



AMERICA'S PEDIATRIC DENTISTS
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2023 Pediatric Oral Health Advocacy Conference

Speaker biographies

- C. Scott Litch, AAPD Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel
- Dr. Chelsea Fosse, Director, Pediatric Oral Health Research and Policy Center
- Dr. Amr Moursi, AAPD President
- Dr. John S. Rutkauskas, AAPD Chief Executive Officer
- Dr. Natalia I. Chalmers, Chief Dental Officer, CMS
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- Taryn Couture, Government Relations Director, Powers, Pyles, Sutter, & Verville
- Dr. Warren Brill, co-Congressional Liaison
- Dr. Jade Miller, co-Congressional Liaison
- Dr. Heber Simmons, Jr. Special Consultant to the Board of Trustees

C. Scott Litch Biography

C. Scott Litch is Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel for the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD). Scott coordinates AAPD's internal operations and planning; directs the AAPD's government relations and public policy agenda; and manages legal issues affecting the AAPD and pediatric dentistry. He serves as secretary to the AAPD Political Action Committee, member of the AAPD Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and staff liaison to the AAPD Council on Government Affairs. Scott organizes the Pediatric Oral Health Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C., and manages the state Public Policy Advocates program.

Prior to his 23 year tenure with the AAPD, Scott worked on legislative and regulatory issues at the American Dental Education Association in Washington, DC for 11 years, ultimately as general counsel and associate executive director. Scott received a law degree from University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, a master's degree from the Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University, and undergraduate degree from UMBC. He is a licensed attorney in three jurisdictions and a Certified Association Executive (CAE). Scott received the 2012 Association Professional Achievement award from the Association Forum. In 2019 he was inducted into the American College of Dentists as an Honorary Fellow, which is conferred on non-dentists who have significantly advanced the profession of dentistry or oral health and have shown exceptional leadership.

Dr. Chelsea Fosse Biography

Chelsea Fosse, DMD, MPH is the Director of the Research and Policy Center at the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD). She is responsible for developing and implementing a research agenda to inform sound policymaking in pediatric oral health. She leads a team that analyzes the pediatric dental workforce, Medicaid policy and program implementation, evidence-based dental care delivery, access to high quality and safe dental care, and other contemporary issues in oral health, public health, and health policy.

Chelsea is a Diplomate of the American Board of Dental Public Health. She graduated from Rutgers School of Dental Medicine and completed a general practice residency at Helen Hayes Hospital working with adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She obtained her Master's in Public Health from the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University and completed a dental public health residency at Jacobi Medical Center, NYC Health + Hospitals. In the past, she worked at the Health Policy Institute (HPI) of the American Dental Association and the Division of Children with Special Needs at the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Dr. Amr M. Moursi Biography

Dr. Amr M. Moursi is professor and chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry at the New York University College of Dentistry and on the Medical Staff at the New York University Langone Medical Center and the Bellevue Hospital Center in New York. He completed his D.D.S. degree at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry, a pediatric dentistry residency at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, and then a Ph.D. in Craniofacial Biology from the University of California at San Francisco. He is a board-certified Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry and a Fellow of both the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) and the International College of Dentists. Dr. Moursi received the Merle S. Hunter Leadership Award in 2014, and was selected for the AAPD Leadership and Advanced Leadership Institutes. He has served the AAPD in many capacities, including Academic Trustee-at-large on the Board of Trustees, Liaison to the American Academy of Pediatrics, Regional Consultant on the Medicaid and CHIP Advisory Committee, Chair of the Global Interactions Task Force, Fellow of the Pediatric Oral Health Research and Policy Center, and Director of the Comprehensive Review Course.

Dr. Moursi serves as an examiner for the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and as a consultant to both the New York State and New York City Departments of Health. He is a former member of the Examination Committee of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry. He also served as a Consultant and Pediatric Dentistry Review Committee member for the Commission on Dental Accreditation. Dr. Moursi's research focuses on early childhood oral health. He is the author or co-author of over 100 published articles, book chapters and policy briefs. He has been an invited speaker at numerous state, national and international conferences and universities with presentations on variety of topics including Behavior Guidance, Early Childhood Oral Health, and Oral Health for Patients with Special Needs.

In addition, he has led teams of NYU faculty and students to provide pediatric dental training, education and care to underserved areas around the world including Tanzania, Nicaragua, Alaska, northern Maine and upstate New York. He also maintains a private practice in New York City.

Dr. John S. Rutkauskas Biography

John S. Rutkauskas, D.D.S., M.B.A., C.A.E., is the Chief Executive Officer of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD), a position he has held since July 1999. He is also the Chief Executive Officer of American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Foundation. Prior to joining the AAPD, Dr. Rutkauskas served for eight years as Executive Director of the Federation of Special Care Organizations in Dentistry, which represents organizations focused on hospital dentistry, geriatric dentistry, and dentistry for persons with disabilities. He has a wealth of experience and interest in public policy related to issues of medical necessity, federally funded dental programs, residency training, and clinical care guidelines, best practices, and policies. His clinical interests include treating patients with medically compromising conditions.

Under his leadership during the past 24 years, the AAPD has significantly increased membership and focused the association's efforts on public policy. He was instrumental in establishing the association's first political action committee which has increased visibility in Washington of the 10,800 member organization. He oversaw the AAPD Foundation's first successful fundraising capital campaign and coordinated the successful merger of an affiliated association. He was instrumental in creating two leadership development tracks in association with Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management and the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School to meet the growing needs of the AAPD membership.

Raised in Illinois, Dr. Rutkauskas received his undergraduate degree as well as a Master of Science degree from the University of Chicago. He received his dental degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago, his residency training in general practice at the University of Chicago, and a Master of Business Administration from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. He is a fellow of the American College of Dentists, International College of Dentists, the Academy of Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities, and the American Society for Geriatric Dentistry. In June 2002, he was inducted as a fellow in the prestigious Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and in 2018 as a fellow in the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland. He received the designation of CAE (Certified Association Executive) from the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) in June 2002. In 2012, he received the Outstanding Public Advocacy Award on behalf of the Friends of the National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Research (FNIDCR) for being a champion for oral health care for special patient populations.

Dr. Natalia I. Chalmers Biography

Dr. Natalia I. Chalmers was appointed Chief Dental Officer (CDO) of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in August, 2021. In her role as CMS's CDO, Dr. Chalmers works to advance the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to care for the whole person, a key to reducing health disparities and advancing health equity. Dr. Chalmers is a board-certified pediatric dentist, oral health policy expert, and public health advocate who brings more than 20 years of clinical, research, industry, and regulatory experience to CMS. Previously, Dr. Natalia Chalmers served as a Dental Officer at the US Food and Drug Administration.

Dr. Chalmers' passion for pediatric dentistry began early when she saw the devastating effects of poor oral health in her elderly patients, and decided to devote her energy to understanding the disease process and the most efficient and effective prevention strategies. Since completing her Doctor of Dental Surgery degree at the Faculty of Dental Medicine of the Medical University of Sofia, a residency in pediatric dentistry at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, and a Ph.D. in oral microbiology from the Graduate Partnerships Program of the University of Maryland School of Dentistry and the National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research at the National Institutes of Health, Dr. Chalmers worked to transform health care data and information into actionable insights to address equity, improve care, and better inform policy and funding.

Additionally, Dr. Chalmers holds a Master's degree in Clinical Research from Duke Medical University and a Certificate in Drug Development and Regulatory Science from the University of California San Francisco School of Pharmacy. Her research has translated into action improving oral care and advocating for the role health policy can play across the lifespan—particularly when it embraces dental well-being as a facet of care for the whole person.

Dr. Adam Barefoot Biography

Dr. Adam Barefoot DMD, MPH, joined the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in May, 2022 as the agency's Chief Dental Officer (CDO). The CDO provides leadership and coordination on oral health policy and initiatives and serves as the agency's dental liaison to government agencies, universities, and stakeholder organizations. He serves in the HRSA Office of Special Health Initiatives.

Dr. Barefoot most recently served as the State Dental Director for the Georgia Department of Public Health where he led programs to improve oral health outcomes and reduce oral health disparities in the state. He has also served as a Dental Director at a Federally Qualified Health Center, a community-based health care provider that receives funds from HRSA to provide primary care services in underserved areas.

Dr. Barefoot earned his Master's in Public Health from the University of New England, a Doctorate of Dental Medicine from the University of Florida, and a Bachelors in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of Georgia.

Dr. Jacqueline Burgette Biography

Dr. Jacqueline Burgette is a board-certified pediatric dentist who is currently serving as a 2022-2023 White House Fellow. She is the first dentist ever selected as a White House fellow and has been placed at the Office of the National Cyber Director. Dr. Burgette earned her DMD degree at Harvard School of Dental Medicine, and received her pediatric dentistry certificate and PhD in Health Policy and Management from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Burgette's training program was supported by the Clinical Research Scholars Program (NIDCR T32) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, School of Dentistry. Her dissertation research on the effect of Early Head Start on children's dental use and oral health-related quality of life was funded by a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award for Postdoctoral Fellows.

Dr. Burgette continues to be affiliated as a research fellow at the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She joined the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine in 2017, and serves as an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Dental Public Health and Pediatric Dentistry. Her recent research addresses oral health disparities in children through health services research. Specifically, Dr. Burgette is conducting research on the impact of mothers' social networks on children's oral health utilization, practices and dental caries experience. This research is supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program.

Julie Allen Biography

Julie Scott Allen is a Principal, Non-Attorney in the Powers¹ legislative practice. Powers has represented AAPD, ADA, and AAOMS in Washington, D.C. on the operating room access initiative with CMS since 2020. Since late 2022, Powers has represented the AAPD on all federal legislative and regulatory issues.

Julie has worked to advance legislative, regulatory and business agendas for non-profit and for-profit clients and national organizations in Washington, DC for over two decades. Julie's strong policy know-how and political instincts along with her experience navigating Congress and the Executive Branch, make her an essential partner for business leaders, association executives, and advocacy organizations. Julie has represented and worked with companies, associations, foundations, and others on a range of health care and broader policy matters, including private equity leaders, health and hospital systems, health care practitioners, specialty pharmacies, life sciences companies, medical device manufacturers and suppliers, clinical laboratories and diagnostics companies, and disease/patient advocacy organizations. In 2022, Julie was named a Top Lobbyist by The Hill political website.

Julie previously served as Senior Vice President at a national law firm, helping to lead federal lobbying and regulatory advocacy efforts for the firm's government relations practice. She was Managing Director at a federal marketing and lobbying firm she helped launch in 2007, working to support clients in growing their federal market business and addressing federal policy issues in such areas as health care, homeland security, and document/identity security. Earlier in her career, Julie served as a senior lobbyist and regulatory affairs manager for national professional associations, including the American Dental Association and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. She received her bachelor's degree, *cum laude*, from Marymount University.

¹ Powers Pyles Sutter & Verville

When the firm was founded in 1983, each of the members shared a desire to establish a small Washington, D.C. [healthcare law firm](#) with a national practice. They planned to focus primarily on complex legal issues faced by hospitals, multihospital systems, physician groups, home health agencies, and the newer, evolving forms of healthcare delivery.

The members also sought to establish a firm that would emphasize, as a first step, problem-solving skills rather than litigation-oriented strategies on behalf of the firm's clients. They also wanted to ensure the firm had a personal, rather than institutional, form of service to all clients. While keeping the primary focus on healthcare, Powers Pyles Sutter & Verville has gradually expanded capabilities to include a [national education practice](#), public policy and [government relations](#) services, [employment law](#) services, representation of nonprofit organizations, and representation of clients seeking expertise in other areas of administrative law. In 2014, the firm further expanded its capabilities to include an [Indian tribal governments](#) practice group, which provides a full range of legal and government relations services to tribal governments and organizations.

Taryn Couture Biography

Taryn Couture is a Director of Government Relations at Powers Law Firm, focusing on healthcare. Taryn is skilled at advancing legislative agendas through lobbying, grassroots advocacy, coalition building, and policy analysis. Taryn has extensive experience working with state Medicaid programs on coverage and reimbursement. She is adept at developing and supporting advocacy events including congressional briefings, Hill days, and congressional caucus events.

Taryn was previously the Associate Director of Policy and Government Relations for the National Coalition of STD Directors, leading the organization's government relations work. Earlier in her career, she worked with PAI and the Palladium Group to support the development of international reproductive healthcare policies. She also worked for Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Congressman Peter Welch (D-VT). Taryn received bachelor's and master's (MPA) degrees, both *summa cum laude*, from the University at Albany.

Dr. Warren Brill Biography

Dr. Warren A. Brill, AAPD's co-Congressional Liaison, received his dental degree from the University of Pennsylvania and did his specialty training in pediatric dentistry at the University of Maryland and the School of Medicine of the Johns Hopkins University. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Moravian College and Master of Science in Hygiene degree from the Graduate School of Public Health at the University of Pittsburgh. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry, and a fellow of the American College of Dentists and the International College of Dentists. Dr. Brill served as Chairman of the Oral Health Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene for the State of Maryland. He is a member of the ADA/AETNA Advisory Committee and is a consultant for pediatric oral medical devices for the Food and Drug Administration. Dr. Brill has served as a member of the Legislative Affairs Committee of the Maryland State Dental Association and chair of the Legislative Affairs Committee of the Maryland Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. He is also Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatric Dentistry at the University of Maryland.

Dr. Brill is a former AAPD President, former AAPD PAC chair, and has also served as district trustee, chair of the Council on Government Affairs, and chair of the Committee on Dental Benefit Programs--currently serving as a member of the latter committee. He was the 2009 recipient of the AAPD's **Pediatric Dentist of the Year** Award. Dr. Brill maintains a full-time private practice in Baltimore, Maryland.

Dr. Jade Miller Biography

Dr. Jade Miller, AAPD co-Congressional Liaison, has been a full time private practitioner in Reno, Nevada since 1983. He became involved with his local dental society level 31 years ago and that early beginning led to leadership and service ever since. Within the AAPD, Jade has served as past president, district trustee, and on the Governance Task Force and Councils of Continuing Education and Communications. He is a current member and previous chair of the Safety Committee under the research and policy center. Jade was also part of the inaugural AAPD Leadership Institute and Advanced Leadership Institute.

In Nevada, Dr. Miller has served as president of the Northern Nevada Dental Society, Nevada Dental Association, and Nevada Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. Nationally, at the American Dental Association, he has served as Delegate for the 14th District and on the Council for Dental Education and Licensure.

From Dr. Miller's involvement in hospital department leadership, the Nevada Governor appointed him to the Nevada State Board of Health where he was elected as the first dentist as chairman, serving for 4 consecutive years. The Governor also appointed him to the Medicaid Medical Advisory Committee and Board of Dental Examiners, where he served as president.

Dr. Miller has appointments as Associate Faculty at University of the Pacific School of Dentistry, University of Washington School of Dentistry, and University of Nevada School of Medicine.

Dr. Heber Simmons Jr. Biography

Dr. Heber Simmons, Jr. served from 1997 -2021 as Congressional Liaison for the AAPD, educating members of Congress and their staff concerning oral health issues for children. Dr. Simmons practiced pediatric dentistry in Jackson, Mississippi for over 57 years- retiring in 2020. He is a distinguished leader in dentistry, having served as past President of the AAPD, the American Academy of Dental Practice Administration, and the Mississippi Dental Association. Heber received the AAPD's Ann Page Griffin Humanitarian Award in 2011 and the Distinguished Service Award in 1994. He has served on the ADA's Board of Trustees, and also been an ADA dental consumer spokesperson since 1981, making numerous media appearances. Heber received his dental degree at the University of Tennessee and completed his pediatric dentistry training there as well. His alma mater recently created The Heber Simmons, Jr. DDS, MS, Endowed Professorship of Pediatric Dentistry to honor a man who has made a lifetime of contributions to the field.

As AAPD Congressional Liaison, he visited Members of Congress and their staff on a regular basis and was an integral part of AAPD's advocacy efforts. Heber was awarded an AAPD Presidential Citation in 2001 in recognition of his successful efforts in obtaining funding for the Title VII pediatric dentistry program. This success continued over the length of his service, as Heber was integral to obtaining \$12 million in directed funding for this program in the FY 2020 budget. He continues to serve the AAPD as Special Consultant to the Board of Trustees.

Heber built strong relationships with a number of key Congressional offices, and contributed significantly to the ongoing efforts of the AAPD's Council on Government Affairs and PAC Steering Committee. If someone on Capitol Hill is related to someone in dentistry or Heber's extended friends and families and former patients, Heber usually finds that connection!

He graciously and gracefully worked with Drs. Warren Brill and Jade Miller on a smooth Congressional Liaison transition. To preserve Heber's words of wisdom for future generations of pediatric dentists, his 2020 keynote presentation at the *Pediatric Oral Health Advocacy Conference* was videotaped and is available on the AAPD website.