

Register Early for AAPD 2026  
Early Pricing deadline: April 1, 2026

# PDT

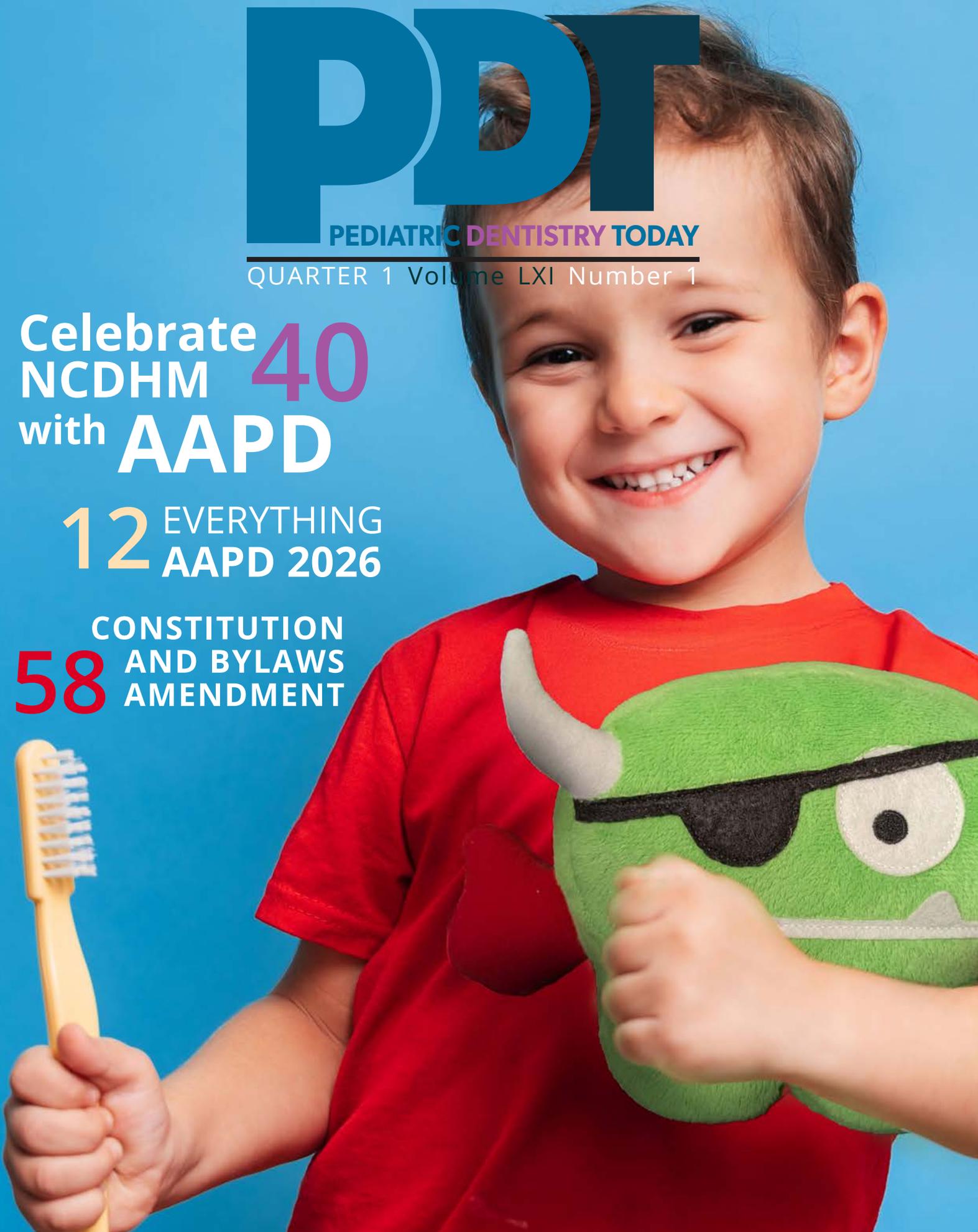
PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY TODAY

QUARTER 1 Volume LXI Number 1

Celebrate  
NCDHM **40**  
with **AAPD**

**12** EVERYTHING  
AAPD 2026

**58** CONSTITUTION  
AND BYLAWS  
AMENDMENT



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# 40

## FEATURE STORY

National Children's Dental Health Month (NCDHM) raises awareness about kids' oral health through early visits, at-home care, and access to services. Led by the AAPD and AAPD President Dr. Tom Ison, it focuses on prevention and support for families nationwide.

*Register Early for AAPD 2026*  
**Early Pricing deadline: April 1, 2026**



AMERICA'S PEDIATRIC DENTISTS  
**THE BIG AUTHORITY on little teeth®**

**PDT**  
PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY TODAY  
QUARTER 1 Volume LXI Number 1

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AAPD

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## A NEW ERA FOR AAPD

# DR. JESSICA Y. LEE NAMED INCOMING CEO

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) has announced that Jessica Y. Lee, DDS, MPH, PhD, will become its next Chief Executive Officer, transitioning June 1, 2026. A nationally and internationally recognized leader in pediatric dentistry, academic innovation, and health policy, Dr. Lee brings decades of experience and a forward-looking vision to the organization.

Dr. Lee currently serves as the William M. Demeritt Distinguished Professor of Pediatric Dentistry and Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Leadership Development at the University of North Carolina Adams School of Dentistry. In these roles, she has played a key part in shaping dental education, mentoring faculty leaders, and advancing pediatric oral health research and policy initiatives.

Her leadership within AAPD spans nearly three decades and includes serving as AAPD President from 2020 to 2021. Throughout her career, Dr. Lee has been widely recognized for her impact on the profession, earning honors such as the U.S. Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the AAPD Merle C. Hunter Leadership Award, and the AAPD Pediatric Dentist of the Year Award.

Dr. Lee's professional contributions have focused on expanding access to care for children, strengthening Medicaid policy, improving oral health literacy, and developing innovative pediatric care delivery models. She is also known for her commitment to mentoring future leaders in pediatric dentistry.

"Dr. Lee's appointment marks a bold and exciting new chapter for AAPD," said AAPD President Dr. Tom Ison. "Her visionary leadership, deep exper-

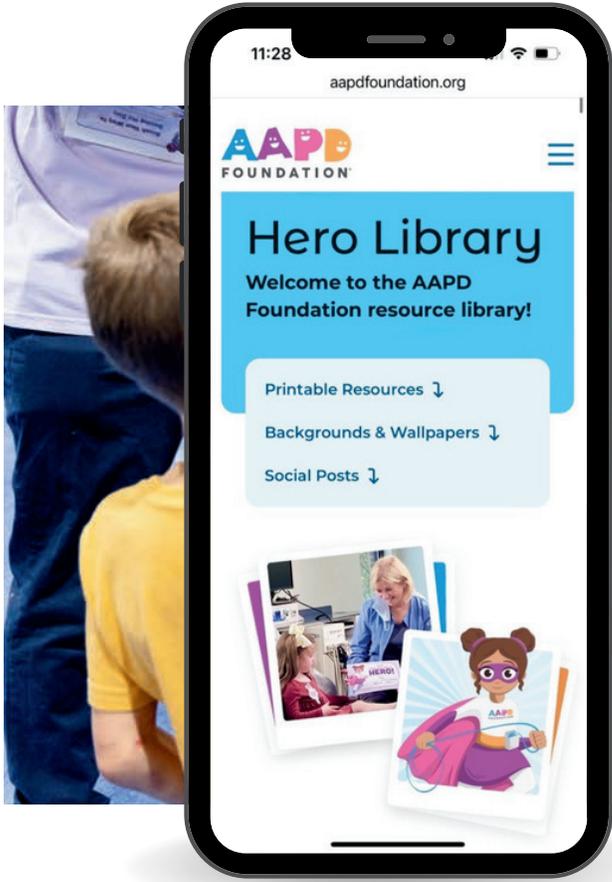
tise, and unwavering commitment to children's oral health will propel our organization forward as we navigate the evolving landscape of pediatric dentistry and healthcare."

AAPD CEO Dr. John Rutkauskas echoed that sentiment, noting Dr. Lee's ability to unite stakeholders and drive innovation. "Dr. Lee is the ideal leader to take AAPD into the future. Her passion for advancing children's oral health and her proven ability to solve complex challenges will ensure that AAPD continues to thrive and lead the profession globally," he said.

As CEO, Dr. Lee will oversee AAPD's strategic priorities across advocacy, education, and research, while strengthening partnerships that support innovation and professional growth. Her leadership will play a central role in advancing the Academy's mission to ensure that all children have access to safe, high-quality oral health care.

"It is a tremendous honor and privilege to serve as the next CEO of AAPD," Dr. Lee said. "Together, we will build on the Academy's strong foundation to expand access, embrace innovation, and empower pediatric dentists to deliver exceptional care for children and families."

# Hustle to the HERO LIBRARY



- 1 Give today and be a **Healthy Smile Hero!**
- 2 Enter the **HERO LIBRARY.**
- 3 Print toothbrushing charts, personalized certificates, posters, & other resources.
- 4 Energize your social media grid with ready-to-post graphics.
- 5 Promote your practice and delight patients!

Resources available in English *and* Spanish.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO VISIT  
[AAPDfoundation.org/hero-library](https://aapdfoundation.org/hero-library)

# Alex's story

Eight-year-old Alex, a sweet and curious child with autism, needed specialized dental care under sedation. The journey to get it was not simple. With limited finances and a five-hour trip to the clinic, Alex's family faced an overwhelming challenge. Thanks to the dedication of the entire team at **St. Bernard Dental Center**, Alex got connected to the care he desperately needed.

St. Bernard Dental Center received an **AAPD Foundation Access to Care Grant** this year. St. Bernard provides quality, comprehensive care to an under-resourced patient population in Chicago, Illinois. Their mission is to care for the sick and promote the health of residents of Chicago's South Side, while sustaining values of respect, dignity, care, and compassion for all persons. The clinic provides specialty care for vulnerable patients with a pediatric dentist in the clinic every day of the week. They also offer sedation services - the only clinic on Chicago's South Side to do so.

St. Bernard Dental Center's Access to Care Grant is funding a replacement compressor and mobile dental unit which will help the clinic maintain operating room efficiency, reduce wait times, and served 300 pediatric patients annually, including children with special health care needs.

Back to Alex. Through virtual consultations and coordination with Alex's primary care doctor, the team at St. Bernard Dental Center gathered all the necessary documentation to proceed with his care. On the day of Alex's surgery, the staff helped arrange transportation and housing for the family, ensuring they could focus on what mattered most – Alex's care.

Because of this team effort and support from the AAPD Foundation, Alex received all needed dental treatment safely and comfortably.



“

**Thank you for communicating with my non-verbal son in a way that he could understand – by using his favorite stuffed animal as a “patient!”**

-Mother of Alex

Alex was able to heal because of the patience, support, and resources of his community – resources that are only available because of compassionate folks like you. YOU transform our mission of optimal oral health for all kids from an idea to reality. The AAPD Foundation is proud to support St. Bernard Dental Center and the relentlessly compassionate work they do for kids in Illinois – and we hope you will support them to!

Together, we can make a difference. Give today to help kids like Alex! Visit [aapdfoundation.org/donate](http://aapdfoundation.org/donate)

# When clinics close, **children lose.**

As federal funding declines,  
**your support ensures children don't lose access** to the care they depend on.



**We hope to see you for more heroic fun at AAPD 2026 in Las Vegas!**



## Hustle to the Hero Library!

Did you know you have access to a trove of resources for your practice and patients?

### You'll find:

- Fun Coloring Pages
- Exciting Journey Mazes
- Helpful Toothbrushing Charts

RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH

**New!**



Check out [aapdfoundation.org/hero-library](https://aapdfoundation.org/hero-library) to gain access to the Hero Library. Use Password: **Hero1**

## PRESIDENT MESSAGE



### AAPD PRESIDENT

Dr. Thomas G. Ison



This year, my focus has been on increasing member involvement in the AAPD and encouraging service to our profession. I have asked members to look for opportunities to get involved at the state, district, and national levels, and to support our mission through financial contributions as well. AAPD thrives because of you—our dedicated members who generously share their time, talent, and resources. Your commitment truly is the heartbeat of this organization. Every hour you volunteer, every idea you contribute, and every challenge you help us work through strengthens our ability to support pediatric dentists and better serve children and families across the country.

A few years ago, the keynote speaker at our annual session spoke on gratitude and the power of “Thank You.” We were encouraged to express gratitude to others and be thankful for blessings in our lives. She shared that research shows people who are consciously grateful in their life feel better about their lives as a whole. They are more optimistic, enthusiastic, energetic, and have closer personal relationships. We are fortunate to practice a profession that rewards us on many levels in a multitude of ways. Sometimes we may tend to focus on the difficult, frustrating, and occasionally negative aspects of our job, but I urge you to take a moment to consider all you have to be grateful for in your life and share that gratitude with others.

During my time on the Executive Committee, I’ve had the privilege of visiting districts and meeting with many state leaders, and I am genuinely humbled by your support and grateful for the honest conversations we’ve shared about our profession. These discussions reinforce how essential it is that we continue working together and speaking openly about our concerns so we can grow and move forward. I am thankful to our state and district leaders, whose impact is significant, as local issues are often where the rubber meets the road and require engagement from those directly affected. Your efforts are needed to help build relationships with policymakers, support residents and new dentists, strengthen community partnerships, and ensure a strong, unified voice for pediatric dentistry.

This year also marks a moment of heartfelt appreciation as we honor John Rutkauskas, our outgoing CEO, for over 25 years of exceptional service. Under his steady leadership, the AAPD experienced remarkable growth in membership, programs, and national influence. There have been accomplishments during his tenure that have profoundly advanced the mission of the Academy. He developed a strong and effective headquarters operation, with a remarkable staff who support our members and help carry out our mission. He was there in the early years of the AAPD Foundation, which has grown into a powerful force supporting children who need care most. His vision helped establish the Research and Policy Center, elevate our evidence-based approach and build a respected advocacy program, including the Pediatric Oral Health Advocacy Conference. One of his crowning achievements is the program at Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University, that now bears his name as the Dr. John S Rutkauskas Leadership Institute. John will truly leave the woodpile a little higher when he retires.

Looking to the future and continuing to build up the woodpile, AAPD recently announced Dr. Jessica Lee as the Academy's next CEO. Dr. Lee's appointment marks a bold and exciting new chapter for AAPD. Her visionary leadership, deep expertise, and unwavering commitment to children's oral health will propel our organization forward as we navigate the evolving landscape of pediatric dentistry and healthcare.

I invite you to join us at our upcoming Annual Session in Las Vegas. AAPD 2026 promises to be one of our best meetings yet, featuring excellent continuing education, cutting-edge clinical up-

dates, and opportunities to reconnect with colleagues from across the country and around the world. Whether you're focused on sharpening skills, exploring new research, or simply recharging with peers, Las Vegas will deliver an outstanding experience. An ADA past president stated that our Annual Session was "the best meeting (he) ever attended." Let's make this one the best and set a record for attendance!

As we celebrate these milestones, I challenge each of you to consider how you might deepen your involvement in the year ahead. Our Academy is strongest when members are engaged and willing to lend their talents—through committees, mentoring, advocacy, or support of our educational meetings, Foundation, and PAC. With your support and passion, AAPD will continue to rise to meet the moment. Together, we will build on a strong foundation and shape a future worthy of the children and families who depend on us.

As I near the end of my term as President of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, I am filled with deep gratitude for the people who have walked alongside me on this journey. Serving in this role has been one of the greatest honors of my professional life, made meaningful by the extraordinary individuals who embody the spirit of this Academy every day. Our work is grounded in a shared purpose and Vision of optimal oral health for all children and propelled by our Mission of advancing that goal through outstanding service to our members, partners, and stakeholders. It is sustained by a culture of mentoring, support, and excellence that truly sets AAPD apart as the leading national advocate dedicated exclusively to children's oral health, the BIG Authority on little teeth.

# AAPD 2026 Events

## AAPD EVENTS

Updates on the annual session, conferences, and other important AAPD events.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### AAPD 2026 ONLINE CE

With such great topics and speakers lined up, it's difficult to choose which session to attend. AAPD offers CE for the courses you are unable to make it to during Annual Session. In the Education Passport, you will have the opportunity to purchase and earn CE for all sessions recorded in Las Vegas, now with 19 additional hours than any previous Annual Session Online Package. Purchase the entire Annual Session package now or individual sessions will be available for purchase after the meeting.

Content for both offerings will be available for up to five years after the event. An early bird member price of \$750 is available through May 24, 2026. After that date, the member price will increase to \$1,500.

### ADA

AAPD conferences are Americans of Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant. We strive to take the appropriate steps required to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated or otherwise treated differently. Individuals requiring special assistance must make the appropriate



notation on the registration form and/or contact the AAPD Meetings Department. All requests for special accommodations under ADA must be made allowing enough time for evaluation and appropriate action by AAPD.

### ATTIRE

The Scientific Program is business casual. We recommend you have a sweater or light jacket available in case you find the meeting rooms too cold. The Welcome Reception & Early Career Dentist Happy Hour are casual. The President's Farewell Dinner is formal attire.

### CONFERENCE APP

AAPD will continue to provide a comprehensive conference app for AAPD 2026 to keep you engaged before, during and after the meeting. The event app will include a complete list of sessions, speakers, exhibitors, facility maps and much more! The app will launch in May 2026.

The conference app, online Itinerary Planner, interactive floor plan and the ePoster Gallery are linked. You will be able to login and mark your fa-

favorite exhibitors or sessions. Once AAPD receives the speaker handouts, they will be included in the app and the online Itinerary Planner providing you a comprehensive educational tool both online and in your hands.

View the posters in our conference app, which includes full-color posters with research audio as well as the abstract, and allows you to sort by topic, track, day and presenter. Check out this opportunity to see this important research!

## POSTER COMPETITION

### FRIDAY, MAY 22 AND SATURDAY, MAY 23

The Research Poster Session is held in the Exhibit Hall. Stop by to meet the authors and discuss their presentations with them! The presentation schedule is available via the Annual Session app and Itinerary Planner. A poster OnDemand Station is available in the area for attendees to view the eposters at any time. You must be a registered attendee or All-Access guest to enter the Exhibit Hall.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT



The AAPD is an ADA CER-P Recognized Provider. Credit is awarded on an hour-for-hour basis. Attendees should claim only those hours of credit that they actually spent in the educational activity.

ADA CER-P is a service of the American Dental Association to assist dental professionals in identifying quality providers of continuing dental education. ADA CER-P does not approve or endorse individual courses or instructors, nor does it imply acceptance of credit hours by boards of dentistry.

To receive continuing education (CE) credit, you must scan into each CE-eligible session upon entry. Staff will be positioned at the entrance of each meeting room to scan your badge. Scanning is required to active the CE quiz and evaluation to obtain CE for the session.

## PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEO WAIVER

AAPD plans to take photographs and/or video at AAPD 2026 and reproduce content in AAPD educational, news or promotional material, whether in print, electronic or other media, including the AAPD website. By participating in AAPD 2026, you grant AAPD the right to use your name, image and biography for such purposes. All postings become the property of AAPD. Postings may be displayed, distributed or used by AAPD for any purpose.

## HANDOUTS

Everyone registered by May 1, 2026, will receive an email with a link to the handouts in advance allowing you to print the handouts you want to bring with you or browse before you arrive. Handouts provided by the speakers are also included in the comprehensive conference app.

## TRAVEL INFORMATION

### GETTING THERE

The Caesars Forum is located three miles from the Harry Reid International Airport (**LAS**). Shuttle and car services are available from the airport to the hotels. Rideshare options are also available from the airport and around Las Vegas. Public bus transportation is available from Harry Reid International Airport and will connect with the Las Vegas Monorail for additional transportation options.

Caesars Forum is located at 3911 S. Koval Lane. Harrah's Las Vegas and the LINQ Hotel are both directly connected to Caesars Forum via skybridge. All AAPD 2026 host hotels are located within walking distance to the Caesars Forum.

## EXHIBIT HALL

Maximize your time at AAPD 2026 and visit the Exhibit Hall to explore products and services geared toward you and your pediatric dental office. Visit the AAPD Store where you can pick up a souvenir from AAPD 2026! Spend some time at the AAPD Foundation's booth to learn more about Access to Care Grants or simply to make a donation or increase your current pledge to the Foundation.

The Exhibit Hall schedule is created to maximize your time with the exhibitors while still providing time to attend the education courses you want!

The Hospitality Area is located on the Exhibit Hall floor offering a continental breakfast and refreshment breaks each morning and afternoon. Lunch is available for purchase on Friday and Saturday.

Visit the AAPD Store to see what prizes you are eligible to win in the exhibitor raffle on Sunday, May 24, 2026. Be sure to check out the Poster Competition, Media Hub, Headshot Lounge and all the exciting features of the AAPD 2026 Exhibit Hall!

### EXHIBIT HALL SCHEDULE

#### FRIDAY, MAY 22

9 AM – 5 PM

#### SATURDAY, MAY 23

9 AM – 5 PM

#### SUNDAY, MAY 24

9 AM – 12 PM

Feeling lucky? The AAPD is hosting a drawing for all attendees! We've gone all digital for 2026. You can participate via the conference app. The raffle takes place in the AAPD Store on Sunday, May 24, at 10 a.m.

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Wondering what kind of exposure your company can get at AAPD 2026? Look no further. There are various opportunities still available to target your company's goals and meet your budget!

For more information on becoming a sponsor for the AAPD, please visit <https://www.aapd.org/education/aapd-2026/> or contact Assistant Director of Meetings and CE Colleen Shennan at [cshennan@aapd.org](mailto:cshennan@aapd.org) or (312) 337-2169.

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

By registering for AAPD 2026, it is understood that participation in the event involves a certain degree of risk of loss, harm or injury to person or property, including, but not limited to, harm from contracting communicable disease or other viruses, acts of God, theft, fire or accident. It is understood that participation in this event is entirely voluntary and that AAPD requires attendees to abide by any applicable rules of conduct or local or state laws that may be announced at any time before or during the event, which may include wearing personal protective gear, engaging in social distancing, agreeing to temperature checks, communicable disease testing requirements, or providing proof of communicable disease vaccination status. While AAPD is the sponsor of this event and takes commercially reasonable steps to require the event facility to maintain the venue in a safe and healthy condition, it is understood and acknowledged that AAPD has no direct control over and is not responsible for the acts or omissions of the facility or others involved in producing this event.

# REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Please review the following information to avoid delays in the processing of your registration or housing request.

## WHO NEEDS TO REGISTER

Anyone (member or non-member dentist, dental office team or dental student/resident) who wants to attend any portion of the Scientific Program must register. All registration categories for AAPD 2026 include all education sessions (except those specified), complimentary beverages in the Exhibit Hall and Scientific Proceedings. The guest registration is additional and must accompany that of an attendee; children are complimentary to the meeting but tickets must be purchased for social events. Guests do NOT earn any continuing education credit; if seeking CE Credits, guests must register as Office Staff.

Tickets to the Welcome Reception, Early Career Dentist Happy Hour, and President's Farewell Dinner are an additional fee and must be purchased separately to accompany each registration; see the social events section for more information.

Tickets to all social events must be purchased during registration; onsite tickets for these functions may be limited and are subject to availability.

**The cut-off for the advance fee is Wednesday, April 1, 2026.**

*Note: To receive the member registration rate for the 2026 Annual Session, your 2025-2026 membership dues must be paid in full.*

## STUDENTS/RESIDENTS

**Registration is complimentary if Students/Residents register on or before April 1, 2026**

Students/Residents registering after April 1, 2026, or onsite are charged \$185 in registration fees; **no exceptions will be made.**

Students/Residents must purchase a ticket to the Welcome Reception to attend that event. Visit the Social Events page when registering to purchase your ticket.

Residents are encouraged to attend the Early Career Dentist Happy Hour on Thursday, May 21. Visit the Social Events page when registering to purchase tickets.

Registration and poster submission are separate. Submitting a poster does NOT register you for AAPD 2026.

## **\*NEW\*** GUEST REGISTRATIONS TYPES

Following feedback regarding our Guest Registration process, AAPD has created two separate Guest Registration options for AAPD 2026.

### **GUEST REGISTRATION - ALL ACCESS**

This registration allows the guest to receive a conference badge and attend the conference and social events. Access will be granted for the Opening Session, entrance to the Exhibit Hall, and ability to view the Scientific Program Sessions. Guest registrations are not eligible to receive CE credit. If the guest would like to receive CE credit they should register as a dentist or office team, as applicable.

## GUEST REGISTRATION – SOCIAL EVENT ONLY

This registration allows attendees to register and purchase a ticket for Social Events. Guest – Social Event Only registrants will NOT receive a conference badge and will NOT have access to the Caesars Forum to visit the Exhibit Hall, attend the Opening Session, or any of the other sessions or daytime functions at the convention center. This registration allows the guest to purchase tickets for and attend social events only.

## CHILD REGISTRATION

Register a child guest to purchase tickets for them to attend social events. Child registrations do not include entry to Scientific Sessions. A wristband for Exhibit Hall access can be requested at the Customer Service desk at Registration. The child must be present to receive the wristband. No badge will be issued for this registration on-site. Children must be accompanied by a badge-wearing adult at all times while on-site.

## REGISTRATION METHODS

Registrations are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration must be done online or over the phone.

**Online:** <https://www.aapd.org/education/aapd-2026/>

**Phone:** (877) 779-8010 *(Please leave a message and a representative will call you back)*

**Email:** [aapd@eventpowersupport.com](mailto:aapd@eventpowersupport.com)

**Credit card only, no checks or cash accepted. Allow five days for processing and receipt of registration confirmation.**

## REGISTRATION HOURS

*\*Times are indicated in Pacific Time*

Please pick up your badge and materials at Registration. Registration is available during the following days/times:

### CAESARS FORUM - REGISTRATION

#### THURSDAY, MAY 21

7 AM – 5 PM

#### FRIDAY, MAY 22

7 AM – 7 PM

#### SATURDAY, MAY 23

8 AM – 5 PM

#### SUNDAY, MAY 24

8 AM – 12 PM

## REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

Attendees must be registered for AAPD 2026 in order to make hotel reservations within the AAPD hotel block.

Most educational sessions do not require tickets. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. The Preconference Course, Evidence-Based Dentistry Workshop, PALS, BLS, PEARS, and Second Sitzings activities and social events require additional fees and must be purchased online when you register to secure your spot; applicable tickets will be included in your meeting materials.

Registration must be completed **on or before April 1, 2026**, to qualify for the early pricing. Registrations submitted after April 1, 2026, will be automatically charged the higher registration fees.

## CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

All cancellations postmarked on or before May 1, 2026, will be refunded less a \$185 processing fee (\$75 for office staff).

All cancellation requests must be made in writing to AAPD Registration and Housing Services for processing on or before May 1, 2026.

**No refunds will be given after May 1, 2026.** After this date, any extenuating circumstances must be submitted in writing to [registration@aapd.org](mailto:registration@aapd.org). Approved refunds are processed after the Annual Session.

Refunds are not granted for no-shows.

The meeting sponsors are not responsible for travel expenses or penalties under any circumstances. AAPD reserves the right to cancel this meeting at its sole discretion. In the event of cancellation, notice will be provided to all current registrants.

## REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION

Every effort is made to provide all advance registrants with a confirmation of their registration. This notice will verify whether we received your registration prior to the deadline, and if the tickets requested will be issued.

## NAME SUBSTITUTION POLICY

Replacement of a registered AAPD 2026 attendee by a business colleague/co-worker will be accepted. A \$50 USD processing fee will apply to all substitutions if notified in writing by 4 p.m. EST Friday, May 8, 2026. After 4:00 p.m. EST on Friday, May 8, 2026, substitutions will not be accepted, and all substitution requests will be treated as full cancellations of the original registrant and subject to the cancellation policy.

## NAME BADGES

Name badges must be worn at all times by all registered attendees and guest – all access registrants, in order to gain access to any portion of the Scientific Program, access to the Exhibit Hall, and hospitality areas. Guest - social event only registrants will not receive a badge and are not able to access any daytime events at Caesars Forum.

Children, up to the age of 20, can receive a wristband to access the Exhibit Hall. They must be registered to attend and be accompanied by a badge-wearing adult at all times. Child must be present to receive wristband.

## QUESTIONS

If you have any questions regarding registration, contact the AAPD Registration customer service at (877) 779-8010. Please leave a message with the service and a representative will return your call. You can also email [aapd@eventpowersupport.com](mailto:aapd@eventpowersupport.com).

If you have any questions regarding housing, contact AAPD Housing Service Center at [aapdhousing@monsteraec.com](mailto:aapdhousing@monsteraec.com) or visit <https://www.aapd.org/education/aapd-2026/> for more information.

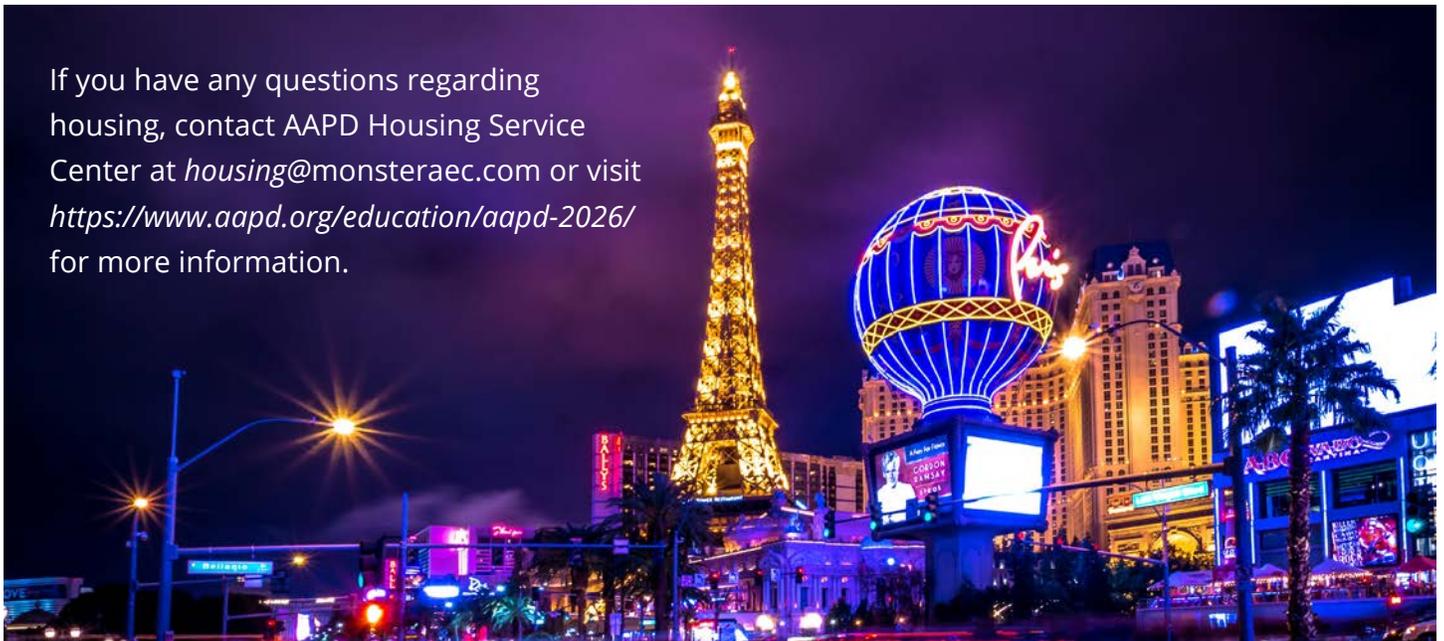
## HOUSING INFORMATION

Attendees must be registered for AAPD 2026 in order to make hotel reservations within the AAPD hotel block.

Hotel reservations will not be accepted with the hotel directly and must be made through AAPD's Official Housing Service Center during registration. Hotels subject to availability. Please visit <https://www.aapd.org/education/aapd-2026/registration--housing/> for housing reservation deadlines, current hotel listings and cancellation information.

*Additional fees may apply for additional occupants. Applicable local taxes, resort fees and reservation fees will apply.*

If you have any questions regarding housing, contact AAPD Housing Service Center at [housing@monsteraec.com](mailto:housing@monsteraec.com) or visit <https://www.aapd.org/education/aapd-2026/> for more information.



## OFFICIAL HOUSING PROVIDER

Monstera Event Connections is the official Housing Service Center for AAPD 2026.



For your safety and to ensure the best possible experience at AAPD, all hotel reservations must be booked through AAPD's Official Housing Service Center. Booking directly will grant you access to our discounted room rates, guarantees secure payment processing and the most accurate room availability and hotel information.

It is very important that you do your best to avoid phishing attempts. Be cautious of unsolicited emails, messages, or phone calls offering "special

deals" or requesting payment information. AAPD or its housing partner will never call you to book a hotel reservation. You must first be registered for AAPD before you will be able to book your room. Once registered a link will be available to you through your attendee portal or a unique link in your confirmation email to book your room. These are the only two ways to book your room for AAPD 2026. If you have questions, please reach out to our housing support team at [aapdhousing@monsteraec.com](mailto:aapdhousing@monsteraec.com).



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# SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

The following code letters appear after those programs and presentations that the Scientific Program Committee suggests would be of special interest to that particular group of attendees. However, most sessions are open to all participants.

- PD: Pediatric Dentist
- DT: Dental Team
- G: Guest—All-Access



## JOINT ACADEMIC DAY

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 20**

8 AM – 5 PM

*(Invitation Only)*

Join your colleagues for the annual Joint Academic Day. A full-day meeting for those working in academia. An opportunity to convene with like-minded peers to address and tackle issues that specifically affect those in academia. Consisting of a joint morning session for those affiliated with Pre- and Postdoctoral education followed by individual afternoon breakout sessions for each respective group.

For further information, please contact Education Development and Academic Support Manager Leola Royston at (312) 337-2169 or [lroyston@aapd.org](mailto:lroyston@aapd.org).

## PRECONFERENCE COURSE PD,DT

**PRECONFERENCE COURSE: ESTHETIC RESTORATIVE FRONTIERS IN PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY**

**THURSDAY, MAY 21**

8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

*Cost: \$300*

*Kevin J. Donly, DDS, MS; Aram Kim, DMD, MS, FACP; Reem Kabbarah, DDS*

This comprehensive preconference course explores the evolving landscape of esthetic restorative dentistry in children, emphasizing both foundational principles and cutting-edge advancements. Participants will delve into in esthetic techniques tailored for young patients, strategies for managing compromised teeth and missing teeth from congenital or acquired causes, and the latest in dental materials and digital workflows. Through evidence-based lectures and clinical insights, attendees will gain practical tools to enhance outcomes, efficiency, and patient satisfaction in pediatric restorative care.

## OPENING CEREMONY PD, DT, G

### A CELEBRATION OF DR. JOHN S. RUTKAUSKAS' LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

FRIDAY, MAY 22

7:30 – 9 AM

Join us Friday morning in Las Vegas for a landmark opening ceremony honoring Dr. John S. Rutkauskas and his extraordinary 27 years of service as CEO of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry on the eve of his retirement. This special presentation will highlight his profound impact on the profession – from elevating advocacy and education to strengthening the voice of pediatric dentists nationwide. We'll also reflect on the vision, dedication, and transformative leadership that helped shape the AAPD into the organization it is today, positioned to continue its mission of optimal oral health for all children. Don't miss this inspiring tribute to a leader whose legacy continues to move the profession forward.

## CLINICAL PRECISION SOUND BITES I PD, DT

FRIDAY, MAY 22

(Session admission first-come, first-served)

These informal, small, one-hour long group settings encourage interaction between the speaker and the attendees.

8 – 9 AM

### SB 01: Transforming Tiny Smiles into Bright Futures: Dentists as Champions of Growth and Wellness

*Krystle Dean-Duru, DDS; Lynda Dean-Duru, DDS*

9:10 – 10:10 AM

### SB 03: From Wiggles to Wonders: Calming Strategies for Children with Autism

*Ashla L. Martin, DDS, FICD, FACD*

10:20 – 11:20 AM

### SB 05: Stay Safe! Overview of the Newly Released Private Practice Safety Pack

*Joe Castellano, DDS; Alexandra B. Otto, DDS, FAGD, FACD, FPFA, FICD*

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

### SB 07: Biometric Pacifier Sizing as a Prescription for Better Oral Health Outcomes for Infants

*David A. Tesini, DMD, MS*

12:40 – 1:40 PM

### SB 09: Band Stabilized Restorations: Minimally Invasive Solutions for Big Problems

*Paul A. Bahn, III, DMD*

1:50 – 2:50 PM

### SB 11: Oral Surgery for the Pediatric Patient

*Yahya Mansour, MS, DDS, DICOI, FAGD, FICD*

3 – 4 PM

### SB 13: Molar Incisor Hypomineralization - A Worldwide Challenge

*Katrin Bekes, DDS, PhD*

4:10 – 5:10 PM

### SB 15: Canines - When to Watch, When to Extract, and When to Refer

*Roger Lucas, DDS*

## PRACTICE PULSE SOUND BITES I PD, DT

FRIDAY, MAY 22

(Session admission first-come, first-served)

These informal, small, one-hour long group settings encourage interaction between the speaker and the attendees.

8 – 9 AM

### SB 02: They Don't Trust Us As Much As We Think: Building and Repairing the Most Important Currency in Dentistry - Trust!

*Jaha Howard, DDS, MS, FACD*

9:10 – 10:10 AM

**SB 04: The Dentpreneur**

*Christopher Lugo, DMD, MBA*

10:20 – 11:20 AM

**SB 06: Medicaid Upheaval from 2025: What's Next for Kids' and Families' Oral Health?**

*Aaron M. Bumann, DDS, and Chelsea Fosse, DMD, MPH*

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

**SB 08: Artificial Intelligence in Pediatric Dentistry: Transforming a Neglected Specialty Through Innovation and Ethics**

*Rata Rokhshad, DDS*

12:40 – 1:40 PM

**SB 10: Rebuilding After Internal Theft: Real Lessons in Leadership, Oversight, and Recovery**

*Angelica Robinson Rohner, DMD,*

1:50 – 2:50 PM

**SB 12: Community Health Workers Connecting the Dots for Medical/Dental Integration**

*Tonya K. Fuqua, DDS; Sheela J. Patel, DDS*

3 – 4 PM

**SB 14: Beyond the Budget: How Federal Infrastructure Change Threatens Pediatric Oral Health and Dental Education**

*Beau D. Meyer, DDS, MPH; Lauren Mann*

4:10 – 5:10 PM

**SB 16: From Inception to Transition: The Importance of the 3Ms of the Pediatric/Orthodontic Practice**

*Daniel J. Grob, DDS, MS*

**100. ADVANCING EXCELLENCE IN DENTISTRY: RESIDENT RESEARCH SHOWCASE**  
**PD, DT**

**FRIDAY, MAY 22**

9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Join us for this innovative and informative session where the Resident Research Award recipients will present their research and answer questions.

**110. GROWING FACES, GROWING AIRWAYS: THE PEDIATRIC DENTIST'S GUIDE TO SLEEP AND DEVELOPMENT**  
**PD, DT**

**FRIDAY, MAY 22**

9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

*Audrey Yoon, DDS*

Pediatric dentists are in a unique position to recognize the earliest signs of sleep-disordered breathing (SDB) — often more frequently than any other healthcare professional. We see children regularly during critical growth periods and have the opportunity to influence their craniofacial growth trajectory before irreversible changes occur.

This lecture highlights how airway development, facial growth, and sleep physiology are closely interconnected — and how pediatric dentists can apply this knowledge in daily practice. This session will include clinically applicable methods for screening and demonstrate simple, step-by-step applications of the “Roadmap of Growth Modification”, an evidence-based framework for guiding early interventions. Through real clinical cases and current research, participants will gain a deeper understanding of how to identify, manage, and prevent growth and airway problems from infancy through adolescence — transforming pediatric dentistry into a gateway for healthier breathing, sleep, and development.

## 120. PATH TO PREVENTION: SHARPENING CLINICAL SKILLS FOR THE DENTAL TEAM MEMBER

DT

FRIDAY, MAY 22

9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

*Elise W. Sarvas, DDS, MSD, MPH; Juan F. Yepes, DDS, MD, MPH, MS, DrPH; Vineet Dhar, BDS, MDS, PhD*

Enhance your clinical skills with evidence-based strategies for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. This session covers pediatric caries prevention—including fluoride use, sealants, and caregiver education—as well as pulp therapy essentials such as diagnosis, treatment options, and medication selection. Designed for all dental team members, this course offers practical, research-driven insights to support effective, patient-centered care and improve oral health outcomes.

## 130. TINY TEETH, BIG DRAMA: A CASE BASED REVIEW OF PEDIATRIC ORAL PATHOLOGY

PD, DT

FRIDAY, MAY 22

9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

*Kathleen M. Schultz, DMD*

Navigate the complexities of pediatric oral pathology with confidence! This session delves deep in the perplexing world of enigmatic bony diseases, developmental tooth disorders and challenging soft tissue lesions. Diagnostic strategies and evidence based treatment plans will be reviewed, empowering you to handle even the most daunting and dramatic cases with clarity.

## 140. CRANIOFACIAL AIRWAY INTERACTIONS: UNDERSTANDING ORAL TIES, ADENOTONSILLAR ENLARGEMENT AND SLEEP-DISORDERED BREATHING PD, DT

FRIDAY, MAY 22

1:30 – 4:30 PM

*Bobak Ghaheri, MD*

Pediatric dentists play a pivotal role in identifying the early signs of airway dysfunction that can influence craniofacial growth, oral function, and sleep quality. This presentation examines the anatomical and functional relationships among oral restrictions, adenotonsillar hypertrophy, and sleep-disordered breathing in children. Attendees will explore how these factors contribute to altered oral posture, compensatory growth patterns, and airway compromise. Current evidence on diagnostic tools, functional assessments, and referral pathways will be discussed, with an emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration among dental, ENT, and sleep medicine professionals to support optimal airway development and long-term health outcomes.

## 150. MINI CLINICS I

PD, DT

FRIDAY, MAY 22

1:30 – 2:15 PM

### Maintaining Oral Health in Children with Cleft and Craniofacial Disorders

*Jay Shirley, DMD, MS, MSc*

2:15 – 3 PM

### Microbiomes, Mothers, and Minds: The Diet-Gut-Brain Axis

*Mark L. Cannon, DDS*

3 – 3:45 PM

### Scrolls to Smiles: How Social Media Shapes Parental Expectations in Pediatric Dentistry

*Mala Desai, BSc, GradDipClinDent, MSc*

3:45 – 4:30 PM

### Using Agentic AI in the Pediatric Dental Practice

*Oshmi Dutta, DDS, MS, FRCD, FAAPD*

## 160. THE HEART OF DENTISTRY

PD, DT

FRIDAY, MAY 22

1:30 – 4:30 PM

*David Mainz, MS, RDN, FAND, CSP*

Heart disease kills more dental professionals than any other cause. An increasing number are dying in their 40's and 50's. Surprising to many, it now claims a higher percentage of women than men. The traditional approach of cholesterol control and statin therapy is inadequate for many people. Join us as international health promotion expert David Mainz shows us how to add years to your life and life to your years. You'll also discover the latest on vitamin supplements, the truth about Omega-3's, and more! New information that your physician probably doesn't even know! Really! Plus, everyone in attendance will have an opportunity for a CIMT test to measure their current cardiovascular status. A FUN, interactive program you will enjoy!

## CLINICAL PRECISION SOUND BITES II

PD, DT

SATURDAY, MAY 23

*(Session admission first-come, first-served)*

These informal, small, one-hour long group settings encourage interaction between the speaker and the attendees.

8 – 9 AM

### SB 17: Advancing Pediatric Dentistry Through Laser Technology

*Sandra Thompson, DMD*

9:10 – 10:10 AM

### SB 19: Now You See Me, Now You Don't: Innovative Approaches in the Treatment of White Spot Lesions

*Alyssa Delgado, MSADT, MSDH, RDH, DT*

10:20 – 11:20 AM

### SB 21: Saving Teeth One Layer at a Time: Decisions in Minimally Invasive Care for Children

*Priyanshi Ritwik, BDS, MS*

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

### SB 23: The Role of Neuro Occlusal Rehabilitation in Early Malocclusions: What Every Pediatric Dentist Must Know and Do

*Paloma P. Perez, PhD*

12:40 – 1:40 PM

### SB 25: Dental Unit Waterline Safety - Why You Should Be Concerned and What You Can Do to Prevent Problems

*Jay Shirley, DMD, MS, MSc*

1:50 – 2:50 PM

### SB 27: 3D Printing in Pediatric Dentistry

*Gerardo Martinez, DMD*

3 – 4 PM

### SB 29: How to Avoid Repeatedly Sedating Neurodivergent Patients: A Program Harnessing the Power of Positive Psychology

*Leslie A. Blackburn, DDS, MA, MAPP*

4:10 – 5:10 PM

### SB 31: Beyond the Smoke: Helping Adolescents Quit Vaping and Tobacco Without Shame

*Angelica R. Rohner, DMD*

## PRACTICE PULSE SOUND BITES II PD, DT

SATURDAY, MAY 23

(Session admission first-come, first-served)

These informal, small, one-hour long group settings encourage interaction between the speaker and the attendees.

8 – 9 AM

**SB 18: Speak like a Pro: Improve Your Presentation Skills in an Instant!**

*Joel H. Berg, DDS, MS*

9:10 – 10:10 AM

**SB 20: How to be Successful with Medicaid in Your Practice**

*Jessica A. Meeske, DDS, MS*

10:20 – 11:20 AM

**SB 22: Little Patients, Big Care: Redefining Service Through Hospitality**

*Catherine M. Pham, DDS, MPH*

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

**SB 24: Stories from the Waitlist: Ethical Dilemmas in Operating Room Access**

*Lauren DiBenedetto, DDS, MPH and Joanie Jean, DMD*

12:40 – 1:40 PM

**SB 26: Is it Time to Break Up with Insurance? Strategies, Scripts & Survival Tips**

*Kristine Achille Grazioso, DMD*

1:50 – 2:50 PM

**SB 28: Well-Being in Pediatric Dentistry: Self-Care, Stress Management, and Team Support**

*Trudy-Ann N. Frazer, DDS*

3 – 4 PM

**SB 30: Speak Their Language: Personality-Based Communication for Effective Dental Outcomes**

*Erika King, DDS*

4:10 – 5:10 PM

**SB 32: The Power of Purpose: Building High-Performing Pediatric Dental Teams**

*Hazar Jaber, DDS, MBA*

## 200. INTERNATIONAL ORAL PRESENTATIONS PD, DT

SATURDAY, MAY 23

8:30 – 8:45 AM

**The Power of Sleep: A Key to the Pediatric Patient's Healthy Oro-facial Development**

*Ana Daniela Najera Bonilla, DDS, MS*

8:45 – 9 AM

**Ankyloglossia Impacts Tongue Mobility, Feeding, Speech, and Craniofacial Development**

*Joana Frois, DMD*

9 – 9:15 AM

**Association Between Caries History in Primary Molars and Enamel Defects in Successor Permanent Premolars**

*Kuo Ting KT Sun, PhD*

9:15 – 9:30 AM

**Conservative Management of Anterior Teeth Opacities and Post-Traumatic Discoloration in Growing Children**

*Hussa AlBahar, BDS, MFD RCSI, MPaedDent RCSEd, DPaedDent*

9:30 – 9:45 AM

**Interproximal Contact Morphology: A Neglected Risk Factor for Early Childhood Caries?**

*Muthu MS, PhD*

9:45 – 10 AM

**Bringing Dentistry to You: The Impact of Mobile Dentistry in Rural Communities and Among Children Requiring Adapted Care**

*Alexandra-Madalina Timaru, DDM*

10 – 10:15 AM

**Digital Technologies in Pediatric Dentistry: Expanding Access and Shaping the Future**

*Hanadi A. Alwafi, BDS, CAGS, MSc, DScD, Dip. ABPD, FRCDC(C)*

10:15 – 10:30 AM

**Evaluation and Comparison Between CAD/CAM Zirconia Versus Conventional Metal and Loop Space Maintainer**

*Sara Abdelkhalek Younes, DDS*

10:30 – 10:45 AM

**Personalized Pediatric Dentistry: The Future of Pediatric Dentistry with Artificial Intelligence**

*Morteza Banakar, DDS, MPH, MSc, PhD*

10:45 – 11 AM

**Reduced Salivary Secretion Rate in Children and Young Adults with Oligodontia**

*Mats Bågesund, DDS, PhD*

11 – 11:15 AM

**Reframing Dental Trauma at School: A Public Health Priority**

*Fatima Ezzahra Zidane; Soukaina Rouijel*

11:15 – 11:30 AM

**Remineralization of MIH - Experience and Possibilities**

*Ashima Goyal, MDS*

## 210. MINICLINICS II PD, DT

**SATURDAY, MAY 23**

8:30 – 9:15 AM

**The Diagnostic Challenge in Pediatric Dentistry**

*Juan F. Yepes, DDS, MD, MPH, MS, DrPH*

9:15 – 10 AM

**Unleashing the Power of AI in Dentistry**

*Alexandra B. Otto, DDS, FAGD, FACD, FPPA, FICD*

10 – 10:45 AM

**Transforming Anxiety into Engagement: Clinical Hypnosis for Positive Pediatric Visits**

*Randa Soussou, BDS, MSc, FRCDC, ABPD*

10:45 – 11:30 AM

**Pediatric Laser Assisted Airway: Less Snoring and Less Behavior Issues**

*Conway F. Jensen, DDS*

## 220. SEDATION SUCCESS IN PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY: MONITORING, MEDICATIONS, AND IN-OFFICE ANESTHESIA — REAL-WORLD INSIGHTS PD, DT

Sponsored by Sedation Resource



**SATURDAY, MAY 23**

8:30 – 11:30 AM

*Thomas Tanbonliong, DDS; Sarat Thikkurissy, DDS, MS, MA; Hector Vila, Jr., MD; Brian Schloss, MD; Anthony C. Caputo, DDS, MA, FACD, FICD, DADBA, DNDBA*

This three-part program provides a practical overview of current approaches to pediatric dental sedation and in-office anesthesia. The course begins with an updated look at long-used anesthetic medications—such as ketamine and propofol—and their safety, pharmacokinetics, and emerging use in moderate procedural sedation.

The second session focuses on evidence-based office protocols, including patient assessment, preparation, monitoring, documentation, and commonly used sedation regimens for minimal and moderate sedation.

The program concludes with an expert panel discussion on the growing use of independent and mobile anesthesia providers in dental offices. Using AAPD guidelines and current safety data, the panel will address provider selection, shared liability, safeguards across practice models, and criteria for determining which patients are appropriate for in-office anesthesia. Together, these sessions offer streamlined, real-world insights to help pediatric dentists deliver safe, effective, and compliant sedation care.

## 230. PART 1: TEAM TALK WITH DRS. ANN & BOBBY DT

Sponsored by DOX Pedo



**SATURDAY, MAY 23**

8:30 – 11:30 AM

*Complimentary Ticketed Session - for Office Staff Registrants Only*

*Please have staff sign up during registration so we can plan accordingly. There is no fee for this course, but tickets are required for entry.*

*Moderators: Ann M. Bynum, DDS; Robert D. Elliott, DMD, MS, FAAPD*

This session is designed for Office Team members. Real-world scenarios we encounter every day in our offices will be presented and discussed in small groups. Spend the morning with your peers discussing key issues that come up in your office every day. This is a group effort, audience driven, and fully interactive program for all office team members!

## 240. PULP THERAPY: BRIDGING PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY AND ENDODONTICS PD, DT

**SATURDAY, MAY 23**

8:30 – 11:30 AM

*Vineet Dhar, BDS, MDS, PhD; Elizabeth Shin Perry, DMD*

Pediatric dentists always strive to provide the best care for their patients, but navigating treatment options in pulp therapy can get tricky! This session brings together the expertise of both pediatric dentists and endodontists to discuss the management of these teeth. It is designed to give practitioners confidence in navigating the best treatment options for their patients.

We will discuss the rationale and interpretation of the AAPD's latest evidence-based clinical practice

guidelines on vital pulp therapies in permanent teeth (2025), building its portfolio from guidelines on vital pulp therapies in primary teeth (2024) and non-vital pulp therapies in primary teeth (2020). These guidelines are based on systematic reviews that assess the certainty of evidence, balance benefits and risks, and consider patients' and families' values and preferences. The session will culminate in a thorough review of clinical cases from a high-volume endodontic practice, demonstrating how careful decision-making can lead to optimal treatment outcomes for your pediatric patients. This collaborative approach and teamwork across pediatric dentistry and endodontics is crucial to provide the best care for children.

## 250. EARLY CAREER DENTIST COURSE: PRACTICE MANAGEMENT ESSENTIALS FOR THE EARLY CAREER PEDIATRIC DENTIST PD

**SATURDAY, MAY 23**

12:30 – 3 PM

*Abbey Elson, DMD; Robert L. Delarosa, DDS; Shawn M. Johnson, ChFC, CLU, CLTC; Cameron Gallaway*

The transition from residency to practice is an exciting yet often overwhelming time for pediatric dentists. Early career practitioners face critical decisions that shape their long-term success, financial well-being, and professional satisfaction. This course equips participants with essential knowledge and practical strategies in four foundational areas of practice management: contract negotiation, financial literacy, malpractice risk management, and practice ownership.

This course offers real-world examples and actionable guidance tailored specifically for pediatric dental professionals in the early stages of their careers.

## 260. DOC TALK! WITH DRs. ANN AND BOBBY PD

Sponsored by DOX Pedo



**SATURDAY, MAY 23**

1 – 4 PM

*Complimentary Ticketed Session - for those registered as Member or Non-member Dentists.*

*Please sign up during registration so we can plan accordingly. There is no fee for this course, but tickets are required for entry.*

*Moderators: Ann M. Bynum, DDS; Robert D. Elliott, DMD, MS, FAAPD*

An interactive, pediatric-dentist-only workshop (no team or guests) led by Dr. Bobby Elliott and Dr. Ann Bynum. We'll crowd-source the most pressing in-practice challenges and tackle as many as time allows—think patient experience, leadership and culture, people operations, teamwork dynamics, clinical consistency, marketing, and growth. Expect candid discussion, practical takeaways, and peer energy. Participation isn't optional—it's the point!

## 270. INTEGRATING ORTHODONTICS INTO YOUR PEDIATRIC PRACTICE WITH CLEAR ALIGNERS PD, DT

**SATURDAY, MAY 23**

1 – 4 PM

*Lee Boyd, DMD.*

Level up your practice and become the comprehensive care leader your families already trust! This session will equip you with the confident diagnostic and treatment planning skills needed to predictably address mixed dentition and adolescent malocclusions using digital, cutting-edge, clear aligner therapy. Learn how to successfully and seamlessly integrate clear aligners into your office workflow to expand your revenue, enhance

patient satisfaction, and deliver predictable, beautiful results right in your own office.

## 280. ORAL HEALTH FOR MEDICALLY COMPLEX CHILDREN AND CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES PD, DT

**SATURDAY, MAY 23**

1 – 4 PM

*Elise W. Sarvas, DDS, MSD, MPH*

This course will explore the unique oral health needs of children and youth with developmental disabilities, emphasizing practical approaches to prevention, assessment, and coordinated care. Participants will learn to identify common oral findings such as increased caries risk, malocclusion, and self-injurious behaviors, and understand how underlying medical, behavioral, and social factors influence oral health. The session will highlight evidence-based strategies for caries prevention, pain management, and the safe delivery of dental treatment, including considerations for sedation and general anesthesia. Attendees will gain tools to enhance collaboration between medical and dental homes and to support families in establishing lifelong oral health habits for children with developmental disabilities.

## 290. TACKLING TOUGH TALKS DT

**SATURDAY, MAY 23**

1 – 4 PM

*Tiffany Olson, MS*

Good conversations are a necessary part of working well and living well with others. The problem is that much of our communication is ineffective, especially when it comes to tough topics. We get overwhelmed, or it may seem like every discussion feels like a confrontation, so we avoid them all together. Learn how to fight the fear and have courageous conversations.

## 295. IAPD SESSION: DECISION MAKING IN THE DEVELOPING DENTITION: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON EARLY INTERVENTION

**SATURDAY, MAY 23**

1 – 4 PM

*Jorge L. Castillo, DDS, MSD, MdentSci, PhD; Soni Stephen, BDS MDS Paed.Dent MRACDS (Paed/Dent) FRACDS; Anna Maria Vierrou, DMD, PhD*

Early orthodontic decision-making requires early diagnosis, careful integration of growth considerations, space management strategies, and timely intervention to optimize long-term outcomes while minimizing unnecessary treatment. This interdisciplinary session explores how pediatric dentistry and orthodontics intersect in the management of the developing dentition from a global perspective.

The program will address evidence-based approaches to space management in the primary and mixed dentitions, including indications for space supervision, space maintenance, and space regaining. Clinical considerations, timing of intervention, and common treatment challenges will be reviewed. The session will also examine the management of crowding and occlusion discrepancies in the mixed dentition, focusing on diagnostic principles, treatment timing, appliance selection, and biomechanical considerations for interceptive fixed appliance therapy. The effects and management of non-nutritive oral habits and its effects on the developing dentition will also be discussed.

The session will conclude with an interactive, case-based discussion in which participants will analyze real clinical scenarios and engage in guided decision-making with the faculty. Attendees will gain practical frameworks to support interdisciplinary collaboration and improve early orthodontic treatment outcomes in pediatric patients.

## CLINICAL PRECISION SOUND BITES III PD, DT

**SUNDAY, MAY 24**

*(Session admission first-come, first-served)*

These informal, small, one-hour long group settings encourage interaction between the speaker and the attendees.

8 – 9 AM

**SB 33: Papacaries Duo: How An Enzymatic Cleansing Agent Can Expedite Caries Removal and Decrease Drilling Time**

*Jasveen Singh, DMD*

9:10 – 10:10 AM

**SB 35: Minimally Invasive Dentistry Reimagined: Clinical Applications of Enzymatic Caries Removal**

*Carla E. Cohn, DMD*

10:20 – 11:20 AM

**SB 37: Beyond the Hype: How to Read Research and Product Claims Like a Scientist**  
*Erin E. Bumann, DDS, PhD, MS; Allison C. Scully, DDS, MS*

## PRACTICE PULSE SOUND BITES III PD, DT

**SUNDAY, MAY 24**

*(Session admission first-come, first-served)*

These informal, small, one-hour long group settings encourage interaction between the speaker and the attendees.

8 – 9 AM

**SB 34: Combating Burnout and Increasing Wellness in the Workplace**

*Bina Katechia, BDS, MSc; Glenn Canares, DDS, MSD*

9:10 – 10:10 AM

**SB 36: Medicaid Update: What's Going on with the BBB?**

*Todd A. Gray, DDS*

10:20 – 11:20 AM

**SB 38: Managing the Parent: How to Get Better Cooperation from Parents and Patients for Treatment**

*Roger Lucas, DDS*

**300. ESSENTIAL RADIOLOGY FOR PEDIATRIC PATIENTS: EVERYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK PD, DT**

**SUNDAY, MAY 24**

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

*Juan F. Yepes, DDS, MD, MPH, MS, DrPH*

Radiographic interpretation in children can be challenging, as developing teeth, growing bones, and mixed dentition often mimic disease. Essential Radiology for Pediatric Patients: Everything You Want to Know, But Were Afraid to Ask clarifies these findings by highlighting key differences between normal development and true pathology. Using clinical cases and radiographic examples, this lecture will help practitioners recognize normal variations, avoid common diagnostic pitfalls, and identify common pediatric oral pathologies. Attendees will leave with greater confidence and accuracy in interpreting pediatric radiographs.

**310. STRING OF PEARLS PD, DT**

**SUNDAY, MAY 24**

8:30 – 8:45 AM

**Comparison is the Cavity of Joy: Filling Life with Enough**

*Corey Hastings, DDS, MS, MBA*

8:45 – 9 AM

**From the Second Chair: Realities, Rewards & Reflections of the Associate Experience**

*Erika King, DDS*

9 – 9:15 AM

**Case Presentations with Impact: Crafting Clinical Stories That Captivate and Educate**

*Lauren DiBenedetto, DDS, MPH*

9:15 – 9:30 AM

**Following the New Patient Exam: What's Next?**

*Daniel J. Grob, DDS, MS*

9:30 – 9:45 AM

**The Hall Technique and the Advantages of Implementation**

*Christy Jo Fogarty, LDH, ADT, BSDH, MSOHP*

9:45 – 10 AM

**Intraoral Scanner Uses in Pediatric Dentistry**

*Halima Abukabbos, BDS, MPH, CPH, FRCDC*

10 – 10:15 AM

**Managing Burnout in Dental Practices:**

**Followership as a Cure**

*Paula E. VanBuskirk, DDS, MBA*

10:15 – 10:30 AM

**Papacarie® in Action: Evolving Practices and Future Directions in Minimally Invasive Pediatric Dentistry**

*Divesh Sardana, MDS, MBA, MPH, PhD*

10:30 – 10:45 AM

**Pre-Appointment Questionnaires: Why They Matter for Patients with Special Health Care Needs and Disabilities**

*Sharon Freudenberger, DDS*

10:45 – 11 AM

**Scurvy: An Ancient Disease and an Increasing Problem**

*Craig V. Vinall, DDS, MDS*

11 – 11:15 AM

**Sensory-Inclusive Practices to Improve Dental Care for Autistic Children**

*Leah I. Stein Duker, PhD, OTR/L*

11:15 – 11:30 AM

**Visualize. Simulate. Extract: 3D Printed Planning for Safer Mesiodens Surgery**

*Jenn-Yih Simon Lin, DDS*

# ADDITIONAL COURSES & WORKSHOPS

## PRECONFERENCE COURSE: ESTHETIC RESTORATIVE FRONTIERS IN PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

THURSDAY, MAY 21

8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Cost: \$300

Kevin J. Donly, DDS, MS; Aram Kim, DMD, MS, FACP;  
Reem Kabbarah, DDS

This comprehensive preconference course explores the evolving landscape of esthetic restorative dentistry in children, emphasizing both foundational principles and cutting-edge advancements. Participants will delve into esthetic techniques tailored for young patients, strategies for managing compromised teeth and missing teeth from congenital or acquired causes, and the latest in dental materials and digital workflows. Through evidence-based lectures and clinical insights, attendees will gain practical tools to enhance outcomes, efficiency, and patient satisfaction in pediatric restorative care.

## PEARS SKILLS CHECK

FRIDAY, MAY 22

9:30 AM – 4 PM

Cost: \$275

The AHA's PEARS (Pediatric Emergency Assessment, Recognition and Stabilization) Course has been updated to reflect science in the 2015 AHA Guidelines for CPR and ECC. In this classroom-based, Instructor-led course, students learn how to use a systematic approach to quickly assess, recognize the cause, and stabilize a pediatric patient in an emergency situation.

During PEARS, students interact with real patient cases, and realistic simulations and animations to assess and stabilize pediatric patients experiencing respiratory and shock emergencies, and cardiopulmonary arrest. PEARS prepares students to provide appropriate lifesaving interventions within the initial minutes of response until a child can be transferred to an advanced life support provider. Pears Manual can be purchased at <https://shopcpr.heart.org/pears-provider-manual>.

### *Systematic pediatric assessment*

### *Recognition and stabilization of respiratory emergencies*

### *Recognition and stabilization of shock emergencies*

### *Recognition and stabilization of cardiopulmonary arrest*

### *Resuscitation team concept*

Students who successfully complete the PEARS Course will receive a PEARS Provider course completion eCard, valid for two years.

PEARS course completion requirements include:

- Active participation in the case discussions
- Active participation in the rescue breathing skills station and cardiac arrest case simulations
- Pass the skills tests in 1- and 2-rescuer child BLS with AED and 1- and 2-rescuer infant BLS
- Pass the video-based written exam with a minimum score of 84

## PALS SKILLS CHECK

SATURDAY, MAY 23

8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Cost: \$330

### Part 2 Hands-On

The AAPD will be offering Part 2 only of the HeartCode PALS course. This is the hands-on testing requirement of the HeartCode PALS course. Students will demonstrate the skills they have learned in the online class including: one and two person infant and child CPR, rescue breathing, and fluid bolus administration. Students must bring their certificate of completion from the online class to the PALS Skills Check. In this environment, students apply their knowledge to real-time decision-making and skills development. Debriefings and coaching are provided immediately after each simulation to facilitate learning about pediatric advanced life support.

Part 1 HeartCode PALS Online Class: **NOT OFFERED BY AAPD.** This is a web-based, self-directed program that teaches healthcare providers knowledge and skills needed to recognize and prevent cardiopulmonary arrest in infants and children. Students will take the online class from [www.onlineaha.org](http://www.onlineaha.org) and bring their certificate of completion to the PALS Skills Check held at the conference. The fee for Part 1 (the online class) is the responsibility of the student.

**PALS ONLINE CLASS:** Visit <https://elearning.heart.org> to register.

## BLS SKILLS CHECK

SATURDAY, MAY 23

1 – 3 PM

Cost: \$85

### Part 2 Hands-On

The AAPD will be offering Part 2 only of the HeartCode BLS course. This is the hands-on testing requirement of the HeartCode BLS course. After completing the online portion, students attend a structured BLS Hands-On Session with an AHA Instructor. This session focuses on meaningful skills practice, debriefing, team scenarios, discussions of local protocols, and skills testing. Students must bring their certificate of completion from the online class to the BLS Skills Check.

Part 1 HeartCode BLS Online Class: **NOT OFFERED BY AAPD.** Students will first take the BLS class online from the American Heart Association. HeartCode BLS uses a variety of eLearning assets such as dramatizations, eSimulations, animations, self-directed learning, and interactive activities to teach students BLS knowledge and skills. Students will take the online class from [www.onlineaha.org](http://www.onlineaha.org) and bring their certificate of completion to the BLS Skills Check held at the conference. The fee for Part 1 (the online class) is the responsibility of the student.

**BLS ONLINE CLASS:** Visit <https://elearning.heart.org> to register.



## EVIDENCE-BASED DENTISTRY WORKSHOP

**SATURDAY, MAY 23**

8:30 AM – 5 PM

*Jim Coll, DMD, MS and Peter Buschang, PhD*

*Cost: \$300*

Following an introduction to evidence-based dentistry, the attendees will learn how to use the Evidence Based Hierarchy to classify studies based on their designs. They will then be familiarized with the Cochran reviews and Centre for Evidence Based Dentistry, important resources that clinicians use to stay informed. Basic elements of PubMed will then be introduced and applied to provide the attendees with the computer skills necessary to perform literature searches. In order to facilitate the literature searches, the attendees will learn how to develop questions using the PICO (population, intervention, comparator and outcomes) format. Finally, basic and practical information pertaining to research methodology will be introduced – along with a specially designed checklist - and later used by the attendees to critically evaluate and rank published research studies according to the strength of evidence they provide and learn how Clinical Practice Guidelines of the AAPD are created from evidenced based research.

# SECOND SITTING

Wind down your conference day with Second Sitting—an intimate, end-of-day conversation series designed for reflection, insight, and genuine connection. Taking place at the end of Friday and Saturday, these relaxed gatherings bring together a small group of attendees and a featured speaker for open, informal discussion in a comfortable setting.

Each session invites the speaker and participants to go beyond the podium—sharing personal stories, asking questions, and engaging in meaningful dialogue that deepens understanding of the topics previously presented.

\$25/Session

**Please note there is limited availability for these sessions. Based on the conversational nature of these sessions, no CE credits will apply.**

## FRIDAY

5 – 6 PM

### TINY TEETH, BIG DRAMA: A CASE BASED REVIEW OF PEDIATRIC ORAL PATHOLOGY

*Kathleen Schultz, DMD*

### GROWING FACES, GROWING AIRWAYS: THE PEDIATRIC DENTIST'S GUIDE TO SLEEP AND DEVELOPMENT - AIRWAY, SLEEP, EXPANSION

*Audrey Yoon, DDS*

### PATH TO PREVENTION: SHARPENING CLINICAL SKILLS FOR THE DENTAL TEAM MEMBER - PULP THERAPY MATERIALS

*Vineet Dhar, BDS, MBS, PhD*

### PATH TO PREVENTION: SHARPENING CLINICAL SKILLS FOR THE DENTAL TEAM MEMBER - RADIOLOGY AND ORAL PATHOLOGY

*Juan Yepes, DDS, MD, MPH, MS, DrPH*

## SATURDAY

4:30 – 5:30 PM

### CLEAR ALIGNERS

*Lee Boyd, DMD*

### TACKLING TOUGH TALKS

*Tiffany Olson, MS*

### ORAL HEALTH FOR MEDICALLY COMPLEX CHILDREN AND CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

*Elise Sarvas, DMD, MSD, MPH*

### PRACTICE OWNERSHIP & TRANSITION

*Abbey Elson, DMD*

### NEGOTIATING YOUR FIRST CONTRACT: DO'S AND DON'TS

*Rob Delarosa, DDS*

### FINANCIAL LITERACY FOR THE PEDIATRIC DENTIST

*Shawn Johnson, ChFc, CLU, CLTC*

### MALPRACTICE: HOW TO AVOID GETTING SUED—AND WHAT TO DO IF YOU DO

*Cam Gallaway*

### TEAM TALK AND DOC TALK

*Ann Bynum, DMD; Bobby Elliott, DMD, MS, FAAPD*

# SOCIAL EVENTS

## EARLY CAREER DENTIST HAPPY HOUR

THURSDAY, MAY 21

6:30 – 8:30 PM

*Beer Park Las Vegas*

*Sponsored by Treloar & Heisel and Medical Protective*



Raise a glass to new connections, easygoing fun, and unbeatable views at the Early Career Dentist Happy Hour, hosted at Beer Park — the open-air rooftop overlooking the heart of the Las Vegas Strip. With sweeping skyline vistas, refreshing drinks, and a relaxed outdoor atmosphere, it's the ideal place to unwind after a full day.

Enjoy classic backyard-style games, comfortable rooftop seating, upbeat music, and plenty of chances to spark new conversations. Whether teaming up for a little friendly competition or soaking in the dazzling city views, you'll find the perfect blend of networking and play.

Casual, social, and full of Vegas personality, this happy hour sets the tone for meaningful connections and a night kicked off in style.

## WELCOME RECEPTION: BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG SMILES

FRIDAY, MAY 22

7 – 11 PM

*Caesars Forum Plaza*

*Sponsored by AAPD Foundation*



Get ready for the iconic Vegas Welcome you won't want to miss! Hosted at Caesars Forum, this indoor/outdoor event experience will transport you into your very own Las Vegas playground. This year's theme, Bright Lights, Big Smiles, sets the tone for an evening bursting with color, energy, and pure Vegas glow.

As you step into the event, the true Vegas experience comes to life. Cirque-inspired entertainers move throughout the space, creating unexpected moments that leave you wanting more. Glowing photo vignettes offer the perfect places to capture the night, while food and beverage stations showcase bold flavors and creative presentations. In true Vegas fashion, the evening doesn't stop there. Be sure to catch a surprise musical act that caps off the evening with an unforgettable close. This entire experience has been crafted especially for you, delivering a one-of-a-kind welcome you won't find anywhere else.

This is your moment to dive into the magic, connect with your peers, and kick off the week with an energy only Vegas can deliver. These bright lights are sure to leave you with the biggest smiles.

## PRESIDENT'S FAREWELL DINNER

SUNDAY, MAY 24

6:30 – 11 PM

### *Keep Memory Alive (KMA) Event Center*

Step into an unforgettable evening at the architecturally iconic Keep Memory Alive Event Center — a venue that truly feels like walking into a living work of art. Designed by world-renowned architect Frank Gehry, this extraordinary structure blends sweeping curves, sculptural lines, and dramatic lighting to create a farewell celebration that's both sophisticated and visually breathtaking.

Begin the night with a stylish cocktail reception in the outdoor garden, surrounded by other Gehry-designed art pieces that set a tone of crea-

tivity and inspiration. Then transition into the soaring main hall, where you'll marvel at the venue's signature architecture — a stunning backdrop for an elevated dining experience.

As the celebration unfolds, enjoy lively entertainment and a delicious meal as we honor the president in a setting that shines as brightly as the achievements being recognized. Elegant, artistic, and full of energy, this farewell is the kind of evening that stays with you long after the final toast.

*Keep Memory Alive (KMA) Event Center*  
*Event Center*



# AAPD'S

aapd  
Education Passport

# Education Passport

Recorded AAPD CE courses to view at your convenience  
[educationpassport.aapd.org](http://educationpassport.aapd.org)

## Recordings available from

### Annual Sessions:

AAPD 2023

AAPD 2024

AAPD 2025

AAPD 2026 Presale

### CE Courses:

Safe & Effective Sedation

Comprehensive Review

Board Qualifying Exam  
Prep Course

### Journal CE Packages



AMERICA'S PEDIATRIC DENTISTS  
THE BIG AUTHORITY on little teeth

# Continuing Education

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

To register, visit  
[www.aapd.org/events](http://www.aapd.org/events)

## Listening In: AAPD's Podcasts for Pediatric Dentists

The AAPD offers two engaging podcasts tailored to the pediatric dental community. little teeth, BIG Smiles brings together AAPD leaders and experts to discuss current clinical, scientific, and practice-focused topics—from behavior management to trauma care and more—providing valuable insights for seasoned practitioners and teams alike. Newly Erupted is a newer series created for residents and early career dentists, focusing on practical career-building topics selected by residents to help kick-start their professional journey.



Little Teeth, Big Smiles is sponsored by HuFriedy Group



Newly Erupted is sponsored by Elevate Oral Care



**Listen on [aapd.org](http://aapd.org), Spotify, iTunes, Sticker, Google Podcasts**

AAPD's two podcasts, Little Teeth, Big Smiles and Newly Erupted, continue to be extremely popular. Be sure to tune in to the episodes that are released monthly.

# Seeking Judges for the Poster Competition – AAPD 2026

## Research Poster Session

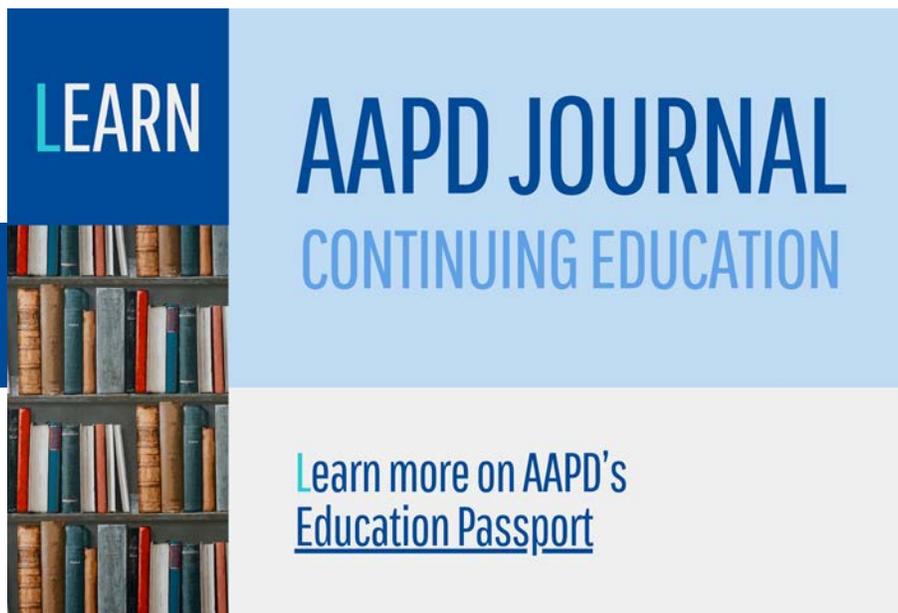
AAPD is looking for volunteers to be Pre-Conference Research Poster Judges. You **do not** have to attend Annual Session to serve in this role. Judging is done completely remote prior to the meeting and judges will receive 2 hours CE credit for their participation.

Joining us in Las Vegas? Volunteer to be an in-person Research Poster Judge! Judges will receive 2.5 hours CE credit for their participation.

Contact Leola Royston at [Lroyston@aapd.org](mailto:Lroyston@aapd.org), to sign up, or visit the respective online sign-up form links. Please help spread the word!

**Pre-conference Judging:** <https://aapd.wufoo.com/forms/p1dgmjwa0r8a57/>

**On-site Judging:** <https://signup.com/go/UtmMiVv>

A graphic for AAPD Journal Continuing Education. It features a central image of a bookshelf with various books. To the left of the bookshelf, the word "LEARN" is written in white on a dark blue background. To the right, "AAPD JOURNAL" is written in large blue letters, with "CONTINUING EDUCATION" in smaller blue letters below it. At the bottom right, the text "Learn more on AAPD's Education Passport" is displayed, with "Education Passport" underlined.

LEARN

AAPD JOURNAL  
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## Save the Date

**ANNUAL JOINT ACADEMIC DAY – WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2026**

Attention members affiliated with academia! Remember to register for the annual Joint Academic Day (JAD) as you finalize your plans and AAPD 2026 registration.

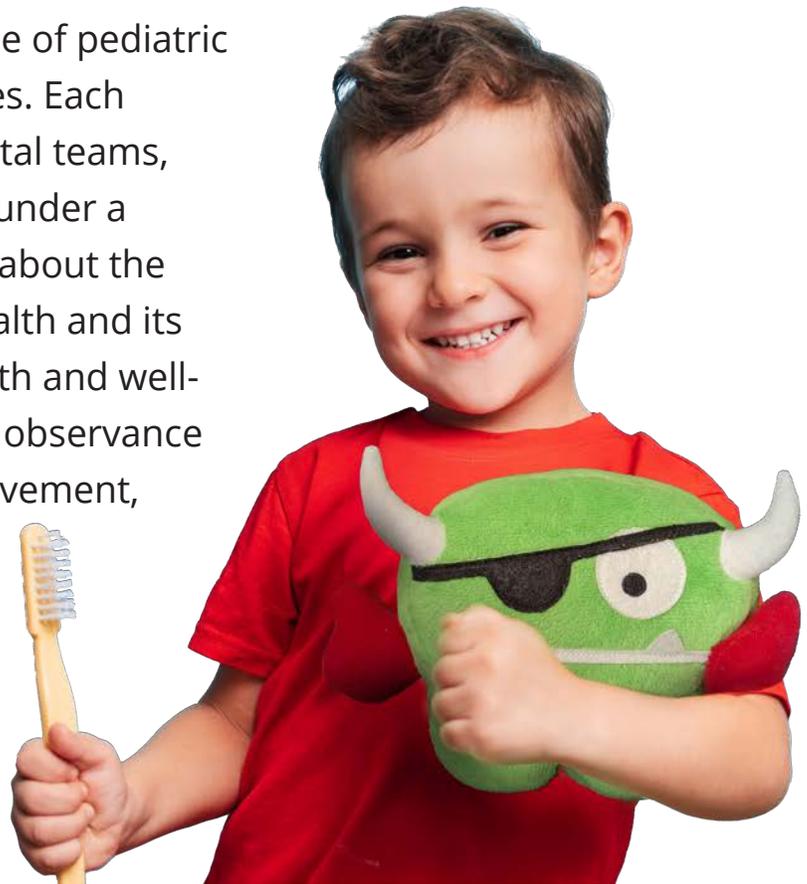
Join us on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, for a dynamic day dedicated to peer-to-peer learning and community building. Forge new connections, share best practices, and deepen relationships with colleagues who share your passion for academic dentistry.

**ADA CERP**® | Continuing Education  
Recognition Program

*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.*

# A MONTH with a MISSION

National Children's Dental Health Month (NCDHM) has been a cornerstone of pediatric oral health education for decades. Each February, pediatric dentists, dental teams, educators, and advocates unite under a shared goal: to raise awareness about the importance of children's oral health and its direct connection to overall health and well-being. What began as a one-day observance has grown into a nationwide movement, reaching millions of families through schools, community programs, dental offices, and the media.



The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry celebrates this important month each year by bringing at-home best practices to the forefront. The most impactful way the organization does this is through a national satellite media tour featuring the current AAPD President.

This year, that role belongs to Dr. Tom Ison. As of the printing of this issue, Dr. Ison is scheduled to speak with 25 outlets from across the country during a satellite media tour the morning of Friday, January 30. These interviews will focus on driving home the importance of the Age 1 Visit and what families can do at home to foster optimal oral health, as well as Medicaid updates that may affect families.

With the rising cost of healthcare potentially impacting families in new ways, it has never been more important for the AAPD and the AAPD Foundation to share their shared mission of optimal oral health for all children. Already under-resourced health clinics on the front lines of caring for these children will be among the first to feel the effects of policy and funding changes.

For the AAPD, NCDHM is more than a public service announcement. It's a call to action. Tooth decay remains the most common preventable chronic disease affecting children. The persistence of this condition highlights gaps in education, access, and resources that disproportionately affect chil-

dren from underserved communities. NCDHM provides an opportunity to address those gaps head-on, using clear, consistent messaging grounded in science and delivered by trusted experts.

## THE POWER OF THE SATELLITE MEDIA TOUR

Among the many initiatives the AAPD undertakes during National Children's Dental Health Month, the annual satellite media tour stands out for its reach and impact. In a single morning, the AAPD President connects with television, radio, and digital outlets nationwide, delivering evidence-based guidance directly into homes, and to families.

The format is fast-paced and efficient; a series of short interviews tailored to local audiences but unified by core messages. Parents tuning in during morning news programs or listening during a commute hear practical advice they can implement immediately at home, like how to brush a toddler's teeth, when to schedule a child's first dental visit, and why oral health matters long before the first loose tooth.

In an era of information overload and social media myths, the AAPD President serves as a trusted voice, cutting through noise and misinformation to deliver guidance families can rely on.

## INTRODUCING DR. TOM ISON

This year's media tour is led by Dr. Tom Ison, whose presidency reflects a deep commitment to prevention, access to care, and advocacy. His approach to the tour is grounded in empathy and sensibleness. The AAPD understands that parents want to do the right thing for their children but may lack information, time, or access. Dr. Ison's media appearances emphasize simple, achievable steps – small changes that can have lifelong benefits – and reinforces the idea that dental visits should be positive, supportive experiences that set the stage for a lifetime of good oral health.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AGE 1 VISIT

A central focus of this year's satellite media tour is the Age 1 Visit, a cornerstone of AAPD policy and a message that still surprises many families. The AAPD recommends that children see a pediatric dentist by their first birthday or within six months of the eruption of their first tooth.

Despite its importance, the Age 1 Visit isn't always at the top of parents' "must have appointments" list. Many parents assume dental care can wait until preschool or elementary school, missing a critical window for prevention. Throughout the media tour, Dr. Ison's messaging addresses this misconception directly, explaining that cavities can develop as soon as teeth appear and that early guidance can prevent pain, infection, and costly treatment later.

## AT-HOME BEST PRACTICES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

National Children's Dental Health Month is, at its heart, about empowering families. While professional care is essential, daily habits at home play an equally critical role in maintaining oral health.

Dr. Ison's talking points emphasize straightforward, age-appropriate recommendations. Parents of infants and toddlers are encouraged to begin oral hygiene early, wiping gums with a soft cloth even before teeth erupt and transitioning to a small, soft-bristled toothbrush as soon as the first tooth appears. A smear of fluoridated toothpaste is recommended for children under three, with a pea-sized amount for older children.

Nutrition is another recurring theme. Frequent snacking on sugary foods and drinks increases the risk of tooth decay, particularly when teeth are exposed over long periods. Dr. Ison advises families to limit sugary snacks, avoid putting children to bed with bottles containing anything other than water, and encourage drinking water throughout the day.

These messages resonate because they are practical and attainable. Families do not need expensive products or complicated routines—just consistency, knowledge, and support.

## **MEDICAID AND ACCESS TO CARE**

In addition to prevention-focused messaging, this year's satellite media tour addresses Medicaid updates that may impact children and families. Medicaid plays a vital role in providing dental coverage for millions of children, particularly those from low-income households.

Changes in funding, reimbursement rates, or eligibility can have immediate and far-reaching consequences. Already under-resourced health

clinics and community dental programs often operate on thin margins. When funding is reduced or administrative burdens increase, these clinics may be forced to limit services or close their doors altogether.

Dr. Ison uses his platform to highlight these realities, reminding audiences that oral health is not a luxury but a fundamental component of overall health. Untreated dental disease can affect a child's ability to eat, sleep, speak, and learn. It can lead to missed school days and long-term health complications.

## **RISING HEALTHCARE COSTS AND GROWING CHALLENGES**

The rising cost of healthcare continues to place strain on families across the country. Even those with insurance may face high deductibles, limited provider networks, or out-of-pocket expenses that make routine care feel out of reach.

For families already navigating economic uncertainty, preventive dental visits may be delayed or deprioritized. This is precisely where NCDHM messaging becomes most critical. Prevention is not only better for children's health, but also more cost-effective overall.

The AAPD and the AAPD Foundation work in tandem to address these challenges. While the AAPD focuses on education, policy, and professional guidance, the Foundation supports programs that expand access to care, fund community initiatives, and provide resources to those who need them most.



Dr. Ison's media tour underscores this dual mission, reminding audiences that improving children's oral health requires both individual action and systemic support.

## THE ROLE OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTS AS ADVOCATES

Pediatric dentists are uniquely positioned at the intersection of healthcare, education, and advocacy. AAPD Members see firsthand how social determinants of health, such as income, education, and access to transportation can affect oral health outcomes.

During National Children's Dental Health Month, pediatric dentists across the country amplify the AAPD's messages within their own communities. School presentations, office-based education, and community outreach events extend the reach of the national campaign, ensuring that information is accessible and culturally relevant.

The satellite media tour complements these efforts by providing a unifying national voice. When parents hear the same recommendations from their local pediatric dentist and on their morning news program, the message carries greater weight.

## LOOKING BEYOND FEBRUARY

While February serves as a focal point, the AAPD's work does not end when the calendar turns to March. National Children's Dental Health Month is a catalyst—an opportunity to spark conversations, inspire behavior change, and reinforce the importance of oral health year-round.

Dr. Ison often emphasizes that oral health is a journey that begins in infancy and continues throughout life. Establishing healthy habits early sets children on a path toward confidence, comfort, and overall wellness.

For the AAPD, the wish that February was longer reflects both the urgency of the mission and the scale of the work still to be done. Too many children continue to experience preventable dental disease, and too many families lack access to the care and education they need.

## A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

National Children's Dental Health Month reminds us that improving children's oral health is a shared responsibility. Parents, caregivers, healthcare providers, educators, policymakers, and advocates all play a role.

Through initiatives like the annual satellite media tour, the AAPD leverages its expertise and platform to reach families where they are – because sometimes just being there to answer the questions is the most important role we can play.





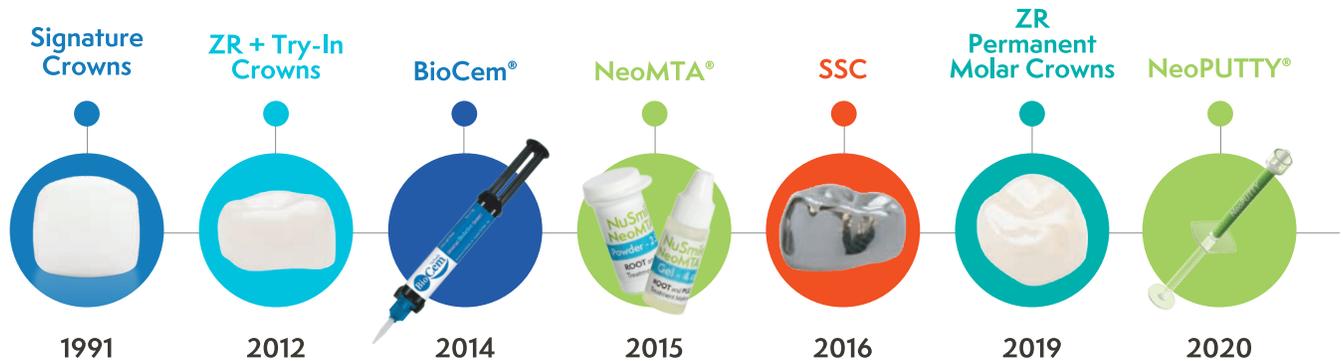
COMMITTED TO PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY FOR

# 35 YEARS



For 35 incredible years, NuSmile has had the privilege of partnering with dedicated pediatric dental professionals who share our passion for improving children’s oral health. Thank you for trusting our products in your practices, supporting our mission of bringing innovative and tailored products to the specialty of Pediatric Dentistry, and helping shape the products NuSmile offers today. Your commitment, feedback, and loyalty have fueled our innovation, strengthened our purpose, and made this journey truly meaningful. We are deeply grateful for your partnership and excited to continue serving you—and the children you care for—for many years to come. Cheers to you all, and to many more years of helping children to smile with confidence!

**Diane Johnson Krueger,**  
Founder & Chief Executive Officer



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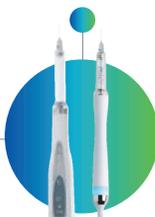
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# Research & Policy

## RESEARCH AND POLICY CENTER

Staying informed on the latest research and policy developments in children's oral health.

## THAT'S A WRAP ON 2025 FOR THE AAPD RESEARCH & POLICY CENTER!

In case you missed some of what we were up to, here's a quick recap of Fall 2025 for the RPC:

- **Fluoride:** The AAPD issued a response to a press release from the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) on Oct. 31, noting the Academy's strong support for fluoride supplementation as a method to prevent caries, particularly in communities without fluoridated water and for all children with high caries risk. In September, the AAPD partnered with the American Academy of Pediatrics to host a webinar – Under Pressure: Providing Pediatric Oral Health Care in an Increasingly Fluoride-Skeptic World. In addition to a review of the current policy environment on fluoride, many clinically useful and practical recommendations were included. Check it out!



- **CDT 2026:** On Dec. 12, Dr. **Jim Nickman** led a webinar to help prepare AAPD members and their practice teams for the changes coming to the CDT code set in 2026. No worries if you missed it – your team can access all the information you need at <https://www.aapd.org/research/policy-center/webinars/>.

- **Government Shutdown:** AAPD members wanted to support their communities over the government shutdown. We shared information on social media and in other electronic communications to help connect members to local service providers with WIC, SNAP, and Head Start.



- **Council on Clinical Affairs (CCA) Meeting:** Overcoming travel challenges, CCA met in Chicago, putting their minds together and diving into research to inform revisions for The 2026-27 Reference Manual of Pediatric Dentistry. Many thanks to all members of CCA and the Council on Scientific Affairs for their time and energy,

as well as Dr. **Erica Caffrey** and Dr. **Jenny Stigers** for their leadership in these efforts.

- **Pennsylvania Oral Health Summit:** Chelsea Fosse delivered the opening keynote on the importance – now more than ever – of oral health advocacy at the local, state, and federal levels.
- **Dental Quality Alliance meeting:** Drs. **Paul Casamassimo, Alex Sheen,**  
Chelsea Fosse, and Lauren Mann attended the most recent DQA meeting. Dr. Sheen and Dr. Fosse both had the opportunity to present to the Alliance on research and updates from the pediatric dental community.
- **Maryland Dental Action Coalition Summit:** Chelsea Fosse spoke on fluoride advocacy.



- **American Student Dental Association (ASDA) National Leadership Conference (NLC):** The AAPD had a blast with dental students at #ASDANLC. Many AAPD leaders shared their knowledge with this next generation of dentists, offering expertise in fluoride, professional wellbeing, pharmacology, minimally invasive dentistry, marketing, debt management, and the latest in dental research. Big thanks to Drs. **Aaron Buban, Colleen Greene, Jessica Lee, Brianna Muñoz, Alex Otto, Scott Papineau, Cameron Randall,** and **Tim Wright** for their help making it a success!
- **Ensuring Last Smiles Act (ELSA) Advocacy Day:** Chelsea Fosse joined the National Foundation for Ectodermal Dysplasias (NFED) in DC to advocate for the passage of ELSA.



Have friends or colleagues who may be interested in the work of the RPC? **The RPC Rundown is open to all – regardless of AAPD membership.** We rely heavily on our connections with other leaders in dentistry, oral health, children’s health, and health policy to do the work we do. We are always eager to grow our network of partners dedicated to advancing research and promoting policy to improve children’s oral health. Please send along our sign-up information.



The RPC hopes to connect with you in 2026! Join us for webinars, see you on the meetings circuit, and reach out to us at [RPC@aapd.org](mailto:RPC@aapd.org) if we can ever be helpful!



# NEW SAFETY AND QUALITY FELLOWSHIP ANNOUNCED

HuFriedyGroup and AAPD Research & Policy Center Collaborate on NEW Safety and Quality Improvement Fellowship



The AAPD Research & Policy Center (RPC) is pleased to announce that applications for the Safety and Quality Improvement (QI) Fellowship, generously sponsored by HuFriedyGroup, are open!

HuFriedyGroup is a global leader in dental instrument innovation, infection prevention, and practice optimization solutions.

“The HuFriedyGroup mission is to support clinicians with solutions that advance patient safety, clinical excellence, and trust in care. Sponsoring the AAPD Research & Policy Center Safety and

Quality Improvement Fellowship is a natural extension of our DNA, partnering with the profession, investing in evidence-based improvement, and helping elevate the standard of care for children and families. We’re proud to collaborate with AAPD to empower emerging leaders to turn meaningful safety and quality insights into real-world impact,” said Senior Vice President of Marketing and Commercial Excellence – Christophe Carsault.

This fellowship offers an early career AAPD member support to pursue a project focused on safety and/or QI topics, with guidance from the *Safety &*

QI Committee, the RPC team, and HuFriedyGroup. Our teams have collaborated on areas of shared interest, and we are excited to strengthen and expand this partnership through the fellowship.

The Fellow's project is expected to be complete in one year's time coinciding with the Academy year (July 2026 to June 2027). The Fellow will have an opportunity to work with AAPD leaders via the Safety & QI Committee and the RPC, and attend select in-person meetings such as the Safety & QI Committee Fall Meeting, the RPC Advisory Board Meeting, the AAPD Annual Session, a Dental Quality Alliance (DQA) meeting, or the Association for Dental Safety (ADS) Annual Conference.

**We are thrilled to have Dr. Lisa Rawle currently serving as the inaugural Safety & QI Fellow.** Dr. Rawle is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry at the University of Illinois Chicago where she teaches in both the predoctoral and postgraduate pediatric dentistry programs. Dr. Rawle is collaborating with the current Harris Fellow, Dr. Bhakti Desai, on a **research project examining burnout, well-being, and resilience among pediatric dentists.** Dr. Rawle and Dr. Desai are conducting survey research and will present their findings at the AAPD Annual Session 2026 in Las Vegas.

Safety and QI topics research topics are wide ranging. The application will welcome applicants to propose project ideas of their own, while also providing some topics for applicants to express interest in and build upon, such as:

- Conducting a state-level analysis of dental waterline management policies
- Developing or evaluating decision-support tools for radiograph acquisition and shielding practices
- Assessing existing adverse incident reporting systems used in dentistry or other professions
- Developing ways to implement *Dental Quality Alliance* measures in pediatric dental practice

We are currently accepting applications for the 2026-27 Safety & QI Fellowship with a submission deadline of **March 13, 2026.** The application was announced via The RPC Rundown, as well as The AAPD E-News and other electronic communications. Stay tuned for more details, and please reach out to Lauren Mann (lmann@aapd.org) with any questions or to preliminarily express interest. We are excited to get to work with the next AAPD Safety & QI Fellow!

**Don't Miss Your Chance to Get the New 6<sup>th</sup> edition Handbook of Pediatric Dentistry!**  
**Order yours today!**



# Member News

## MEMBER NEWS

Announcements of awards, recognitions, and contributions from AAPD members.

## AAPD PROPOSES FIRST DUES CHANGE IN 10 YEARS

AAPD leadership has proposed the Academy's first dues change in a decade. This adjustment, designed to support the continued growth of member programs, advocacy, and clinical resources, will be presented for a vote by the membership at the General Assembly during the AAPD 2026 Annual Session in May.

Over the past ten years, AAPD has significantly expanded education offerings, strengthened federal and state advocacy, and enhanced digital platforms—all while maintaining unchanged dues despite rising operational costs.

If approved, the dues adjustment will help AAPD:

- Sustain high-quality CE and Annual Session experiences
- Strengthen advocacy for children's oral health
- Support updated clinical guidelines, practice resources, and workforce initiatives
- Continue improving member services and technology

This serves as the official notice to membership concerning a proposed revision in Active membership dues to be considered by the 2026 General Assembly. Per the AAPD Bylaws, the same percentage increase will apply to those other categories that are based on a percentage of the Active member rate.

We appreciate your continued support and engagement. Listed below are the proposed updates:

|                                       |        |                                |        |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------|--------|
| Active                                | \$ 795 | International                  | \$ 443 |
| Active – First year out of residency  | \$ 0   | International Student          | \$ 35  |
| Active – Second year out of residency | \$ 397 | International Colleague 1 year | \$ 115 |
| Active -Third year out of residency   | \$ 397 | International Colleague 3 year | \$ 230 |
| Life                                  | \$ 397 | Post Doctoral Student          | \$ 0   |
| Affiliate                             | \$ 397 | Pre Doctoral Student           | \$ 37  |
| Affiliate International               | \$ 443 | Friends of AAPD                | \$ 397 |
| Affiliate Life                        | \$ 199 | Allied                         | \$ 199 |
| Associate                             | \$ 397 | Retired                        | \$ 0   |
| Associate International               | \$ 443 |                                |        |

# BEHAVIORAL STRATEGIES FOR NEURODIVERSE PEDIATRIC POPULATION IN PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

By: Aarzo Kataria, Resident, Boston University

## ORAL HEALTH REALITY FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTHCARE NEEDS

Developmental disorders are becoming more prevalent, affecting about 1 in 6 children in the US. Between 2019 and 2021, the prevalence of diagnosed developmental disabilities in children aged 3-17 years increased from 7.4% to 8.6% as per the CDC data. Children affected by neurodevelopmental disorders (NDDs) experience substantially higher rates of oral health problems compared to neurotypical children.

## UNDERSTANDING THE BARRIERS: WHY ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE REMAINS UNEQUAL

The severity of NDDs is directly associated with the extent of oral health problems. Children who have moderate to severe NDDs experience the highest burden of potentially preventable oral health issues.

Access to dental care remains deeply unequal, particularly for children with NDDs, who face a complex interaction of sociodemographic and systemic barriers. These children are more likely to be non-Hispanic White, live in single-parent households, and lack private dental insurance. Socioeconomic challenges such as poverty and lower parental education further limit their access to needed services.



Additional barriers such as racial and ethnic disparities, insurance-related difficulties, reluctance among some dentists to provide care, and uneven geographic distribution of dental care further widen these gaps. The prevalence of intellectual disabilities is disproportionately higher among boys, older children, and Black non-Hispanic youth. This underscores how demographic and economic factors converge to create persistent inequities in dental access.

## ORAL HEALTH CHALLENGES: COMMON ISSUES FACED BY CHILDREN WITH NDDS

Children with NDDs face a broad range of oral health challenges resulting from medical, developmental, behavioral, and socioeconomic factors. Poor oral hygiene is common due to cognitive and motor impairments that limit their ability to perform self-care and increase dependence on caregivers—who may themselves experience stress,

time constraints, or limited oral-health literacy. Conditions such as palsy, sensory-based oral aversion, and reduced oral clearance contribute to persistent dental plaque, caries, chronic erosion, periodontitis, and gingivitis. Medical factors including xerostomia from medications, chronic administration of sugary drinks, gastroesophageal reflux, and enamel hypoplasia, further elevate caries and erosion risk. Many children also present with congenital or developmental dental anomalies such as hypodontia, malocclusion, and weak enamel, combined with behaviors like bruxism, hyperactivity, self-injury, and seizures, which increase susceptibility to traumatic dental injuries. Research consistently shows that children with NDDs have higher plaque index (PI) and gingival index (GI) scores, indicating more significant periodontal disease. These challenges are often intensified by limited cooperation during dental procedures, leading to delayed care, fragmented preventive services, and reliance on sedation or general anesthesia for routine treatment. Additional barriers such as communication difficulties, provider reluctance, financial constraints, and the uneven availability of dental professionals experienced in treating these patients further compromise timely, comprehensive, and equitable oral health care for this population.

## **CREATING COMFORT: WHAT WE CAN DO BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER DENTAL VISITS**

Children can be prepared through graduated exposure, visual supports like picture schedules or social stories, and modeling through videos or peers. Parents can help at home with routine

practice and an individualized care plan. During the visit, comfort is increased by using positive reinforcement, simple countdowns, and breaking the procedures into small steps using task analysis and gentle prompting. Modeling, predictable routines, and sensory friendly adjustments like dimming lights and lowering noises also help reduce anxiety. When appropriate, providers may use careful extinction-based strategies to manage avoidance or resistance. After the visit, praising the child's effort and continuing brief practice at home reinforces success and builds confidence for future appointments. These measures can be used alone or in combination with others to provide a comprehensive care plan.

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# CONGRATULATIONS TO NEWLY ELECTED AAPD BOARD DISTRICT TRUSTEES

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Elisa Velazquez, newly elected Northeastern District Trustee, and Dr. Reza Ardalan, newly elected Southeastern District Trustee, whose terms will commence in May 2026.



**Elisa Velazquez**

**NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT TRUSTEE**

Dr. Elisa Velazquez is a board-certified pediatric dentist and owner of Ocean Pediatric Dental Associates, a three-location practice

serving families throughout Ocean County, New Jersey. With more than two decades of clinical and leadership experience, she is recognized for her commitment to delivering high-quality, compassionate care to children and patients with special healthcare needs.

Velazquez is an active leader in organized dentistry, having served as Immediate Past President of both the New Jersey Dental Association and the New Jersey Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. She currently serves as President of the New Jersey Chapter of the Hispanic Dental Association and Chair of the New Jersey Dental PAC. In addition, she is Treasurer of Dental Lifeline Network, supporting access to care for vulnerable populations. Her professional focus includes advocacy, mentorship, and advancing the pediatric dental profession through service and leadership.



**Reza Ardalan**

**SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT TRUSTEE**

Dr. Reza Ardalan is a pediatric dentist and owner of Ardalan Pediatric Dentistry in Port St. Lucie, Florida. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, his dental degree from Nova Southeastern University, and completed his pediatric dentistry specialty training through Nova Southeastern and Miami Children's Hospital.

His clinical practice emphasizes compassionate, patient-centered care and long-term community relationships.

Ardalan has held numerous leadership roles in organized dentistry, including President of the Florida Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and the Southeastern Society of Pediatric Dentistry. Nationally, he has served as Chair of the AAPD Communications Committee and on the Councils on Continuing Education and Scientific Programming. A graduate of the Kellogg Leadership Institute, he also serves as an AAPD media spokesperson and has been the emcee the AAPD Annual Session Opening Ceremony, supporting member engagement and professional connection.

# WELCOMING INCOMING AAPD PRESIDENT



**Carlos A. Bertot**  
**PRESIDENT**

Dr. Carlos “Charlie” Bertot earned his dental degree from the University of Florida, College of Dentistry in 1992, and his certificate in pediatric dentistry from the

University of Kentucky, Albert B. Chandler Medical Center in 1994. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry and a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. Bertot is a graduate of the AAPD Leadership Institute at the Kellogg School of Business, Northwestern University and the AAPD Advanced Leadership Institute at the Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania.

Bertot has been involved with organized dentistry since his days in dental school. In addition to his membership and leadership service to multiple dental organizations, he is a past president of the Florida Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and has served AAPD at the council/committee and board level. A past Parliamentarian and former Trustee for AAPD, Bertot is the managing partner of a pediatric dental practice with two locations in the Orlando, Fla., area.

Together with his wife, he enjoys spending time with family, traveling, and staying fit. Bertot is most proud of his three children. His son is a dentist and physician, specializing in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. His oldest daughter is a physician specializing in ophthalmology, and his youngest daughter is pursuing a graduate degree in mental health counseling.

# WELCOMING INCOMING AAPD PARLIAMENTARIAN



**Jessica Robertson**  
**PARLIAMENTARIAN**

Dr. Jessica Robertson is a board-certified pediatric dentist and practice owner. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Bioengineering from Arizona State Uni-

versity, her Doctor of Dental Medicine degree from Oregon Health & Science University, and her specialty certificate in pediatric dentistry from UCLA. In 2009, she and her husband founded Around the Mountain Pediatric Dentistry in Flagstaff, which has since expanded to additional locations in Cottonwood and Lakeside.

Robertson has been actively involved in organized dentistry for more than two decades. She currently serves as Arizona’s Public Policy Advocate for the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and is Past Chair of the American Dental Association’s Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention. Her leadership roles within the Arizona Dental Association include President, Immediate Past President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Delegate to the ADA. She has also chaired the AAPD Council on Government Affairs and has been recognized with honors including the AzDA President’s Award and Dentist of the Year.

Robertson has published research in dental materials and has presented at professional meetings. She is committed to service through programs such as Give Kids a Smile, Mission of Mercy, TeamSmile, and Global Dental Relief. She and her husband enjoy working together to grow their practice and supporting their children’s academic and athletic pursuits.



# AAPD NOMINATIONS 2026



**Jacob K. Lee**  
**PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Dr. Jacob Lee earned his DDS from the University of Toronto. He completed his dental internship at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto and earned

his diploma in pediatric dentistry at the University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry. Lee has held academic appointments at Loma Linda University, the University of Minnesota, the University of the Pacific, and, most recently, as an adjunct clinical associate professor at USC Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry.

He is a graduate of the AAPD Leadership and the Advanced Leadership Institutes and has served on numerous committees and councils, including as a member of the editorial board of Pediatric Dentistry, the chair of the Graduate Students Research Awards, and coordinator of the academicians meeting at the AAPD Annual Sessions. He serves as AAPD Vice President, co-chair of the Safety SIG on Little Teeth Chat, and is the Chair of the Council on Annual Session for 2026.

Lee has served as the president of the California Society of Pediatric Dentistry and the AAPD Western District trustee. He is a Fellow of the AAPD, the American College of Dentists, the International College of Dentists, and the Pierre Fauchard Academy. He received the AAPD Merle C. Hunter Leadership Award in 2024.

As a Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry and a Fellow of the Royal College of Dentists of Canada, Lee volunteers as an examiner for the Oral Clinical Examinations. Lee is in private practice with his son, a pediatric dentist, in San Clemente and Rancho Mission Viejo, Calif.



**Angela M. Stout**  
**VICE-PRESIDENT**

Dr. Angela M. Stout is a pediatric dentist in private practice in Erdenheim, Pa., and a Clinical Assistant Professor at Temple University's Kornberg School of

Dentistry. She earned her D.M.D. from Temple in 1993, completed her pediatric residency at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh in 1996, and later earned a Master's in Public Health from the University of Pittsburgh.

A passionate advocate for child abuse prevention, Stout has chaired the Pennsylvania Dental Association's P.A.N.D.A. Coalition and leads training for the state's child abuse license certification course. She serves as the dentist for the School District of Springfield Township and holds staff positions at several hospitals, including the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Saint Christopher's Hospital for Children.

An award-winning dentist, Stout has been named Philadelphia Magazine's Top Dentist from 2010–2025. She is a Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry and a Fellow in multiple prestigious dental organizations. She has held leadership roles within the AAPD, including as Northeast District Trustee and Vice President of the Pennsylvania Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

A graduate of leadership programs at Northwestern's Kellogg School and Penn's Wharton School, Stout received the 2023 AAPD Merle C. Hunter Leadership Award and the Temple University Kornberg Alumni Association Award for Education. She enjoys time with family and friends, especially at the beach in Ocean City, N.J., and cheering on Penn State football.



**James R. Boynton**  
**SECRETARY-TREASURER**

Dr. James Boynton is Clinical Professor at the University of Michigan where he serves as Pediatric Dentistry Program Director. Dr. Boynton is a board-certified pediatric dentist with an active private practice in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He has co-authored 50 publications, 5 book chapters, and has served as principal investigator on two federally-funded projects to improve pre-doctoral and graduate pediatric dentistry training. He has mentored over 40 graduate student thesis projects and given many presentations to local, national, and international audiences. He has served nationally as Vice Chair of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry Qualifying Examination, on the Commission on Dental Accreditation Pediatric Dentistry Review Committee, as Trustee and Parliamentarian of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, and served as expert consultant to State agencies and private law.



**Ronald H. Hsu**  
**FEDERAL AT-LARGE TRUSTEE**

Dr. Ronald H. Hsu is a board-certified pediatric dentist and owner of Storybook Dental in Camas, Washington. He earned his D.D.S. from the University of Washington School of Dentistry and his M.S. and certificate in Pediatric Dentistry from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Hsu is a Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry and a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, the Pierre Fauchard Academy, and the American College of Dentists.

He currently serves as Chair of the AAPD Council on Continuing Education and has been a member of the Pediatric Dentistry Editorial Board since 2007. He also serves as Western Trustee and Chair of the Ethics Committee for the Foundation of the College of Diplomates of the ABPD.

An Affiliate Assistant Professor at the University of Washington, Hsu lectures nationally on minimally invasive dentistry, trauma management, and practice leadership, directing two AAPD Annual Session pre-conference courses. Active in organized dentistry, he is Past President of the Clark County Dental Society, past Board Member of the Washington State Dental Association, serves on the Delta Dental of Washington Member Advisory Panel, and is County Champion for Washington's Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (ABCD) Program, promoting oral-health access for children in public-health and Medicaid systems. A Fellow of the Pierre Fauchard Academy and the American College of Dentists, Hsu has been recognized for leadership in ethics, education, and community service. He lives in Brush Prairie with his family and remains active in local education initiatives through the Hockinson Schools Foundation and Citizens Advisory Committee for the Hockinson School District.



## Homa Amini ABPD DIRECTOR

Dr. Homa Amini is a Professor-Clinical at The Ohio State University and an Attending Pediatric Dentist at Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. She

is a Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry and a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. Amini earned her DDS and MPH degrees from The Ohio State University and completed her pediatric dentistry specialty training at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Amini has held academic and clinical leadership roles including Postdoctoral Program Director at The Ohio State University and Chief of the Section of Pediatric Dentistry at Nationwide Children’s Hospital. Her service to the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry includes leadership positions

on the Qualifying Examination Subcommittee and Program Directors Committee, as well as serving as an Oral Clinical Examination examiner.

She has also served as a CODA consultant and held multiple leadership roles within AAPD, including Academic Trustee and Chair of the Predoctoral Education Council. Her research focuses on maternal and child oral health, pediatric oral health disparities, and improving access to care for underserved populations, supported by funding from the Ohio Department of Health and Ohio Department of Medicaid.

Outside of her professional work, Amini enjoys spending time with family and friends, visiting metro parks, traveling, and trying new and diverse cuisines.

### Earn Credit with the AAPD Journal CE Program on Education Passport



The 2026 Journal-Based Continuing Education program is open for registration!

The program is available through AAPD's Education Passport. A full year—six (6) issues and up to 24 Credit hours, and it costs **only \$120**.

When you purchase the Journal CE program, you will be able to log on to take the tests and receive your CE verification immediately. Plus, your CE credits will be stored in Education Passport so you can easily retrieve them for your license, Board, or AAPD Fellowship renewal process.

Each test will become available when the respective journal issue is mailed. They will remain active and available for up to three years.



# NOTICE TO ACTIVE AND LIFE MEMBERS

## CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT BEFORE THE 2026 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

This amendment will be considered the AAPD Annual Session in Las Vegas, Nev., during the Reference Committee hearings and the General Assembly.

*Note to readers: All line numbers reference the current AAPD Constitution and Bylaws as posted on the AAPD website.*

Strikethrough words are to be removed; **bold underlined** words are to be added.

### MODIFICATION OF FOREIGN CHAPTER TERMINOLOGY AND DELETION OF GRANDFATHERED CHAPTERS LISTING

The following proposed amendment to the AAPD Bylaws was requested by the AAPD Board of Trustees, formulated by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees at their Jan. 23, 2026, meeting for transmittal to the AAPD General Assembly.

#### BACKGROUND AND INTENT

At-Large Trustee Dr. Elizabeth Gosnell, who serves as liaison to international members, recommended to the Board of Trustees that Foreign Chapters be renamed as International, and that the grandfathered chapters currently listed be removed. The rationale for the first change is that “International” is a more commonly accepted and friendlier-sounding term than “Foreign”. The rationale for the second change is that as AAPD expands internationally, details about grandfathered and currently recognized international chapters can be better updated and maintained via a process described in the Administrative Policy and Procedure Manual rather than the Bylaws.

The Board approved a motion to refer these recommendations to Constitution and Bylaws Committee for drafting, as noted above.

### PROPOSED AMENDMENT

The Bylaws would be amended as follows:

- 1040 **CHAPTER VIII. RECOGNIZED FOREIGN COUNTRY INTERNATIONAL CHAPTERS**
- 1041 Section 1. **DESCRIPTION:**
- 1042 A. In addition to the District and State Organizations described in
- 1043 Chapters VI and VII, the AAPD shall also have recognized **international** chapters
- 1044 based in and representing foreign countries.
- 1045 B. Such foreign-country **international** chapters shall be independent, duly
- 1046 incorporated, non-profit organizations governed by an adopted
- 1047 constitution and bylaws which shall not be in conflict with or limit the
- 1048 Constitution and Bylaws of the Academy, and shall be in good
- 1049 standing as a non-profit organization in their country.
- 1050 Section 2. **PURPOSE:** An foreign **international** chapter shall:
- 1051 A. Facilitate communications between that country's pediatric
- 1052 dentists and the AAPD Board of Trustees.
- 1053 B. Provide educational opportunities for its members.
- 1054 C. Advocate for the improvement of the oral health of children
- 1055 in their country.
- 1056 Section 3. **DUTIES:** An foreign **international** chapter shall:
- 1057 A. Promote AAPD continuing education courses, including the
- 1058 annual session.
- 1059 B. Assist the AAPD in the recruitment and retention of dentists
- 1060 eligible for AAPD international or international colleague
- 1061 membership who practice or reside in their country.
- 1062 C. Provide an annual report to the AAPD membership on activities
- 1063 of the chapter.

1064 Section 4. **MEMBERSHIP:**

1065 A. The chapter shall determine its membership categories and  
1066 eligibility as it deems appropriate, including dues level.

1067 B. Any AAPD international member residing or practicing in the  
1068 country of the foreign **international** chapter shall be eligible  
for membership in  
1069 such chapter.

1070 Section 5. **PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION:**

1071 A. The following foreign country pediatric dental organizations  
are

1072 designated as chapters so long as criteria described in this  
chapter

1073 continues to be met: Canadian Academy of Pediatric Dentistry;  
1074 Korean Academy of Pediatric Dentistry; and Mexican Academy  
of  
1075 Pediatric Dentistry.

~~1076~~ B. An application for a recognized foreign **international** chap-  
ter shall be

1077 submitted to the AAPD Board of Trustees. Chapter status shall  
be

1078 granted by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees, **based  
on criteria described in the *Administrative Policy and Procedure  
Manual*.**

There is also a proposed change to allow more flexibility in the determination of International member dues, in order to provide incentives for a Foreign/International chapter to recruit members in this category. This also mirrors the flexibility accorded in setting dues for International Colleague members. The Board believes this flexibility is also appropriate for the other membership categories listed in the applicable paragraph.

1176 **CHAPTER XI. FINANCES**

1177 Section 1. **DUES:**

1184 B. International, Associate, Affiliate, and Friends of Pediatric

1185 Dentistry members shall pay annual dues equal ~~to~~ **at a rate determined by the Board of Trustees, not to exceed** to fifty percent

1186 (50%) of an Active member's dues.

## ERRATA

In the Q4 2025 *PDT* article concerning the 2025 ADA House of Delegates (p. 43), Dr. Brianna Muñoz (Suffield, Conn.) was mistakenly listed as an Alternate Delegate for ADA's 1st District. Dr. Muñoz was a Delegate.



**Register Early for AAPD 2026**  
**Early Pricing deadline: April 1, 2026**

# COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT LONG-TERM CARE AND HOW MUCH THEY MAY COST YOU

Contributed by

Treloar & Heisel, LLC

Long-term Care (LTC) is a crucial aspect of financial and health planning, yet many people misunderstand how it works. These misconceptions can lead to costly mistakes, leaving individuals and families unprepared for future needs. In this blog, we'll break down what LTC is, who needs it, and debunk some of the most common myths that can lead to financial hardship.

## WHAT IS LONG-TERM CARE, AND WHO NEEDS IT?

Long-term care encompasses a range of services designed to help people with chronic illnesses, disabilities, or aging-related conditions. These services can include assistance with daily activities such as bathing, dressing, eating, and mobility. Care can be provided in various settings, including nursing homes, assisted living facilities, home care, or adult day care centers.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, approximately 70% of people over the age of 65 will require some form of long-term care in their lifetime. Despite this high probability, many individuals fail to plan for LTC, assuming they will never need it.

## DOES HEALTH INSURANCE COVER LONG-TERM CARE?

One of the biggest misconceptions is that standard health insurance policies cover long-term care. Most health insurance plans, including employer-sponsored insurance, do **not** cover custodial care, which makes up the majority of long-term care.

## WHAT ABOUT MEDICARE?

Medicare offers **very limited coverage** for Long-term care. It may cover **short-term** skilled nursing care or rehabilitation after a hospital stay, but it does **not** pay for ongoing assistance with daily living activities. This means that **Medicare should not be relied upon as a primary source of long-term care coverage.**



## WHAT ABOUT MEDICAID? WHEN WOULD MEDICAID PAY FOR LTC?

Medicaid is a government program that **does** cover long-term care, but there's a catch: it is only available to those with very low income and assets. Many individuals have to deplete their savings to qualify for Medicaid-funded long-term care. Additionally, Medicaid may restrict the type of care and facilities available, limiting personal choices.

## DOES MY DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE COVER LTC?

Disability income insurance replaces lost income if you're unable to work due to a disability, but it does not typically cover long-term care. This is another common misconception—people assume that because they have disability insurance, they're financially covered if they need LTC. In reality, LTC expenses fall outside the scope of most disability insurance policies.

Disability income insurance replaces lost income if you're unable to work due to a disability. As-

suming that you are disabled under the terms of your disability insurance policy, monthly benefit payments could be used to pay long-term care expenses. However, the need for long-term care services may occur after you have retired and no longer have disability insurance coverage.

## HOW CAN I GET COVERAGE FOR ASSISTED LIVING, HOME CARE, OR ADULT DAY CARE?

One viable solution to prepare for long-term care expenses is through long-term care insurance (LTCI). These policies help cover the costs of assisted living, nursing homes, home health aides, and adult day care services.

## COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT LONG-TERM CARE

Here are the most common misconceptions we encounter about long-term care:

### 1. **Denial: "I Won't Need Long-term care"**

Many people believe that long-term care is something only others will need. However, statistics show that about 70% of Americans over 65 will require LTC at some point. Ignor-

ing this reality can lead to severe financial and emotional stress when the need arises unexpectedly.

## 2. “I’ll Self-Insure; Paying for LTC Insurance is a Waste of Money”

Some individuals assume they can pay out of pocket for long-term care. However, the costs are staggering:

- The average cost of a private room in a nursing home is over \$100,000 per year (*Genworth Cost of Care Survey, 2023*).
- Home health aide services can exceed \$50,000 per year (*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*).
- The average length of care needed is about 3 years, which can result in costs exceeding \$300,000 or more (*National Institute on Aging*).
- Without LTC insurance, many families find themselves depleting their savings, selling assets, or relying on loved ones for support.



## 3. “My Kids or Other Family Members Will Take Care of Me”

While family members often provide care for loved ones, this assumption places an enormous emotional, physical, and financial burden on them. Caregiving can be demanding, leading to stress, lost wages, and even career sacrifices. Planning for professional long-term care ensures that your family is not overwhelmed by the responsibility.

### SUMMING IT UP: DON'T FALL INTO THE COSTLY TRAP OF THINKING IT WON'T HAPPEN TO YOU

Failing to prepare for long-term care can lead to financial instability, emotional stress, and limited care options when the need arises. Misconceptions about long-term care—whether it’s believing you won’t need it, assuming you can self-insure, or expecting family to provide care—can result in significant financial burdens and drained savings.

LTC insurance exists to mitigate these risks, ensuring that you have affordable and high-quality care options when the time comes. Without it, you may find yourself depleting your hard-earned assets, limiting your care choices, or placing an unintentional burden on your loved ones.

The best way to protect yourself and your family is to start planning today. Speak with a financial advisor or insurance specialist to explore your options and secure a plan that provides peace of mind for the future.



Treloar & Heisel, an EPIC Company, is a financial services provider to dental and medical professionals across the country. We assist thousands of clients from residency through retirement and strive to deliver the highest level of service with custom-tailored advice and a strong national network.

TH-25-018



# Strategic Planning: Listening, Learning, and Looking Ahead



As part of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry’s (ABPD) ongoing commitment to serve Diplomates and strengthen our specialty, ABPD recently completed a comprehensive review to inform our next four-year strategic plan. Our aim was simple: listen carefully, understand the evolving needs of pediatric dentists, and ensure that ABPD continues to reflect the values and realities of the profession we serve.

We partnered with a consulting firm to conduct in-depth interviews with key stakeholders and focus groups representing recent Diplomates and members of the ABPD Examination Committees. Participants came from a range of practice settings—private practice, academia, hospitals, and from leadership roles within ABPD, the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD), and the College of Diplomates. Their insights were candid, thoughtful, and deeply appreciated. This process provided us with a clearer view of how pediatric dentists

experience board certification and how ABPD can better support them.

Several themes emerged through this process. Diplomates overwhelmingly see board certification as a meaningful marker of excellence, yet many voiced concerns about barriers such as cost, travel, variable residency

## The voices of our Diplomates continue to guide our evolution.

preparation, and limited mentorship for new graduates. Others expressed a desire for greater connection with ABPD after certification and more opportunities to engage, contribute, and build community. We also heard strong interest in modernizing our systems, particularly around software, technology, and responsible integration of AI to support efficiency while preserving the integrity of our

assessments.

This feedback is shaping our strategic direction.

In the months ahead, we will share our plan, with focus on improving communication, enhancing support for Candidates and Diplomates, strengthening partnerships with AAPD, and investing in tools and processes that reflect the way pediatric dentists learn and practice today. Above all, we remain committed to ensuring that our initial and continuing certification processes are fair, relevant, and reflective of the highest standards of pediatric oral health.

The voices of our Diplomates continue to guide our evolution. We are grateful for the insight you provide and the trust you place in ABPD as we move our organization forward.

Steve K. Rayes, DDS, MS  
Secretary  
American Board of Pediatric Dentistry



Join us at AAPD 2026 in Las Vegas as we celebrate our 2025 New Diplomates at our Recognition Ceremony.

Watch our social media channels for details!



Visit our blog to find out our latest news including our latest Diplomates, a wrap up of 2025 volunteers, and more!

# AAPD Urges CMS to Hire New Chief Dental Officer

## ADVOCACY NEWS

AAPD advocates for dental funding, Medicaid reform, and access to care.

Pediatric Dentist Dr. Natalia Chalmers recently announced her resignation as Chief Dental Officer (CDO) for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Dr. Chalmers, recipient of the 2025 AAPD Pediatric Dentist of the Year Award, led several important initiatives since 2021 to improve dental services under Medicaid and Medicare.

- Adoption of the HCPCS G0330 dental rehabilitation facility fee code for dental OR cases;
- Coverage of medically necessary oral health procedures under Medicare (dental services inextricably linked to other covered medical services, such as dental exams and necessary treatments prior to organ transplants, cardiac valve replacements, and valvuloplasty procedures, and head and neck cancers);
- Implementation of an Oral Health Cross Cutting Initiative to improve access to dental services, promote preventive care and cultivate partnerships;
- Modernization to allow CMS to accept, process and pay dental claims electronically.

Dr. Chalmers announced she will be joining Overjet as Head of Clinical Innovation.

The AAPD and the Organized Dentistry Coalition (of which AAPD is a founding member), plus the American Academy of Pediatrics, wrote to the CMS Administrator on Nov. 21, 2025, requesting that CMS:

1. Move expeditiously to recruit and appoint a new Chief Dental Officer with a DDS/DMD degree and substantial clinical, policy, and leadership experience in dentistry and oral health;
2. Maintain the CDO as a senior, agency-wide position within the Office of the Administrator, with clear authority and responsibility to advise CMS leadership on all matters affecting oral health across centers and offices; and
3. Provide the CDO with appropriate staff support and cross-center coordination mechanisms, so that oral health perspectives are systematically incorporated into rulemaking, guidance, demonstrations, oversight activities, and stakeholder engagement.

Read the full letter at <https://www.aapd.org/globalassets/cms-cdo-coalition-support-letter.pdf>.

## Celebrating the 2025 AAPD PAC Founders Club Members

The AAPD PAC is proud to recognize the inaugural class of **Founders Club** members—a distinguished giving category established to honor extraordinary leadership and generosity in support of pediatric oral health advocacy. These members, each contributing at the \$5,000 level, exemplify a deep commitment to advancing the mission and impact of the AAPD PAC. Their collective support strengthens the Academy’s voice on Capitol Hill and helps ensure a healthier future for children nationwide.

- **Dr. Karyl Jean Beauchamp** (Tennessee, South-eastern District)
- **Dr. Ann M. Bynum** (South Carolina, Southeast-ern District)
- **Dr. John L. Gibbons** (Washington, Western District)
- **Dr. Hakan O. Koymen** (Maryland, Northeast-ern District)
- **Dr. Jacob K. Lee** (California, Western District)
- **Dr. Donald C. Schmitt** (California, Western District)
- **Dr. Jason Zimmerman** (Texas, Southwestern District)

## The Simmons Cup

| District      | Hard Dollars        | Soft Dollars       | Total Contributors | \$/Contributor  | Patriot Level+ |
|---------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| NorthCentral  | \$36,346.00         | \$18,001.00        | 173                | \$314.14        | 11             |
| Northeastern  | \$25,715.00         | \$12,860.00        | 128                | \$301.37        | 7              |
| Southeastern  | \$32,791.00         | \$22,800.00        | 162                | \$343.15        | 10             |
| Southwestern  | \$15,209.00         | \$20,600.00        | 123                | \$291.13        | 6              |
| Western       | \$33,851.00         | \$19,345.00        | 137                | \$388.29        | 10             |
| <b>TOTALS</b> | <b>\$143,912.00</b> | <b>\$93,606.00</b> | <b>723</b>         | <b>\$327.41</b> | <b>44</b>      |

**TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS \$237,518.00**

**Congratulations to the NorthCentral Team Captain/PAC District Representative, Dr. Naila Farooq, and the NorthCentral District on being awarded the Simmons Cup for raising the most PAC hard dollars among the districts in 2025!**

This recognition honors a district’s outstanding contributions to advocacy in support of optimal oral health for all children. During the calendar year, the NorthCentral District demonstrated exceptional leadership and engagement, generating

more than **\$54,000 in total PAC contributions** from **173 contributors**, the highest number of contributors among all districts.

The Simmons Cup, created in honor of Dr. Heber Simmons, Jr., will be presented at the AAPD 2026 General Assembly, where the NorthCentral team will have the honor of “hoisting the Cup.”

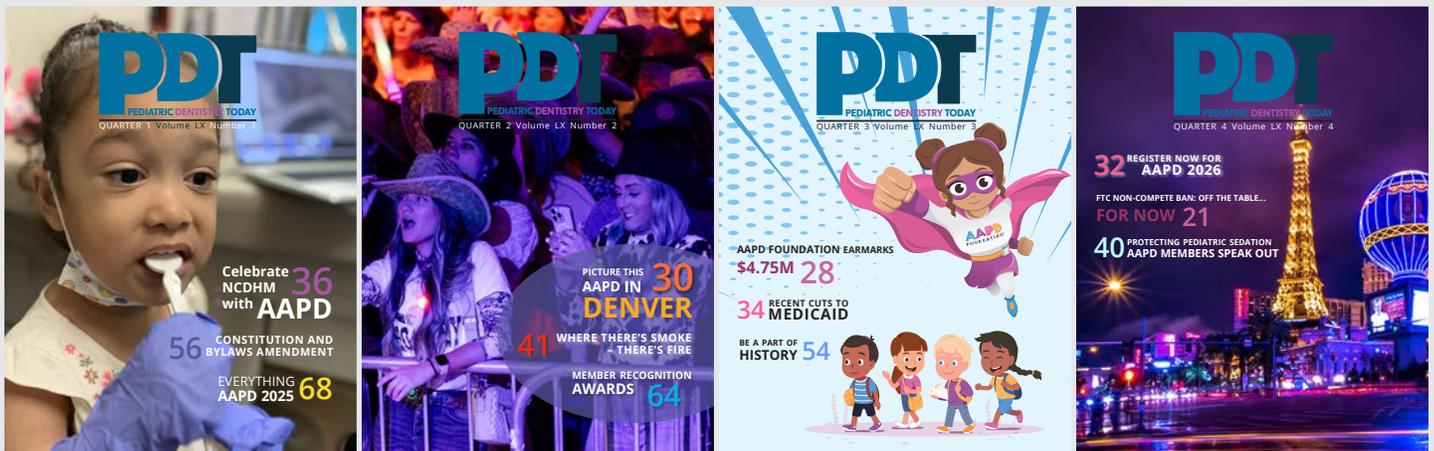
Thank you for your dedication, leadership, and commitment to advancing pediatric oral health advocacy.

# FY 2025 HRSA TITLE VII POSTDOCTORAL DENTAL TRAINING GRANTS

| Grantee Name                                   | Focus   | City           | State | FY 2025 -1 <sup>st</sup> year of funding |
|--|---|----------------|-------|--|
| MARICOPA COUNTY SPECIAL HEALTH CARE DISTRICT   | General Dentistry   | Phoenix        | AZ    | \$450,000                                |
| ASIAN HEALTH SERVICES                          | General Dentistry   | Alameda        | CA    | \$450,000                                |
| UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES          | Pediatric Dentistry   | Los Angeles    | CA    | \$450,000                                |
| UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO        | General Dentistry<br>Dental Public Health                               | San Francisco  | CA    | \$449,924                                |
| DENVER HEALTH AND HOSPITAL AUTHORITY           | Pediatric Dentistry   | Denver         | CO    | \$430,666                                |
| HOWARD UNIVERSITY                              | Pediatric Dentistry   | Washington, DC | DC    | \$449,923                                |
| COLLIER HEALTH SERVICES INC                    | Pediatric Dentistry   | Immokalee      | FL    | \$450,000                                |
| SCOTTISH RITE CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER, INC.  | Pediatric Dentistry   | Atlanta        | GA    | \$345,290                                |
| UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS                         | Pediatric Dentistry   | Chicago        | IL    | \$450,000                                |
| UNIVERSITY OF IOWA                             | Dental Public Health  | Iowa City      | IA    | \$240,905                                |
| TUFTS COLLEGE                                  | General Dentistry<br><b>Pediatric Dentistry</b>                         | Boston         | MA    | \$449,519                                |
| BOSTON UNIVERSITY                              | <b>Pediatric Dentistry</b><br>Dental Public Health                      | Boston         | MA    | \$449,819                                |
| HARVARD COLLEGE                                | General Dentistry<br>Dental Public Health                               | Boston         | MA    | \$435,347                                |
| UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN                         | Pediatric Dentistry   | Ann Arbor      | MI    | \$411,391                                |
| SWOPE HEALTH SERVICES                          | General Dentistry   | Kansas City    | MO    | \$450,000                                |
| NEW YORK CITY HEALTH AND HOSPITALS CORPORATION | General Dentistry<br>Dental Public Health                               | Bronx          | NY    | \$450,000                                |
| ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER                     | General Dentistry   | Buffalo        | NY    | \$450,000                                |
| UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER                        | General Dentistry<br>Dental Public Health                               | Rochester      | NY    | \$427,283                                |
| COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY                            | <b>Pediatric Dentistry</b><br>General Dentistry<br>Dental Public Health | New York       | NY    | \$450,000                                |

| Grantee Name   | Focus   | City          | State | FY 2025 -1 <sup>st</sup> year of funding |
|--|---|---------------|-------|--|
| NEW YORK UNIVERSITY                                      | <b>Pediatric Dentistry</b><br>General Dentistry<br>Dental Public Health | New York      | NY    | \$449,910                                |
| EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY                                 | General Dentistry<br><b>Pediatric Dentistry</b>                         | Greenville    | NC    | \$445,334                                |
| METROHEALTH SYSTEM                                       | General Dentistry   | Cleveland     | OH    | \$450,000                                |
| OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY                                    | Pediatric Dentistry   | Columbus      | OH    | \$450,000                                |
| UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA                                   | Pediatric Dentistry   | Oklahoma City | OK    | \$440,530                                |
| UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH                                 | General Dentistry   | Pittsburgh    | PA    | \$76,820                                 |
| UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA                               | General Dentistry   | Philadelphia  | PA    | \$450,000                                |
| WELLSPAN HEALTH  | General Dentistry   | York          | PA    | \$444,484                                |
| UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT SAN ANTONIO | General Dentistry<br><b>Pediatric Dentistry</b>                         | San Antonio   | TX    | \$449,999                                |
| CARILION MEDICAL CENTER                                  | General Dentistry<br><b>Pediatric Dentistry</b>                         | Roanoke       | VA    | \$449,999                                |

## PDT READER SURVEY



We'd love to hear your feedback on the updates the *PDT* Magazine over the past year. Scan the QR code for a 3 – 5 minute survey.



# DSO AFFILIATION: CONSIDERATIONS FOR A SELLING PEDIATRIC DENTIST – PART 1

By Cheryl H. DeVore, Cheryl A. Cameron, and C. Scott Litch

## Introduction

There continues to be growth in the number of pediatric dental practices that are affiliated with Dental Support Organizations (DSO). It was reported that 15% of pediatric dental practices were affiliated with a DSO in 2024 as compared with 13% in 2023 and 11% in 2022.<sup>1</sup> Making the decision to sell a pediatric dental practice to a DSO should be done with thoughtful consideration and deliberation. It will be a life-changing decision and the ramifications can be both positive and negative. With careful planning, preparation, and execution the outcome of such a sale can be good for the pediatric dentist (“Seller”) both professionally and personally and good for the practice. This two-part article will present the essential start-to-finish considerations and steps the Seller of a pediatric dental practice should plan on when contemplating a DSO affiliation.

Part 1 focuses on the importance of identifying the Seller’s goals for sale, determining if a DSO buyer can align with those goals, having realistic expectations about the outcomes of the sale both for the Seller personally and the practice, and strategically preparing the practice for sale.

Part 2 will focus on topics associated with executing a sale. Attention to this comprehensive overview of considerations will support a sale that likely ends in a better result and leads to greater satisfaction with the sale for both the Seller and the DSO buyer.

## Planning for the Sale

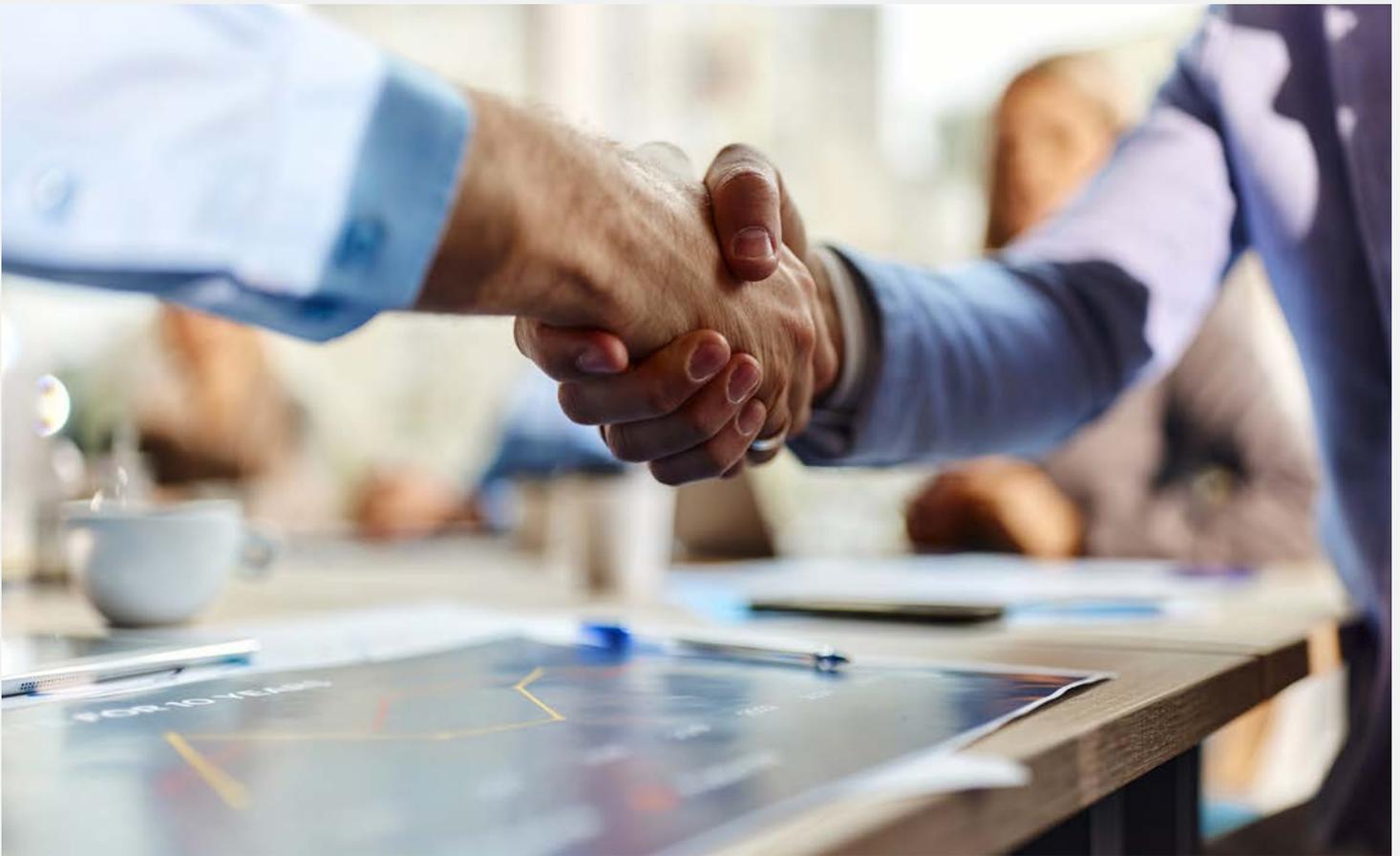
### ESTABLISHING SELLER’S PURPOSE AND GOALS FOR THE SALE OF THEIR PEDIATRIC PRACTICE

A key requirement for any practice sale, but even more so with a DSO affiliation, is alignment of the Seller’s goals with the buyer’s goals. This alignment requires that the Seller start with a clear vision of the purpose and goals of the transaction. This requires the Seller to determine why the practice is being sold. For example, the sale could be because of Seller’s desire for:

1. immediate retirement with total departure from the practice, or
2. phased retirement (3 to 5 years) with a continued clinical or consultative role in the practice, or
3. capitalization for growth or enhanced non-clinical administrative support for the practice.

Once the purpose of the sale is clear, it is important to outline the goals, needs, and expectations of a sale – the must haves, desired but not required, and deal breakers – that align with the purpose and goals.

If immediate retirement is the reason for the sale, key considerations include the Seller’s timeline and financial goals. When considering the timeline, does the Seller have personal, family, or health issues that have some time dependency? The sale of a practice to a DSO buyer can be complex and time



consuming. How does the sale fit into the Seller's financial retirement planning. This is an important consideration because DSO buyers often do not pay the full purchase price at closing, but rather hold back some of the purchase price payment and pay the hold back portion only if the practice profitability markers warrant the payment. This can lead to the Seller not realizing the full financial payout on a sale. This may or may not be offset by the DSO buyer agreeing to pay a higher purchase price for the practice.

If phased retirement is the reason for the sale, key considerations include the Seller's employment and financial goals. When considering post-transaction employment, does the Seller expect their practice to continue more as-is after the sale (i.e., legacy practice)? If so, the DSO buyer may not be the right choice. Does the Seller need or want to work clinically post-closing? With a DSO buyer this will likely be a requirement and often for three or more years. However, the employment agreement will be subject to provisions that allow for termi-

nation of employment at the election of the buyer, which could be more likely with a DSO buyer if the Seller is not meeting production expectations and/or is not philosophically aligned with the DSO's practice operation. Another consideration with DSO employment is the likely reduction in compensation, but possible enhanced benefit package.

If capitalization for growth or enhanced non-clinical administrative support is the purpose of the sale, it is important to outline the Seller's operational (clinical and non-clinical), employment, and financial goals. If the Seller seeks to retain control of the practice and continue clinical practice, consideration could be given to the engagement of a DSO for administrative services through a management services agreement as opposed to a sale.<sup>2</sup>

Clarity of purpose and using that purpose as a guide throughout the process will structure the narrative, build credibility with potential buyers, and support more satisfactory results in the short- and long-term.<sup>3</sup>

## STRATEGIC STEPS TO PREPARE THE PEDIATRIC DENTAL PRACTICE FOR SALE

Preparing the pediatric dental practice for sale is essential and should be done strategically to optimize results. Often the planning process should begin years before a sale is executed in order to maximize the outcome and simplify the process of the sale. The following non-exhaustive list of strategic steps should be considered.

**Financial expectations of the sale.** A Seller should obtain a professional practice valuation from a reputable and experienced valuator in the industry.<sup>4</sup> If the *fair market value* (i.e., what a buyer is willing to pay in an open market without pressure to sell or buy)<sup>5</sup> of the practice does not meet the Seller's expectations or goals, the Seller will need to consider whether there is time to make operational changes that would meaningfully increase the practice's value. Examples of adjustments that may make the practice more marketable and desirable to a buyer include: adjusting fees, moving out of network with those third party payors having lower reimbursement rates (or renegotiating reimbursement rates), and increasing efficiencies through changes in scheduling or personnel.

### **Review outstanding practice debt and liens.**

Long-term debt will usually need to be paid off prior to the consummation of the practice sale. Resolving outstanding debt is important because the Seller will generally be required to warrant that all assets are sold "free and clear" of any liens and encumbrances. Long-term debt, as opposed to recurring monthly operational debt or trade payables such as payroll, rent, lab, and supply costs, can result in a lien being placed on practice assets to secure payment of the debt. For example, loans from practice renovation or equipment purchase, equipment leases, lines of credit, and judgements

against the practice (e.g., tax liens and judgements related to claims for workers compensation and unemployment benefits) are encumbrances that may result in a lien being placed on practice assets. The underlying debt will have to be paid in full for the lien to be released. Often Sellers are completely unaware that while the underlying debt was paid years prior to a sale and fully satisfied, the lien may persist on the public record. Legal counsel should assist a Seller in reviewing the public record for liens and encumbrances filed against practice assets and advise on the course of action for their removal.

**Facility lease considerations.** The terms of the Seller's facility lease will be of significant concern to a buyer. The Seller should have a valid written lease between the pediatric dental practice as the tenant and the landlord, whether an unrelated third-party landlord or a holding company owned by the Seller.

If the landlord is the Seller or related party (e.g., spouse) it is prudent to review whether the rent is fair market value for the location. Rent may have been established to specifically cover Seller's mortgage and associated costs and therefore may be greater than or under market value. Reviewing comparables for rent rates of similar real estate in reasonable proximity to the Seller's practice can be determined with the assistance of a real estate broker. Such a comparison should consider not only the location, size, and type of facility, but also the type of lease. The lease type and rent structure can result in significant variations in rent paid (e.g. gross, triple net, or modified gross leases). A gross or "full service" lease may include a higher singular rent set to cover certain related landlord expenses such as insurance, taxes, and maintenance, but not as a dollar-for-dollar coverage of all expenses. In contrast, a triple net lease (net-net-net) requires the tenant to pay a base rent plus additional rent

that includes all associated costs for maintaining and using the practice facility. If there are multiple tenants on the property, then each tenant pays their proportionate share. A modified gross lease is a hybrid of the gross and triple net leases.<sup>6,7</sup>

The Seller's tenancy interest in the current lease may be assigned or a new lease may be negotiated by the buyer. A major difference between these two options for the Seller is that buyer's execution of a new lease will end Seller's tenancy and associated obligations. Alternatively, an assignment of the Seller's lease to the buyer will often require the Seller to continue as a guarantor for tenant's performance under the lease for a specified period of time after the sale. The DSO, as a sophisticated buyer, will negotiate a new lease if commercially advantageous.

The Seller should decide whether the sale of owned real estate is a desired component of the practice sale. Considerations include how long the Seller wishes to retain ownership of the real estate and how it fits into the overall retirement goals. It may be advantageous to retain ownership of the real estate after the practice sells to ensure some recurring income. While a DSO buyer will likely require a reasonable lease just like any other buyer, the DSO may or may not be interested in purchasing Seller's real estate. A non-DSO buyer may have more interest in owning the real estate as a future investment and to control their rent rate and associated lease costs. If there is not an outright sale of the real estate, a separate contract providing for a future option to purchase the real estate (such as a buyer's right of first offer or first refusal) may be considered.<sup>8</sup>

**Staffing for the pediatric practice.** The Seller should be prepared to describe the culture of the practice including leadership and management style, employee engagement, and communication practices. Misalignment of organizational cultures between the practice and DSO could lead to untoward employment consequences such as personnel turnover and operational friction that result in under performance of the practice and failure to meet productivity goals.<sup>9</sup>

The Seller should prepare and keep an updated census report for all personnel, both front and back office staff, for a buyer's review. This should minimally include the name, date of hire, position held, rate of compensation, and benefits for each person. Additionally, it would be helpful to note if personnel are under written contracts or hired at-will, as provided for by state law.<sup>10</sup> Also identify if any personnel are engaged as independent contractors as opposed to employees of the practice.<sup>11</sup> Finally, it may be helpful to the buyer if contact information is provided, but only if the signed non-disclosure agreement (NDA) provides adequate protection against use of the information.

Prior to a sale, evaluate whether there are underperforming personnel who are not effectively contributing to the growth or overall productivity of the practice. If advised, make necessary personnel changes before beginning negotiations with a buyer. Key employees, like office managers or high producing associate dentists, need to be encouraged to stay and may need to be bonused or otherwise rewarded to ensure their continued commitment to the practice.

Securing dentist associates under written contracts that are assignable to a third party can be very desirable and often required by a DSO buyer. The Seller should seek legal advice as to the enforceability of including restrictive covenants in written contracts.<sup>12</sup>

**Compliance with federal and state laws affecting the practice and its operation.** The Seller will be asked to warrant the practice's compliance with all laws affecting its operation and conduct. Such laws include without limitation:

- Labor and employment law requirements under the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA") and applicable state law. This includes hiring practices, the classification of personnel, and matters related to their employment or hire, management, and separation.
- Patient health information requirements under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and applicable state law. This includes record content and retention, maintaining confidentiality of protected health information, and the transfer of that information (including a buyer's obligation to take custodial possession of the transferred records upon the sale of the practice).
- Practice requirements under state dental practice acts. This includes matters such as dentist and staff licensing, practice ownership requirements, delegation of duties and associated supervision, informed consent, patient termination, billing practices, advertising, and patient notification on sale.
- Financial requirements under federal and state law. Unclaimed funds or similar laws impact patient accounts and the refunding of patient credits. Compliance with tax laws, both federal and state, should be reviewed with the Seller's tax adviser as part of the preparation of the practice for sale.

**Review all existing practice contracts.** The Seller should identify all contracts affecting the practice, including those contracts in which the practice and/or pediatric dentist owner individually is a contracted party. In making this contract inventory,

inclusion of the commencement and termination dates of each contract is recommended. The Seller should maintain a fully executed copy of each contract. A non-exhaustive list of possible contracts include: third-party payor provider agreements, vendor agreements (e.g., IT, dental lab, equipment repair, postage machine, merchant service, janitorial, HVAC servicing, licensing contracts (e.g., dental software), staff contracts, leases for equipment or the practice facility), and credentialing arrangements with hospitals and or ambulatory surgery centers. It is important to review, for each contract, the limitations and obligations for the Seller and how they may impact the practice sale and if concerns can be addressed. For example, confirm whether the contracts are assumable by or transferable to the buyer. If not, options for early termination or a required buy-out of the remaining contract term need to be understood. Generally, a buyer will not assume any of the Seller's existing liabilities, which includes Seller's contracts, unless specifically negotiated. A DSO buyer will likely not want to assume Seller's contracts because it will already have access to many of the contracted services from its management team.

**Continue to maintain all practice assets.** The Seller should inventory, by category, all practice assets. The Seller should maintain all leasehold improvements and equipment in good working order in anticipation of a sale. Nonworking assets should be repaired if possible or otherwise disposed of and replaced as appropriate. The Seller should also maintain adequate insurance to be able to replace lost assets due to unexpected events, as the risk of loss runs with the Seller up to the closing and transfer of the Seller's assets to the buyer. Seller should also make certain that all patient records and files are complete and accurately reflect all treatment provided to each patient.

## Assembling your Professional Team

A team of knowledgeable and experienced advisors is essential for an efficient and effective transaction. The team should be committed to working collaboratively to guide the Seller in achieving their desired outcome. The following professionals should be included on the Seller's team:

An **Attorney** experienced in professional practice sales will be of greatest assistance to the Seller and should be engaged in the planning stage prior to the commencement of negotiations for sale. The attorney may take the primary role in facilitating interactions among the professional team members to support and complete the transaction. As a counselor, the Attorney helps the Seller maintain focus on their purpose, goals, needs, and priorities. It is advisable to have all legal documents prepared by or, if presented to the Seller, reviewed by Seller's attorney prior to Seller's execution of them which include without limitation: broker listing agreements, NDA's with professional team members and prospective buyers that include confidentiality provisions that survive the expiration of the NDA, letters of intent, purchase contracts, post-closing employment or independent contractor agreements, indemnification agreements, and assignment agreements. Such preparation or review of documents by Seller's attorney before they are signed helps to ensure the Seller is fully apprised of the meaning and appropriateness of the terms. In sales to a DSO, their attorney will often provide and present most if not all legal documents that support the transaction.

A **Financial adviser** familiar with the Seller's financial portfolio should be involved to advise on the impact of Seller's practice sale on such portfolio. Seller's financial adviser should be engaged in the planning stage of a sale and be included throughout the sale process. They should work collabora-

tively with the Seller's tax adviser to consider and advise as to the tax consequences of the sale and recommend strategies for Seller realizing the most financial benefit from the sale.

A **Tax adviser** experienced in professional practice acquisitions and sales should be engaged in the planning stage and continue throughout the sale process. In the planning stage, they can help minimize the tax implications that may result from the sale. For example, they may suggest a change in the legal structure of the practice (e.g., S-Corporation) to ensure a better financial and tax liability outcome.<sup>13, 14</sup> They can facilitate and prepare financial statements and provide requested tax returns for Seller's practice requested by a buyer. They can also be of great assistance in the price negotiation phase of the transaction and determination of the allocation of the purchase price for Seller's benefit.<sup>13</sup> The Seller should keep in mind that much of this requires preplanning and sufficient advance election and action before the practice is marketed. After the sale they will ensure that Seller's filed income tax returns properly report the purchase price allocation, so that Seller realizes the correct tax treatment for the net proceeds received.<sup>15</sup>

A **Broker or practice consultant**, preferably experienced in marketing and closing deals with DSO's, can be very helpful for marketing Seller's practice. Their marketing support can increase the Seller's practice exposure, expand the pool of interested buyers, assist in vetting potential buyers, and support negotiation and contract review. Broker fees are usually a percentage of the sale price whether paid at the time of closing or at a future date post-closing. Buyers and Sellers should not be represented by the same broker. The broker listing contract should be clear with a reasonable fee structure comparable to other brokers with similar focus and scope. Exclusions for buyers obtained outside of the listing agreement should be clearly expressed and the term of the listing engagement

specified. The listing contract should include provisions for its termination by either party. Additional terms may include (i) whether buyers introduced during the term of the listing engagement, but purchasing after the term ends, will invoke payment of the broker's fee and (ii) whether the listing engagement is exclusive so that no other broker may be engaged during its terms.

A **Practice valuator** should have proper credentials and experience with valuating professional practices including dentistry. Seller's other advisers will have recommendations for referrals. This adviser

will be engaged once the other advisers determine it is in the Seller's best interest to proceed and prior to marketing the practice.

A **Significant other or spouse** should be involved in the process since the sale of the practice likely impacts their lifestyle and future plans, whether or not they are a member of the practice team. It helps ensure that their expectations for the sale are recognized and met in conjunction with and as part of the Seller's goals. They can also provide support for the Seller to help ensure the Seller's personal goals are addressed.

## Summary

While a Seller's sale of their pediatric dental practice will be one of the most important transactions of their professional career, it can also be stressful and emotional, which can be elevated when negotiating with a sophisticated DSO buyer. Proper planning and engaging an experienced professional advising team can help manage, if not greatly reduce, the associated stress and ensure the best outcome for the Seller and the practice.

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Cheryl H. DeVore, M.S., J.D., is the senior partner at Thomas Law Group, and Faculty Emeritus of The Ohio State University's College of Dentistry (where she retired as the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs).

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*This column presents a general informational overview of legal issues. It is intended as general guidance rather than legal advice. It is not a substitute for consultation with your own attorney concerning specific circumstances in your dental practice. Mr. Litch does not provide legal representation to individual AAPD members.*



# OPPORTUNITIES

For information regarding placing a listing in PDT or Pediatric Dentistry please visit the AAPD Career Center at <http://jobs.aapd.org> or call (312) 337-2169.

## SEEKING PEDIATRIC DENTISTS

**ARIZONA—MESA.** A to Z Pediatric Dentistry, located in Mesa and Gilbert, Arizona, is seeking an Associate Pediatric Dentist to join our dynamic practice. We are dedicated to providing top-notch dental care for children, and we are looking for someone who is energetic, fun, and compassionate. Our ideal candidate will have exceptional clinical skills and a natural ability to connect with young patients, making their dental experience positive. As an Associate Pediatric Dentist, you will work alongside our experienced team to deliver comprehensive dental services tailored to the unique needs of children. At A to Z Pediatric Dentistry, we prioritize creating a welcoming and engaging environment for our patients. The successful candidate will be proficient in performing routine check-ups, preventive treatments, restorative procedures, and minor oral surgeries on children of all ages. Additionally, strong communication skills and the ability to educate both patients and parents on proper oral hygiene practices are essential. The ideal Associate Pediatric Dentist will be a team player who is committed to delivering outstanding patient care while upholding the highest ethical standards. This position offers an exciting opportunity for professional growth and advancement within a supportive and collaborative practice. If you are a dedicated pediatric dentist who is passionate about pediatric oral health and enjoys working in a positive, child-friendly setting, we invite you to join our team at A to Z Pediatric Dentistry. Requirements: D.D.S. or D.M.D. from an accredited dental school. Completion of a pediatric dentistry residency program. Current valid state dental license in Arizona. Arizona Oral Sedation Permit. Excellent clinical and communication skills. Up-to-date knowledge of pediatric dental best practices. For more information please contact [azpediatricdental@gmail.com](mailto:azpediatricdental@gmail.com).

**ARIZONA—PHOENIX.** We have a thriving, long-established, high quality, private pediatric dental practice. We are looking for the "right" pediatric dentist to join our non-corporate team. While we have multiple doctors and locations, each child always receives the highest quality of care. We are well respected in the medical and dental community for our care of children as well as the organization and way we run our practices. Our doctors perform all levels of sedation dentistry including IV sedation as well as hospital work. The clinical and administrative teams are great, act as a family, and have a great deal of fun while they work and play. The candidate must have excellent technical skills and be enthusiastic, personable, and articulate. Above average compensation and

participation in our group medical plan are included. Inquire about various bonuses offered as well depending on tenure. Requirements: Graduate of a Pediatric Dental Post-graduate program. Board Eligible or Diplomate. Excellent clinical and behavior management skills. Good communicator. For more information please contact [amanskapur@gmail.com](mailto:amanskapur@gmail.com).

**ARIZONA—PHOENIX.** Desert Ridge Pediatric Dentistry—North Phoenix/Scottsdale AZ. Are you a highly skilled, ethical, and compassionate pediatric dentist looking to practice in an environment that values clinical excellence, integrity, and truly exceptional patient care? If so, we'd love to meet you. At Desert Ridge Pediatric Dentistry, we are known for providing top-tier pediatric dental care. Our team is collaborative, kind, and deeply committed to creating experiences that parents rave about. We are seeking a pediatric dentist who shares our heart and vision. Who We're Looking For. A pediatric dentist who is: Clinically Exceptional. Highly skilled in all aspects of pediatric dentistry. Confident with behavior guidance, restorative care, sedation, and modern treatment techniques. Dedicated to learning, improving, and practicing at the highest level. Compassionate & Patient-Centered. Truly cares about the wellbeing of children and parents. Creates a calm, positive, joyful experience for families. Builds trust. Ethical, Honest & Professional. Makes decisions based on integrity. Communicates clearly and respectfully. Treats every child as if they were their own. A Team Player. Works well with a strong, experienced clinical and administrative team. Embraces collaboration, positivity, and a growth mindset. Loves contributing to a supportive, healthy workplace culture. About Our Practice: 11 chairs, beautifully designed, fully digital. Highly trained support team. General anesthesia available. Fast-growing patient base with strong demand. Collaborative environment with experienced doctors. Located in a thriving, family-friendly area of Scottsdale/North Phoenix. Position Details. Part-Time or Full-Time Available. Competitive compensation (% adj. production). Mentorship available if desired. Opportunity for long-term growth. Why You'll Love Working With Us: A culture rooted in excellence, kindness, and integrity. Systems and support that allow you to focus purely on patient care. A reputation of trust and quality in our community. A team that genuinely enjoys working together. How to Apply: If you are a pediatric dentist who takes great pride in your work, values honesty, and wants to be part of an amazing practice. We would love to connect. Please send your C.V. and a short introduction to: [babyteeth@duck.com](mailto:babyteeth@duck.com). You may also call Dr. Lidieth Libby at (480) 221-8933. Requirements: AZ State Dental License. DEA. Pediatric Dentistry Certificate.

**CALIFORNIA—BAKERSFIELD.** Hi, this is Dr. Raj from My Kids Happy Teeth in Bakersfield, CA. I would like to share that our office is hiring associate dentists as we plan to open our 2nd location in August 2025. We are a pediatric dental office that specializes in behavior management. Our staff is well trained and confident in providing the best care possible for our little patients! Full time and Part time positions both are available. General Dentists and Pediatric Specialists both are welcome. There is a huge demand in our city, lots of patients with early childhood caries and full mouth decay that need our help. Our pay is not competitive, our pay is considered high—especially for an experienced, well versed dentist who can comfortably and efficiently treat kids. If the dentist is a recent graduate, or does not have any experience with kids, we are willing to provide the necessary training. We provide a very stress free, happy environment for all our team members. Plus, Bakersfield is an amazing city to settle down in, with affordable housing and living costs. If anyone is interested in learning more about this position and pay structure, they can reach out to me directly at (714) 862-8243 and/or [mykidshappyteeth@gmail.com](mailto:mykidshappyteeth@gmail.com). Thank you so much! Requirements: Active Dental License, BLS/CPR, Malpractice/Liability Insurance, DEA and willingness to learn, train and be coached on how to treat the kids and parents in our city. Willing to be patient and compassionate with our patients and parents as quality of care is most important.

**COLORADO—ERIE.** Mini Miners Pediatric Dentistry is a private, locally owned office that's looking for a Full-Time or Part-Time Certified Pediatric Dentist in Erie, CO. This amazing office is led by Dr. Alison Grover. Erie is centrally located in Colorado's Front Range; just West of I-25, East of Boulder, North of Denver, & South of Fort Collins. Mini Miners has many Wonderful, Kind Families and needs another Joyful, Hard Working Pediatric Dentist with a Customer Service focus. We offer a very competitive starting Salary – percentage of collections and/or daily base, Signing Bonus, Profit Sharing, paid Liability Insurance, CE allowance, Mentorship, Gym Membership, Health Insurance, 401(K), & maintain a Collection Rate of over 99%. Please contact Dr. Alison Grover at (303) 500-3202 and/or email Dr. Alison at [MiniMinersPD@gmail.com](mailto:MiniMinersPD@gmail.com). Requirements: Certified Pediatric Dentist. Experience preferred. Competent at treating both permanent and primary teeth. Comfortable with moderate sedation. Effective communication skills. Ability to train and work with assistants. Hold a D.D.S. or D.M.D. from an accredited dental school.

**FLORIDA—NAPLES.** Pediatric Dental Associate or General Dentist for Children in the West Coast Naples/Estero/Cape Coral Area Full time.

Excellent opportunity with competitive salary! State of the art practice. Full-time available if wanted. We are a private pediatric dental office. Tremendous growth and earning potential, sedation & hospital dentistry practiced. New grads welcome. Preferred to have medicaid number already and florida state dental license. Benefits such as 2 weeks Paid Vacation, Medical, Dental Insurance and 401K. Job description: Super Smiles Kids Dental Pediatric Dental Associate in South East Broward- Expanding to West Coast of Florida Excellent opportunity with competitive salary! State of the art practice husband owned private practice. Full-time. We are a private pediatric dental office. Tremendous earning potential. New grads welcome. Preferred to have medicaid number already and Florida state dental license. Love where you work! Our goal is having happy doctors. [www.SuperSmilesFL.com](http://www.SuperSmilesFL.com). For more information, please contact [buscemidmd@gmail.com](mailto:buscemidmd@gmail.com).

**GEORGIA—BUFORD.** We are big on personality and we desire to keep our small town feel with exceptional customer service even as we continue to grow. Offering minimal invasive dentistry (SDF), standard operative and IV in-office sedation will allow you to provide parents with the best option for their child with each individual case. We are an established dentist-owned private practice of 14 years looking for full-time or part-time pediatric dentist(s). We have two locations in northern Gwinnett county. This is an excellent opportunity to join a thriving practice continuing to see tremendous growth. We love to have tons of fun while working and we are big on having a solid work-life balance! Shortened hours to ensure that you are able to get home to be with the ones you love or to do things that you enjoy outside of work! A highly competitive compensation package. If you feel this would be a great opportunity for you please contact: [dmd4kids@gmail.com](mailto:dmd4kids@gmail.com).

**ILLINOIS—BLOOMINGTON.** Well established two doctor pediatric dental practice has a fantastic opportunity for a full time pediatric dental associate. The new doctor will take over an existing patient base in a successful practice with a strong reputation in the community. We are looking for someone who is compassionate, ethical, energetic, and highly skilled. Candidates must also possess good people/communication skills, a strong work ethic, and a passion for pediatric dentistry. Fee for service practice with a beautiful state-of-the-art free standing facility with 10 operatories. Digital radiographs, paperless charting, updated patient communication technology, and privileges available at 2 local hospitals for GA cases. Central nitrous in restorative operatories. Great quality of life available in a medium-sized city allowing for enjoyable work-life balance. Very family-oriented community with good schools, short commutes, and low cost of living. Stable economy is highlighted by State Farm Insurance, Country Financial, and Rivian as well as 2 universities. Chicago, St. Louis, and Indianapolis are easily accessible via interstate highway or Amtrak. Benefits include health insurance, malpractice, CE allowance, 401K, paid leave, and possible future ownership for the right individual. If interested please send resume/C.V. to [thaldmd@hotmail.com](mailto:thaldmd@hotmail.com) or call

(309) 825-7614. Requirements: Illinois dental license and successful completion of an accredited pediatric dental residency program.

**ILLINOIS—FRANKFORT.** Bite Size Pediatric Dentistry is seeking a pediatric dentist to join our team in the southwest suburbs of Chicago. We are a growing group practice with 3 locations (Frankfort, Orland Park, and Oak Lawn) that has earned a wonderful reputation among families in the community. We work hard to provide a fun and pleasant environment for kids along with thorough communication and transparency for parents. Our practice is PPO and fee-for-service, no HMO or public aid. We are doctor owned and not affiliated with any DSO or national group. Advantages of working with Bite Size: We strive to provide the highest quality clinical care and keep up with the latest standards in Pediatric Dentistry. We are committed to the success of our doctors. We provide continuous growth and mentorship. Our team of pediatric dentists work collaboratively on cases. We provide General Anesthesia cases through the local children's hospital and an in-office anesthesiologist. We provide an opportunity for a partnership track for full time doctors. Full time or part time available. Compensation is a highly competitive adjusted production percentage with guaranteed daily minimum. We also provide medical and dental insurance, paid time off, and 401k retirement match. If you are interested, please send your resume to [drdenise@bitesizepediatricdentistry.com](mailto:drdenise@bitesizepediatricdentistry.com).

**INDIANA—FISHERS.** Who we are: Welcome to the Fishers Pediatric Dentistry family! We are a privately owned pediatric practice located in Fishers, IN, a flourishing suburb north of Indianapolis with big city amenities and a small town feel. You will feel right at home in a city which has been ranked as one of the top places to live in the U.S. Here at Fishers Pediatric Dentistry, we aim to provide the highest level of compassionate, ethical and quality care to our patients. Our beach-themed office provides an inviting and memorable experience for our families, laying down a foundation for a lifetime of happy dental visits. With 17 chairs and several different treatment settings, we are able to cater to everyone's individualized needs. We are looking for a self-motivated, highly energetic, long-term associate who can bring their own talents, creativity, and ideas to our team of aces! Why us: We are growing and we need you (avg 300 new patients per month). You will never be alone—working with a seasoned team of 5 doctors, 10 hygienists and 28 assistants, you will always be empowered. We value a healthy work-life balance—Monday-Thursday (no Fridays or weekends). We love to have fun and play! Our #1 core value—want to experience first-hand? We invite you to come visit! We face challenges together, win together, and do amazing things together. We take pride in turning a profession, into a passion. We embrace change—we try new things, learn from them, and execute again. Our systems are documented, polished and perfected. We promote autonomy and encourage happiness. We welcome and embrace diversity. No travel—all of this greatness is at one location. Actively involved

in the community. What we believe & deliver: We place large emphasis on creating a positive experience for every patient. We treat every patient as if they are the only patient in the room. We pride ourselves with behavior management techniques to ensure delivery of a top-notch experience. State-of-the-art equipment: Soan, Isodry system, digital x-rays, N20 and paperless. We provide OR services for treatment under GA. We deliver and educate on a level that parents and children can understand. Why you: Do you have a desire to elevate your dental profession and want to join a cohesive team? If YES, this is the perfect opportunity for you. 'Work Hard Play Hard' is a commonly used phrase due to our bustling daily schedule. If you are highly self-motivated and have an unruly desire to succeed, you can work at your desired pace from day ONE with the potential to earn up to \$300k+ per year! Compensation is paid on a percentage of collections, and we pride ourselves in having an overall quick collection rate over 98%. Other benefits include paid CE as well as a 401K program. To learn more about this incredible opportunity, email Dr. Misti Pratt at [drmistipratt@fisherspediatric.com](mailto:drmistipratt@fisherspediatric.com) or call (317) 698-3029. Requirements: Graduate of an accredited Pediatric Dentistry Residency Program. Active Dental License D.D.S./D.M.D. DEA Certificate.

**INDIANA—FORT WAYNE.** We are seeking a highly qualified and board certified pediatric dentist to join our brand new pediatric dentistry practice located in Hometown, Indiana effective May 2026. As a pediatric dentist, you will be responsible for providing specialized dental care to infants, children, and adolescents, ensuring their oral health needs are met in a comfortable and welcoming environment. The ideal candidate will have a passion for working with children, excellent communication skills, and a gentle approach to pediatric dental care. As part of our team, you will have the opportunity to shape the future of our practice and establish lasting relationships with young patients and their families. Your duties will include performing dental exams, cleanings, and treatments tailored to each child's specific needs, as well as educating patients and parents on proper oral hygiene practices. Additionally, you will work closely with our support staff to ensure a seamless and positive experience for every patient. To excel in this role, you must have a valid board certification in pediatric dentistry and be licensed to practice in the state of Indiana. Strong clinical skills, attention to detail, and a commitment to delivering high-quality care are essential. Previous experience working in a pediatric dental setting is preferred. For a recent graduate seeking a pediatric dentist to join our brand-new, state-of-the-art facility, the associate will work under a direct and indirect supervision of an experienced senior pediatric dentist who will provide ongoing mentorship, clinical guidance, and support, making this an ideal transition from residency to private practice. Join us in providing exceptional dental care to the young residents of Hometown and surrounding areas. If you are dedicated to making a difference in children's oral health and

ready to embark on a rewarding career journey, we encourage you to apply for this exciting opportunity. Requirements: Board certification in pediatric dentistry. Valid state license to practice dentistry in Indiana. Excellent clinical skills and attention to detail. Strong communication and interpersonal skills. Passion for working with children. For more information, please contact [adrian@pvpd.com](mailto:adrian@pvpd.com).

**MARYLAND—CHARLOTTE HALL.** Characteristics of an ideal candidate: Responsible, flexible, teachable, good communicator, committed to excellence even at a fast pace, willing to work with and learn new materials and techniques, good behavior management skills, compatible philosophy of care. Why Join our team? Well-established office in the community. This two-dentist, three-hygienist practice is located in the D.C. Suburb of Southern Maryland in the heart of Charlotte Hall. Only 30 minutes from D.C. on a beautiful peninsula. The area offers great opportunities for fishing, boating, hunting, cycling, and family activities. In-operative X-ray units. Six nitrous-equipped operatories. TVs on the ceiling of each operatory. A healthy mix of private and Medicaid patients. Dryshields in each operatory. 401K. Health Insurance. Schedule & Benefits: Our office hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 8am-5pm. Tuesday 9am-6pm, and one Friday a month at the OR of Medstar St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown, MD. After-hours emergency call duty is shared among the dentists. Details of pay are flexible (\$1300 daily minimum, production percentage, or some mix of these). The office collection rate = 98% of production YTD, average of 100% for the past 3 years. The appointment length for restorative treatment is determined by the dentist who plans the work. Treatment-planned patients stay with the dentist unless requested otherwise. A dentist averages about \$70k in production each month working this schedule. Contact us: Send cover letter and resume to [Tendercaredentistry@gmail.com](mailto:Tendercaredentistry@gmail.com). Requirements: Current Maryland Dental License, DEA, Maryland CDS, and Liability Insurance.

**MARYLAND—DAMASCUS.** Our growing dental practice is seeking a part-time or full-time Associate Pediatric Dentist or General Dentist who is passionate about working with children. Your responsibilities will include performing dental procedures on pediatric patients, educating families on proper oral hygiene practices, and collaborating with our team to deliver comprehensive dental care. We are looking for a compassionate individual with excellent communication skills and a gentle Chairside manner. The successful candidate must hold a valid dental license in the state of Maryland and be committed to continuous learning and professional growth. Must be willing to practice between 2 locations in Damascus and Frederick, MD. Prior experience working with pediatric patients is preferred, but new graduates with a strong interest in pediatric dentistry are encouraged to apply. Depending on job status and wait periods, benefits include 401K matching, Sick time, Paid time off and comprehensive health benefits. Email your resume today at

[hr.nskdentistry@gmail.com](mailto:hr.nskdentistry@gmail.com). Requirements: Valid dental license. Experience working with pediatric patients (preferred). Excellent communication skills. Commitment to continuous learning. Passion for pediatric dentistry.

**MASSACHUSETTS—PEABODY.** About Us: We are a busy, established (1975), dentist-owned practice consisting of 3 pediatric dentists, 1 orthodontist, and 1 general dentist. We are just north of Boston with two office locations in Peabody and Lynn, MA. We are seeking a compassionate pediatric dentist to help us continue to provide excellent care to our pediatric community. Position Overview: Full or Part Time. Monday-Friday (no weekends!). Hours are abbreviated in the summer! Treatments provided: Exams, Emergency visits, Fillings, Extractions, Pulpotomies, Crowns, Space Maintenance, Nitrous oxide sedation. 2 Office Locations. We are seeking a: Compassionate bedside manner. Dedicated, team player. Excellent communication skills. New graduates or experienced providers welcomed. Why Join Us? Awesome staff. Generous compensation package. Diverse patient population. The North Shore is beautiful! We are in close proximity to the beach, the mountains and Boston! Benefits Include: Malpractice insurance coverage. Health insurance coverage (doctor and family plans). Matching 401k retirement plan. Vehicle Stipend. Dues & licensing fee coverage. Continuing education compensation. Requirements: D.D.S. or D.M.D. degree. Completion in accredited pediatric residency program. Massachusetts Dental License (or ability to obtain). Nitrous oxide licence (or ability to obtain). For more information, please contact [marissa.kuhnen@gmail.com](mailto:marissa.kuhnen@gmail.com).

**NEW JERSEY—VOORHEES.** New Jersey—Philadelphia Area/Cherry Hill/Voorhees/South Jersey Area. Excellent opportunity for a Pediatric Dentist to join as a part time associate in a highly successful, well respected and rapidly growing state of the art pediatric dental office in an upscale neighborhood. If desired opportunity for general anesthesia and IV sedation is available. Very competitive, excellent compensation! Check out our website at [www.abccchildrensdentist.com](http://www.abccchildrensdentist.com). Please contact Dr. Jeffrey Singer at (856) 783-3515 or email me directly at [jeffreysingerdmd@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreysingerdmd@gmail.com). Requirements: Graduated from an accredited Program, Licensed to Practice Dentistry in New Jersey, Pediatric Dentistry Specialty Permit.

**NEW YORK—BROOKLYN.** Bitesize Pediatric Dentistry is seeking a skilled and compassionate pediatric dentist to join our growing team in Brooklyn. We're a privately owned, multi-location practice with a reputation for exceptional patient care, a warm team culture, and a focus on clinical excellence. About the Role: We're looking for an experienced pediatric dentist (minimum 5 years) who values connection, quality care, and collaboration. This is a part-time position: Weekend coverage is a must. What We Offer: Competitive per diem compensation. Quarterly performance-based bonus structure. 401(k) with employer match. Modern, well-equipped operatories and a steady, well-managed patient flow. If you're passionate

about pediatric dentistry and looking to be part of a thoughtful, values-driven team, we'd love to connect. To Apply: Please send your C.V. and a brief cover letter to [rupin@wearebitesize.com](mailto:rupin@wearebitesize.com). Requirements: D.D.S./D.M.D. from an accredited dental school. Completion of a pediatric dentistry residency program. At least 5 years of clinical experience as a pediatric dentist. Active New York State dental license (or eligibility). Board certified or board eligible. Strong communication skills and a patient-centered approach. Comfort working in a fast-paced, team-based environment. Alignment with our core values: Here and Now, It Takes a Village, and Above and Beyond.

**NORTH CAROLINA—BOLIVIA.** We are a well-established, privately owned pediatric dental practice that is growing along with coastal Brunswick County. The dentist that fits our team best is an individual who loves to work with children. Our preference is a pediatric dentist, seasoned or a new graduate looking for mentorship; we are also considering general dentists who would be interested in treating children. Your team at Coastal Pediatric Dentistry prioritizes patient care, is well-trained, utilizes the latest technology, and has fun treating the children in our community. Benefits packages include: Relocation Package or Sign on Bonus. Healthcare. Dental Benefits. Vision. 401K. Vacation. Malpractice Coverage. CE reimbursement. Mentorship. Community Outreach/Marketing. Our doctors regularly obtain more than the required CE to stay abreast of new technology as well as receive ongoing coaching/mentoring in all facets of patient care. We look forward to meeting you! Submit your C.V. or resume along with a cover letter outlining why you would be the perfect fit for our team to [abishop@ccfdmail.com](mailto:abishop@ccfdmail.com). Visit [www.ccfkids.com](http://www.ccfkids.com), to learn more about our world-class practice, hear patient and team testimonials, and explore our community involvement. Note: Non DSO/Corporate Office.

**OHIO—WILLOWICK.** Come Grow with Us! Established multi-location, state-of-the-art private pediatric dental practice in the suburbs of Cleveland, OH, is looking for a Pediatric Dentist. We are seeking a compassionate and skilled Pedodontist to join our dental practice. The ideal candidate will specialize in diagnosing and treating dental issues in infants, children, and adolescents. The Pedodontist will provide preventive and therapeutic dental care while ensuring a positive and comfortable experience for our young patients. Pediatric Dentist Key Responsibilities: Examine, diagnose, and treat dental conditions in children from infancy through adolescence. Provide preventive care including cleanings, fluoride treatments, sealants, and oral health education. Perform restorative procedures such as fillings, crowns, extractions, and pulpotomies. Administer local anesthesia, nitrous oxide sedation, or general anesthesia as appropriate. Develop individualized treatment plans in collaboration with patients' guardians. Counsel parents and caregivers on proper oral hygiene and diet for long-term dental health. Manage dental emergencies and trauma cases in young patients. Maintain accurate patient records and comply

with HIPAA and other regulatory standards. Work collaboratively with general dentists, orthodontists, and other healthcare professionals. Participate in community outreach programs and school dental health initiatives as needed. Pediatric Dentist Qualifications: D.D.S. or D.M.D. degree from an accredited dental school. Completion of a certified pediatric dentistry residency program. Board certification or eligibility by the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry (ABPD) is preferred. Valid state dental license and sedation certification (if applicable). Proven experience or strong interest in treating pediatric patients. Excellent communication skills and a child-friendly demeanor. Pediatric Dentist Skills and Competencies: Expertise in behavior management techniques for children. Ability to work with children with special healthcare needs. Strong diagnostic and clinical decision-making abilities. Patience, empathy, and an engaging personality. Work Environment: Modern dental office with child-friendly equipment and design. Occasional off-site visits to schools or community centers. Flexible working hours may include evenings or weekends. Pediatric Dentist Compensation and Benefits: Competitive salary based on experience. Signing Bonus! Malpractice insurance. Continuing education and professional development support. Medical, dental, vision, 401k, etc. If you are passionate about providing excellent dental care with a highly experienced staff, please apply today! Or send your C.V. to [HR@premiersmilesortho.com](mailto:HR@premiersmilesortho.com). Job Types: Full-time, Part-time. Benefits: 401(k). Dental insurance. Employee discount. Flexible spending account. Health insurance. Health savings account. Life insurance. Paid time off. Professional development assistance. Retirement plan. Vision insurance. Education: Doctorate (Required). Pediatric Dental Residency Completion. Experience: General dentistry: 1 year (Required). License/Certification: Ohio Dental License (Preferred). Work Location: In person. Education: Doctorate (Required). Pediatric Dental Residency Completion. Experience: General dentistry: 1 year (Required). License/Certification: Ohio Dental License (Preferred).

**OREGON—SALEM.** "Every Child Gets A Smile". If you are looking for an opportunity where you can have a strong sense of purpose to your work, put down roots, grow and thrive for the rest of your working career, this is it. We are an engaged, purpose-led private group practice with an entertaining and educational way of doing business with high retention and new patient flow. This opportunity includes Doctor ownership. Oregon is one of the highest-rated places to live, with a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities right on your doorstep—both mountains and beaches are within a short drive. There is so much opportunity for both personal and professional fulfillment. We've got a good thing started with room to grow together. Culture is not just a buzz-word with us. Our team member experience, led by doctors, is what makes this such a great place to work. We are not just co-workers; we are a values-based, "acorny" team that likes to have fun! Doctor Development is top-notch, guided by a mentor doctor right out the gate. This is great for a new-grad doctor to get one-on-one

support while starting, or an experienced doctor to immediately have high income potential with great team support. Doctors are the leaders, and the team is ready to help deliver on our Purpose of "Every Child Gets A Smile". All kids in the community are welcomed with open arms, including the underserved. Our desire to support children's health and well-being extends to the global community through our non-profit organization's community development efforts in impoverished areas in Kenya. This is a private group practice and we want to attract more ownership-minded, purposeful, growth-oriented doctors to join our group. Compensation and benefits: Private practice with doctor mentorship built-in. Enjoy building ownership equity without having to buy in; additional buy-in option available for a larger share. Guaranteed daily base, and compensated on everything, whichever is greater (including hygiene). Possible to earn 500k+/year while keeping work-life balance intact. Matching 401k retirement plan. Malpractice insurance and licensing fees paid for. Generous CE stipend. 100% doctor and family coverage for really good medical/dental/vision plans. Generous sign-on bonus to help with relocation. Wait no longer, let's talk! For more information, please contact [timrichardsondds@gmail.com](mailto:timrichardsondds@gmail.com).

**PENNSYLVANIA—WEXFORD.** Pediatric Dentist Opportunity in Pittsburgh, PA area. Find your forever office! We are seeking an upbeat, positive pediatric dentist to join our growing practice in Wexford, PA, located 15 mins from Downtown Pittsburgh. The office is equipped to provide nitrous oxide and IV Sedation with dental anesthesiologists and staffed with a highly trained and supportive team. The position can be full or part-time. Our comprehensive compensation and benefits package includes a signing bonus, permanent daily guarantee of up to \$1300 and a bonus based on collections, Medical, Dental and Vision Benefits, 401K, CE Allowance, Professional Dues, and Malpractice Insurance coverage. We are seeking a candidate to join our team in the summer of 2026 and are excited to have the right person to grow with us. New Graduates welcome. We are looking forward to hearing from you! Please contact Dr. Brittany Kinol at [dr.kinol@miracledentalcare.org](mailto:dr.kinol@miracledentalcare.org) or text (412) 716-0796.

**RHODE ISLAND—CRANSTON.** Well established, non-corporate pediatric dental practice serving the Rhode Island community for over 40 years is seeking a motivated and caring pediatric dentist to join our three pediatric dentist team. Full time position leading to partnership for the right individual. Opportunities to practice behavior management, nitrous, in office sedation, or general anesthesia. We will support your success! Our modern office is equipped with the latest digital technology including an iTero scanner and digital radiographs. Working in the smallest state means beaches, major academic institutions, and the culture and diversity of Providence are all a short distance away. Competitive salary with bonus offered along with health insurance, malpractice insurance and CE allowance. To find out more information

about our office, please contact Nicole Robbio at [Nrobbio@peddenti.com](mailto:Nrobbio@peddenti.com) or (401) 463-5540. Requirements: Board eligible or American Board of Pediatric Dentistry Certified Pediatric Dentist. Licensed to practice dentistry in the state of Rhode Island.

**TENNESSEE—CLARKSVILLE.** Great opportunity to work with an independent, doctor-led practice with growth opportunities in a new 6k sqf facility in one of the fastest growing cities in the Southeast. Clarksville, TN has been named one of the best cities for young professionals due to low cost of living, competitive housing market, and proximity to all the fun in Nashville. We are looking for a compassionate and energetic pediatric dentist to join our team! Our greatest strength is our team committed to our core values and supporting our doctors. Owner doctor is actively engaged and provides mentorship while supporting strong clinical autonomy. We use the latest advancements in modern technology such as Soan, Overjet, iTero, and Lightsalpel and offer multiple sedation levels including conscious sedation and GA. Compensation package includes a competitive daily guarantee with collections-based bonus structure. Full-time or part-time opportunities available. Predictable schedule and excellent life balance. Let's start a conversation! Contact: [kevinkennedydds@gmail.com](mailto:kevinkennedydds@gmail.com) or (931) 206-0852.

**TENNESSEE—DICKSON.** As a Pediatric Dentist, you will specialize in providing dental care to children, ranging from infants to teenagers. Your primary focus will be on promoting good oral health habits early on, conducting thorough examinations, and diagnosing and treating dental issues specific to pediatric patients. You will also be responsible for performing preventive treatments such as cleanings, fluoride treatments, and sealants. Building a friendly and welcoming rapport with young patients and their parents will be essential to ensure a positive dental experience. Furthermore, you will need to possess strong communication skills to educate both children and parents on proper oral hygiene practices and answer any questions or concerns they may have. Compassion, patience, and the ability to create a comfortable environment are crucial attributes for this role. Stay up-to-date with the latest advancements in pediatric dentistry and participate in continuous education to enhance your skills and knowledge. Join our team of dedicated professionals in a state-of-the-art pediatric dental practice focused on providing quality care in a fun and supportive environment for young patients. If you are passionate about children's dental health and making a positive impact on their lives, we welcome you to apply for this rewarding opportunity. Requirements: Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) or Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.) degree. Completion of a pediatric dentistry residency program. State licensure as a Pediatric Dentist. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Experience working with children in a dental setting. Commitment to continuing education in pediatric dentistry. For more information, please contact [bridgett@smilehappy.com](mailto:bridgett@smilehappy.com).

**TEXAS—AMARILLO.** Join an amazing private pediatric dental practice in Amarillo that's all about teamwork, quality care, and having fun while doing it! Compensation & Benefits: Guaranteed daily rate or percentage of adjusted production—whichever is higher. Typical first-year earnings: \$350,000—\$600,000+. Full benefits package: health, dental, vision, malpractice, 401(k), CE stipend, licensure fees, and more! Relocation assistance and sign-on bonus. Ownership potential for the right doctor, plus mentorship for new grads. What We Offer: Beautiful, state-of-the-art offices with cutting-edge technology—fully digital, Pearl AI diagnostics, diode lasers, & CO2 laser on the way and more! Incredible support team: Multiple office managers, 8 front office team members, and 18 fantastic assistants who keep the day running seamlessly. 20 operatories, an in-house surgery center with anesthesia, and hospital privileges. A large, loyal patient base across the Texas Panhandle (population 1M+) with a great mix of 40% FFS/PPO and 60% Medicaid. Why You'll Love It Here (and in Amarillo): We've built a close-knit, supportive team that truly enjoys what we do. The energy is positive, the culture is strong, and we take pride in making every visit an awesome experience for our patients—while keeping our days fun and fulfilling for doctors and staff alike. Amarillo is a big little town—a vibrant hub surrounded by rural communities throughout the Texas Panhandle. You'll find the best of both worlds here: the amenities and convenience of a growing city, paired with the warmth, friendliness, and low cost of living of a smaller community. Great schools, family-friendly neighborhoods, and an easy pace of life make it an ideal place to put down roots. If you're a pediatric dentist who loves kids, teamwork, and providing top-notch care in a fun, positive environment—we'd love to meet you! Licensed to practice in the US. Positive attitudes required. For more information, please contact [Coop@apdokids.com](mailto:Coop@apdokids.com).

**TEXAS—CONROE.** Excellent opportunity for a pediatric dentist to join our well established, highly successful fee for service pediatric practice that has been in business for over 50 years. We are a privately owned practice with a part-time opening for 3-4 days a week, possibly leading to full-time. Our new facility opened in 2007 along with another office location that opened in 2015. We are ideally located near a privately owned orthodontic practice, 2 general dentist's offices, and an oral surgeon's office. We offer the latest advancements in dental technologies including: chart-less system, electronic charting, built-in nitrous oxide system and in-office monitored sedation along with IV sedation. For more information, please contact [cpdpuffin@gmail.com](mailto:cpdpuffin@gmail.com).

**TEXAS—GARLAND.** We are seeking a skilled and compassionate Pediatric Dentist to join our team on a part-time basis, working 1-2 days a week. As a Pediatric Dentist with our clinic, you will play a pivotal role in providing high-quality dental care to children, ensuring their oral health and overall wellness. You will have the opportunity to create a positive and comfort-

able dental experience for young patients, helping them develop good oral hygiene habits from an early age. Your responsibilities will include performing dental exams, cleanings, and treatments, as well as educating both children and parents on proper dental care. The ideal candidate for this role is a licensed Dentist with specialized training and experience in pediatric dentistry. You should have a gentle and friendly demeanor, excellent communication skills, and a genuine passion for working with children. Prior experience working in a pediatric dental setting is preferred. Joining our team as a part-time Pediatric Dentist offers you the flexibility to maintain a healthy work-life balance while making a positive impact on the oral health of young patients. If you are dedicated to providing compassionate and comprehensive dental care to children, we invite you to apply for this rewarding position. Licensed Dentist with specialization in pediatric dentistry. Experience working in a pediatric dental setting preferred. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Passion for working with children. Ability to create a positive and comfortable dental experience for young patients. For more information, please contact [Maheebj@gmail.com](mailto:Maheebj@gmail.com).

**TEXAS—NEW BRAUNFELS.** Our busy Pediatric Dental practice is seeking an enthusiastic and skilled Associate Pediatric Dentist to join our team. We are a warm, relationship-based private practice located in New Braunfels, near the heart of the Texas Hill Country. This position offers the opportunity to start as a temporary role with the potential for full-time employment in the future. As an Associate Pediatric Dentist, you will work closely with our team, providing compassionate dental care in a friendly and welcoming environment. The ideal candidate will be a Texas licensed dentist with specialized training in pediatric restorative dentistry, special needs patients, and analgesia/sedation dentistry. You should have a passion for working with children and possess excellent interpersonal skills to communicate effectively with young patients and parents. At our practice, we prioritize creating a positive and fun dental experience for children to promote lifelong oral health habits. The Associate Pediatric Dentist will have the opportunity to form strong relationships, make a difference in the lives of our young patients, and contribute to the growth and success of our practice. If you are a dedicated and compassionate dentist with a focus on pediatric care, and would enjoy working with a team that truly loves their patients, we would love to hear from you! Requirements: Degree in Dentistry. Completed specialized training in Pediatric Dentistry. Valid Texas state dental license. Excellent communication skills with children and parents. Ability to perform common pediatric dental procedures. Passion for promoting oral health in children. For more information please contact [info@childrensdentalark.com](mailto:info@childrensdentalark.com).

**TEXAS—SACHSE.** The Opportunity: We are seeking a caring, motivated Pediatric Dentist (board-certified or board-eligible) to join our team. Part-time (3 days/week) to start, with potential to expand as the practice grows. Support from a committed pediatric dental

assistant + front desk team. Flexible scheduling, family-friendly hours. Opportunity to shape a new practice from the ground up, with mentorship and growth into a long-term leadership role if desired. Requirements: Pediatric Dentist (D.D.S./D.M.D.) with specialty training and active Texas license (or eligibility). Board Certified or Board Eligible in Pediatric Dentistry. Commitment to safe, positive, child-centered care. Comfort with nitrous oxide cases; GA hospital privileges a plus (not required). For more information please contact [info@turtlebaypediatricdentistry.com](mailto:info@turtlebaypediatricdentistry.com).

**UTAH—SOUTH JORDAN.** At Families First, we are dedicated to providing exceptional dental care to children in a warm and friendly environment. Our team believes in creating positive experiences for our young patients while promoting lifelong oral health. We are seeking a caring and motivated Pediatric Dentist to join our growing practice. Position Overview: As a Pediatric Dentist, you will play a key role in helping children establish healthy dental habits early in life. You will provide comprehensive dental care, from preventive treatments to restorative procedures, in a setting designed to make kids feel comfortable and supported. We value teamwork, compassion, and dedication to outstanding patient care. Compensation: We offer a daily minimum of \$1,300 or 35% of collections, whichever is higher. Key Responsibilities: Perform examinations and diagnose oral conditions in children. Provide preventive care including cleanings, fluoride treatments, and sealants. Deliver restorative treatments such as fillings, crowns, and extractions. Educate patients and families on oral hygiene and dental care practices. Develop individualized treatment plans tailored to each child's needs. Collaborate with other dental professionals to ensure the highest quality care. Maintain accurate patient records and documentation. Stay current with the latest dental practices, techniques, and technologies. Qualifications: D.M.D. or D.D.S. degree from an accredited dental school. Completion of a pediatric dentistry residency program. Board certification or eligibility in pediatric dentistry. Active dental license in Utah. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Compassionate approach to working with children and families. Strong organizational skills and attention to detail. What We Offer: Competitive pay structure and benefits package. Opportunities for continuing education and professional development. A supportive, collaborative environment with pediatric specialists, orthodontists, and youth mental health providers. Join us at Families First and help us create confident, healthy smiles for the next generation! For more information, please contact [erica.pray@ffpeds.com](mailto:erica.pray@ffpeds.com).

**UTAH—STANSBURY PARK.** Families First Pediatrics is seeking a compassionate and skilled Orthodontist to join our growing, family-centered practice! We are a well-established pediatric clinic dedicated to providing exceptional, personalized care for children and adolescents in a welcoming and supportive environment. About Us: At Families First Pediatrics, our mission is to help children and families thrive by of-

fering comprehensive medical and dental care under one roof. Our collaborative team of pediatricians, dentists, and specialists work together to ensure every patient feels safe, comfortable, and confident in their care. Job Responsibilities: Provide high-quality orthodontic care to pediatric and adolescent patients. Evaluate, diagnose, and treat orthodontic cases, including developing personalized treatment plans. Collaborate with pediatric dentists and other providers to ensure coordinated care. Educate patients and families on orthodontic health and treatment options. Maintain accurate and detailed patient records in compliance with clinical and ethical standards. Qualifications: D.D.S. or D.M.D. degree from an accredited dental school. Completion of an accredited orthodontic residency program. Valid Utah Dental License and orthodontic certification (or eligibility to obtain). Strong communication skills with a patient-first, family-friendly approach. A passion for working with children and creating positive dental experiences. Why Join Families First Pediatrics? Collaborative, supportive work culture focused on patient well-being. Modern facilities equipped with the latest orthodontic technology. Competitive compensation and benefits package. Opportunities for professional growth within a multi-specialty pediatric team. A chance to make a real difference in the lives of children and families in our community. If you are a caring orthodontist who loves working with kids and believes in putting families first, we'd love to hear from you! For more information, please contact [erica.pray@ffped.com](mailto:erica.pray@ffped.com).

**VIRGINIA—LYNCHBURG.** Children's Dental Health of Lynchburg is seeking a highly motivated Pediatric Dental Associate to join the thriving practice. This is an outstanding opportunity for a pediatric dentist looking to build a long-term career—with true doctor ownership opportunities. Children's Dental Health of Lynchburg is an established and trusted practice that has been serving families in the region for years, offering you the opportunity to step into a full schedule. You'll be supported by a collaborative team of experienced dentists and staff who are committed to your success, while enjoying the benefits of working in a modern, state-of-the-art facility designed with children in mind. Our practice values both mentorship and professional independence, giving you the chance to grow while maintaining the autonomy to practice dentistry the way you were trained. Life in Lynchburg, VA. Known as the "Hill City", Lynchburg offers the perfect balance of small-town charm and big-city amenities. Nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains and along the James River, the city provides endless opportunities for recreation, culture, and community life. Affordable Cost of Living—Enjoy a high quality of life with affordable housing and a low cost of living compared to major metro areas. Outdoor Paradise—Hiking, biking, kayaking, and access to the Blue Ridge Parkway are just minutes away. Thriving Community—With local restaurants, arts, cultural events, and several colleges/universities, Lynchburg has a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere. Family-Friendly—Excellent schools, safe neighborhoods, and a strong sense of community make it an ideal place to

raise a family. Benefits Include: Competitive collections-based compensation with guaranteed salary, and earning potential of \$300,000-\$400,000. \$25,000 Sign-On Bonus. Four day work week. 401K retirement plan with employer match. Medical, dental and vision health benefits available. Employer-paid professional liability insurance. Pathway to partnership opportunity, including a student loan forgiveness program. For more information, please contact. Email: [drshannon@cdhlynchburg.com](mailto:drshannon@cdhlynchburg.com).

**VIRGINIA—ROANOKE.** Roanoke Pediatric Dentistry, built and managed by Dr. Corey Sheppard, is excited to welcome a full-time Pediatric Dentist to our thriving practice. We're looking for someone energetic, committed, and passionate about caring for kids—a dentist who wants to grow in their career while having fun along the way. At our practice, you'll find a supportive environment where mentorship, teamwork, and advanced technology come together to create an exceptional experience for both patients and providers. Dr. Sheppard is Board Certified, and with the help of an experienced and welcoming staff, we've built a practice that blends clinical excellence with a positive workplace culture. We're proud to offer a wide range of services, including laser dentistry and laser frenectomy for tongue and lip ties, cosmetic pediatric dentistry with zirconia crowns, and OR cases through partnerships with local hospitals. Our clinic also houses certified Level 1 Surgicenter operating rooms, equipped with anesthesiologists for in-office GA services. With a recent expansion into a fully renovated, state-of-the-art facility, this is an incredible opportunity to step into a practice designed for growth and innovation. As an associate, you'll enjoy competitive compensation and benefits, a clear pathway to ownership, and the freedom to make your own treatment decisions with the support of a respected partner and experienced team. We're committed to doctor ownership and to making sure you have the tools and training you need to thrive. Outside the office, Roanoke offers the perfect balance of adventure and community. Whether it's hiking the iconic Appalachian Trail, kayaking on the Roanoke River, enjoying weekends at Smith Mountain Lake, or exploring the lively downtown arts, music, and food scene, you'll quickly see why this Blue Ridge Mountain city is such a special place to call home. This is your chance to grow your career, love what you do, and have fun with a supportive, energetic team by your side. This is a full-time position, working 4 days a week, with a pathway to partnership opportunity within 3-5 years. If you're looking for an exciting opportunity in a growing practice, located in a beautiful area, with a great work-life balance, we'd love to hear from you! Interested candidates can contact: Angela Conrad ([aconrad@pepperpointe.com](mailto:aconrad@pepperpointe.com)). Qualifications: D.D.S. or D.M.D. (Required). Specialty Certificate in Pediatric Dentistry (Required). US work authorization (Required). Licensed to practice in Virginia (Required). Benefits Include: Competitive collections-based compensation with guaranteed salary, and earning potential of \$400,000 +. \$25,000 Sign-On Bonus. 401K retirement plan with employer match. Medical,

dental, and vision health benefits available. Vacation time. Pathway to partnership opportunity. Student loan forgiveness/repayment plans with pathway to partnership. Employer-paid professional liability insurance. Doctor-Partner mentorship opportunities. Leadership Development Program for Associates.

**WASHINGTON—VANCOUVER.** Deluna Kids Dental is currently looking for a dedicated Associate Dentist to join our team at a bustling pediatric dental office in Vancouver, Washington. Just a short drive from Portland, Oregon, our office is seeking a team player who shares a similar treatment philosophy with the owner dentist. The ideal candidate will be responsible for managing 1-3 days of hygiene checks and delivering treatments to our young patients. Additionally, the Associate Dentist will have specific general anesthesia days to handle more complex cases. Both experienced dentists and new grads are welcome to apply if they fit into our collaborative and patient-focused environment. The successful candidate will collaborate efficiently with colleagues and create a comfortable atmosphere for our valued patients. Requirements: Doctorate in Dental Medicine (D.M.D.) or Dental Surgery (D.D.S.). Valid state dental license in Washington. Experience in pediatric dentistry is preferred but new grads are welcome to apply. For more information please contact [david@delunakids.com](mailto:david@delunakids.com).

**WEST VIRGINIA—MARTINSBURG.** Established children's dental office in Martinsburg WV looking for a part-time or full time pediatric dentist. The office is located in panhandle of West Virginia about halfway between Hagerstown MD and Winchester VA in a growing suburb. We utilize the most up to date technology and we will provide all the resources needed to succeed. Seeking a friendly, skilled pediatric dentist to join our busy, well-established practice for 1-5 days per week. We serve a large and growing patient base and work closely with orthodontic and oral surgery office in a collaborative, family-centered environment. We have OR privileges in nearby hospitals. We offer: A guaranteed daily rate Aggressive bonus potential. A supportive, energetic team. An office known for high-quality patient care and a great local reputation. We're looking for a dentist who is passionate about pediatric care, comfortable with behavior guidance, and excited to work in a positive, modern practice that truly values its providers. Please reach out to [drilaya@gmail.com](mailto:drilaya@gmail.com) with any inquiries. Required: Ability to apply for West Virginia Dental license.

**WISCONSIN—LA CROSSE.** Our office is currently seeking a pediatric dentist to join our privately-owned practice! We offer a well-established practice with a long-standing presence in the community of over 20 years. Our office is the only pediatric dental practice within a two hour radius and we can readily fill your schedule, either full-time or part-time, depending on your preference. We offer mentorship, flexible scheduling, and have a competent and caring team. Our compensation package will include guaranteed, competitive per diem rates and production-based bonuses, as well

as other benefits, such as health care stipends, paid holidays, and a signing bonus. Open to experienced dentists and new grads alike, must be board certified/eligible. La Crosse, Wisconsin is a gem in the Midwest. With a population of around 170,000 in the La Crosse metro area, it offers small-town charm with big-city amenities. La Crosse is in the Driftless Region with bluffs dotting the scenery. Our city is known for its access to outdoor activities; we have hundreds of hiking and biking trails, and the river, bluffs, and abundant lakes provide endless opportunities for boating, fishing, camping, hunting, and more. La Crosse is a growing area with many young professionals, excellent healthcare in the community (Mayo Clinic and Emplify Health) as well as 2 universities and a technical college. There is a strong sense of community here, and it is a wonderful place to live and raise a family. If interested in joining our thriving practice or for more information, email [emily@lacrossepediatricdentistry.com](mailto:emily@lacrossepediatricdentistry.com).

## OUTSIDE THE US

**BRITISH COLUMBIA—CHILLIWACK.** We are inviting expressions of interest from Pediatric Dentists for a future opportunity to join a new, purpose-built oral, facial, and pediatric surgical facility in Chilliwack, British Columbia. This position will operate under a cost-sharing model and is ideal for a pediatric dentist seeking long-term growth and access to surgical infrastructure designed specifically for pediatric care under general anesthesia. The new facility is currently in development and is projected to be operational in approximately 2 to 3 years. Designed with pediatric patients and anesthesia-based care in mind, the facility will include: Two hospital-grade operating rooms designed for pediatric dental procedures under general anesthesia. Two fully equipped dental operatories for hygiene, routine care, and post-operative follow-up. A private consultation room to facilitate discussions with families and interdisciplinary planning. On-site collaboration with oral and maxillofacial surgeons, anesthesiologists, and nursing staff. A supportive, interdisciplinary care model with built-in access to a growing referral network in the Fraser Valley. This is an excellent opportunity for a pediatric dentist interested in delivering safe, high-quality care in a modern surgical setting—without the financial and administrative burden of building and managing a surgical facility independently. The cost-sharing arrangement offers autonomy, clinical flexibility, and the ability to scale your practice over time within a team-based environment. Early engagement will allow for input into clinical layout and scheduling coordination as the facility approaches its opening date. We welcome inquiries from pediatric specialists interested in establishing themselves within a highly collaborative and well-supported care model. Please forward your expression of interest and C.V. to: Dr. Prabhjot Singh Email: [chilliwackoralsurgery@gmail.com](mailto:chilliwackoralsurgery@gmail.com).

**ONTARIO—OTTAWA.** Pediatric Dentist Opportunity—Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. We are excited to announce an outstanding opportunity for a highly skilled, board-certified Pediatric Dentist to join a dynamic and collaborative team in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. We are seeking a dedicated professional who thrives as a team player and is eager to work alongside a talented group in a new state-of-the-art facility. Position Highlights: Work in a modern practice equipped with hospital-grade surgical operatories. Collaborate with anesthesia specialists to provide exceptional pediatric dental care. Competitive compensation with potential partnership opportunities for the right candidate. Join a supportive, team-oriented environment committed to excellence. Qualifications: Board-certified by the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry. Valid dental license in Ontario, Canada. Why Ottawa? Ottawa, Canada's vibrant capital, offers an exceptional quality of life. Nestled along the scenic Ottawa River, the city combines urban sophistication with natural beauty. Enjoy world-class museums, vibrant festivals, and outdoor activities such as biking or skating on the iconic Rideau Canal. Ottawa is renowned for its safe, family-friendly neighborhoods, top-tier schools, and diverse, multicultural community. With a thriving economy and easy access to both urban amenities and serene countryside, Ottawa is the perfect place to build your career and life. To Apply: Please submit your C.V., cover letter, and references to: Linda Dion, Director of Operations: [linda.dion.k@gmail.com](mailto:linda.dion.k@gmail.com), cell: (613) 725-4534. Join our team and make a lasting impact on pediatric dental care in one of Canada's.

**MANITOBA—WINNIPEG.** Associate Pediatric Dentist—Full-Time & Part-Time Location: Winnipeg, Manitoba. Just4Kids pediatric dental practice in Winnipeg, Manitoba, is seeking a full-time Associate Pediatric Dentist to join our team. Our clinic is dedicated exclusively to pediatric dental care and offers a full range of preventive, restorative, and surgical services in a modern, child-friendly environment. The practice includes an on-site, accredited surgical centre, allowing for the provision of dentistry under general anesthesia. We also provide nitrous oxide sedation in clinic. We offer an outstanding support team, and an opportunity to practice in a state-of-the-art facility designed to deliver exceptional pediatric dental care. Compensation: Competitive and open to discussion. Application: Interested applicants are invited to submit a C.V. and cover letter to [ahuminicki@hotmail.com](mailto:ahuminicki@hotmail.com), [dramirmanzoor@gmail.com](mailto:dramirmanzoor@gmail.com), [nidaamirr@gmail.com](mailto:nidaamirr@gmail.com), and [shima.gharib@gmail.com](mailto:shima.gharib@gmail.com). All inquiries and applications will be handled with the strictest confidence. The successful candidate will: Be a licensed Pediatric Dentist in the Province of Manitoba. Requirements: Demonstrate a high standard of clinical excellence and patient care. Exhibit professionalism, compassion, and strong communication skills. Thrive in a collaborative, team-oriented environment.

## PRACTICE FOR SALE.

**CONNECTICUT—NEW HAVEN.** New Haven County, CT. Established pediatric practice collecting \$720K on just 22 doctor hours/week. 9 well-equipped ops (ADEC, digital X-ray, digital pan, Eaglesoft). Real estate with an adjacent 25-space parking lot available—dental office on 1st floor; 2nd & 3rd floors ideal for mixed use. Strong hygiene department (2 per day) and a great team in place. Tremendous growth potential! Contact: Kevin McGonigal, DDSmatch – (860) 803-0820 or [kmcgonigal@ddsmatch.com](mailto:kmcgonigal@ddsmatch.com).

**FLORIDA—FORT LAUDERDALE.** Prime dental office space available in a well-known Key West—style professional building, long established as a dental hub in the community. We have: 4 plumbed operatories + large lab (expandable for 3 additional ops, hygiene, or surgical suites). Bright natural light with “Dentistry with a View” corner suite. Team lounge, spacious layout, and excellent signage opportunities. \$30,000 leasehold improvement credit—customize to your vision. Convenient location: minutes from I-95 & Federal Hwy, ample parking, patient-friendly environment. This space is ideal for pediatric dentistry or specialty practices looking to establish or expand in Fort Lauderdale. For more information, please contact [csfreeman007@gmail.com](mailto:csfreeman007@gmail.com).

**SOUTH CAROLINA—CHARLESTON.** Turn-Key Pediatric Dental Practice for Sale—Charleston, SC. Live the coastal dream while owning your own beautiful, modern pediatric dental practice in Charleston! This beautiful state-of-the-art, turn-key office features 2 private operatories and 3 open-bay chairs, with plumbing ready for 2 additional private rooms and 1 more open-bay chair—designed for easy expansion as you grow. Located in one of the fastest-growing and most desirable areas of Charleston, the practice is surrounded by pristine beaches, top-rated hospitals, and endless opportunities for outdoor living—boating, paddleboarding, fishing, or simply relaxing in the Lowcountry sunshine. All the hard work—permitting, design, and build-out—is done for you. Just walk in, hang your shingle, and start living the coastal island lifestyle you've been dreaming of, with a thriving professional foundation already in place. For more information, contact: [dottiebaker@yahoo.com](mailto:dottiebaker@yahoo.com).

**TEXAS—DALLAS.** Turnkey Modern pedo/ortho office practice facility (no patients/charts) for sale in a growing part of DFW. 2,450 sqf. Open bay with 5 chairs (for hygiene or ortho). 2 private/quiet treatment rooms. Lab. Pan/ceph imaging area. 3 restrooms. Private doctor's office (with own private restroom with shower). Consultation room. Flat screen TVs throughout, including above patient chairs. Includes all equipment & furnishings. Save time, headache, and money with this turnkey office to run your own dream office! Owner financing available. Serious inquiries only. Email: [Calucb1991@hotmail.com](mailto:Calucb1991@hotmail.com).

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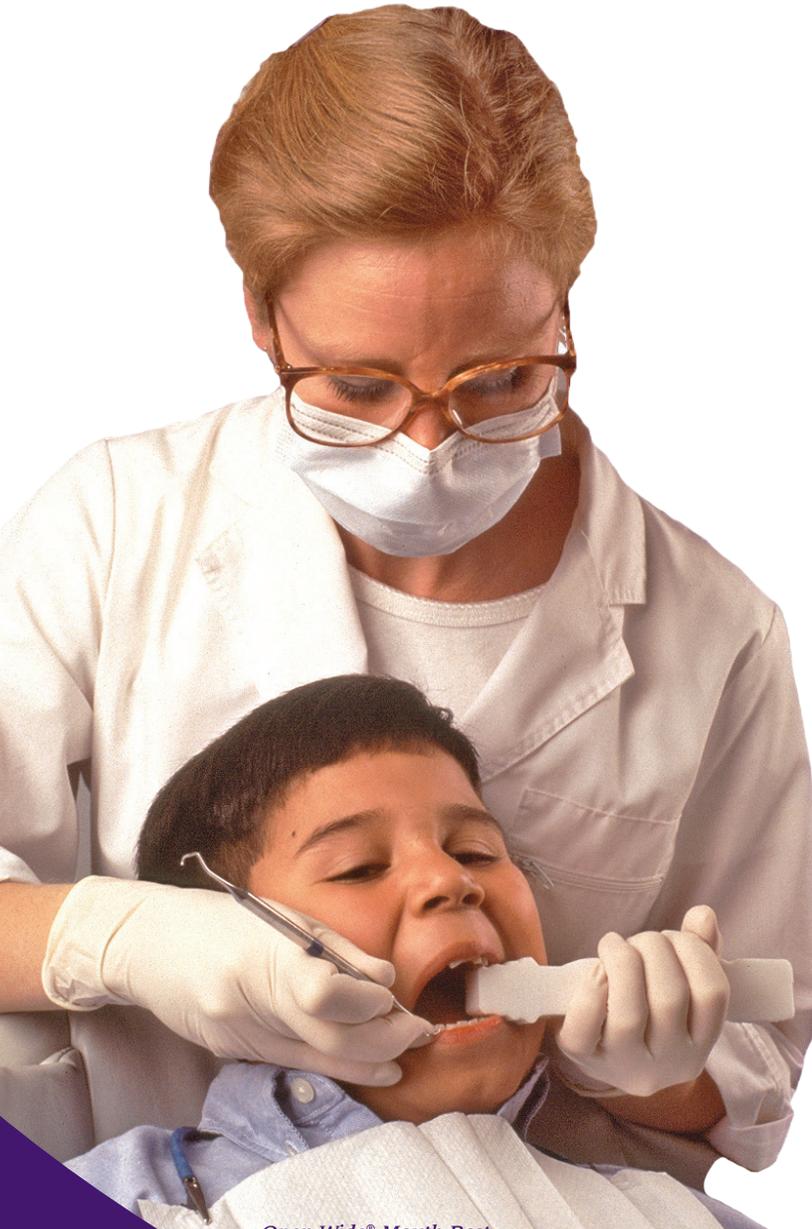
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Now more than ever, delivering fluoride effectively matters. Just Right® 5000 was created to dispense the exact 0.25g pea-sized dose recommended by the AAPD. Take the guesswork out of fluoride use and give kids the right amount of the most effective anticavity agent in dentistry.



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## Unique Mouth Supports for Every Patient

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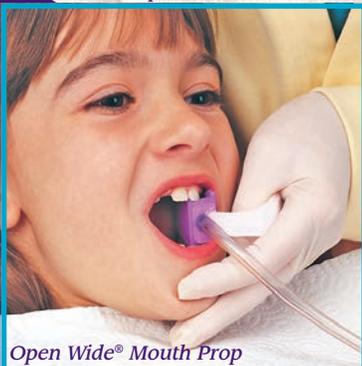
Our **Open Wide® Mouth Rest** is helpful for those who lack the cooperation or motor control to keep the mouth open. It is made from high-density foam with a rigid core to add stability, and it is available for home use.

The **Open Wide® Mouth Prop** wraparound handle allows the clinician to maintain control with a handle that wraps around outside the mouth so it will not block oral access. It is designed with a perfectly placed hole to keep a saliva ejector in place, and the wedge area is over-molded with a safe, comfortable material.

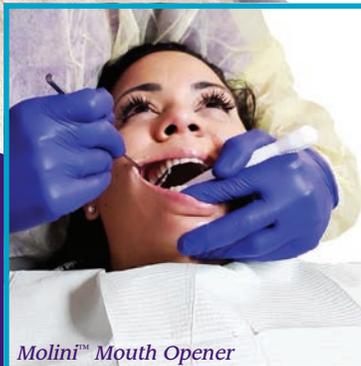
The **Molini™ Mouth Opener** is a great option for oral access when patients are uncooperative or have poor muscle control. The tapered end acts as a wedge to help open clenched teeth, and the trim design allows greater visibility.

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Open Wide® Mouth Rest



Open Wide® Mouth Prop



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