Crowne Plaza New Orleans. Over these two days, attendees will have the chance to earn up to 12 hours of C.E. while learning from some of the most respected voices in our profession. This is YOUR state meeting, so be sure to invite your colleagues, classmates, and friends to take advantage of this invaluable experience.

I look forward to seeing you all at these events as we continue to strengthen our association and advance our profession together.

March is here, and with it comes a lineup of exciting events for the New Orleans Dental Association! This is a time to celebrate our profession, reconnect with colleagues, and continue our lifelong journey of learning.

One of the best ways to support our association is by attending events, engaging with fellow members, and staying active within our dental community. With that in mind, I encourage you all to join us for the President’s Banquet on Friday, March 14th, at the beautiful



**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](mailto:kmsperio@gmail.com) and [info@nodental.org](mailto:info@nodental.org).

## Student Testimonials



**Jillian DeSalle**  
LSUHSC School of Dentistry  
*Class of 2028 President*

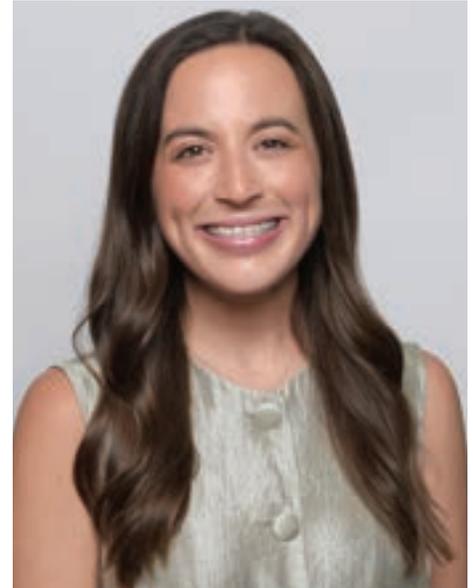
Serving others has always been an incredibly fulfilling journey. With this being my first year as a dental student, I am grateful to have already been exposed to so much in the dental field through volunteering, which has helped me grow both knowledge and confidence. The sense of being part of something bigger than myself along with knowing my efforts are improving someone's quality of life is a powerful reminder why giving back is so important. It is humbling to know that by giving just my time, I can make a meaningful impact on someone's health and confidence.

Volunteerism offers a unique, and important opportunity to understand one's community, and the various experiences of those within it. This, in turn, can allow somebody who is volunteering to develop professionally, and find a greater purpose beyond their career. In my experience of volunteering, I have gotten to see first-hand some of the hardships that the average person may experience on a day-to-day basis, including and outside of healthcare, and this has made my passion for helping others grow tremendously. I am fortunate to be pursuing a career that allows me to practice something that I love, while simultaneously making an active, positive difference in the lives of those around me, and know that volunteerism will be an integral piece of my life for years to come.



**Andrew Gottsegen**  
LSUHSC School of Dentistry  
*Class of 2027 President*

Throughout my life, I have been deeply passionate about serving underserved populations, and when I began dental school, I was determined to carry that passion forward. Over the past three years in school, my commitment to volunteerism has not only reinforced my sense of compassion and humanity but has also grounded me in the realities of healthcare disparities. Through these experiences, I have witnessed firsthand the profound impact that dentistry can have—both on individual lives and on the broader community. Volunteerism not only enriches the lives of those being served but also strengthens my own growth as a clinician, reminding me of the true purpose behind my work: making a meaningful difference in the lives of others.



**Amanda Bryant**  
LSUHSC School of Dentistry  
*Class of 2026 President*



**Christopher Clinton**  
LSUHSC School of Dentistry  
*Class of 2025 President*

Volunteering allows me to give back to the profession of dentistry, fostering both personal and professional growth. I am passionate about helping those in need, especially those who do not have access to proper health care. Caring for others through dentistry has provided a huge sense of fulfillment, and this service has pushed me to learn and grow in dentistry while improving patients' oral health. I have enjoyed volunteering everywhere I have lived, and dentistry has opened another avenue for me to continue this service.

## Student Testimonials . . .

(Continued from Pgs.2-3)



**Emily Eberts**  
LSUHSC School of Dentistry '27  
*LSUSD ASDA President-Elect*

Volunteering in the dental community is deeply meaningful to me because it allows me to give back, educate, and inspire others. Educating others about the importance of dental health not only empowers individuals but also strengthens the profession by building trust and awareness of the impacts of dental care on overall health. Through volunteerism, I have had the opportunity to share my knowledge and advocate for dental health in underserved communities where significant health disparities exist. New Orleans is a beautiful city with a rich culture, and its community provides students like me with unique learning opportunities through the patients we treat at the school. It is a privilege to represent this profession through continuous service in these surrounding communities. Being a leader in this field has also given me the unique chance to shed a positive light on this profession while serving others.

*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](mailto:info@nodental.org)

*NODA News* is a publication of the New Orleans Dental Assn.,  
2121 N. Causeway Blvd., Suite 153, Metairie, LA 70001.

Phone (504) 834-6449

# Upcoming Scientific Program

by Claudia A. Cavallinos, D.D.S. – NODC Scientific Program Committee Chair

DATE   LOCATION   TIME	SPEAKER   TOPIC   OBJECTIVES	SPONSORS																
<p><b>March 19, 2025</b></p> <p><b>The Ridgeway of Old Metairie</b> 2431 Metairie Road Metairie, LA 70001</p> <p><b>Check In/Dinner:</b> Begin at 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 food guarantee</p> <p><b>Registration</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Member</td><td>\$20</td></tr> <tr><td>Student</td><td>\$20</td></tr> <tr><td>Resident</td><td>\$20</td></tr> <tr><td>Applicant</td><td>\$0</td></tr> <tr><td>Dentist (non-NODA)</td><td>\$45.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Hygienist</td><td>\$45.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Office staff</td><td>\$45.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Spouse</td><td>\$45.00</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 Monday, March 17<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>	Member	\$20	Student	\$20	Resident	\$20	Applicant	\$0	Dentist (non-NODA)	\$45.00	Hygienist	\$45.00	Office staff	\$45.00	Spouse	\$45.00	<p><b>General Membership Meeting with Dinner &amp; CE Lecture</b></p> <p><b>Speaker – Michael S. Block, D.M.D.</b></p> <p>Dr. Block graduated from the University of Rochester in 1975, attaining both a BA in Biology and a BS in Biomedical Engineering. He completed his dental training at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine in 1979, receiving his D.M.D. cum laude in a special field. He completed his residency program in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the LSU School of Dentistry in 1983. He remained at the LSU School of Dentistry and achieved the academic rank of Professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Currently he is in private practice. Dr. Block is the editor-in-chief of five textbooks on dental implants, <i>Endosseous Implants for Maxillofacial Reconstruction</i>, <i>Implants in Dentistry</i>, <i>Color Atlas of Dental Implant Surgery</i>: the 4<sup>th</sup> edition was published in 2015. He is Past President of the Academy of Osseointegration, and has been program chairman for three of their annual programs. Dr. Block has served on the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) Committee on Continuing Education as Chairman of the subcommittee on dental implants. Dr. Block has been an examiner for the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. He is a Section Editor on Dental Implants for the Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Dr. Block is particularly interested in the translation of technology for efficient and predictable reconstruction of the jaw to provide ideal bone for implant placement and esthetic replacement of missing teeth, the use of multiple techniques and implants to reconstruct significant atrophic conditions, and interceptive strategies for rehabilitating extraction sites with implant restorations. Hobbies and interests: Golf, skiing, road cycling, nutrition, science fiction, computer technology.</p> <p><b>Topic - “Simplifying full arch cases – use of digital methods to plan and orchestrate efficient treatment with all of your referrals – with minimal chairside conversion”</b></p> <p>Full arch restorations can be intimidating for surgical and restoring dentists. The goal should be to provide the patient with a long-term well-designed solution that avoids excessive steps and costs to obtain this result. Time and cost efficiency is important to consider when deciding on how to actually treat the patient. This presentation will outline the infrastructure requirements for the clinicians and demonstrate a relatively simple approach that can be used by all clinicians to efficiently provide full arch restorations for their patients with minimal chairside conversion.</p> <p><b>Learning objectives:</b> During this lecture, participants will learn to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1) Understand the Role of Digital Methods in Full Arch Restorations</b> Learn how to leverage digital tools for effective planning and execution of full arch restoration cases, ensuring precise outcomes with minimal effort.</li> <li><b>2) Streamline Collaboration with Referrals</b> Develop strategies to coordinate treatment efficiently with referrals, optimizing communication and workflow to achieve seamless full arch restorations.</li> <li><b>3) Implement Cost-Effective and Time-Efficient Treatment Protocols</b> Explore practical approaches to minimize chairside conversion while maintaining high-quality results, reducing the overall time and costs associated with full arch restoration cases.</li> </ol>	<p>ZimVie (formerly Zimmer Biomet Dental) Joey Mollere Territory Manager: New Orleans Phone: 504/252-6159 joey.mollere@zimvie.com www.zimvie.com</p> <p>Hancock Whitney Patrick McKenna Vice President Business Banker Phone: 504/586-3505 Cell: 504/352-3770 patrick.mckenna@hancockwhitney.com www.hancockwhitney.com</p>
Member	\$20																	
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Applicant	\$0																	
Dentist (non-NODA)	\$45.00																	
Hygienist	\$45.00																	
Office staff	\$45.00																	
Spouse	\$45.00																	

## Queen of the Krewe of Iris



We are happy to announce that Kim LaGraize Bent, D.D.S. reigned as Queen of the Krewe of Iris on March 1, 2025. Dr. Bent has been a member of Iris for 17

years and has served as a float Line Lieutenant for 13 of those years. The Krewe of Iris is the oldest all female Mardi Gras Krewe and has been parading since 1917. With over 3,600 members, Iris is proud to serve the community in many facets. This year the Krewe introduced their new SHADES initiative which has allowed Iris to continue their commitment to the community by focusing on Safety, Health, Arts, Development and Education. Iris' goal is to foster Success filled with futures for women and children – because Iris' future is so bright, they have to wear SHADES! Most recently, Iris partnered with Sideline Pass to collect over 400 toys for local teens in need and also made a monetary donation which will translate into a Krewe of Iris

Scholarship to a deserving local individual this Spring.

Dr. Bent is a graduate of Ursuline Academy (1989), received her BA from Bost College (1993), and received her DDS from LSU School of Dentistry (1998). She has been a General Dentist for over 26 years in the New Orleans metropolitan area. She is a member of the local Girls Hope Boys Hope organization and has been an active alumna of Boston College. Dr. Bent resides in Lakeview with her husband of 28 years, Brian, and has 2 children – Kaley (27) and Braden (24). In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, playing pickleball and traveling with her family and friends.



*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.*

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# Goodbye Mardi Gras, Bring on the Conference

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

Hello my NODA Family.

It appears the winter festivities are done and it's time for Spring. And wow what a winter it was. If I wanted to live in Alaska, I would move there. I even had to use Mardi Gras beads on my tires as chains to get through the snow. Just a little heads up; it doesn't work. With spring here, there's one important thing to do. Register for your meeting. The New Orleans Dental Conference & Louisiana Dental Association's Annual Session 2025 will definitely be the highlight of your year. As I've mentioned before, this year's Conference will take place on the same weekend as the French Quarter Fest. On this weekend, this event will be filled with great local

and national entertainment that will get you on your feet dancing and yelling "Laissez les bons temps rouler" and the French Quarter might be pretty good also.

Seriously, my Conference board and I are extremely proud of the Conference we have put together for our constituents on the heels of SmileCon®. We might not be quite as big as that event, but it is not lacking in education and local hospitality. Come pass a good time with us and get a little dental education in the process.

Just a little reminder. The New Orleans Dental Conference & Louisiana Dental Association's Annual Session will be April 10th and 11th at the Astor Crowne Plaza



New Orleans in the heart of the French Quarter. Just go to NODC.org to register. Early registration has been moved to March 15th and please book your hotel before March 18th for the Conference price. Have a wonderful day!

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— Dr. Ron Ganik

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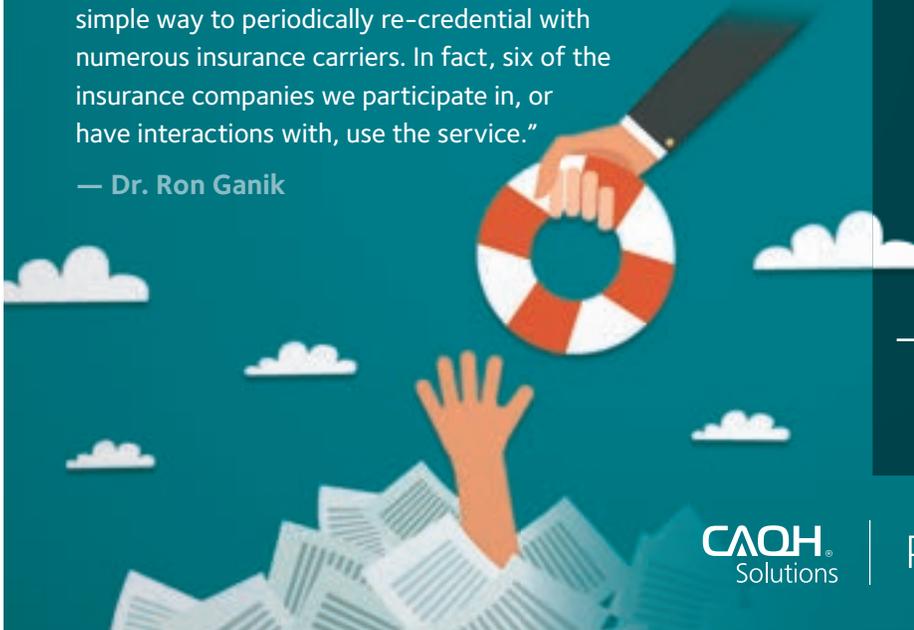
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# The Ethical Dilemma of Social Media

by Dr. Janet Southerland – LSUHSC School of Dentistry Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs



## Introduction

Dentistry has a long-established history of upholding high ethical and professional standards through organization such as the “American Colleges of Dentists (ACD)” and “American Dental Association (ADA)”. This legacy has helped the profession to rigorously pursue the highest quality of care for patients, education and training for students, and the pursuit of a lifelong steadfast commitment to continuous self-improvement. These are lofty and admirable goals that have been passed down over the years, but with changes in and

between generational norms and industrial revolutions the lines of ethical and professional standards have begun to blur. Technology and digital communication as a way of everyday life are part of industrial revolutions that have changed how we communicate and interact. Ethical use and application of technology within the profession, particularly social media, is essential to preserving and upholding the tenets of professional conduct across dentistry.

The third industrial (3IR) or digital revolution created a technology boon. With the onset of the fourth revolution (4IR), promotion of the fusion of physical, digital, and biological dimensions occurred which resulted in significant speed leading to complex ways to communicate and information transfer. (1) This change in many cases has outpaced our understanding as well as the governance of its use. (2) Of particular interest in the communication and data exchange arena, social media has emerged as a key driver. Early on, social media primarily focused on social connections and interactions. Currently, it is a major influence

as it relates to communications impacting not only individuals but businesses, industries, and even societal trends.

This article will explore the benefits and challenges of social media in the profession and ideas about the best way forward utilizing the positive aspects while preserving ethical values of the dental profession.

## Role of Social Media in Dentistry

The use of social media has become a staple in the dental and health professions nationally and globally and has been able to enhance transfer of information from private to public sectors and consumerism. For this article, social media refers to websites and online platforms that allow users to create and share content as well as interact with others individually or collectively. Examples include Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Snap chat, Tik Tok and many others. The way we communicate has been forever changed by social media. Historically, social media emerged in the early 2000s and has evolved from siloed closed platform systems to highly interconnected environments

*Continued on Page 11*

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# What a year of great changes!

by Gary V. DeWitt, DDS, MS - President LSUSD Alumni Board

Everyone is in a different place than one year ago. D4s are about to move farther into their careers, and the dental journey continues for the rest of you.

That is one of the beauties of the profession of dentistry: it continues to evolve. We are also fortunate to have a new dean appointed and look forward to Dr. John Gallo's steady leadership. Within the Alumni Board, we await the finalization of the appointment of a new director and anticipate their introduction soon.

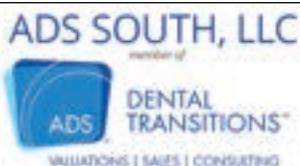
Amidst the many changes occurring within the LSUHSC School of Dentistry, the Alumni Board has continued to function, thanks to the aid of the Office of Community and Alumni Affairs.

The Board hosted the annual Alumni Day at the school in April 2024, with over 150 in attendance. A graduation reception was held in May at the school to welcome recent graduates as the newest alumni of LSUSD. In October 2024, the ADA SmileCon alumni reception was held, attracting alums from around the country. We look forward to hosting an Alumni event during the 2025 NODC and have agreed to a sponsorship of the inaugural Miles for Smiles event to be held on April 13.

So, as you can see, our alumni and alumni board are constantly involved in the LSUSD processes. We invite you to continue supporting your school in any way you can. It is incumbent upon us to be good



stewards of our profession and to those who help us along the way. D4s, congratulations on all your achievements and future successes. We are so proud of your efforts and the fruits of your labor. The Alumni Board looks forward to welcoming you into the dental community in any way we can. All the best to you and to those who have supported you along this odyssey.



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# The Ethical Dilemma of Social Media . . . *Continued from Page 9*

allowing smooth interconnectivity and sharing of content. (3) Social media has become such a crucial part of modern society, with billions worldwide using these platforms to communicate, share information, and develop connections. (4) Generationally, social media emerged through Millennials establishing and shaping how social media is used and through Generation Z (Gen Z) who have accelerated and expanded popularity due to availability of fast engaging content that is brief and received in real-time. (5) Millennials comprise 75% of the global workforce and Gen Z only 5% while they were projected to make up 25% of the population. (6,7) It is clear as we move into the future, these generations will compromise much of the dental work force and make significant impact on the use of social media in how we work, communicate, and connect in all areas specifically, patients.

## Benefits of Social Media in Dentistry

Since social media now serves as an essential tool for communication in areas such as health, entertainment, education, and even social and political

movements, much of which was amplified by these two generations, there can be significant advantages especially as it relates to helping to keep people connected, real time information/education, and even health assessment no matter where one is located geographically. With the sudden explosion of artificial intelligence (AI) and its ability to mimic human intelligence, the combined data-processing capability, learning algorithms, and predictive models have revolutionized how users interact with social media platforms. (8) Further, social media provides a way for health care providers to expand ways in which they connect with their patients, faculty with their students, and assist research thought leaders with developing new approaches to challenging or complex dental problems. Having access to social media can enhance the patient/provider or student/faculty dynamic and can be beneficial for both: 1) For patients, better health outcomes through self-monitoring, real-time communication, scheduling, and quality of care, and 2) For students' greater access to faculty, audiovisual materials, interactive learning, community building and ultimately greater academic

success. The providers/faculty use social media in a variety of ways also to communicate and enhance quality of care along with creating professional communities for lifelong learning opportunities and elevating practice visibility.

## Ethical Challenges and Risks

While social media has many demonstrated benefits that are briefly outlined, there are ethical dilemmas associated with its use in patient care and education. The oral health care and education settings pose particular problems with this broad acceptance of social media tools as there is always potential for sharing information that is protected or classified that does not belong in the public domain. Social media platforms have access to an enormous amount of personal data, and there are clear challenges with how this type of data is being stored, collected, and used. (9) Users need to fully understand the risks of sharing sensitive information as the proximity of information through social platforms that is now available to everyone is quickly becoming more of the information that previously has been protected and not available. (3,4,10) Problems

*Continued on Page 13*

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## LSUHSC School of Dentistry - Doctor of Dental Surgery (Class of 2026)



### The Ethical Dilemma of Social Media . . . *Continued from Page 11*

with the broad use of social media are associated with the rise in data breaches impacting security of information. (11) Information placed on social media platforms is at risk due to oversharing of personal and confidential information. Thus, there is an opportunity for disseminating information that is misleading and potentially harmful. The American Dental Association (ADA) has established areas of challenge encountered within dentistry as it relates to understanding and awareness of pitfalls to help guide dental professionals as well as learners avoid ethical. This guidance indicates that “the primary goal of all conduct must be to the benefit of the patient”. Also, the areas of most importance are outlined as follows (12):

#### Privacy

1. Professional Boundary Violations
2. Misrepresentation of expertise

3. Overpromising treatment outcomes
4. Inappropriate advertising
5. Medical advice online
6. Leveraging social media unethically through influencers
7. Obtain Informed consent

These guidelines are comprehensive targeting areas often problematic in the dental profession when using social media. Other concerns with social media are related to student learners involving excessive use, cyberbullying, inappropriate and misinformation, mental health problems, and dishonesty. (13, 14, 15) The ability to access large amounts of data and disseminate it broadly has arrived, and we are not able to turn back. It is imperative that attention is consistently given to potential adverse outcomes of leveraging social media platforms as a mechanism to provide information and content in digital spaces. While many see tremendous value in social

media, some practices may well violate codes of ethics in patient care, professionalism, education/training, and research.

#### Moving Forward: Ethical and Professional Considerations

Maintaining integrity while on social media as well as other areas of practice is paramount in building trust, per the ADA, it is for our patients, communities, and trainees. Once there is an existing presence on social media, it is difficult to erase a digital footprint. To avoid intentional or unintentional ethical breaches, learning about and consistently applying the core values of the profession is key. Adhering to the fundamental principles of the dental profession; patient autonomy, nonmaleficence, beneficence, justice, and veracity along with the code of professional conduct provide a great foundation for utilizing social media and the various platforms that exist in an ethical and professional manner. (12, 16)



# 2024 Accomplishments

## Federal Advocacy

### IMPROVING THE ORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE

- Advanced Action for Dental Health Legislation out of the House of Representatives, which addresses workforce development and the dental health needs of underserved populations.
- Worked in a Coalition to develop the Bipartisan Primary Care and Health Workforce Act, which would improve access to and the quality of primary health care that would also expand the oral health care workforce.

### REFORMING COMMERCIAL INSURANCE

- Introduced the Dentist and Optometric Care (DOC) Access Act which prohibits dental and vision plans from setting the fees network doctors may charge for services not covered by the insurers. To date, 43 states have adopted laws addressing the state marketplace.
- Issued Amicus Brief to end the overreach of ERISA Preemption and bring parity to the dental insurance market.
- Provided input for a hearing led by the House Committee on Education & Workforce focused on ERISA preemption and how to remedy lack of oversight and accountability to better serve patients.

### STUDENT LOAN REFORM

- Introduced the REDI Act to help dental residents with accumulated interest.
- Lead a coalition of dental and medical organizations to push for bipartisan legislation that would ease the burden of dental school debt.
- Secured long-sought reforms to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program and the Indian Health Service Loan Repayment program.

### TRANSFORMING VETERANS ORAL HEALTH

- Secured a requirement for TRICARE Dental Program enrollment, eligibility and premium payment processing to be handled by a third-party administrator, and ensured beneficiaries have three dental insurance enrollment options from several carriers.
- Obtained a commitment from Congress to study premium-free TRICARE dental coverage for Reserve Component service members.
- Advocated for Congress to increase resources for VA Dentistry, protect funding dedicated to VA Dentistry, and to restore executive authority to VA Dentistry leadership.
- Advocated for and supported the enactment of the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act, which offers increased and improved access to VA Dental benefits for veterans and further increase access through support for VA dentists and the Veterans Community Care Program.

### PUBLIC INSURANCE REFORM

- Advocated for adults to have mandatory access to dental care and supports the Medicaid Dental Benefit Act (S 570/H.R. 1342) and the Strengthening Medicaid Incentive for Licensees Enrolled in Dental (SMILED) Act (H.R. 1422).
- Urged the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee to establish a dental loss ratio requirement for independent dental plans being sold on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Health Insurance Marketplace exchange.
- Ensured that dental treatment services associated with certain systemic health issues are being compensated for eligible disease management.

### APPROPRIATIONS

- Protected and maintained funding for Title VII dental residency program, Action for Dental Health, Indian Health Service dental, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) through March 2025. Extended funding for Community Health Centers, National Health Service Corps, and Teaching Health Centers through March 2025.

## State Advocacy

### 164 NEW DENTAL INSURANCE REFORM LAWS

Between 2018 and 2024, successfully advocated for 164 new dental commercial insurance reform laws across the United States that either created or enhanced existing dental insurance laws.

#### 31 States with Network Leasing Laws

Laws in 31 states protect dentists' service contracts from being leased or sold to different insurance networks without knowledge or consent. Since 2019, 23 of these laws added opt-out/in rights for dentists allowing them to choose whether to be leased.

#### 28 States with Virtual Credit Card Laws

New laws passed in 28 states to prevent insurers from requiring fee-based credit card payments as the sole reimbursement method for dentists. The first to pass was in 2018.

#### 27 States with Assignment of Benefits Laws

In 27 states, laws require dental plans to send claim payments to dentists directly when enrolled patients instruct their plan to do so.

#### 39 States Limit Retroactive Denials

39 states limit the time in which insurers are allowed to request claim payment refunds. The laws vary from 6 months to about two years.

#### 15 States Ensure Prior Authorization Payments

Laws prohibit insurers from denying claims for procedures insurers have approved. All 15 laws have been enacted since the first one in 2018.

#### 43 States Have Noncovered Services Laws

43 states prohibit insurers from dictating the cost of care they aren't covering.

#### 11 States Have Medical Loss Ratio Laws

11 states have enacted Medical Loss Ratio laws that adopt transparency or require insurers to spend a minimum amount on dental care.

### MEDICAID REFORM

The ADA develops resources that state dental societies have used to reform their Medicaid programs, making it easier for dentists to participate and deliver patient care.

#### State Updates

- Colorado: Increased budget to \$78 million dedicated to meaningful reimbursement rate increases for Medicaid dental providers.
- Georgia increased funding for the adult dental Medicaid program by \$11M.
- Florida added \$35M to the dental Medicaid program this year, the first increase since 2011.
- Nebraska improved Medicaid funding by 12.5% this year with an eye toward more improvements next year.
- West Virginia restructured the annual benefit limit in the adult program to a 24-month term allowing for greater flexibility on performing services that would otherwise exceed the benefit cap under the former 12-month term.
- Rhode Island adopted facility fee code G0330 which allows ambulatory surgical care centers (ASCs) to seek reimbursement for facility and administrative costs incurred by making their facilities available for dental services.

### STUDENT LOAN REFORM

- Florida expanded its dental student loan repayment program with an \$8M funding boost this year.
- Wisconsin students participating in the new Marquette University Rural Dental Scholarship Program may receive an annual scholarship of up to \$30,000 for every academic year up to 4 years, in exchange for practicing in a designated Dental Health Provider Shortage Area (DHPSA) in a rural county after graduation.

### STATE WORKFORCE UPDATES

#### The Dentist and Dental Hygienist Licensure Compact

Ten states have passed legislation designed to allow dentists to practice more easily in multiple states (CO, IA, KS, ME, MN, OH, TN, VA, WA, WI). The compact is officially active, and more member states are expected to join in 2025. The Compact Commission, made up of the member states, hopes to begin issuing privileges in late 2025.

#### Model Legislation Created

Successfully advocated for passage of the Dental Access Model Act at the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), providing a template for policymakers to help better utilize the existing dental workforce via EFDA's, Oral Preventive Assistants, and teledentistry.

## LSUHSC School of Dentistry - Doctor of Dental Surgery (Class of 2027)



## LSUHSC School of Dentistry - Doctor of Dental Surgery (Class of 2028)



### Stats For the DDS Class of 2028

829 applications  
108 interviewed  
75 spots

Overall GPA – 3.70  
Science GPA – 3.61  
DAT average – 21.6

Chalk score average – 6.49  
Class is 60% female  
Class is 40% male

**LSUHSC School of Dentistry -  
Dental Hygiene (New Orleans, LA)  
(Class of 2025)**



**LSUHSC School of Dentistry -  
Dental Hygiene (New Orleans, LA)  
(Class of 2026)**



**LSUHSC School of Dentistry -  
Dental Hygiene (Alexandria, LA)  
(Class of 2025)**



**LSUHSC School of Dentistry -  
Dental Hygiene (Alexandria, LA)  
(Class of 2026)**



**LSUHSC School of Dentistry -  
Dental Laboratory Technology Class  
(Class of 2025)**



**LSUHSC School of Dentistry -  
Dental Laboratory Technology Class  
(Class of 2026)**



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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](mailto:info@nodental.org)**

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*Congratulations to Dr. Nicole Wascom and Dr Eduardo Menendez for transitioning their Abita Springs practice to Dr. William Grand*



*Congratulations to Dr. Mary Bielman for transitioning her Covington practice to Dr. Evan Riley*



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## 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 our website—[www.adssouth.com](http://www.adssouth.com). In the upper right-hand corner, you will see "Confidentiality Agreement". Click on that. Once filled in, you just click on Submit.

### GENERAL PRACTICE – WESTERN NEW ORLEANS AREA (#9498)

Gross collections \$701,693, 3.5 days a week, 3 operatories, 1,900 sq. ft. This well-established thirty year plus standing practice is located west of New Orleans within easy driving distance of New Orleans. The practice is well-staffed and uses Dentrix management software. There were over 2,300 patients seen in the past eighteen months and the practice sees 16 new patients per month. The dentist is booked a week and a half in advance. The 1,900 sq. ft. office is available for purchase. Hygienists

are responsible for 30% of practice income as many services are referred out. 2023 gross was \$674,000 and projected net income after payments is over \$200,000 from a purchaser production level of just \$480,000. That's 43% after all expenses and loan payments. If you don't mind a slower, easier, less stressful way of life, with a low overhead, be sure to look this opportunity over. For more information, contact Dr. Earl Douglas at [earl@adssouth.com](mailto:earl@adssouth.com) or 770/664-1982.

### GENERAL PRACTICE – NEW ORLEANS (#9526)

Gross Collections - \$829,126, six (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](mailto:earl@adssouth.com).

Watch our website for an upcoming, quality New Orleans listing. [www.adssouth.com](http://www.adssouth.com)

### 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

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