

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

2025



CEO REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

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





WHO ATTENDS ANNUAL SESSION?

YEARS IN PRACTICE

Less than 1 Year	7.7%
1-5 Years	26.3%
6-10 Years	15.7%
11-15 Years	14%
16-20 Years	8.2%
More than 20 Years	16.8%

FUTURE ANNUAL SESSION SITES

2026—Las Vegas, Nevada
2027—Washington, D.C.
2028—Nashville, Tennessee
2029—Honolulu, Hawaii
2030—Boston, Massachusetts
2031—Louisville, Kentucky

WELCOME TO AAPD® 2025

The Council on Annual Session, including Local Arrangement Chairs Drs. Jeff Kahl and Dan Hoang, have worked closely with the Scientific Program Committee, led by Dr. Martha Wells.

- The **Preconference Course** entitled *Minimally Invasive Dentistry – Adding MID to your Toolbox* is on Thursday, May 22, and has a fantastic lineup of speakers.
- **Mick Ebeling** is the keynote speaker on Friday morning, addressing *Creating a Culture of Impact and Purpose*.
- As of press time, **over 5,000** have registered for the meeting, including over 2,200 members, 630 residents, and 600 office staff.
- **447 research poster presentations** have been accepted (207 participating in the competition and 240 presenting only).
- **250 exhibit booths** have been sold, representing 124 companies.
- Over 3,000 will attend the AAPD and AAPD Foundation **Welcome Reception** at National Western Complex, featuring the *Zac Barnett of American Authors, Uncle Kracker and Mark McGrath of Sugar Ray*.
- The **President's Farewell Dinner** will be a fabulous evening at the Denver Art Museum. Several award winners will be honored at this event.
- The **AAPD Store** can be found in booth 422. The AAPD Store offers great products, including the most recent edition of *The Handbook of Pediatric Dentistry* or souvenirs from AAPD 2025. Co-editors Drs. Paul Casamassimo and Ark Nowak will be available to sign copies of the Handbook.
- There are attendees representing **33 countries** around the world!

THIS PDF IS INTERACTIVE. EVERY SECTION HAS CLICKABLE LINKS THAT ALLOW YOU TO EXPLORE TOPICS AND LEARN EVERYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY.



Did you know there's a marker on the Colorado State Capitol steps showing the exact point that's 5,280 feet above sea level? There are actually three markers from different eras, reflecting how technology has improved over time. Be sure to check them out while you're here!



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Thank you to our 2025 Corporate Sponsors for their partnership with the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry throughout the year. Together, we're making a difference for AAPD members, their staff, and the children in their care.

VISIONARY



STRATEGIC



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



AAPD® MEMBERSHIP IS OVER 11,000

The AAPD is proud to maintain an outstanding member retention rate of 89 percent, with an even higher rate of 91 percent among our Active and Life members. These numbers speak volumes not just about the strength of our community, but about the deep commitment our members have to the mission and vision of the Academy.

This remarkable loyalty allows us to grow, innovate, and consistently deliver high-quality programs, services, and initiatives that support pediatric oral health and the professionals who champion it. We're deeply grateful for your continued support. Thank you for being such an essential part of the AAPD family!

AAPD MEMBERSHIP 2024 – 2025

Active	7,170
Life	473
Affiliate	374
Associate	45
International	124
International Colleague	6
International Colleague-3 years	19
Honorary	2
Retired	1,542
Predoctoral Students	300
Postdoctoral Students	1,058
International Students	56
Allied	14
Friends of Pediatric Dentistry	7
Total	11,190



AAPD CEO **Dr. John S. Rutkauskas**

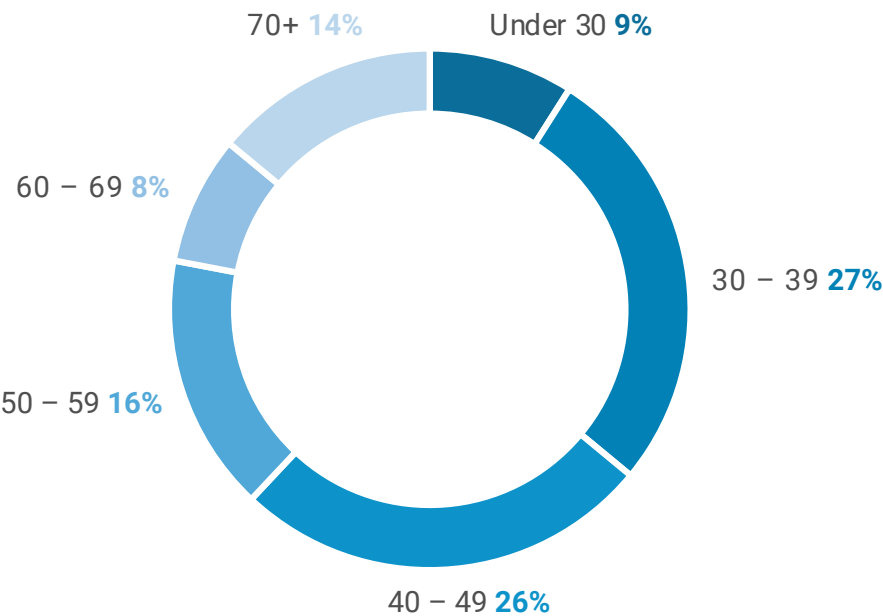
AAPD PEDIATRIC DENTISTS BY DISTRICT

Northeastern Society of Pediatric Dentistry	North Central Society of Pediatric Dentistry	Southeastern Society of Pediatric Dentistry	Southwestern Society of Pediatric Dentistry	Western Society of Pediatric Dentistry
1,748	1,234	1,654	1,196	1,721

AAPD PEDIATRIC DENTISTS BY STATE

Alabama	88	Louisiana	81	Ohio	211
Alaska	30	Maine	20	Oklahoma	65
Arizona	173	Maryland	167	Oregon	93
Arkansas	54	Massachusetts	234	Pennsylvania	282
California	775	Michigan	170	Puerto Rico	21
Colorado	188	Military	24	Rhode Island	24
Connecticut	99	Minnesota	97	South Carolina	114
Delaware	19	Mississippi	51	South Dakota	19
District of Columbia	26	Montana	36	Tennessee	169
Florida	401	Missouri	109	Texas	633
Georgia	204	Nebraska	55	Utah	99
Hawaii	56	Nevada	67	Vermont	10
Idaho	45	New Hampshire	39	Virginia	227
Illinois	228	New Jersey	279	Washington	227
Indiana	123	New Mexico	22	West Virginia	19
Iowa	71	New York	509	Wisconsin	109
Kansas	44	North Carolina	258	Wyoming	13
Kentucky	101	North Dakota	17		

AAPD MEMBERS BY AGE



AAPD MEMBERS BY GENDER

55%	45%
Female	Male
AAPD PEDIATRIC DENTISTS BY GENDER (ACTIVE/LIFE)	
59%	41%
Female	Male
AAPD POSTDOCTORAL MEMBERS BY GENDER	
73%	27%
Female	Male

STATE/DISTRICT DUES COLLECTION

AAPD is currently collecting membership dues for **40 state chapters** and all **5 district chapters**. The table below lists the membership/market share for each chapter, which is the percentage of AAPD member pediatric dentists who also joined the state or district. *Remember that while it is not mandatory, the AAPD strongly encourages state and district membership.* New for FY26, the AAPD will now collect dues for the Missouri Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Alabama	96%	72%	91%	92%
Alaska	97%	86%	89%	83%
Arizona	83%	83%	91%	81%
California	71%	82%	88%	76%
Colorado	92%	90%	90%	80%
Connecticut	83%	84%	83%	70%
Delaware	N/A	N/A	N/A	&&%
District of Columbia	76%	95%	77%	80%
Florida	75%	77%	77%	64%
Georgia	85%	90%	85%	76%
Hawaii	80%	83%	98%	87%
Idaho	81%	91%	84%	82%
Illinois	81%	88%	88%	74%
Indiana	86%	92%	88%	85%
Iowa	85%	85%	94%	85%
Kentucky	78%	90%	84%	88%
Louisiana	88%	83%	91%	83%
Maine	80%	84%	91%	95%
Massachusetts	77%	78%	73%	68%
Maryland	86%	82%	84%	70%
Minnesota	83%	91%	91%	87%
Mississippi	89%	80%	91%	94%
Montana	89%	93%	100%	91%
North Carolina	86%	90%	87%	79%
Nebraska	92%	96%	85%	87%
New Hampshire	100%	94%	97%	88%
New Jersey	94%	94%	84%	72%
Nevada	86%	76%	85%	72%
New York	84%	74%	75%	57%
Ohio	90%	74%	79%	84%
Oklahoma	75%	80%	77%	94%
Oregon	83%	90%	91%	81%
Pennsylvania	85%	87%	87%	75%
South Carolina	88%	89%	88%	85%
Tennessee	76%	85%	83%	66%
Texas	74%	78%	80%	66%
Washington	86%	89%	91%	80%
Wisconsin	92%	89%	93%	83%
West Virginia	94%	83%	100%	85%

NEW MEMBERS FOR FY 2024 – 25

Active	7
Affiliate	56
Allied	4
Associate	4
International	4
Postdoctoral Students	374
Predoctoral Students	174
International Students	36
International Colleague	4
Total	669

*New Active Members from the class of 2024	482
**Active Reinstated	189

District	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
North Central Society of Pediatric Dentistry	75%	86%	85%	78%
Northeastern Society of Pediatric Dentistry	71%	79%	77%	63%
Southeastern Society of Pediatric Dentistry	74%	80%	79%	67%
Southwestern Society of Pediatric Dentistry	67%	57%	77%	63%
Western Society of Pediatric Dentistry	72%	81%	84%	68%

FELLOW PROGRAM

BECOME AN AAPD FELLOW

The fellow program focuses on leadership, organized dentistry and community involvement. There are 1387 AAPD members that have the FAAPD designation.

- 715 AAPD members have Fellow Status
- 661 members qualified for Fellow Life Status.

SOFI STUDENT LOAN REFINANCING

AAPD partners with SoFi to offer members a 0.250% rate discount when they refinance through *SoFi.com/AAPD*. For many in the dental community, student debt is a challenging reality. SoFi evaluates borrowers holistically to offer low rates that ultimately can save borrowers thousands. You can check your rate in two minutes with no impact on your credit score. Residents can refinance as well!

AAPD MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

AAPD STAFF CONTACTS FOR MEMBERSHIP INQUIRIES

VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP AND CHAPTER RELATIONS

SUZANNE A. WESTER, MBA, CAE

MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING COORDINATOR **LEE GONZALEZ**

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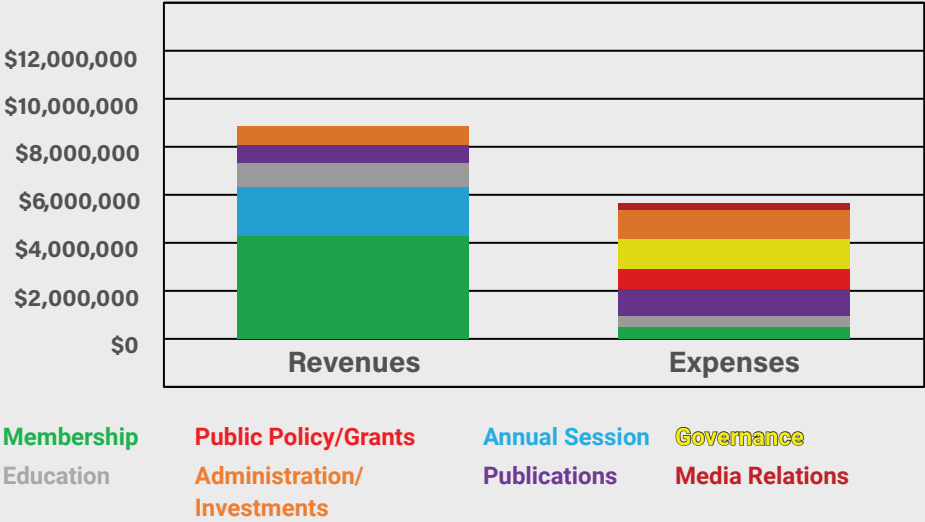
CONGRESSIONAL LIASISON
DR. JADE MILLER

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DR. SARAT THIKKURISY

CEO **DR. JOHN S. RUTKAUSKAS**

The accounting firm of Martin and Martin conducted the audit of AAPD’s financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. AAPD experienced a net gain during the year of **\$982,032** reflecting total revenues of **\$12,782,711** compared to expenses of **\$11,800,680**.

Between July 2024 and March 2025, we added \$2.7 million with the main sources of revenue from dues renewals, CE registrations, registrations from Annual Session and investments. A financial snapshot for the current fiscal year through March 2025 is provided below.



The AAPD acknowledges the outstanding leadership, not just on financial issues but on visionary programmatic planning, of the AAPD Board of Trustees.

We also acknowledge outgoing board members for their service: Immediate Past President Dr. Scott W. Cashion, NorthCentral District Trustee Dr. Colleen C. Greene, At-Large Trustee Dr. Gila Dorostkar, and Parliamentarian Dr. James Boynton.



Special kudos to the Executive Committee members your CEO has had the pleasure to work with over the past year.

AAPD STAFF CONTACTS FOR FINANCES AND BUDGETING

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER **DR. JOHN S. RUTKAUSKAS, DDS, MBA, CAE**

DIRECTOR, BUSINESS SERVICES **MARY PURNELL, MBA**

ACCOUNTING ASSOCIATE **SIERRA SMITH**

The AAPD Foundation continues to be the nation's largest dentist-led charity dedicated to child oral health, promoting oral health for all children. Our network of grant recipients, our volunteers and our donors are some of the most heroic people in dentistry today! While the Foundation Board of Trustees will be addressing a full agenda when it meets in late May, here's a look at 2024-2025 highlights.

ACCESS TO CARE GRANTS REFRESHED

Recognizing the increasing need across our grantee network, the Foundation simplified its application process for One Year Access to Care Grants. We also increased the value of One Year Access to Care Grants to \$30,000 each for qualified nonprofit pediatric dental providers. Grants and Programs Committee members and volunteer reviewers met in Chicago in September 2024 for its annual calibration, preparing for a busy fall of application evaluations. **This preparation paid off as the Foundation received a record number of applications for one-year grants – a total of 336 organizations nationwide applied.**

DID YOU KNOW? Besides reporting their accomplishments related to our Access to Care Grant support, our grantees also submit data allowing us to calculate patient no-show rates, recall rates, and caries at recall. This helps track individual clinic effectiveness, plus aggregating this data across all grantees gives us a national picture of need – and progress!



ACCESS TO CARE INVESTMENT

The Foundation Board in November 2024 approved a three-year, \$75,000 per year grant to the KinderSmile Foundation in Bloomfield, N.J. KinderSmile joins eight other organizations nationwide receiving major Foundation support. These larger investments increase our grantees' capacity to help children in their communities.

DID YOU KNOW? Selected One Year Access to Care Grant recipients that perform better than average on no-show, recall, and caries at recall metrics are invited to submit proposals to receive Three-Year Access to Care Grants, up to \$225,000 over three years. This helps ensure the Foundation is investing in programs with the greatest chances of long-term effectiveness.

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE RE-CONVENES

Cohort VII of AAPD/AAPD Foundation Leadership Institute held its second session Dec. 12-15, 2024, at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Cohort VII participants include: Drs. Alexander Alcaraz, Aarika Anderson Elter, Natasha Bramley, Aaron Bumann, Brianne Butler, Glenn Canares, Vanessa Carpenter, Carolyn Crowell, Matthew Geneser, Tiffany Green, Colleen Collins Greene, Marcio Guelmann, Brittaney Hill, Bina Katechia, Venetia Laganis, Flavia Lamberghini, Clarise Law Eyre, AnnMarie Matusak, Jeffrey Miles Mazzawi, Brianna Muñoz, Hubert Park, Don Schmitt, Brandon Schwindt, and T.P. Sivakumar. Three representatives from the American College of Dentists, along with a corporate representative, also are members of Cohort VII.

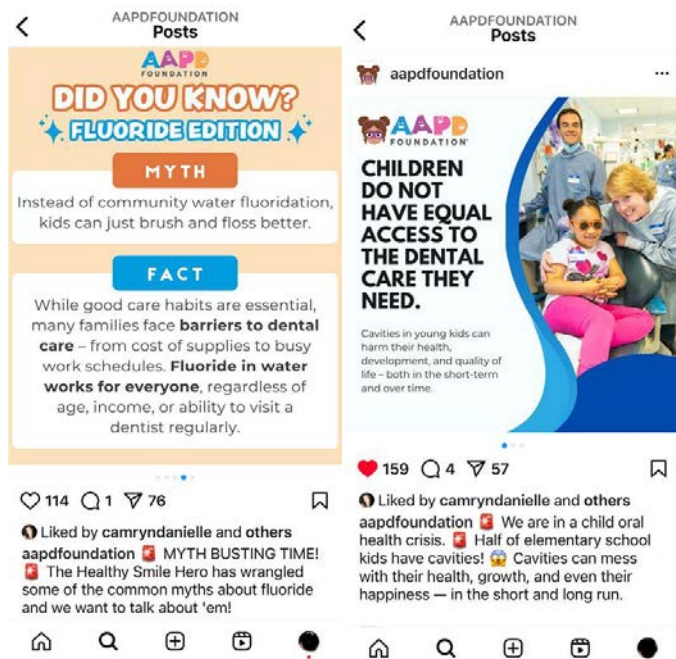


DID YOU KNOW? On average, at least 80 AAPD members apply for entry to the Leadership Institute when calls for application are issued every third year. **With 30 available seats, gaining entry to Leadership Institute is a very competitive process.** Watch for Call for Application notices for Cohort VIII in *E-News* starting in September.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

(February 2025)

The Foundation joined the Academy in its National Children's Dental Health Month media efforts leaning in to help address myths surrounding fluoride and water fluoridation. Followers of AAPD Foundation social media channels, and visitors to aapdfoundation.org, continue to rise.



DID YOU KNOW? When you donate to the AAPD Foundation, you have access to the Hero Library, a trove of practice promotion tools including engaging, printable activity sheets, fun desktop and tablet backgrounds, and ready-to-post social media content. Educate caregivers, delight your patients, and get everyone excited about dental care! Donors can access the Hero Library at aapdfoundation.org/hero-library.

MEETING PEDIATRIC ORAL HEALTH NEEDS NATIONWIDE

Spring is a big planning time for the Foundation as we evaluate priorities for the coming year. Looking specifically at the growing uncertainties associated with public health policy and its impact on child oral health, the Grants and Programs Committee is helping the Foundation navigate through these current challenges:

- Emerging concern among AAPD Foundation grantees about federal and state funding cuts, specifically the impact those cuts will have on the marginalized patients and communities they serve.
- Increasing calls for the elimination of fluoride from municipal water supplies suggesting that, if one of the greatest public health accomplishments of the 20th century can come under fire, other challenges to accepted public health practice(s) could affect dentistry and care for the underserved.
- The degree that other federal actions, beyond public health policies, will affect access to care among underserved children.

As of April 16, 2025, the Foundation was evaluating the results of a grantee needs assessment to provide direction for the coming year. The Grants and Programs Committee is assessing the possibilities for increases in frequency of oral disease, poor dental outcomes, and negative impact on overall child health and well-being. Recommendations for how the Foundation might address these public health policy challenges will be submitted the Foundation Board of Trustees in late May.

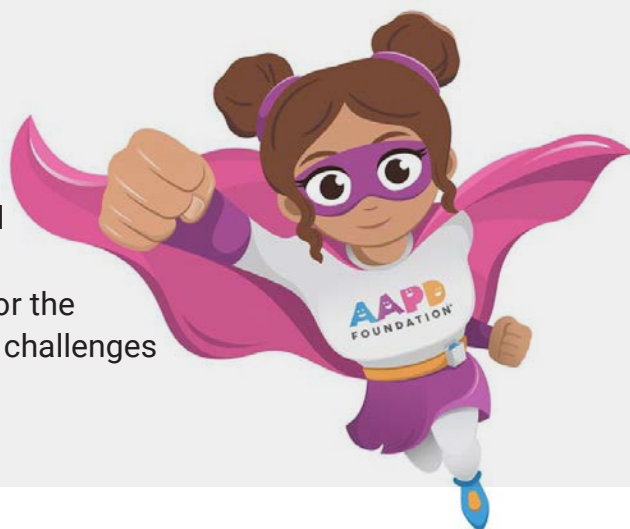
DID YOU KNOW? When you contribute to the AAPD Foundation with your annual dues payment or donate at the Foundation booth in Denver, 100 percent of your gift will go to help children. We know the challenges facing families in need will only increase and any contribution will make a difference in the life of a child when it is needed most.

THE AAPD FOUNDATION AT AAPD 2025

Come see us at booth 542 in Denver!

We're looking forward to seeing everyone at the AAPD/AAPD Foundation Welcome Reception on Friday night, May 23.

On Saturday night, May 24, the Foundation will honor the 2025 recipient of the Dr. Beverly A. Largent Access to Care Innovator Award, sponsored by Elevate Oral Care. Dr. Maria Rita Z. Bernardo, staff dentist and dental clinical team lead of FamilyCare Health Centers in West Virginia, is this year's honoree. Want to score an invite for the reception? Stop by **Booth 542** and learn more about the challenges underserved families face in getting to the dentist.



LEADERSHIP

Special thanks to AAPD President Dr. Scott Smith, who will be rotating off the Foundation Board of Trustees with the conclusion of his term as AAPD President. Dr. Clifford Hartmann will be joining the Foundation Board as a member of the Trustee Class of 2026-2029.

AAPD FOUNDATION 2024-2025 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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AAPD/AAPD FOUNDATION CEO **DR. JOHN RUTKAUSKAS**



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AAPD® RESEARCH AND POLICY CENTER



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The AAPD Research & Policy Center (RPC) team brings expertise in public health, library sciences, and data science to AAPD, and we are guided by an Advisory Board of pediatric dentists and affiliates with extensive research and policy experience. The RPC is home to AAPD's Evidence-Based Dentistry and Safety & Quality Improvement Committees, and staff is heavily involved supporting the activities of AAPD's Councils on Clinical, Government, and Scientific Affairs, including the CGA Committee on Dental Benefits Programs and the CGA Pediatric Dental Medicaid and CHIP Advisory Committee. A few RPC focus areas include:

- Medicaid policy and program implementation
- Pediatric dental workforce
- Evidence-based dental care delivery
- Access to high quality and safe dental care for children
- Other contemporary issues in oral health, public health, and health policy

ON YOUR RADAR

There has been a lot going on in the federal government that relates to dentistry and children's oral health. Below are some of the updates RPC sent to members recently:

- **April 15, 2025:** AAPD Affirms Safety and Effectiveness of Community Water Fluoridation
- **April 8, 2025:** HHS and CDC Fluoride Policy Changes
- **April 2, 2025:** HHS Cuts Impact Oral Health
- **Jan. 29, 2025:** Federal Aid "Freeze" Temporarily Blocked

FLUORIDE



The AAPD has affirmed our position on water fluoridation at every opportunity this past year: **Community water fluoridation is safe, effective, and essential.**

In April 2025, HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. was in Utah to celebrate a bill that was passed that bans water fluoridation throughout the state. During that time, he reported that HHS will direct CDC to stop recommending the fluoridation of water. See our message to members here.

In the week following that announcement, the AAPD spearheaded an effort to unite partners in dentistry, pediatrics, health care, and research in supporting community water fluoridation. The response was outstanding; over 250 national and state organizations signed onto AAPD's coalition letter. **The letter was sent to the HHS Secretary and EPA Administrator and every member of Congress, and a press release was issued on April 15, 2025.**

If the continuation of water fluoridation is in question in your community, please notify us by emailing RPC@aapd.org. We will do our best to support its continuation for children's oral health. The AAPD RPC is grateful to have a strong community of oral health advocates and researchers who join forces to share the science on this issue with communities confronting these decisions.

The AAPD is proud to have joined as an Ally of the **Campaign for Dental Health** this Spring. The Campaign for Dental Health, directed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, has developed fantastic resources for communicating about fluoride with parents, caregivers, and families. We recommend all check it out!


AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTS
THE BIG AUTHORITY on little teeth®

AAPD and Leading Health Organizations Reaffirm: Community Water Fluoridation is Safe, Effective, and Essential

A federal effort has been proposed to eliminate the recommendation and use of fluoride in community water systems.

Community water fluoridation remains the only way to ensure that all people – especially those at greatest risk for dental disease and who have the fewest resources to maintain their oral health – can reap its cavity-preventing benefits.

The AAPD and over 250 organizations have signed a coalition letter to Congress and the Administration, strongly reaffirming the safety of community water fluoridation and its importance in ensuring health equity across the U.S.




[READ THE FULL LETTER](#)

[FLUORIDE RESOURCES](#)

MEASLES




Measles


AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTS
THE BIG AUTHORITY on little teeth®

Measles isn't just a little rash. Measles can be very dangerous or even deadly, especially for babies and young children.

STAGES OF THE MEASLES

- **7–14 days after infection:** Symptoms can appear to be from the common cold, beginning with a high fever (104°F+), cough, runny nose, and red, watery eyes.
- **2–3 days after symptoms start:** Koplik spots (tiny white spots) may appear inside the mouth **BEFORE** any skin rash.
- **3–5 days after symptoms start:** A red, blotchy rash begins at the hairline and spreads downward. Small raised bumps may form, and fever may spike again.





Protect your child from measles with the MMR vaccine – safe, effective, and recommended by the CDC.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The AAPD has been sharing the following information with members regularly on multiple channels in light of the recent measles outbreak:

Did you know measles can show up in the mouth before the rash appears? As a pediatric dentist, you can help with early identification. Keep an eye out for Koplik spots – tiny white spots that appear inside the mouth two to three days after symptoms begin.

Recognizing these early signs can help with quicker diagnosis and prevent the spread. Learn more about Koplik spots and the measles at <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/signs-symptoms/index.html>.

WEBINAR SERIES

The 2025 Research & Policy Center Webinar Series is well under way! Have you missed some of the webinars? No problem! Slides and recordings are available on the *RPC Webinars page*.

- **Let's Talk Fluoride** | Drs. Steven Levy, Tim Wright, and Jessica Lee (Attended by over 700 people!)
- **Dental Practice Support for Providing Care to People with Disabilities** | Drs. Jeffery Johnston and Holli Seabury of the Delta Dental Foundation
- **Get Up to Date with CDT & G0330 for 2025: Key Changes & Implementation** | Dr. Jim Nickman and Diane Millman

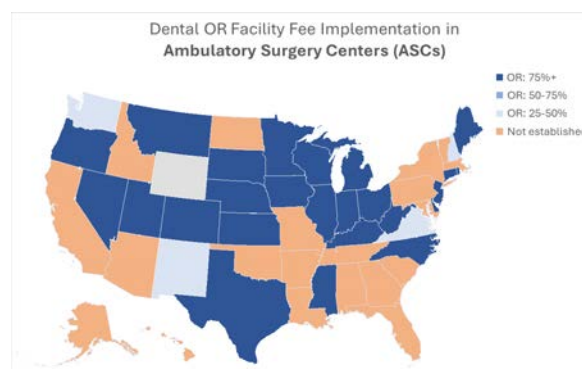
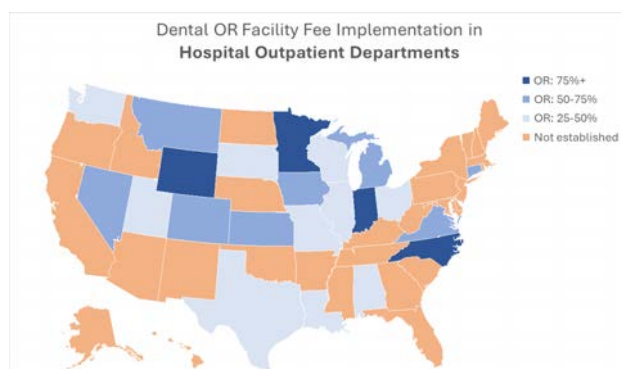
Continuing education is available to those who participated in the live event or who access the webinar on AAPD Education Passport. Stay tuned for more offerings following Annual Session!



ACCESS TO DENTAL REHABILITATION IN OPERATING ROOMS: STATE UPDATES IN FACILITY FEE IMPLEMENTATION

More states are making progress with implementing facility fees that can alleviate access barriers for patients needing care in an operating room setting. Check out the state updates here as of April 2025, and scroll down for a full view of how quickly these policy changes have been spreading across the U.S. since January 2023. We commend the AAPD State Public Policy Advocates for all their work collaborating with Medicaid agencies and other oral health champions on implementing the best solution for their state.

Need a refresher on the history and particulars of G0330? See our Toolkit for help, which was updated earlier this year to reflect the 2025 CMS regulation. See additional details in the Public Policy section.



TRANSFORMING TRANSITION FROM PEDIATRIC TO ADULT DENTAL CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES | SUPPORTED BY THE CAREQUEST INSTITUTE

The AAPD Foundation was awarded a grant from the Care-Quest Institute for Oral Health to work with the AAPD RPC on *Transforming Transition from Pediatric to Adult Dental Care for People with Disabilities*.

As part of this project, the AAPD convened a **Transition Advisory Group** in February 2025 in Chicago: pediatric dentists, general dentists, disabilities advocates, and oral health experts who came together to strategize on opportunities for improving transition in the dental care delivery system. We were honored to have Dr. Patience White of Got Transition, the national resource center on health care transition, lending her expertise to the discussion.

Other grant activities include assessing readiness in pediatric dental education for supporting transition, identifying barriers and facilitators to transition with both pediatric dentists and general dentists, cataloguing existing transition programs, and identifying policy levers for transition systems improvement.



This is a complex issue with no simple solutions, but we are proud to be taking on the challenge and look forward to providing more updates as the work progresses.

AAPD–PREVENTECH SAMUEL D. HARRIS RESEARCH & POLICY FELLOWSHIP

- **Dr. Alina O'Brien** of UPenn has been hard at work on her Harris Fellowship project exploring variations in state dental practice acts regarding moderate sedation permitting. She has contributed invaluable perspectives to the work of the Committee on Sedation & Anesthesia, connecting and sharing updates regularly with Drs. Thikkurissy, Casamassimo, and Fosse.
- Congratulations to **Dr. Bhakti Desai**, Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois Chicago, selected as the 2025-26 Harris Fellow. Dr. Desai will be focusing her work on professional and provider wellbeing in pediatric dentistry over this next year.

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO RBH ORAL HEALTH FELLOWS PROGRAM

The AAPD is thrilled to be partnering with the University of Chicago on a fellowship experience for undergraduate students interested in pediatric dentistry and oral health policy. We are excited to welcome two remarkably impressive pre-dental students to the headquarters office for the summer and look forward to introducing them to the pediatric dentistry community and exposing them to some of the current issues and opportunities.

NATIONAL ACADEMIES Sciences Engineering Medicine

NATIONAL ACADEMIES WORKSHOP ON ORAL HEALTH

The National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) conducted a workshop in November 2024 where experts convened to discuss innovative practices and models for advancing oral health across the lifespan in the US. The AAPD is proud to have been a sponsor of the workshop and grateful to Dr. Jessica Lee for serving on the Planning Committee and a panel moderator and presenter. Numerous AAPD volunteer leaders and staff attended.



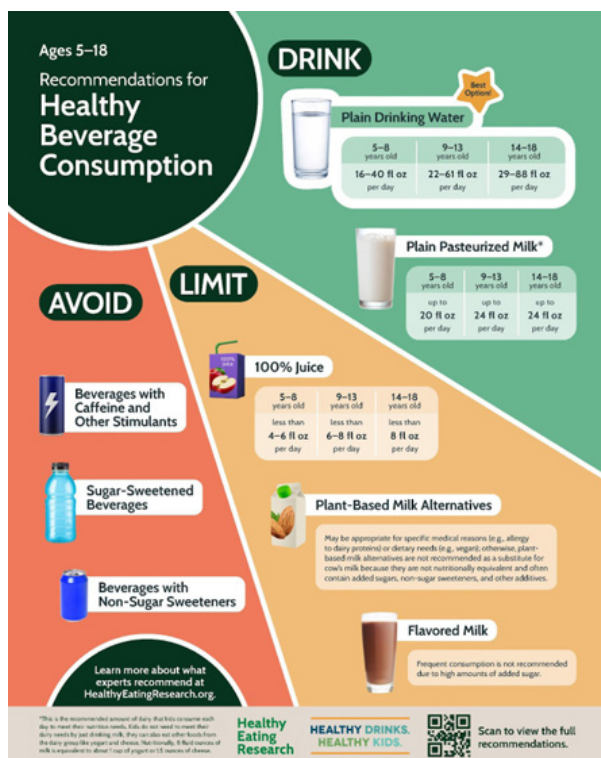
Proceedings of the Workshop were published in April 2025 and are available **here**. We look forward to ongoing collaboration across the public and private sectors to advance oral health across the lifespan in the U.S.

ORAL HEALTH POLICIES & BEST PRACTICES










The 2024-25 version of The Reference Manual of Pediatric Dentistry is available at <https://www.aapd.org/research/oral-health-policies--recommendations/>. Updates to approximately 20 documents will be considered by the AAPD's General Assembly in Denver in May, and the 2025-26 update will be published by the end of the year.

HEALTHY EATING RESEARCH – HEALTHY BEVERAGE GUIDELINES FOR AGES 5–18

The AAPD was pleased to participate in this workgroup with the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, American Heart Association, and American Academy of Pediatrics. This collaboration ensures consistent, evidence-based guidance for parents, caregivers, and health professionals. Explore the **full recommendations** or a **brief overview**, and be sure to check out the patient and caregiver resources such as the daily fluid intake tool and handouts on sugar and caffeine.



RPC ON THE ROAD IN 2024-25

- National Conference of State Legislatures Legislative Summit 2024:** Clare Conte and Dr. Chelsea Fosse exhibited in "Dental Row" alongside the ADA and Academy of General Dentistry, speaking with state legislators and their staffers on issues pertaining to dentistry and children's oral health.
 
- National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA) Annual Conference:** Dr. Fosse presented on the residency safety curriculum and other activities of the Safety & Quality Improvement Committee, and shared information with the Primary Care Association regarding operating room access at this conference in Baltimore, Md., in September 2024.
 
- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) National Conference & Exhibition (NCE):** Clare Conte was on-site in the exhibit hall to talk oral health with pediatricians and their teams in Washington, D.C., in September 2024.
 
- American Medical Writers Association:** Rachel Wedeward presented at this conference in New Orleans, La., in October 2024.
 
- American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting & Expo:** Dr. Fosse presented on operating room access and state implementation of facility fees in Minneapolis in October 2024.
 
- Medicaid/CHIP/Medicare Services Dental Association (MSDA) Corporate Roundtable:** Drs. Scott Cashion, Brianna Munoz, and Chelsea Fosse attended and connected with colleagues in state Medicaid agencies, dental insurance, and industry in Alexandria, Va., in November 2024.
 
- Greater New York Dental Meeting:** Drs. Scott Smith, Tom Ison, Scott Cashion, and Chelsea Fosse provided an update from the AAPD to kick off the *Pediatric Dentistry Seminar*. The session was moderated by Dr. Angela Stout. As part of the GNYDM experience, multiple AAPD leaders were invited as speakers on The Dental Health Show of SiriusXM's Doctor Radio, hosted by Dr. Amr Moursi.
 
- National Oral Health Conference:** Dr. Chelsea Fosse was on-site at NOHC, as were numerous AAPD members who attended and presented their research. The AAPD had a booth in the exhibit hall. Dr. Fosse presented on *The Status of State Periodicity Schedules and State Efforts to Expand Access to Operating Room Dental Care via Fair Facility Fees*.
 
- American Association of Dental Consultants Spring Workshop:** Drs. Jim Nickman and Chelsea Fosse attended this meeting to learn about current issues and opportunities in dental benefits and coding.
 
- Medicaid/Medicare/CHIP Services Dental Association (MSDA) National Symposium:** The AAPD Pediatric Dental Medicaid & CHIP Advisory Committee attended the MSDA Symposium in Alexandria in early May 2025. AAPD member presenters spoke about opportunities to effectively engage state managed care entities for improved Medicaid programs, safety considerations in sedation and general anesthesia, and state developments in the implementation of coding to increase access to operating room settings.
 
- Association for Dental Safety (ADS) Annual Conference:** Immediately following Annual Session, Dr. Joe Castellano, Chair of the AAPD Safety & Quality Improvement Committee, will represent the AAPD and present on our safety activities at this meeting in Orlando, Fla., in June 2025.
 

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO GET THE NEW 6TH EDITION HANDBOOK OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY—SIGNED BY THE EDITORS!

The highly anticipated new edition of the Handbook is here and will be available at the AAPD Annual Session! Be one of the first to buy your copy and get it personally signed by renowned editors Drs. Art Nowak and Paul Casamassimo at the AAPD Store!

FRIDAY: 12 – 3 PM

SATURDAY: 10 AM – 12 PM

Swing by, meet the experts, and take home a signed copy of this must-have resource! Don't miss out!



EVIDENCE-BASED DENTISTRY COMMITTEE

The mission of the **AAPD Evidence-Based Dentistry (EBD) Committee** is to promote optimal pediatric oral health through evidence-based clinical practice guidelines that improve patient outcomes. The Committee is currently hard at work on numerous projects.

- **Pulp Therapy:** The Pulp Therapy workgroup met in January 2025 with endodontist representatives to finalize the guideline recommendations on vital pulp therapy in permanent teeth. The systematic review will be published in the May/June 2025 edition of the *Pediatric Dentistry*.
- **Frenectomy and Lactation:** This multidisciplinary workgroup has completed data extraction for this project. A total of 59 articles will be included as part of the systematic review. Characteristic Studies tables have been completed, and the workgroup is reviewing the evidence and organizing the literature. We thank Dr. Vineet Dhar for his leadership on this project!
- **Next up: Airway!** Dr. Tim Wright has volunteered to chair the workgroup. The EBD Committee will guide this workgroup on the appropriate scope of research to pursue PICO question development. We anticipate that subtopics such as functional appliances and myofunctional therapy will be included in this review. Stay tuned for more information!
- The AAPD EBD Committee is proud to announce **Dr. Poojan Shrestha as the EBD Fellow for its inaugural year**. As part of the EBD fellowship, Dr. Shrestha will attend the EBD Workshop at Annual Session 2025 in Denver, complete the AAPD Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Course on Education Passport and other educational opportunities. She will also practice EBD methodological skills by participating in EBD Workgroups (PICO question development, data extraction and synthesis, manuscript development, etc.), and propose an EBD project that aligns with the goals and strategic directions of the AAPD and that would be a valuable contribution to pediatric dentistry (for future consideration of the EBD Committee and AAPD Board of Trustees).
- Special congratulations to **Dr. Tim Wright as the recipient of the 2025 Suzi Seale Evidence-Based Dentistry Service Award Coll Award!** The AAPD presents this award to recognize a major contribution via service or publication, on a national or international level, to the dental profession and the specialty of pediatric dentistry through evidence-based clinical practice, academics, or policy development over the past year.

SAFETY & QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

- A committee workgroup is in the final stages of developing a **Private Practice Safety Resource**, designed to be easily implementable and straight-forward for use by pediatric dentists and their staffs. Stay tuned!
- **Residency Curriculum:** Calling all dental educators! Don't forget the AAPD developed this resource just for you and your students or residents. Please share feedback with us at RPC@aapd.org. We will be exploring opportunities for targeted education on specific hot topics in the curriculum this coming year.
- The Committee has worked on **re-establishing relationships with federal agencies** over this past year: Chair, Dr. Joe Castellano, and staff attended meet-and-greets with Food and Drug Administration (FDA) oral health staff members, including Dr. Renee Joskow, and with the CDC's Division of Oral Health Director, Dr. Gina Thornton-Evans. The AAPD also joined the **FDA Network of Experts** and may be called upon for expertise in the future. Despite the changes in the federal government Health & Human Services staffing, structure, and budget, we are hopeful many of these relationships will stay intact in the years to come.

Safety in Pediatric Dental Care

Curriculum for Pediatric Dentistry Residency Programs

Authors: Joe Castellano, DDS, Jean Kim, DDS, MPH, Charles Casapapa, DMD, Glenn Corso, MPH, Timothy J. Edwards, DMD, MS, Steven Gentry, DDS, William Lee, DDS, MPH, PhD, Christine Lewis, DMD, MPH, Paul Casamassimo, DDS, MS

Approved Citation: Castellano JR, Kim JM, Casapapa CB, et al. Safety in Pediatric Dental Care: Delivery Curriculum for Pediatric Dentistry Residency Programs. J through R. Research and Policy Center, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. 2023.



AAPD STAFF CONTACTS FOR RESEARCH AND POLICY INQUIRIES

CHIEF POLICY OFFICER **DR. PAUL CASAMASSIMO**

DIRECTOR **CHELSEA FOSSE, MPH**

PROJECT MANAGER **LAUREN MANN, MPA**

RESEARCH PROJECT MANAGER **RACHEL WEDEWARD, MLIS, AHIP**

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR **B VALEK**

AAPD® PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY FOR CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH

With the staff leadership of Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel Scott Litch, much support from Executive Assistant, Governance Lisa Gunderson, Washington, D.C. representation by Powers (Julie Allen and team) and tremendous contributions of our Congressional Liaisons Drs. Warren Brill and Jade Miller, the AAPD continues to pursue activities consistent with AAPD's legislative and regulatory priorities developed by the Council on Government Affairs (CGA). **The RPC also contributes significantly to important analysis that is utilized in these advocacy initiatives.**

Speaking of Julie Allen of Power Pyles Sutter & Verville, she was again named among the top lobbyists of 2024 in The Hill's annual list. This list recognizes Washington, D.C. lobbyists under the categories of corporate, association, hired guns, and grassroots. Ms. Allen and her firm represent the AAPD on all federal legislative and regulatory issues.

2025 LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY PRIORITIES

Based on recommendations from the Council on Government Affairs (CGA), 2025 priorities were adopted by the AAPD Board of Trustees on Jan. 23, 2025.

<https://www.aapd.org/globalassets/aapd-2025-legislative-priorities.pdf>

FY 2025 FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS– \$13 MILLION FOR TITLE VII PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

In March 2025, Congress finally approved final funding for the federal fiscal year (FY) 2025 budget, completing the appropriations process for this FY (Oct. 1, 2024-Sept. 30, 2025). This avoided a government shutdown. The legislation includes funding for dental-related programs that address access to care, oral health literacy, dental research and workforce development, including the AAPD's top appropriations priority: Title VII Pediatric Dentistry funding.

The House Appropriations Committee report included favorable language, and recommended a slightly higher level of funding. This will help in future years' efforts, especially given threats of funding cuts to many discretionary health programs; for example, the Trump Administration will propose elimination of Title VII oral health training in their FY 2026 budget proposal:

HRSA Health Professions Education and Training under Title VII of PHS Act

"Oral Health Training

The Committee includes \$43,673,000 for Oral Health Training, \$1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2024 enacted level and the fiscal year 2025 budget request. The Oral Health Training programs increase access to high-quality dental health services in rural and other underserved communities by increasing the number of oral health

care providers working in underserved areas and improving training programs for these providers.

Within the funds provided, the Committee includes not less than \$13,500,000 for general dentistry programs and not less than \$13,500,000 for pediatric dentistry programs, and not less than \$15,000,000 for State oral health workforce grants. The Committee directs HRSA to provide continuation funding for section 748 postdoctoral training grants, predoctoral dental grants, and dental faculty loan repayment grants."

The Senate Appropriations Committee report included prior years' language providing a preference for pediatric dentistry faculty under DFLRP:

"The Committee directs HRSA to initiate a new DFLRP grant cycle with a preference for pediatric dentistry faculty supervising dental students or residents and providing clinical services in dental clinics located in dental schools, hospitals, and community-based affiliated sites."

We acknowledge the hard work of Congressional Liaisons Drs. Warren Brill and Jade Miller, in collaboration with the AAPD's Washington, D.C. lobbyist Ms. Julie Allen and her team at Powers. Advocacy by attendees at the AAPD's Pediatric Oral Health Advocacy Conferences in Washington, D.C., in 2024 and 2025 was also important for this successful outcome.

LARGEST PEDIATRIC ORAL HEALTH ADVOCACY CONFERENCE IN AAPD HISTORY!



What a fantastic few days in Washington, D.C., for the 2025 Pediatric Oral Health Advocacy Conference! This was the largest POHAC attendance in history, with nearly 400 pediatric dental residents, pediatric dental faculty, Public Policy Advocates, and other Academy leaders advocating on Capitol Hill for children's oral health. Attendees met with the offices of over 200 members of Congress and requested their support for Title VII training programs in pediatric dentistry, the Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Assistance Act (H.R. 1758 / S. 1080), community water fluoridation, and promoting healthy childhood nutrition. [Check out our fact sheet on these issues here.](#)



THE CONGRESSIONAL HANDOUT



DR. CHELSEA FOSSE OF THE RPC REVIEWS KEY TRENDS IN PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY



PRESIDENT SCOTT SMITH AND CEO JOHN RUTKAUSKAS MAKE EVERYONE FEEL WELCOME



TEAM MARYLAND



LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE 7 COLLEAGUES AT POHAC



RESIDENTS HAVE A GREAT EXPERIENCE AT POHAC



TEAM COLORADO



TEAM MASSACHUSETTS



TEAM PENNSYLVANIA



THE NYU CREW



TEAM CALIFORNIA



STATE TEAMS DID A GREAT JOB PREPPING FOR THEIR CONGRESSIONAL VISITS



TEAM CONNECTICUT

PEDIATRIC ORAL HEALTH ADVOCACY CONFERENCE



DR. HEBER SIMMONS JR. PROVIDED VALUABLE ADVICE ABOUT ADVOCACY AND LIFE AS A PEDIATRIC DENTIST, AND RECEIVED A STANDING OVATION AFTERWARDS!



JOIN THE AAPD GRASSROOTS NETWORK



COO AND GENERAL COUNSEL SCOTT LITCH BRIEFED ATTENDEES FOR CONGRESSIONAL VISITS ALONG WITH JULIE ALLEN AND TARYN COUTURE FROM POWERS.

The specific pediatric dentistry advocacy requests to Congress were:

SUPPORT THE HRSA PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY TRAINING PROGRAM

Support the HRSA Title VII Primary Care Dental Training Cluster and related oral health programs by providing FY 2026 funding of \$46 million for the HRSA Title VII Primary Care Dental Training Cluster and related oral health programs, with not less than \$13.5 million for Pediatric Dentistry training programs. This is the level that was recommended by the House in 2024 for FY 2025.

SUPPORT THE DENTAL FACULTY LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE ACT

Co-sponsor and support passage of the Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Assistance Act (see below for more details).

ENHANCE CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH THROUGH PREVENTION AND REDUCE A LEADING CHRONIC DISEASE AND ASSOCIATED EXPENDITURES

Support federal efforts to support states in maintaining and expanding community water fluoridation and promote healthy childhood nutrition.

Additionally, information was provided on recent Title VII funding for pediatric dentistry in each state.

Other current key federal priorities for 2025 include the following (prioritization of above issues was based largely on timing):

- **Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act** (ELSA, reintroduced on May 9, 2025, as H.R. 3277 and S. 1677).
- **Medicaid** protections. Awaiting the advancement of more specific proposals and policies to respond constructively, the AAPD has already joined three large Medicaid defense coalition letters in 2025 led by Families USA, Medicaid Health Plans of America, and First Focus Campaign for Children. The AAPD also continues to have regular discussions with the CMS Chief Dental Officer Dr. Natalia Chalmers and her staff. We are delighted that Dr. Chalmers will be recognized at AAPD 2025 in Denver as the Pediatric Dentist of Year!
- Strengthening the **oral health federal infrastructure** (CMS-CDO, HRSA, CDC, etc.).
- **Resident Deferred Interest Act (REDI)**.
- Elevating oral health in the **Make America Healthy Again** movement.

DENTAL FACULTY LOAN REPAYMENT TAX RELIEF BILLS RE-INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS

The AAPD is pleased that bi-partisan legislation to alleviate taxation on Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program (DFLRP) awardees was recently re-introduced in the U.S. Senate and House. Unless the tax code is amended, individual recipients of DFLRP must pay income tax on their awards. The Senate bill (S. 1080) was introduced by Senators Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) and Richard Durbin (D-Ill.), and the House bill (H.R. 1758) was introduced by Rep. (and dentist) Jeff Van Drew (R-N.J. 2nd)

and Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-N.Y. 9th). By alleviating taxation of such payments to the individual, this legislation will make the program even more effective in recruiting and retaining pediatric dental faculty. On March 31, 2025, the AAPD spearheaded a letter sent to key House committee chairs and ranking members signed by 14 other groups in the Organized Dentistry Coalition, urging passage of this legislation.

[Click here to access a copy of the letter.](#)

Speaking of DFLRP...28 INSTITUTIONS WERE FUNDED AT A TOTAL OF \$5,172,365 IN FY 2024.

A 2024 HRSA evaluation concluded:

- Over six-years, the program provided \$12,202,108 in loan forgiveness, relieving an average 43% of student loan debt.
- Without the program, dental faculty vacancies could have grown by 113%; instead they only grew by 78%.



The image shows a promotional card for the AAPD Grassroots Network. At the top left is the AAPD logo with the text 'AMERICA'S PEDIATRIC DENTISTS' and 'THE BIG ADVOCATE for little teeth'. Below this is the question 'Want to be an even better Advocate for Children?'. The main heading is 'JOIN THE AAPD GRASS ROOTS NETWORK' in large, bold, blue letters. Underneath is the text 'Your Grassroots and Advocacy Network' and 'Sign up today on the back of this card!'. At the bottom left is the AAPD PAC logo with the text 'AAPD PAC' and 'THE BIG ADVOCATE for little teeth'. At the very bottom, in small text, it says 'For more information, visit aapd.org/advocacy or email mbjerklie@aapd.org'.

GRASS ROOTS NETWORK

The AAPD routinely issues Action Alerts asking that Members of Congress be contacted on important legislative or regulatory priorities for pediatric dentistry. The AAPD uses a software program that is very simple and easy to use. If you wish to join over 1900 of your colleagues on the Grass Roots Network and receive all future alerts, you can sign up on the AAPD website at: Grassroots Network

OPERATING ROOM ACCESS:

CMS HCPCS DENTAL FACILITY FEE CODE INITIATIVE

Six years ago the AAPD engaged Julie Allen of Powers, Pyles, Sutter, and Verville (aka Powers) to identify problems in reimbursement affecting access to hospital and ambulatory surgery center (ASC) operating rooms (ORs) for dental cases. Powers identified the lack of a specific dental facility fee code in the CMS HCPCS system as a major barrier.¹ After development of a strategy to seek a specific facility fee code for dental cases, the AAPD convened series of Zoom meetings with the CMS Hospital and Ambulatory Policy Group (HAPG) Director and CMS Chief Dental Officer Dr. Natalia Chalmers (a pediatric dentist). **This is a joint advocacy initiative with ADA and AAOMS, who both contribute financially to the engagement of the Powers firm on this issue.** The three organizations have also submitted a series of regulatory comments to CMS on their annual calendar year (CY) Medicare HOPPS and ASC regulations and engaged support of key Members of Congress.

Note that Medicare coding and payment policies for facility fees for hospital outpatient services and ASCs are often adopted by state Medicaid agencies (SMAs), as well as private insurers.

There have been significant achievements and developments from these efforts:

- **CMS established a new dental rehabilitation code (G0330) to report hospital facility fees for dental OR cases, effective Jan. 1, 2023.** The new code was HCPCS code G0330, to describe facility services for dental rehabilitation procedure(s) furnished to patients who require monitored anesthesia (e.g., general, intravenous sedation (monitored anesthesia care)) and use of an operating room.
- **CMS added the dental rehabilitation code (G0330) to the covered procedures list (CPL) for ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs), effective Jan. 1, 2024.**
 - As the result of the AAPD and coalition advocacy efforts, CMS reclassified G0330 into a higher payment category, as the AAPD requested. The final hospital facility payment rate is \$3,070.81, beginning Jan. 1, 2024. CMS originally proposed to reduce Medicare payment to hospitals for the facility costs associated with dental rehabilitation (HCPCS code G0330) from \$1,722.43 in 2023 to \$938.69 in 2024, a reduction of over 45%.
 - The 2024 ASC payment rate for G0330 is \$1,318.93. This is also a tremendous boost from CMS' original proposal, which would have allowed only \$495.52.
- CMS took the following action effective **Jan. 1, 2025**:
 - **The 2025 HOPPS/ASC Final Rule increased Medicare payment for dental rehabilitation (G0330) in hospital outpatient departments to \$3,243.07 and in ASC settings to \$1,394.45.**
 - Generally, the 2025 HOPPS and APC rates for other dental services feature some increases from the previous rates.
 - Added 16 new CDT codes to the ASC Covered Procedures List (CPL).
- **The Hospital and ASC Coding and Payment for Dental Cases toolkit was updated as a 4th edition in February 2025 by AAPD, ADA, and AAOMS.** This is available to members on the AAPD website on this page: <https://www.aapd.org/research/policy-center/rpc-publications/dental-rehabilitation-in-operating-rooms/>. The HOPPS and ASC payment rates for all dental services covered by the 2025 Final Rule are set forth in addenda to the Toolkit.
- **The AAPD RPC hosted a third technical assistance webinar on G0330 on April 10, 2025, featuring attorney Diane Millman of Powers along with Dr. Jim Nickman.** The slides and webinar recording are available on the AAPD website: <https://www.aapd.org/research/policy-center/webinars/>. The AAPD will continue to provide periodic webinars with further updates on this important but complex policy area, especially because AAPD's focus in how state Medicaid agencies (SMAs) will adopt these new coding/payment policies.
- **AAPD is tracking State Medicaid Agency Implementation of new coding policies.** The AAPD state Public Policy Advocates (PPAs) network has been engaged to advocate for adoption/coverage of G0330 by state Medicaid agencies (SMAs). While there is a lot of variability by states and even among hospitals and ASCs in the same state, in terms of how SMAs reimburse for hospital outpatient and ASCs surgeries, **there have been increased facility fees for dental cases in a number of states.** AAPD is tracking state-by-state implementation efforts as illustrated in the RPC section above per the color-coded USA map. Ongoing technical assistance is provided to state PPAs and chapters, highlighting that SMAs have flexibility in how they implement and adopt Medicare coding and billing policies for HOPDs and ASCs.

The AAPD-ADA-AAOMS regulatory comment letter to CMS on the CY 2025 rule is available at: https://www.aapd.org/globalassets/cms_aapd-aaoms-ada-submitted-comments-cy-2025-proposed-hopps-rule-d1137820.pdf.

STATE PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCATES (PPAS)

The AAPD through the Council on Government Affairs (CGA) initiated a state Public Policy Advocate initiative in 2012 to strengthen and coordinate state-level advocacy efforts by our state chapters. A PPA serves as the state pediatric dentistry chapter's advocate for the oral health issues of infants, children, adolescents and patients with special health care and developmental needs. The PPA represents the chapter in promoting children's oral health issues with the state legislature and other elected bodies, state regulatory agencies (including Medicaid and health departments), licensing bureaus, professional health and child welfare organizations, oral health coalitions, foundations, institutions of dental education, publicly-funded safety net programs, and the private sector benefits industry. The PPA closely coordinates their activities with those of the state dental association. PPAs serve as an advocacy liaison between the state pediatric dentistry chapter and the state dental association.

The AAPD continue to convene PPA quarterly Zoom meetings to share information and discuss strategy. Their activities are regularly featured in *PDT*. **There are PPAs in 46 states plus the District of Columbia.** If you want to get more involved with advocacy at the state level and help your state chapter, please contact your PPA. <https://www.aapd.org/advocacy/grass-roots-advocacy/public-policy-advocates-initiative/>.

Over the past year state PPAs have been influential and critical in state advocacy activities such as protecting moderate sedation permit access for pediatric dentists (Illinois and New Hampshire), preventing onerous prepayment review policies by Medicaid managed care companies (Kentucky and New Mexico), and promoting Medicaid dental fee increases (Arkansas and Nebraska).

Welcome to recently appointed new PPAs:

Drs. Andrew Tong (Calif.), Nadiene Oh Wu (Hawaii), Kristin Evans (Md.- co PPA), Alice Chen (Nev.), Mindy Hall (N.H.), and Tyler Johnson (N.D.).

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP SUMMIT AND PPA WORKSHOP

The AAPD hosted its 4th Chapter Leadership Summit and Public Policy Advocates Workshop in Chicago on Sept. 13-14, 2024. This is a planned biennial event. There were representatives from 40 state chapters and all five district chapters.

Attendees heard presentations on key chapter organizational topics:

- CERP extended approval process.
- AAPD chapter dues collection service.
- Chapter budgeting.
- AAPD's IRS group income tax exemption for chapters.
- Southeastern Society of Pediatric Dentistry's district support initiative for residency training programs.
- Strategic planning considerations.
- Getting organized (for smaller chapters), from the Nebraska Society of Pediatric Dentistry
- Planning CE courses (for larger chapters), from the Southwestern Society of Pediatric Dentistry.

Advocacy presentations were on the following issues:

- CMS oral health overview from CMS Chief Dental Officer Dr. Natalia Chalmers, who is a pediatric dentist.
- Insider's view of a state Medicaid program.
- AAPD's operating room access initiative via the G0330 HCPCS code, highlighting state Medicaid implementation efforts in Connecticut and Missouri.
- Successful insurance reform laws pursued by state dental associations.
- Illinois legislation to preserve moderate sedation permitting for pediatric dentists.
- New Mexico and Kentucky successful push-back against Medicaid administrative burdens.
- Strategies for getting a pediatric dentist appointed to a state dental board.
- Efforts in Arizona to simplify dental assistant credentialing.

Presentations are available in the members-only section of the AAPD website under member resources/chapter resources at : <https://www.aapd.org/resources/member/chapter-resources/2024Summit/>.



AAPD® PAC

THE AAPD POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (PAC) HAD ANOTHER VERY PRODUCTIVE YEAR

Thanks for your support of the AAPD PAC. Please refer to their separate written report for the Annual Session for more details. Be sure to stop by the PAC exhibit booth in Denver in the Exhibit Hall, Booth 100. A complete list of 2024 contributors will be on display (and will also appear in the Q2 2025 *PDT*)

There will be an informational video featuring PAC contributors. **If you contribute onsite you'll also receive a cool PAC 2025 lapel pin.**



AAPD Congressional Liaisons Drs. Warren Brill and Jade Miller utilized the AAPD PAC to attend various candidate fund-raising events in Washington, D.C., over the past year, along with staff from Powers. For more details, see their separate written report for the Annual Session.

PAC STEERING COMMITTEE FOR 2025–26

CHAIR (2027)* **DR. JOHN GIBBONS**

VICE CHAIR (2027)* **DR. HANNI EID**

TREASURER **DR. JOHN S. RUTKAUSKAS**

ASSISTANT TREASURER (2027)* **DR. BRIANNA MUNOZ**

SECRETARY **MR. C. SCOTT LITCH**

DR. HAKAN KOYMEN (NE) (2031)

DR. CHAD S. ESLINGER (SE) (2026)

DR. NAILA FAROOQ (NC) (2031)

DR. PAUL A. KENNEDY III (SW) (2030)

DR. EMILY WHIPPLE (W) (2030)

BOARD LIAISON **DR. DON SCHMIDT**

**eligible for one additional two-year term*

AAPD STAFF CONTACTS FOR GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PAC INQUIRIES:

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER AND GENERAL COUNSEL **C. SCOTT LITCH, ESQ, CAE**

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, GOVERNANCE **LISA GUNDERSON**

AAPD® PUBLIC RELATIONS

Public relations are a key component in building AAPD's national platform and public awareness for the organization and its mission. Over the last year, the AAPD has continued to showcase we are the BIG authority on little teeth through various public relations efforts and initiatives reaching mass consumer audiences. Through these initiatives, AAPD members were featured as professional experts and thought leaders on children's oral health topics. In the 2024-25 fiscal year, the AAPD was highlighted throughout local and national media outlets in several outreach efforts including expert fluoride guidance, National Children's Dental Health Month satellite media tour, as well as an upcoming seasonal outreach effort focused on tips for parents on summer oral health care.

64.5+ MM total impressions	412 total placements
19.7+ MM broadcast/radio impressions	44.7+ MM online impressions



Families urged to maintain kids' dental routines; AAPD highlights fluoride benefits



BRIGHTON, Mich. | American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry — Ahead of National Children's Dental Health Month, the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry is providing an update regarding the importance of keeping up with your child's dental care, including the crucial role fluoride plays when it comes to little teeth.

Doctor Scott Smith, president of AAPD, joined us on today's show to discuss how families can fight the "mouth monsters" - AKA, childhood tooth decay.

NBC NEWS

SiriusXM

msn

Audacy

SPECTRUM NEWS



The AAPD's largest PR effort each year is the NCDHM (National Children's Dental Health Month) remote media tour. This year, the tour took place on Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025, with AAPD President Scott Smith participating in 20 interviews across local and national media outlets which delivered 64 million media impressions and 412 total interview placements. **Dr. Smith put a strong focus on fluoride usage amid a tumultuous news cycle, while successfully providing overall oral health guidance and updates to optimize children's oral care.**

KEY MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

- **Associated Press**—July 29, 2024- General mention of the AAPD in an article on infants' tongue-tie and potential over-diagnosis and treatment.
- **Parents.com**—Aug. 7, 2024 – Drs. Scott Smith and Paul Casamassimo commented on the social media representation of “silver tooth kids,” as well as educated readers on the various reasons why a child may need a stainless-steel crown and best practices for keeping teeth healthy.
- **Peshtigo Times**—Oct. 10, 2024- Dr. Chelsea Fosse, Director, RPC commented on local efforts to remove fluoride from the water supply.
- **Verify**—Nov. 4, 2024- Dr. Fosse addressed the misleading claim that NIH has declared fluoride in water reduces the IQ of children.
- **KOIN-TV (CBS) Portland, Ore.**—Nov. 11, 2024- General mention of the AAPD in an article about Hillsboro voters turning down a ballot measure to fluoridate the water supply.
- **NBC News**—Jan. 6, 2025 – Fluoride once again scrutinized for possible effect on children's brains. The article featured an expert quote from pediatric dentist Dr. Erica Caffrey, chair of the AAPD's Council on Clinical Affairs, and the impact removing fluoride from water can have on increased dental decay rates in that region.
- **WTVC-TV (ABC) Chattanooga, Tenn.**—Jan. 28, 2025 – Families urged to maintain kids' dental routines; AAPD highlighted fluoride benefits. As part of AAPD President Scott Smith's media tour, he interviewed with the local station to discuss expert advice for parents to help care for their little ones' teeth, as well as guidance on the latest fluoride topics.
- **Sirius XM**—Feb. 5, 2025 – Doctor Radio Show “On Call For Kids” Segment. Dr. Chelsea Fosse joined the live, national radio show to discuss oral healthcare for children and took a deep dive into the topic of fluoride, explaining the benefits of water fluoridation and the risks associated with removing fluoride from our water, etc.
- **Good Housekeeping**—Feb. 25, 2025 – Will We All Get Cavities If Fluoride Is Removed From Our Water? Dentists Explain. Dr. Erica Caffrey spoke with Good Housekeeping magazine on the science of fluoride and potential risks to oral health if it is removed from the water supply.
- **WAAY 31-ABC, Huntsville, Ala.**—Local doctor weighs in on Medicaid reimbursement rates. AAPD Chief Policy Officer Dr. Paul Casamassimo explained the intricacies of Medicaid, including how states determine rates and fund distribution.
- **WUFT-TV (PBS) Gainesville, Fla.**—Feb. 28, 2025 – Faulty equipment causes water utilities to stop adding fluoride. Dr. Erica Caffrey joined North-Central Florida PBS station WUFT for a radio interview focused on the safety and efficacy of water fluoridation. Gainesville is centrally located to a number of Florida municipalities considering changes to their community water fluoridation implementation.

- **WBEZ-TV Chicago (NPR)**—March 25, 2025 – As opposition to fluoride grows, rural America risks a new surge of tooth decay. In this nationally distributed piece, Dr. Chelsea Fosse delved into the potential impact to rural communities if access to fluoride becomes limited.
- **WGN-TV Chicago**—March 27, 2025 – Debate over fluoride in drinking water: suburban dentist talks benefits, push-back. AAPD Member and AAPD Foundation Board Member Dr. Mira Albert joined WGN News to discuss the history and safety of community water fluoridation.
- **New York Post**—April 9, 2025 – What does fluoride do? Benefits and risks as RFK Jr. tells CDC to stop recommending it in drinking water. Incoming AAPD NorthCentral Trustee Dr. Scott Schwartz was interviewed for the article. He shared the benefits of community water fluoridation and potential ramifications of widespread stoppage.

2024 MEDIA TRAINING PROGRAM



In July 2024, AAPD leaders met in Chicago for the annual Media Training program. The AAPD strives to equip its leaders to educate families, consumers, and the media on techniques and best practices for children's oral health that may not be widely understood by those outside of the profession. It feels like there's never been a more important time for the expertise of pediatric dentists to be prevalent in public discourse. During this interactive one-and-a-half-day program, attendees received expert advice for interviews and working with the media, discussed talking points and FAQs based on AAPD guidelines and the Reference Manual, and taped mock interviews on topics of interest to the media and public – because practice makes perfect!

AAPD STAFF CONTACT FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS INQUIRIES

MANAGER, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS **CAITLIN KEPPLE**

AAPD® PUBLICATIONS

AAPD publications had another exceptional year keeping members up-to-date on information with appealing content and design.

AAPD JOURNALS

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY AND JDC

Our journals continue to promote the practice, education, and research related to the specialty of pediatric dentistry through its peer-reviewed articles. *Pediatric Dentistry (PD)*, published bi-monthly, has an impact of 1.5, with a 5-year impact factor of 1.8. The *Journal of Dentistry for Children (JDC)*, published three times a year, has an impact factor of 0.4, with a 5-year impact factor of 0.6. Members and non-members have access to the online *JDC* and *PD*. The full article text is available free of charge to members through Ingenta Connect and can be reached through the Members-only section of the website. Non-members and the public can read article abstracts or purchase content online in the form of individual articles or full issues.

READ THE JOURNALS

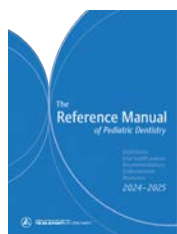
Our online journal publication partner, Ingenta Connect, recently analyzed data for all the titles, and reports that AAPD's journals rank in the top 100 out of more than 11,000 titles for number of full-text downloads. For the period from Jan. 1 to May 1, 2025:

***PD* had 17,646 full-text downloads.**

- 156,473,516 abstract views
- 40,265 table of content views
- 15,689 open access article views

***JDC* had 1,448 full-text downloads.**

- 626,555 abstract views
- 54,900 table of content views
- 299 open access article views



REFERENCE MANUAL

The 2024-25 *Reference Manual* was mailed to members in December. The *Reference Manual App* is up-to-date and easily downloadable on any mobile device.

PDT

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY TODAY

This year, *PDT* underwent several key changes to better align with the evolving needs of our readership and the Academy's strategic goals. Most notably, we transitioned from a bimonthly to a quarterly publication schedule, allowing us to deliver more curated, high-impact content in each issue. We've also streamlined design elements for a cleaner, more modern look and incorporated new recurring features to deepen engagement across print and digital platforms. These updates reflect our commitment to both editorial excellence and operational efficiency.

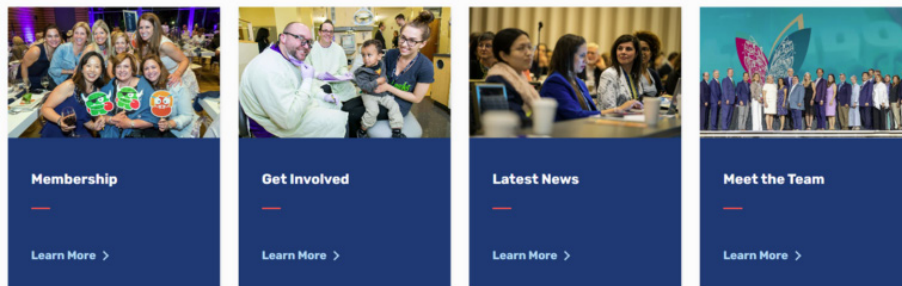


THE HANDBOOK OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY, SIXTH EDITION

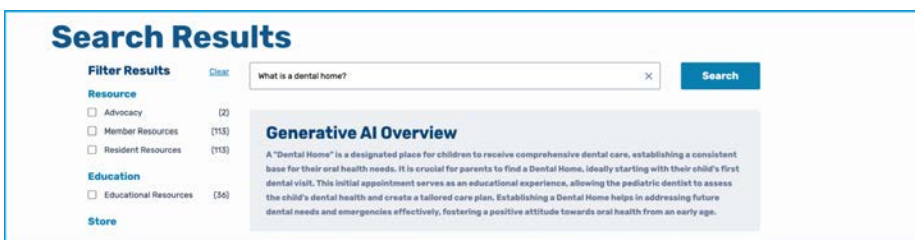
We are pleased to announce the release of *The Handbook of Pediatric Dentistry, Sixth Edition*, an essential clinical resource that continues to guide dental professionals in delivering optimal care to children. Edited by Drs. Arthur J. Nowak and Paul S. Casamassimo, this updated edition offers fully revised chapters based on the latest research, enhanced clinical algorithms, and new content reflecting emerging issues in pediatric dentistry. With direct links to current AAPD guidelines and mobile app access, this pocket-sized reference remains indispensable for clinicians at all levels. We thank the many contributors—past and present—whose expertise shaped this edition. This handbook is a testament to AAPD's ongoing commitment to clinical excellence, education, and innovation in children's oral health. Make sure to stop by the AAPD Store in the Exhibit Hall to buy your copy!



AAPD WEBSITE



The AAPD website is a vital hub for our members, health care professionals, residents, and other stakeholders, providing easy access to the latest in pediatric dentistry research, educational resources, and professional development opportunities. Recent improvements have made the site more user-friendly and accessible, helping visitors find what they need to support their practice. **An exciting addition is the integration of Generative AI into the search engine, which delivers clear, concise summaries at the top of search results, making it faster and easier than ever to access key information.**



SOCIAL MEDIA



The AAPD actively engages with members, parents/caregivers, and healthcare professionals through three dynamic social media channels, keeping them informed about the latest pediatric dental news, tips, and resources.

- As of April 2025, the AAPD's Instagram account has seen impressive growth, increasing from **16,000 to over 19,000 followers** in just one year.
- The AAPD Facebook page continues to be a key platform, with more than **58,000 followers**, while the AAPD X (formerly Twitter) account also maintains a strong presence with over **22,000 followers**.

These social media platforms serve as a hub for consumer educational content, AAPD event announcements, CE course details, member achievements, and more! In addition to the consumer Facebook page, AAPD also hosts a professional Facebook group that is open to AAPD members. This page can be accessed by searching for American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. This page is updated often with information regarding AAPD CE opportunities and approved posts that are submitted by members of the group.

AAPD STAFF CONTACTS FOR PUBLICATIONS INQUIRIES

VICE PRESIDENT, PUBLICATIONS **CINDY HANSEN**

DIRECTOR, PUBLICATIONS **ADRIANA LOAIZA**

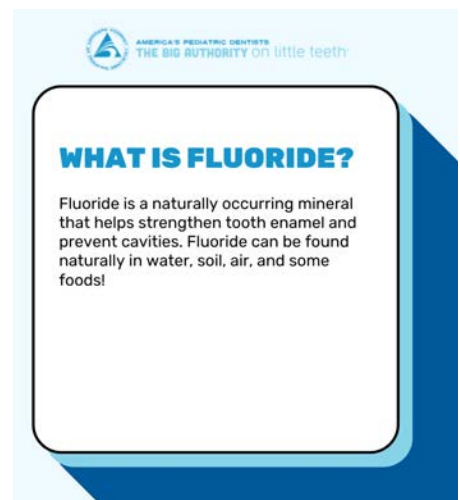
SENIOR COORDINATOR, PUBLICATIONS **KENNETH BERRY**

SENIOR COORDINATOR, WEB AND SOCIAL MEDIA **CAMRYN SCHREINER**

NEW CONTENT TO THE MOUTH MONSTER HUB MY CHILDREN'S TEETH WEBSITE



AAPD launched the "Fluoride: The Superhero Shielding Your Child's Smile from the Mouth Monsters®" campaign on *mychildrensteeth.org* and social media channels to educate parents and caregivers on the powerful benefits of fluoride in protecting children's teeth. The campaign offered simple, actionable steps for parents to incorporate fluoride into their children's daily routine and reached over 50,000 people across our social media channels and website.



AAPD® EDUCATIONAL/ACADEMIC PROGRAM SUPPORT

(RESIDENCY/POSTDOCTORAL AND PREDOCTORAL)

ACADEMY FOR ADVANCING LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS



In response to the pressing need for more clinical and dental school faculty, the AAPD initiated the Master Clinician

Scholarship in 2008, which has since evolved into the Leadership in Education and Administration Program (LEAP). Now in its sixteenth year, the AAPD continues to offer scholarships to its members, enabling them to apply for scholarships for two courses offered by the Academy for Advancing Leadership: The Institute for Teaching and Learning (ITL) and The Chairs and Academic Administrators Management Program (CAAMP). Additionally, recipients of these scholarships receive complimentary registration to the Comprehensive Review of Pediatric Dentistry.



L-R, Drs. Daniel Claman and Gayatri Malik

The Institute for Teaching and Learning (ITL) course is designed as a program to help participants achieve better student outcomes by refining their teaching skills and enhancing the quality of their interactions with students. The Chairs and Academic Administrators Management Program (CAAMP) is an interactive program designed to address the unique challenges faced by new, current, and aspiring administrators.



L-R, Leola Royston, Drs. Hakan, Lee, and Desai

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2024 RECIPIENTS:

CAAMP—Drs. Bhakti Desai, Kyulim Lee, and Abidin Hakan

ITL—Drs. Daniel Claman and Gayatri Malik

Sponsored by CareQuest



2025 AAPD GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD (GSRA) COMPETITION

The AAPD Graduate Student Research Award was established in 1989 for current and recent pediatric dentistry students and residents. The AAPD Committee on Scientific Affairs selects eight finalists to present their research during the Annual Session. Finalists conduct their oral presentations during Annual Session. Finalists receive a cash award and plaque. A matching cash award is given to each finalist's training program. Congratulations to the following winners:

DR. BERENICE CHENG

Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, Calif.

Streptococcus Mutans Inhibition by Lactobacillus Rhamnosus Probiotic-Supplemented Infant Formula

DR. SEKNA DABAJA

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Comparison Of Bitewing Radiography And Near Infrared Imaging In Diagnosis Of Caries Lesions In Primary Molars

DR. JESSICA DAIBER

University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC), Memphis, Tenn.

Color Translucency and Whiteness of Fluoride-Releasing Composite-Resin

DR. STEPHANIE FOTOUHI

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Dexmedetomidine vs Midazolam Regimens for Procedural Sedation of the Child Dental Patient

DR. PASSANT HASSANEIN

Alexandria University

12-Month Clinical Assessment of Papain-Based Agents in Young Permanent Molars

DR. MEGAN HOANG

Children's Hospital Colorado, Aurora, Colo.

Association of Bifid Mandibular Canal with Dental Anomalies and Pathologies

DR. AEKTA PATEL

University of Florida - Gainesville

Effect of Dispersin B on Supragingival Biofilms from Pediatric Participants

DR. RATA ROKHSHAD

Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, Calif.

AI and Chatbots in Pediatric Dentistry: Clinical Applications, and Ethics

AAPD IN-SERVICE EXAMINATION

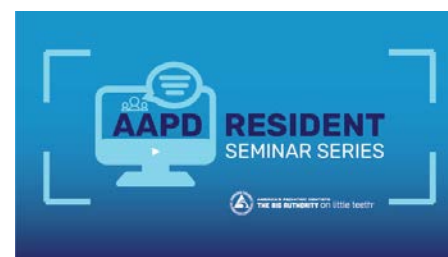
The AAPD continues its relationship with the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME) that now includes computerization of the In-Service Examination. Since 2008, the AAPD has contracted with NBOME for psychometric services and test construction. The In-Service Examination Committee has divided itself into two smaller groups; one concentrates on item writing and the other develops the exam and blueprint. The exams continue to be administered in two phases: outgoing and incoming residents are examined at different times. This allows programs to receive and share scores with the residents.

A total of 966 exams were administered in 2024. This accounted for \$138,870 in non-dues revenue collected in 2024. We continue to have a 98 percent participation rate of the CODA-approved pediatric dentistry residency training programs.

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY RESIDENT SEMINAR SERIES

Launched amidst the COVID-19 pandemic in response to the cessation of all clinical and didactic activities, the AAPD Resident Seminar Series began its inaugural presentation in October 2020 and has since maintained its momentum. These monthly presentations are tailored to enrich the education of residents, covering a diverse array of topics to complement regular program curricula.

The seminars are accessible to all members, aiming to broaden knowledge and skills. The schedule for the Pediatric Dentistry Residency Seminar Series, along with registration links, is periodically updated on the AAPD website. Recognizing the constraints of live viewing, recordings of the presentations are also made available for later access.



PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY RESIDENCY POSITIONS REMAIN HIGHLY COVETED

Pediatric dentistry continues to be a popular specialty with dental school graduates, as evident by the continued growth in positions offered and filled.

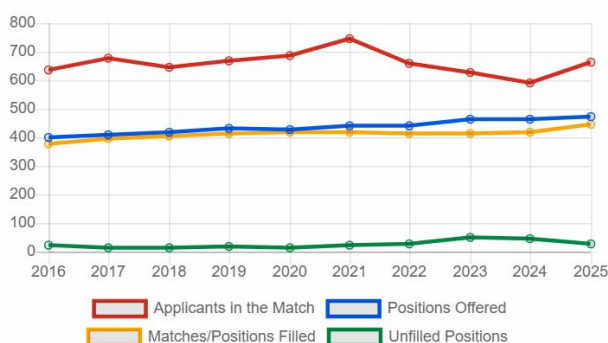
RESULTS OF THE MATCH FOR 2025-2026 POSITIONS

Program	Applicants Participating in the Match	Positions Offered	Matches/ Positions Filled	Unfilled Positions
Pediatric Dentistry	663 (+71)	474 (+9)	445 (+26)	29 (-17)
Orthodontics	690 (+33)	359 (+3)	350 (+15)	9 (-12)
Adv. Education in General Dentistry	407 (-60)	264 (-37)	154 (-36)	110 (-1)
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	392 (+8)	259 (0)	238 (+5)	21 (-5)
Periodontics	302 (+20)	126 (-2)	126 (+2)	0 (-4)
Prosthodontics	261 (+21)	127 (-3)	111 (-7)	16 (+4)
Dental Anesthesiology	59 (+8)	34 (+2)	34 (+2)	0 (0)

DENTAL MATCH STATISTICS

Below are Postdoctoral Dental Matching for positions from 2016 to 2025.⁴

Pediatric Dentistry



TRENDS IN PEDIATRIC DENTAL RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

Annual data on accredited programs and enrollment (Survey of Advanced Dental Education) is gathered and maintained by the Health Policy Institute of the American Dental Association (ADA). Data from the 2023-24 academic year is available. At that time, there were 87 (+3) pediatric dentistry residency programs accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), enrolling a total of 1004 (+20) postdoctoral students. There were 479 (+7) graduates in 2023.

First year pediatric dentistry resident enrollment for was 497—just short of 500!⁵

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY IS THE 2ND LARGEST DENTAL SPECIALTY

In terms of practicing dentists in the U.S., pediatric dentistry continues to be the second largest dental specialty, following orthodontics:

Supply of Dentists in the U.S. by Practice, Research, or Administration Area, Dentists Working in Dentistry⁶

General Practice	159,265	Prosthodontics	3,584
Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics	10,904	Public Health Dentistry	782
Pediatric Dentistry	9,183	Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology	428
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	7,440	Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology	204
Endodontics	5,759	Dental Anesthesiology	141
Periodontics	5,542	Orofacial Pain	53
		Oral Medicine	30

COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR DENTAL, ORAL, AND CRANIOFACIAL RESEARCH (IADR)/AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR DENTAL, ORAL, AND CRANIOFACIAL RESEARCH (AADOCR)

Leola Royston continues to support the IADR/AADOR Pediatric Oral Health Research (POHR) Group as its Assistant Secretary/Treasurer. The POHR Group has grown since its inception and has increased its international membership. The POHR Group offered six awards to be awarded this year³:

- **IADR AAPD Research Award**
The Pediatric Oral Health Research Group of IADR established this award for the purpose of promoting the interest of pediatric dentists, clinicians, and academicians in research focused on the oral health of children and adolescents, and to acknowledge excellence of the research conducted by these individuals. Applicants who apply to this award are not eligible for the other four IADR POHR Awards. The winner will receive a Certificate of Recognition and \$1000 USD.
- **IADR POHR Pediatric Dentistry Working Group Travel Award**
The IADR is inviting applications from IADR members from Africa who have submitted an abstract for a travel award to support their attendance at the IADR General Session. The objective of this award program is to encourage African investigators to undertake research in any area related to pediatric oral health and present their findings at the IADR General Session & Exhibition. The award is sponsored by PDWG and consists of \$1,000 to attend the IADR General Session.
- **IADR Pediatric Oral Health Research SEA Award**
The IADR Pediatric Oral Health Research Group and The Taiwan Academy of Pediatric Dentistry established the above award for the purpose of promoting and acknowledging excellence of research focused on the oral health of children and adolescents, conducted by junior scientists in the IADR Southeast Asian Division. The Award will be given on the basis of general excellence in research related to pediatric oral health as demonstrated by the abstract and in person presentation. The first award was in 2024.
- **IADR Pediatric Oral Health Research Group Faculty Award**
The Pediatric Oral Health Research Group of IADR established this award for the purpose of promoting the interest of junior faculties or scientists in research focused on the oral health of children and adolescents, and to acknowledge excellence of the research conducted by junior faculties. (completed their last degree /fellowship /training program within the last 5 years). The winner will receive a Certificate of Recognition and \$1500 USD. Applicants who apply to this award are not eligible for the other four IADR POHR Awards.
- **IADR Pediatric Oral Health Research Group Young Investigator Award**
The Pediatric Oral Health Research Group of IADR established this award for the purpose of promoting and recognizing excellence in research relating to the oral health of children and adolescents by young investigators. (PhD Students or Post-doctoral Fellows). The winner will receive a Certificate of Recognition and \$1000 USD. Applicants who apply to this award are not eligible for the other four IADR POHR Awards.
- **IADR Pediatric Oral Health Research Group Student Award**
The Pediatric Oral Health Research Group of IADR established this award to support and recognize excellence in research focused on the oral health of children and adolescents by young scientists and students (DDS or Bachelor degree dental students, Postgraduate students or resident/registrar in specialty training postgraduate/certificate programs). The winner will receive a Certificate of Recognition and \$1000 USD. Applicants who apply to this award are not eligible for the other four IADR POHR Awards.

AAPD STAFF CONTACT FOR EDUCATIONAL/ACADEMIC PROGRAM SUPPORT

MANAGER, EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT **LEOLA ROYSTON, MPH**

AAPD® CONTINUING EDUCATION



Continuing EDge is distributed monthly. The click rate remains high, showing that membership actively receives and reads communication about CE opportunities.

SUMMER AND FALL 2024 COURSES

Final attendance figures are below.

MOCK ORAL EXAM INTERVIEWS

Aug. 16-17, 2024

Chicago, Ill.

Total Interviews: 90

ORAL CLINICAL EXAM REVIEW COURSE

Aug. 15, 2024

Chicago, Ill.

Attendance: 113

Sponsored by College of Diplomates



THE NEW COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW: ADVANCES IN PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

Aug. 16-18, 2024

Chicago, Ill.

Attendance: 134

Sponsored by Sprig



SAFE AND EFFECTIVE SEDATION OF THE PEDIATRIC DENTAL PATIENT

Oct. 25-26, 2024

Los Angeles, Calif.

Attendance: 189

Sponsored by Sedation Resource



DENTAL ASSISTANT SEDATION COURSE: YOUR ROLE IN THE SAFE SEDATION OF CHILDREN

Oct. 25-26, 2024

Los Angeles, Calif.

Attendance: 28

MANAGEMENT OF PEDIATRIC SEDATION EMERGENCIES: SIMULATION

Oct. 27, 2024

Los Angeles, Calif.

Attendance: 30 (sold out)



Thank you to the outstanding sedation faculty!

SPRING 2025 COURSES

AAPD/AAO JOINT MEETING

Jan. 24-26, 2025

Marco Island, Fla.

Total attendees: 1,364

AAPD Members: 518

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION PREP COURSE

Feb. 27 – March 1, 2025

Boston, Mass.

Final attendance was 213



Thank you to attendees and the outstanding QE prep faculty!

SUMMER AND FALL 2025 COURSES

ORAL CLINICAL EXAM REVIEW COURSE

Aug. 21, 2025
San Diego, Calif.

MOCK ORAL EXAM INTERVIEWS

Aug. 22-23, 2025
San Diego, Calif.

THE NEW COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW: ADVANCES IN PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

Aug. 22-24, 2025
San Diego, Calif.

SMILES ACROSS THE GLOBE SYMPOSIUM: CUTTING EDGE PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

Sept. 19-20, 2025
Edinburgh, United Kingdom

The AAPD is excited to offer this symposium in partnership with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and the European Academy of Paediatric Dentistry. The program will cover a variety of engaging topics, including airway management and sleep apnea, artificial intelligence in diagnostic and digital workflows, and minimally invasive dentistry with a focus on silver diamine fluoride (SDF). **While currently sold out with 300 attendees, additional virtual course viewing options are available.**

SAFE & EFFECTIVE SEDATION FOR THE PEDIATRIC DENTAL PATIENT

Oct. 17-18, 2025

ASSISTANT SEDATION COURSE: YOUR ROLE IN THE SAFE SEDATION OF CHILDREN

Oct. 17-18, 2025

ADVANCED TRAINING IN SAFE PROCEDURAL SEDATION IN PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY FOR FACULTY AND RESIDENTS

Oct. 17-18, 2025

The AAPD is proud to offer this new course that is tailored specifically to the needs of residents and faculty member learners.

MANAGEMENT OF PEDIATRIC SEDATION EMERGENCIES: SIMULATION

Oct. 19, 2025

All of these AAPD Sedation Courses will take place in Chicago, Ill.



Education Passport is the AAPD's digital learning portal created to provide access for member and non-members to our high-quality education. Users can purchase content from previous continuing education courses, Annual Sessions, webinars and more. **Once purchased, content is available to the user for 5 years, and the user can claim CE from the content for 3 years.**

- Total users: 11,718 total accounts; **6,672 are AAPD Member accounts**
- Number of products open for registration: 127
- Number of registrations in 2024: 5,762

AAPD MEETINGS STAFF THAT MAKE THE ANNUAL SESSION ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES RUN SMOOTHLY

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, MEETINGS AND CONTINUING EDUCATION **KRISTI CASALE, CMP, DMCP**

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, MEETINGS AND CONTINUING EDUCATION **COLLEEN SHENNAN, CMP**

MEETING SERVICES MANAGER **RACHAEL HAAVE**

MEETINGS SERVICES ASSOCIATE **EMMA SIEMSEN**

PODCASTS

The very popular **Little Teeth, BIG SMILES** (formerly Pedo Teeth Talk) is released the first Tuesday of each month. This podcast is sponsored by HuFriedy Group. At AAPD 2025 in Denver, our podcast leader Dr. Joel Berg will host in-person podcast interviews at the Media Hub. Below is a list of topics/guests from 2024 and the first few months of 2025.



January 2024 – April 2025

January	Kevin Donly	Learning What It Takes to Join Pediatric Dentistry Academia
February	David Tesini	Finding Your Passion Project
March	Christina Carter	Answering the Pacifier Questions as a Pediatric Dentist
April	Reza Ardalan	A Sneak Peek at AAPD 2024 in Toronto
May	Jayakumar Jayaraman	Dental Development as a Tool to Assess Age
June	Matt Geneser	Successful Vital Pulp Therapy in Permanent Teeth
July	Leon Klempner	Marketing Your Expertise and Your Practice
August	Brett Kessler	A Conversation with ADA President Dr. Brett Kessler
September	Patricia Medland	The Integration of Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics
October	Susan Fisher-Owens	Important Considerations for Adolescent Care
November	Ron Harrison	Streamlining the Talent Acquisition Pipeline
December	John Blake	AAPD's Impact on General Dentistry
January	Don Schmitt	A Focus on Florida
February	Heber Simmons	A Conversation with Legendary Pediatric Dentist: Heber Simmons
March	Rose Dodson	Sedation Management and Emergency Prep
April	Mick Ebeling	Not Impossible: A Conversation with Mick Ebeling

Total number of downloads for calendar year 2024: 39,479

LITTLE TEETH CHAT: AAPD'S ONLINE COMMUNITY



Little Teeth Chat (LTC) promotes member communication by providing AAPD members an online community forum via the AAPD website to connect, engage and share critical information and best practices in real time. Members continue to utilize Little Teeth Chat to share ideas and network. LTC currently has 12 Shared Interest Groups (SIG) with an AAPD expert to help guide discussion and targeted focus ensures that discussions and shared resources are relevant to your practice.

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Caries risk | 7. Oral Pathology/Oral Medicine | d. Patient and family dynamics |
| 2. Behavior guidance | 8. Hospital-based practice | e. Staffing (officer managers, dental hygienists, dental assistants, etc.) |
| 3. Fluoride therapy (including SDF) | 9. Practice management: | f. Associates and partnerships |
| 4. Restorative techniques | a. Coding | 10. Residency program management |
| 5. Sedation/anesthesia | b. Finances | 11. Sports Dentistry |
| 6. Children with special health care needs | c. Marketing | 12. Safety |

Newly Erupted, aimed at early career pediatric dentists, is released the second Thursday of each month. Elevate Oral Care is the sponsor for this podcast.

Below is a list of topics/guests from 2024 and the first few months of 2025.



January 2024 – March 2025

January	Elise Sarvas	A Day in the Life with Dr. Elise Sarvas of Mayo Clinic
February	Anna Simonis	Merging Your Professional and Personal Passions
March	Mira Albert	Facing Your Fears to Succeed in Entrepreneurship
April	Cliff Hartmann	Why Advocacy Matters: How the AAPD PAC Supports Pediatric Dentistry and Children's Oral Health
May	Karen Masters	Orofacial Myology
June	Martha Wells	A Conversation with Dr. Martha Wells, Chief of Dentistry at St. Jude's
July	Brianna Muñoz	Communicating as an Advocate for Children's Oral Health
August	Hani Eid	Growing Your Private Dentistry Practice
September	Ellie Wetzel	The Healing Power of Therapy Animals
October	Harlyn K. Susarla	Embracing Discomfort: Challenging Yourself to Grow
November	Marilyn Sandor	The Future Potential for Virtual Dentistry
December	Clarice Law	Mid-Career Moves: How to Choose the Path for You
January	Casey Goetz	Building a Rural Pediatric Dental Practice
February	Lauren Yap	What's the AAPD Pediatric Oral Health Conference All About?
March	Suzanne Bergmann	Talking about TMD with Dr. Suzie Bergmann

Total number of downloads for calendar year 2024: 31,905

[CLICK HERE ACCESS AND LISTEN TO BOTH PODCASTS AT YOUR CONVENIENCE](#)

AAPD® DENTAL INSURANCE AND CODING ASSISTANCE

Dr. James D. Nickman continues to serve as consultant to AAPD on coding and insurance issues, while chairing our Committee on Dental Benefits Programs (**CDBP**). He provides valuable technical assistance to members on insurance and coding issues. RPC Director Dr. Chelsea Fosse also assists Dr. Nickman in his activities related to dental benefits. In 2024-25, Dr. Nickman responded to numerous member requests for assistance in appropriate coding, concerns with the payer community, and concerns with a state Medicaid administration.

CODING UPDATE IN RPC WEBINAR SERIES

Dr. Nickman participated in the April 2025 “Get Up to Date with CDT and G0330 in 2025” webinar hosted by the AAPD RPC to discuss CDT 2025 coding changes and implementation of the G0330 HCPCS code.

DISTRICT AND STATE CODE WORKSHOPS

The CDBP offers Coding and Insurance Workshops to district and state chapters. The state or district is responsible for the speaker’s airfare and lodging expenses.

AAPD CODING AND INSURANCE MANUAL AND CDT 2026

The AAPD will be posting CDT 2026 updates to the AAPD Coding and Insurance Manual 2017 in June 2025. This provides and updates of all of the changes and analysis to members of those codes most pertinent to pediatric dentistry.

Over the past year Dr. Nickman carried out the following activities:

- Providing regular updates in Coding Corner in *PDT* and the AAPD website.
- Serving as the AAPD’s representative on the ADA’s Code Maintenance Committee (CMC). The CMC meets each year in March to review CDT proposals that would take effect on Jan. 1, of the following year. CMC reviews that year’s submitted change requests and votes to accept, amend, or decline each request based on the best interests of the profession, patients, and payers.
- Drs. Nickman, Fosse and Meeske attended the recent CDT 2026 batch meeting in March 2025. Over 100 proposals were reviewed. The CMC approved thirty-one additions, fourteen revisions, six deletions, and nine editorial changes to the CDT 2026 manual. A fall RPC webinar will discuss the CDT 2026 changes in detail. **The main changes impacting pediatric dentistry are the elimination of the PRR code and a complete revision to the anesthesia section of the CDT.** The anesthesia revisions mainly focus on updates to reflect contemporary language and practice. The complete changes will be posted to the AAPD website when released by the ADA.
- Representing the AAPD with the ADA Council of Dental Benefit Programs on insurance and dental benefit issues.
- Meeting with the payer community on a regular basis to discuss pediatric dental issues and member concerns. The AAPD met with the CIGNA specialty panel in March 2025 to provide input on CIGNA’s policies under review. Dr. Nickman attended the National Association of Dental Plans (NADP) meeting in September 2024. Drs. Nickman and Fosse will also be attending the American Association of Dental Consultant (AADC) meeting in May 2025.

AAPD CONTACT FOR CODING/INSURANCE INQUIRIES

CONSULTANT **DR. JAMES D. NICKMAN**

WHAT'S NEW WITH THE HEADQUARTERS OFFICE?

AAPD staff looks forward to seeing you in Denver!

[VIEW THE STAFF DIRECTORY](#)

PROMOTIONS

(AS OF JULY 1, 2024)

- **Paul Amundsen** – Senior Vice President, Foundation and Integrated Marketing
- **Kristi Casale** – Senior Vice President, Meetings and Continuing Education
- **Tim Huggenberger** – Administrative Coordinator
- **Adriana Loaiza** – Director, Publications
- **Camryn Schreiner** – Senior Coordinator, Web and Social Media

(AS OF FEBRUARY 2025)

- **Celeste Stewart** – Annual Fund Coordinator, AAPD Foundation
- Additional congratulations to Celeste on the birth of her daughter Zoe Christina on Oct. 2, 2024!
- **Brianna DeWitt** – Senior Coordinator, Marketing, AAPD Foundation

(AS OF APRIL 1, 2025)

- **Dr. Chelsea Fosse** – Vice President, RPC

ACHIEVEMENTS

AAPD's own **Leola Royston** was recently recognized as one of "The Most Interesting Association Professionals in the World" by an association software company.

[SEE THE DETAILS HERE](#)

RECENT HIRES

- **Lauren Mann** is joining the RPC in June 2025 as Manager. She most recently served in CMS as Executive Assistant to Chief Dental Officer Dr. Natalia Chalmers. Lauren previously worked in the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight at CMS. She is receiving a Master's degree in Public Administration from George Washington University this May, and received her undergraduate degree in public health from Tulane University.

Lauren will serve as the staff liaison for the Safety & Quality Improvement Committee, CGA Committee on Dental Benefits Programs, and the Council on Scientific Affairs. She replaces Clare Conte, who accepted a position at the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. Clare did an outstanding job at the AAPD RPC and we wish her the best!

- **Emma Siemsen** joined the Meetings team in August 2024 as Meeting Services Associate. Emma has a BA in International Relations, with a minor in Health and Environmental Sustainability, from Michigan State University. She was previously in the Business, Technology, and Corporate Events unit at Smithbucklin (association and community organization management).
- **B Valek** joined the Research and Policy Center in October 2024 as temporary staff and did such a nice job that we made it permanent when we revised the Administrative Coordinator position in the spring. B previously was an administrative assistant at UCAN Chicago supporting the workforce development team. UCAN is a non-profit organization that offers a range of programs and services to help youth and families cope with trauma, violence, and other challenges. B also worked for Rotary International on a contract as a Communications Coordinator.

LITCH AND ASSOCIATES LAW LOG



This column continues to address current legal matters impacting the practice of pediatric dentistry and appears regularly in *Pediatric Dentistry Today (PDT)*, with the addition of two expert co-authors joining AAPD's COO & General Counsel C. Scott Litch:

Cheryl A. Cameron, Ph.D., J.D., Professor, Oral Health Sciences, School of Dentistry Virginia and Prentice Bloedel University Professor, and Vice Provost Emeritus, University of Washington.

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

Quarter 1 2025

Are You Ready For A Dental Board Compliant, Inquiry, and Investigation?

NOVEMBER 2024

What's at Stake With the ERISA Case

SEPTEMBER 2024

Considering DSO Affiliation as an Employment Option

MAY 2024

Non-compete Restrictions - End of an Era for Employers?

MARCH 2024

The Corporate Transparency Act: What It's Got to Do With Me?

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Mark V. Barren	Washington, D.C.
Dr. James T. Barrett	Rockford, Ill.
Dr. Joseph E. Bernat	Buffalo, N.Y.
Dr. Roger D. Gausman	Carlisle, Iowa
Dr. Lester Samuel Gill, Jr.	Chattanooga, Tenn.
Dr. William L. Humphries, Jr.	Little Rock, Ariz.
Dr. James L. Hutton, III	Columbia, Tenn.
Dr. William T Mahon	Rogers, Ariz.
Dr. Edward M. Miller	Greensboro, N.C.
Dr. Jeffrey C. Phillips	Salem, Oe.
Dr. Jimmy R. Pinkham	Iowa City, Iowa
Dr. Paul E. Starkey	North Bend, Oe.
Dr. Stephen D. Willens	Burbank, Calif.

REFERENCES

1. Julie Allen and Diane Millman of Powers also produced a 2021 guide for pediatric dentists participating in and utilizing ASCs, including ownership options and steps to establish a single specialty (aka dental only) ASC. This is available for AAPD members only at: <https://www.aapd.org/advocacy/legislative-and-regulatory-issues/latest-advocacy-news/obtaining-operating-room-access-for-pediatric-dental-procedures-via-ambulatory-surgery-centers/>
2. <https://www.aapd.org/advocacy/legislative-and-regulatory-issues/latest-advocacy-news/improvements-in-facility-fee-coding-billing-for-dental-cases-in-hospitals-and-ascs-take-effect-january-1-2024/>
3. For more information see: <https://www.iadr.org/awards>
4. For complete results, please visit the National Matching Service website at www.natmatch.com/dentres.
5. For the latest annual reports on accredited predoctoral, advanced and allied dental education programs in the U.S., please visit <https://www.ada.org/en/science-research/health-policy-institute/data-center/dental-education>.
6. American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute analysis of ADA Masterfile. Supply of dentists in the U.S.: 2001-2023.

