

ACTION

November/December 2021

Journal of the Georgia Dental Association



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The Georgia Dental Association Political Action Committee supports dental- and dental-friendly candidates regardless of party affiliations.

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GDA House of Delegates members at the 2021 GDA Convention & Expo.

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UPCOMINGEVENTS

Visit gadental.org/events for the full GDA calendar.



GDA LAW Days

Join the GDA at the Capitol for 2022 LAW Days.

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REACHUS

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SAVE THE DATE

GEORGIA DENTAL ASSOCIATION CONVENTION & EXPO



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MAN'S (DENTIST'S) BEST FRIEND



DR. JAMIE MITCHELL
GDA Editor
Phone: 706.202.9307
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**Pip says,
“Get involved, be
involved, and stay
involved in the GDA.”**



Dogs are the best damn thing...*period*. Dogs have been man's loyal companion for thousands of years. There is archaeological evidence that dogs were the first animals domesticated by humans more than 30,000 years ago, more than 10,000 years before the domestication of horses. Records indicate that this relationship began when the grey wolf began hunting alongside nomadic hunters. It is claimed that the phrase "man's best friend" was coined in 1789 by King Frederick of Prussia, which I believe is most fitting.

Dogs have seamlessly weaved their way into every aspect of our lives from their origins as hunters and retrievers to military, police, and personal services to devoted family pet and everything imaginable in between. Their use and our dependence on them have grown exponentially, while future benefits seem endless. Dogs are the exception to the rule of conservation as they give back tenfold what we give them.

My comparison of dogs to the GDA can be summed up in two words "loyal companion!" Our canine comrades, for very good reasons, are considered man's best friend, hence it can be stated that the GDA can truly be considered a "dentist's best friend." They stand by our side protecting our interests like a junk yard dog guarding its owner's prized possessions and are vigilant in the pursuit of promoting the success of all member dentists. As we are busy doing the business of dentistry, they are on constant alert for any changes in local, state, or national news that may impact our profession and livelihood. On the legislative front, they keep their finger on the pulse of issues and navigate the web of bureaucracy to ensure positive legislation. The strategies they invoke take a lot of time, dedication, and effort to form and execute.

Continuing education is a vital part of our license renewal and they go to great lengths to make quality, pertinent CE classes available both in person and via webinars. During the pandemic, they were on the cutting edge of providing up-to-date seminars that enabled us to maneuver through the uncharted territory in which we found ourselves. The ability to pull together programs of this magnitude in the time frame given is simply remarkable! This dog'll hunt!

On the business side of things, they go the extra mile to provide quality insurance products at competitive pricing through Georgia Dental Insurance Services (GDIS), the insurance arm of our organization. As members we have the opportunity to participate in our dental supply buyers company, GDA Plus⁺ Supplies, which affords us the opportunity to purchase dental supplies at a reduced cost. The extraordinary aspect of these groups is that they are also designed to benefit us as a non dues source of revenue. Let me say that again. They work hard to not only bring quality and affordable services to us through these wonderful programs, but they actually put money back into our association. Amazingly enough, the fore mentioned services are only the tip of the iceberg of what the GDA does for us. How 'bout them dogs!

Time for a joke: cat lovers need not be offended:

Two dogs and a cat die and go to heaven. They are brought before God, who interviews them to determine their fate. He asks the first dog, "What did you do when you were on earth?" The first dog answers, "For 15 years, I was a guide dog for a blind person. I was killed protecting them from being hit by a taxi." "Very good," says God. "You will sit at my left side." God turns his attention to the second dog and asks the same question. The second dog responds, "I was a police dog for 12 years. I was shot and killed trying to subdue an armed bank robber." God smiles and nods. "Very good. You will sit at my right side." God now looks at the cat and begins to ask, "What did you—" The cat interrupts, "You're in my seat."

I'm not sure if the GDA consists of mutts, mongrels, or pedigrees, but my guess would be they're everything they need to be on our behalf at any given time. There's no substitute for a loyal, dedicated companion, but a companion cannot go it alone. Loyalty is a two-way street. They need love and support in order to be all they were meant to be. The GDA needs our support through active membership. They need our support though robust and meaningful voluntary leadership. They need the occasional "atta boy." They need... all of us.

By the way, in this humble editor's opinion: The GDA is the best damn thing for dentistry... *period!* Woof Woof.

Cheers. 🐾



Welcome New Members!

The following members joined GDA

Gordon Barfield <i>Northern</i>	Bradley Cox <i>Eastern</i>	Anita Gordon <i>Northern</i>	Loliya Stewart <i>Northern</i>
Maher Bourbia <i>Northern</i>	Roofs Dessieux <i>Northern</i>	Horace Gunn <i>Northern</i>	Kirk Sudeall <i>Northern</i>
Jordan Brunson <i>Northern</i>	Raymond Dickey <i>Central</i>	Danny Jeon <i>Northern</i>	Tara Tewogbade <i>Northern</i>
Jeffrey Butts <i>Northern</i>	Jillian Felton <i>Northern</i>	Farnaz Kar <i>Northwestern</i>	Edward Wall <i>Eastern</i>
Amanda Chandler <i>Eastern</i>	Michael Foster <i>Northern</i>	Mozamel Malik <i>Northern</i>	Justin Young <i>Southwestern</i>
Julio Chinchilla <i>Northwestern</i>	Francisco Garcia <i>Southwestern</i>	Mirrial Moses <i>Eastern</i>	Hongli Zhao <i>Northern</i>

DCG Health Fair



GDA President Dr. Annette Rainge joined students at the Dental College of Georgia Health Fair on September 18. She donated toothbrushes and floss to the students on behalf of the Greater Augusta HBCU Alumni Alliance.

SAVE THE DATE

GDA LAW Days

Join the GDA at the Capitol to help us educate decision makers on how they can ensure that their constituents have the best available oral health care.

At LAW Days, members and students can learn about legislative issues impacting dentistry and dental patients over breakfast and then speak to legislators about those issues, encouraging their support, and thanking them for efforts on legislation. Save the date for your district's LAW Day; all members and their spouses are welcome on all days. LAW days are from 8 am–noon.

- **Wednesday, January 26** *Northern/Eastern*
- **Wednesday, February 2** *Southwestern, Western, Northern (Hall County)*
- **Wednesday, February 9** *Central*
- **Wednesday, March 2** *Northwestern*
- **Thursday, March 10** *Southeastern, Georgia Dental Society*
- **Wednesday, March 16** *Dentists from Any District, Other Dental, Specialties, Students*

Thank You GDA Foundation for Oral Health Volunteers

Thank you to the GDA members who have volunteered at screenings and clinics across the state.



GDA volunteers provided over \$122,000 of free dental services to hundreds of patients in need at the Remote Area Clinic in Louisville, GA from September 26–27. The GDA Foundation for Oral Health was proud partner with RAM and Emory University to treat 208 patients.



GDA members screened over 50 athletes through the Special Olympics, Special Smiles program on Oct. 9 during the Fall Games in Valdosta, GA. Athletes also received oral health education and toothbrush kits.

Governor Kemp Discusses Medicaid with GDA Leaders

Governor Kemp invited the GDA to discuss challenges faced by children and low-income individuals on Medicaid and the providers who work to provide them with dental care.



Dinner with a Dentist

The GDA hosted the third annual Dinner with a Dentist for students at the Dental College of Georgia on October 6. Over 20 students were in attendance and they networked with dentists from across the state.

GDA BRIDGING THE GAP CE SUMMIT ATLANTA

Thank you to all who joined us for the Bridging the Gap CE Summit Atlanta. The GDA was proud to partner with the Georgia Dental Society, the Georgia Indian Dental Association, the Georgia Persian Dental Society and the North Georgia Dental Society to host over 300 dentists and dental staff for a weekend of informative continuing education and networking.



GDA President Dr. Annette Raining and North Georgia Dental Society President Dr. Aundrea Eady



GDA member, Dr. Kumar Patel, presents at the CE Summit



Attendees were able to choose from a wide variety of courses on clinical and business topics

Gov. Kemp Names Appointments to Board of Dentistry

Governor Brian P. Kemp announced two new appointments to the Georgia Board of Dentistry in October.

Larry Willis Miles, Jr. is a partner at Dental Partners of SWGA in Leesburg, Georgia, and adjunct faculty at the Dental College of Georgia in Augusta. Prior to joining SWGA, Miles was a solo practitioner at Larry Willis Miles, DMD PC. He attended the University of Georgia for his undergraduate education before attending the Medical College of Georgia, School of Dentistry. Miles is a member of the American Dental Association, the Georgia Dental Association, and the SW District Dental Association. He and his wife Ashley have been married for 24 years and have two teenage daughters.

David Reznik is the Director and founder of the Oral Health Center of Grady Health System's Infectious Disease Program and serves as Chief of the Dental Medicine Service. Reznik is president and founder of the HIV Dental Alliance (HIVdent), a not-for-profit organization of concerned healthcare providers committed to assuring access to dental care for people with HIV. Reznik has lectured and published extensively on HIV and oral health and infection control issues. During the last year, he has focused his concentration on ensuring that both providers and consumers of dental care have the safest possible visits during the COVID-19 pandemic. Reznik was the 2016–2019 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar alumni working with multidisciplinary teams to increase access to oral health care adults and children throughout the US. In 2020, Reznik was awarded the Atlanta Business Chronicles Healthcare Heroes Lifetime Achievement Award. He is the recipient of OSAP's 2021 Dr. James J. Crawford Award, which is a lifetime achievement award that recognizes individuals who have made major contributions in science, education, or public policy related to dental infection control and patient and provider safety.

Welcome Thomas Beusse to the GDA



Please welcome Senior Director of Government Affairs and Policy, Thomas Beusse, to the GDA. Thomas is a government affairs and association

professional with over a decade of experience in Georgia and the Southeast.

After graduating from the University of Georgia with a bachelor's degree in political science, Thomas began his career by serving on the staff of Congressman Tom Price (R-GA-06). Thomas then joined the American Chemistry Council where he provided Federal Grassroots and State Government Affairs advocacy throughout the southeast on behalf of the chemical manufacturing industry.

Wanting to focus solely on Georgia, Thomas then joined the Georgia Retailers where he was quickly

promoted to the role of Executive Director. In this role, he advocated on a wide variety of issues such as pharmacy, tax, labor, and criminal justice to benefit Georgia's retail sector. Thomas is the son of a dentist, a proud US Navy veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and enjoys just about anything you can do outdoors. He lives in Marietta with his wife Frances, six-year-old son Quinton, and is expecting a daughter in mid-January.

If you have any questions regarding the legislative session or government affairs, please contact Thomas Beusse at thomas@gadental.org.

DLN • Georgia Reaches \$3 Million in Donated Dental Treatment to Georgia Residents with Special Needs

Dental Lifeline Network • Georgia recently celebrated a milestone having reached \$3 million in donated dental treatment from the more than 250 volunteer dentists and over 60 dental laboratories who have volunteered their time and resources through the GA Donated Services Program (DDS).

Since the launch of the state's DDS program, in conjunction with the Georgia Dental Association, the program has exceeded \$3 million worth of life-changing treatment to nearly 700 Georgia residents.

Tommy, a patient from Washington County, who suffers from multiple myeloma was one of the 537 DDS program patients to benefit from comprehensive care from a GDA member dentist, Dr. Howard Booth,

and a volunteer lab. A full upper and partial lower dentures restored his smile and confidence again.

"I want to thank you so very much for helping me with getting my teeth fixed and giving me the chance to be around people again and not be afraid to smile or talk with them. Thank you so much."

– Tommy, DDS Patient

The \$3 million dollars in donated dental treatment by the volunteers across Georgia is a significant contribution to the cumulative celebration happening for the DDS program nationally. For 35 years, DLN has partnered with volunteer dentists and laboratories across the country and connected people with special needs to comprehensive



dentistry. This past August, DLN reached a new milestone: \$500 million in donated dental treatment! That's half a billion dollars of care which has helped 165,000 individuals.

Dental Lifeline Network • Georgia is so thankful to the volunteers and supporters across the state for the time and resources invested in helping others. These contributions have made a positive impact in changing the lives of people who needed it most.

Dental Lifeline Network • Georgia is part of a national organization and strategic partner of the American Dental Association. More than 15,000 volunteer dentists and 3,400 laboratories participate in DLN's DDS programs nationwide.



Currently, people are waiting for treatment in Georgia. Please consider volunteering to see **one** patient. Sign up today by using the QR Code, visiting WillYouSeeOne.org or contacting Shatiba Butler at 404.993.4003.



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Three Ways to Keep Your Third-Party Vendors from Becoming Your Biggest Cyber Crime Liability

By Robert McDermott, President and CEO, iCoreConnect

How many cyberattack attempts were aimed at your practice today? That's probably not a question you get asked very often. It's also probably something you don't think about very often. In case you're curious, in one of the first-of-its-kind studies, the University of Maryland tracked that hackers successfully (not just attempt to) attack an internet-connected computer every **39 seconds!** And we're all making it easier for them to succeed with oversimplified usernames and passwords, among other vulnerabilities.

Cybercriminals are always targeting businesses of all sizes and types. And, you've most likely heard that their malicious intent is increasingly focused on the healthcare sector. Whether you are a single practitioner, a small group office, or a large DSO, you—and your vendor relationships—are always at risk.

Notice the key phrase highlighted in that previous sentence: “and your vendor relationships.” Third-party business associates are critical to your practice and your patient care. The value of these relationships isn't in question. The main question is whether you, and

they, understand the security of services they use, actual requirements of HIPAA compliance and how those impact your overall security and revenue.

Cybersecurity does directly affect revenue and can be especially hard on smaller practices. What would be the impact on your practice if it shuts down a few days or weeks because your patient's Protected Health Information (PHI) has been stolen, compromised, or frozen? Doctors at an Arizona medical center recently felt the ripple effects of a ransomware attack that corrupted and destroyed the EHR, leaving the group to piece together 35,000 patient records from scratch.

According to a recent cybersecurity report published by Critical Insight,

“There are two key miscalculations that are bound up in this outlook: first, that cybersecurity does not directly contribute to revenue and second, that cybersecurity is a feature that can easily be added on later in the project as necessary.”

—Keman Huang, Keri Pearlson, and Stuart Madnick,
Harvard Business Review

criminals are looking at the entire “ecosystem of vendors” linked to healthcare. Third-party vendors are seen as easier targets due to a number of potential safety and security weaknesses.¹ Vendor vulnerabilities might range from unsecure update processes to restrictive permission controls preventing them from detecting threats. And then there are the unnervingly more common email phishing attacks.

When it comes to preventing attacks, both the business and the business associates are accountable. The Harvard Business Review did a study with managers and software developers. The study found that, even though both parties expected and understood the importance of cybersecurity, neither →

CYBER CRIME

Continued from page 13

was proactive in taking steps toward warding off cyber threats.²

Step One: Renew Your Security and Compliance Commitment.

The best way to gain a foundational understanding is to do basic fact finding of your own business. How old is your practice management system? How secure is your secure email? Is your secure email fully HIPAA compliant? How many Business Associate Agreements (BAA) are currently active with your practice? What kind of services does the agreement state they provide? What kind of security fail-safes do you have in place for data storage and backup? Answering these questions as best you can will give you a big picture look at the business fundamentals of your practice.

Step Two: Find Out If Your Vendors Are “Walking the Walk” with Security and Compliance.

Use the information you gained during your practice forensics to approach each vendor for a current cyber security conversation. With each vendor, don't hesitate to ask specifics about their products and services and expect answers that satisfy your curiosity. If the claim is HIPAA-compliant email, insist that they walk you through every step of what makes it fully compliant and secure. For your internet, regular email, data backup, and IT management, understand your business associate's cyber protocols.

Step Three: Not Satisfied with What You Learn? Find New Vendors.

Third-party vendors are critical to your business. They also want to retain your business. If they are trustworthy, they will

speak openly about what they can and can't do for you. If it isn't what you need, then both parties can amicably move on from one another. The Association has resources and recommendations to connect you with partners who strive to keep your data and revenue secure.

Third-party vendors don't have to be a weak link. In fact, they can be one of your greatest weapons against these criminals. Take time to understand your own vulnerabilities and have direct conversations with your business allies. You both will be more confident in the partnership when you do.

GDA endorses iCoreExchange HIPAA-compliant email. iCoreExchange not only meets or exceeds every compliance and security requirement, it also allows you to attach as many large files as you want to any single email. Speed up your workflow, protect patients and your practice. Check out this convenient and compliant service at land.iCoreConnect.com/GA04 or 888.810.7706. GDA members receive a substantial discount on iCoreExchange.

1. https://cybersecurity.criticalinsight.com/2021_healthcare_data_breach_report

2. <https://hbr.org/2021/05/is-third-party-software-leaving-you-vulnerable-to-cyberattacks>



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Dr. Celeste Love
has joined
Riverwood Dental
Atlanta, Georgia

Dr. Macy Copelan
has acquired the practice of
Dr. Alan Maxwell
Milledgeville, Georgia
(Pictured left.)

Dr. Cameron Smith
has joined the practice of
Dr. Richard Bennett
Gainesville, Georgia

Practices for Sale

West Cobb: Grossing \$500K. 5 ops. Digital, paperless. Busy shopping center

N Atlanta: Grossing \$450K. Cosmetic, implant practice. Real estate available.

Central GA: Pediatric practice. Lots of potential. Collecting \$300K. Real estate.

East Cobb: Grossing \$550K. Digital, paperless. PPO/FFS. Low overhead.

Atlanta: Grossing \$700K. 6 ops w/room to expand. Seller wants to stay on.

Richmond Co: Perio. Grossing \$700K. 4 ops, room to expand. Mostly FFS. Digital

Dawson Co: FFS/PPO. Grossing \$400K. Seller will stay on. Real estate available.

West of Atlanta: Grossing \$750K. High visibility. PPO/FFS. 4 ops. RE for sale.

GA Coast: 5 ops. Grossing \$1M. Digital x-ray & PAN. Close to SSI & Jacksonville.

Fulton Co: Perio. 5 ops, room to expand. PPO/FFS. Grossing \$600K.

UNDER CONTRACT! NW GA: Grossing \$1M. 5 ops. PPO/FFS. Digital xray. Seller will stay on.

West of Atlanta: 4 ops. 2000 sq/ft. Grossing \$800K. All FFS. RE for sale.

Newton Co: Grossing \$750K. All FFS. 4 ops. 2000 sq/ft. Digital xray & PAN.

UNDER CONTRACT! DeKalb Co: All FFS practice grossing \$1.5M. 5 ops. Real estate for sale.

Eastern GA: Grossing \$600K. 4 ops. FFS/PPO. RE for sale, lots of parking.

Fulton Co Prosthodontics: Grossing \$1.8M. 6 ops. Excellent area. Seller will stay on.

Gwinnett Co Perio: FFS. Grossing \$700K. RE for sale. Strong hygiene.

DeKalb Co: Grossing \$425K. Standalone building for sale. PPO/FFS. Digital.

DeKalb Co Perio: 5 treatment rooms. Grossing \$830K. FFS/PPO. Great area.

Baldwin Co: Grossing \$250K. 6 ops. RE for sale. Referrals lots out. No marketing.

SE GA Pedo: Mostly FFS. Grossing \$900K. 5 chairs. Free standing building.

NW GA Oral Surgery: Looking for buyer or associate. Grossing \$1M. Very busy.

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Volatility as a Fee Worth Paying, Not a Fine Worth Avoiding

*By Alejo Czerwonko, Chief Investment Officer Emerging Markets Americas, UBS Financial Services Inc. (UBS FS)
Justin Waring, Investment Strategist Americas, UBS Financial Services Inc. (UBS FS)*

Morgan Housel's recent book titled "The Psychology of Money" is a refreshing reminder that setting financial goals and maximizing the likelihood of achieving them takes more than a technical mastery of the most sophisticated quantitative investing techniques. It also requires an understanding of how the human brain works and recognizing that investors are prone to behavioral biases—a phenomenon we factor into our UBS Wealth Way approach.

Housel's book is packed with interesting stories and arguments, but one of his observations we found particularly interesting is that investors often view volatility as a fine worth avoiding, rather than a fee worth paying—a fee he compares to entering Disneyland:

"Market returns are never free and never will be. They demand you pay a price, like any other product. You are not forced to pay this fee, just like you are not forced to go to Disneyland. You can go to the local county fair where tickets

might be \$10, or stay at home for free. But you'll usually get what you pay for. Same with markets. The volatility/uncertainty fee—the price of returns—is the cost of admission to get returns rather than low-fee parks like cash and bonds.”

We agree. Perceiving volatility as a fine—and spending outside amounts of time and effort to avoid it—will reliably lead to subpar investment outcomes. After all, missing out on market gains can be just as damaging as suffering large portfolio losses. For example, if you pursue a conservative strategy and forego 2% of annual growth, this will leave you with the same wealth as if you invested in a more growth-oriented portfolio and then panic-sold after a 17% loss in year 10, a 32% loss in year 20, or a 44% loss in year 30.

Clients often ask us when the next equity market correction will be and what can they do to avoid it.

The bad news is that no one can reliably predict market dips, and even when investors get lucky enough to exit on time, getting back in on time can be even more challenging. The good news is that we don't need to predict market corrections to protect ourselves from the damage that they can cause to our portfolios and financial plans.

As we discuss in our bear market guidebook report (ubs.com/bearmarketguidebook), a well-funded liquidity strategy (cash, bonds, and borrowing capacity to fund the next 3–5 years of your spending) can help you maintain your lifestyle regardless of what the market is doing—and help you avoid locking in the otherwise-temporary losses that we see during pockets of market volatility.

In this world, nothing is certain except death, taxes, and equity market corrections. The next time we are faced with the latter, remember it as the fee one must pay to achieve superior returns over time. 🗝

Appendix and Disclaimer: www.ubs.com/global/en/wealth-management/our-approach/marketnews/disclaimer.html.

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What GDA Does for You!

Being a member of the Georgia Dental Association (GDA) provides you with a wealth of resources and exclusive benefits to help you succeed in the dental profession.

Protects and Supports How You Practice

Legislation and regulations affect you, your practice, and your patients every day. GDA's Government Affairs team is always advocating on your behalf to ensure your voice is heard. GDA protects the profession of dentistry by:

- ✓ Providing guidance on new legislation and regulations that may affect how you practice
- ✓ Providing resources to help members comply with HIPAA/ OSHA regulations
- ✓ Hosting LAW Days at the Capitol where GDA members meet with Georgia state legislators to discuss proposed bills that impact the dental community
- ✓ Maintaining partnerships with state agencies and dental stakeholders
- ✓ Providing third-party payor assistance
- ✓ Advocating for increased Medicaid reimbursement and administrative simplification
- ✓ Answering frequently asked questions on regulatory matters related to dentistry
- ✓ Offering contract analysis services
- ✓ Facilitating peer review and mediation
- ✓ Participating with the Georgia Board of Dentistry
- ✓ Supporting candidates for state office through GDA's Political Action Committee (GDAPAC)—a non-profit, non-partisan organization

Promotes Your Profession

GDA's public relations team works diligently to promote a positive image of dentists through public relations efforts. From broadcast, print, and digital media placements to promotion of outreach events hosted by the GDA Foundation for Oral Health, public relations initiatives continue to shine a positive light on dentistry and promote the good works of GDA members. GDA and the GDA Foundation for Oral Health promote the profession by:

- ✓ Providing public relations campaigns that enhance the public image of dentistry statewide, including our current campaign, Healthy Mouth, Healthy Me!
- ✓ Issuing statements to correct misinformation in the news
- ✓ Guiding prospective patients to GDA member dentists through the ADA Find-a-Dentist search tool
- ✓ Hosting community outreach programs, including Children's Dental Health Month, Special Olympics, Special Smiles, Give-Kids-A-Smile, and Donated Dental Services →

Advances Your Career

Practicing dentistry can be a rewarding and challenging experience with numerous professional, personal, legal, and business matters involved. Whether you are a practice owner, associate, faculty, or work in public health/government, we strive to help our members succeed by providing a plethora of resources. GDA helps advance your career by:

- ✓ Providing quality CE courses for you and your staff (ADA CERP-approved provider)
- ✓ Creating opportunities for networking and mentorship
- ✓ Distributing resources to help members stay up-to-date with publications like *GDA Action* magazine, our websites, social media pages, and e-news
- ✓ Establishing a program for overall well-being with the Dental Recovery Network
- ✓ Hosting spokesperson training for GDA leaders
- ✓ Facilitating an annual Leadership GDA program that trains the new generation of GDA leaders
- ✓ Hosting the annual GDA Convention & Expo where dentists, staff, and industry leaders come together to network, earn CE, and enjoy a beautiful beach location with their families
- ✓ Providing information and reminders for license renewal

Access to Member Services and Discounts

As a GDA member, you own GDA Plus⁺ Supplies and Georgia Dental Insurance Services (GDIS). Support the business you own and save money.

- ✓ GDIS is a full-service insurance agency that provides insurance products and services (personal, medical and business) for you, your family, and dental team
- ✓ Your GDIS staff also conducts insurance policy reviews to identify any gaps in coverage you may have on any of your policies including malpractice, business owner's, workers' compensation, auto, home, disability, Medicare, health insurance, commercial/personal umbrella, and many more
- ✓ GDA Plus⁺ Supplies is a marketplace where members can purchase over 65,000 dental supply products from more than 550 dental brands
- ✓ GDA Plus⁺ Supplies helped secure hard-to-find PPE in the early stages of the pandemic and is saving many members 20% or more, reducing their total overhead cost
- ✓ The GDA endorsed partners program provides savings and great rates for practice financing, retirement planning, debt management, and more

Get Involved!

The GDA is led by volunteer members, and when you get involved you help the GDA achieve its mission to “Help Members Succeed.” Volunteering also leads to personal success! You’ll gain experience in leadership and benefit from networking opportunities with your colleagues. And you’ll get an inside view of trends and issues in organized dentistry that will help you professionally.

Too many commitments? Not enough time? No worries! GDA has many opportunities to get involved without a long-term commitment. And you get help and support at every step along the way. Whatever fits your interests, skill set, and availability—the GDA needs you!

For more information on a particular opportunity or to volunteer, contact Katherine Torbush at 404.636.7553 or katherine@gadental.org.

Quick...

- Talk to a non-member colleague about joining the GDA
- Attend a meeting in your district (gadental.org/events)
- Speak to dental students at DCG through GDA’s lunch and learn program
- Attend the GDA Convention in July (GDAConvention.com)
- Respond to GDA member surveys—keep an eye out for the next opportunity to share your thoughts!
- Attend a LAW Day/Dental Health Day at the Capitol (January–March each year)
- Register for a GDA continuing education course (gadental.org/ce)

More Involved...

- Serve as a delegate from your district on the GDA House of Delegates (meetings in July/November)
- Volunteer with the Georgia Donated Dental Service Program (<https://dentallifeline.org/our-volunteers/volunteer-now/>)
- Become a legislative contact dentist
- Run for an At-large Trustee position on the GDA Board (nominations due in June of each year)
- Serve as a member of the GDA Foundation for Oral Health Board of Directors
- Volunteer as a district officer or committee member

Short-term...

- Join the Leadership GDA Program (gadental.org/education/leadership-gda)
- Participate in Children’s Dental Health Month/Give Kids a Smile (February of each year)
- Volunteer to be a mentor for one year to a recent dental school graduate
- Assist in organizing a GDAPAC fundraiser in your district
- Speak at a GDA continuing education course
- Serve as an adjunct faculty member at DCG or any approved charitable clinic in GA (one day per month for one-year period)



Get More From Your Membership While Sharing Your Talents and Skills by Being a GDA Volunteer →

More Volunteer Opportunities

Time =  Travel for Meetings =  Expertise = 

Finance, Benefits, & Audit Committee

Length of commitment
3 YEARS

Oversight/responsibility for financial interests of GDA, its committees and subsidiary corporations. Review budgets, financial reports, audits, investments, and financial/benefit policies.

Nominating Committee

Length of commitment
3 YEARS

Recruit candidates for open leadership positions including GDA Officers, ADA Delegates/Alternates, GDA Trustees At-large and candidates for the Georgia Board of Dentistry. Develop and publish selection criteria and procedures to ensure that the pool of candidates meet those criteria and reflect as much as possible, the diversity of the membership.

Government Affairs/Political Action Committee

Length of commitment
1 YEAR

Monitor legislative developments in Georgia and keep GDA members/leaders informed. Communicate GDA's position on various legislative issues to state legislators. Oversee the GDAPAC and campaign contributions to political candidates who support the interests of the GDA and its member dentists.

Public Relations & Communications Committee

Length of commitment
1 YEAR

Promote a positive image of dentistry to the public, the media, and to the members of the GDA. Ensure that there is good communication and understanding between the GDA and its members and consistent communication and understanding with other organizations pertaining to oral health and the practice of dentistry.

Membership Committee

Length of commitment
1 YEAR

Responsible for recruitment and retention of members, consideration of membership categories, new dentist programs, and general program development.

Awards Council





Length of commitment
1 YEAR

Identify candidates who are eligible for GDA's annual awards. Vet awards nominees and recommend candidates to the House of Delegates.

Constitution & Bylaws Council



Length of
commitment

1 YEAR

Review or create proposed amendments to the GDA Constitution, Bylaws, and Policy Manual and make recommendations to the GDA House of Delegates.

Council on Annual Convention



Length of
commitment

1 YEAR

Assist in planning the GDA's Annual Convention and serve as a host at the event in July.

Council on Peer Review & Ethics



Length of
commitment

1 YEAR

Investigate and mediate patient possible disputes concerning quality of care, appropriateness of treatment, and ethics. Implement and enforce code of professional standards for the Georgia Dental Association.

Education & Training Advisory Council



Length of
commitment

1 YEAR

Work with GDA staff to plan quality educational programs for GDA members. Assist with selecting relevant and timely topics and speakers to ensure strong educational events and initiatives.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Task Force



Length of
commitment

1 YEAR

The GDA's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force promotes the goals of diversity, equity, and inclusion among members, leadership, and staff. It serves to engage members to assess needs related to DEI and propose strategies for assessing progress; identify challenges and strengths in achieving DEI goals; and make recommendations to the Board of Trustees and House of Delegates regarding ways to achieve DEI goals.

Leadership GDA Task Force



Length of
commitment

1 YEAR

Identify and recruit candidates for GDA's annual Leadership GDA Program. Review program content and make suggestions for continual enhancement.

Medicaid Task Force



Length of
commitment

1 YEAR

Provide input and clinical perspective on issues that dentists face regarding dental Medicaid in Georgia. Task Force members need to be Medicaid providers to serve.

Detailed descriptions of all committees and councils can be found on the GDA website at: gadental.org. →

GDA Membership: Value At Every Stage of Your Career

	Dental & Grad. Students	Early Career	Mid-Career	Late Career	Retirement
Legislative Advocacy					
Lobbying on behalf of your profession	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Monitoring Legislation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Advocating for YOU	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Public Relations/ Communications					
Educating the public about the value of visiting the dentist	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marketing toolkits to guide and support your practice	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Action Journal publication	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Constant communication keeping you informed	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Healthy Mouth, Healthy Me! PR Campaign	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Continuing Education					
Leadership Training		✓	✓	✓	✓
Spokesperson Training		✓	✓	✓	✓
Practice Management courses		✓	✓	✓	✓
OSHA, HIPAA, CPR and other certification courses required for your license renewal		✓	✓	✓	✓
Two conferences offering over 40 CE courses	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Virtual and In-Person CE throughout the year	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Georgia Dental Insurance Services					
Group Health Insurance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Malpractice					
Protecting Your Practice through Business Owners Insurance, Workers' Comp, Data Breach, and more	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Protecting You Personally through Personal, Home, and Auto Insurance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Medicare Supplements			✓	✓	✓
More Resources to Help You Succeed!					
Job Postings	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Legal Publications for your practice		✓	✓	✓	✓
Life and Career Tools	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Loan Repayment Management	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Networking Opportunities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Volunteer Opportunities to Give Back	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Not a Member?

There are 3,600+ Reasons to
Join the GDA!

THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE!

Achieving success can be a challenging conquest, but you don't have to do it alone. Join 3,600+ of your dental colleagues in taking advantage of all of the resources, products, and services GDA has to offer.

Join or renew today by visiting gadental.org/join or contact Katherine Torbush at katherine@gadental.org or 404.636.7553 x126.



Journey *of a* Lifetime

By Dr. Louvenia A. Rainge



A journey of a lifetime! These are choice words used to describe my year (and a half) of serving as the president of the Georgia Dental Association. It has been an amazing journey and one for which I am indeed grateful. I am truly blessed to be a member of this organization and to serve in this role. I am humbled that you, the members, allowed me to lead this organization so that we can accomplish its goal of “helping member dentists succeed.”

I must say that I am actually grateful to my parents. They taught me life lessons that instilled core values. These core values have allowed me to dream and achieve the impossible. The degree I received from their curriculum far exceeds any dental or PhD degree. It is the Degree of Life (D.O.L.)!

Last year was indeed a year full of challenges! I think that we all went through many emotions that made us make some very tough decisions and choices. I didn't know what to do with myself. I had *time* on my hands. I didn't imagine, nor did I dream of anything like this occurring, and I am sure that many of you felt the same. The pandemic changed our approach to many things, and we are looking at life through a different lens. I was reminded of a quote from my reading materials that stated that “we need to adapt to changing times without changing our principles.” This was indeed true. We stuck to our core values, whether professionally or personally, we made good decisions that led us to good outcomes. All in all, we are extremely blessed to be here.

I am indeed honored and humbled to be serving as the president of the Georgia Dental Association! It is a privilege, and I am privileged to be a member of this amazing group of my peers. All across the state, I have served and continue to serve alongside people that I consider very special to my development as an individual and as a professional. There are a group of people that have influenced and continue to influence my development personally and professionally. I want to thank those who have shared their talents, ideas, and philosophies to help mold our organization into what it has become: one

of respect and pride! Their philosophies aided us in the decision-making process and propelled this organization forward. I have been a member for a long time, and I remember key members of this organization that helped me along the way. I remember sitting in board rooms, and on the house floor, seeing them at other meetings in awe of their presence and what they represented. They showcased the profession well. I would watch, listen, and learn from them. Interacting with them helped mold me. Yes, they created molds as we all do and they prepared the way and created this environment of dentistry—a well-respected profession! I have met many of you, and I have developed relationships that will be cherished forever. I look forward to meeting more of you.

The GDA, through the years and on the backs of the support of its members, present and those that served before us, is strong and continues to grow stronger. It is only through the support of each of you that we are in the position that we are in today. One example of our strength is demonstrated in the fact that we have

continued growth of our members. We have surpassed last year's numbers and we have received an award from the ADA for those efforts. We are financially strong and we continue to meet and exceed our goals outlined in our strategic plan. Strategy...it is something that each one of us does in our daily lives whether we admit it or not. The plan of action that was laid out for our organization helps us reach our goals and become a sustainable organization. It is an important factor for us to continue to stay on top of the strategic plan, to continue to make sure that we reach our goals, to reevaluate the plan, to make sure that we are performing and aligning our objectives to reflect the plan, the plan of action.

This time in our lives has been different and it is a challenging environment. Who knew? Even though we deal with challenges that affect us daily, this virus and the pandemic that we are facing has forced us to adapt to a new norm. Who would have thought that our daily routines would be altered and that this virus would affect the lives of so many people? At its onset, the GDA rose →



JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME

Continued from page 27

to the occasion. The board, the trustees of the board, the amazing GDA staff, the executive director, all committed numerous hours to navigate through the massive amounts of information to come up with some safe, effective way that we could return to our daily routines. Again, adapting to a changing environment without changing our principles. I am indeed impressed with the board, its members, and all that they bring to the board. It's impressive to see them in action, to see them in the room or on Zoom, and to witness what they bring to the table. We were in constant contact with the governor, and I can tell you that without the call to action, there is no telling where we would be at this moment. There were some states that were mandated to be shut down for at least five months. Imagine that! We were able to get the governor to change his executive order not once, but two times! Because of our actions, dentistry was and still is considered *essential* health care! Thanks to the task force that was assembled to immediately address the issue, especially after the ADA made their initial statement, calling for dentists to postpone elective procedures to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19. This call to action was to provide emergency or urgent treatment to keep patients out of overtaxed emergency rooms and to preserve PPE. And thanks to the Innovative Task Force that still overlooks and monitors the changes occurring during this pandemic that affect our profession. We need to seize this moment to create the new "normal" for our profession. The opportunity is now. Together, we will make the GDA and the profession as a whole even stronger!

What I have witnessed over the years is that we need to change our way of thinking in order to match the scale of challenges in front of us...in our personal and professional lives. We need to shift the way in which we think about a problem and how to solve it. If we do that, we can navigate through the many issues facing us. We can be proactive instead of reactive. We need to be prepared on all fronts for what is to come.

During this pandemic, we have seen and heard phrases such as, "stronger

together" and "we are all in this together." These are powerful phrases that have brought people together, helping each other, caring for each other. Unity is powerful. The more unified we are, the more powerful we become. Creating a strong front, we as a group can accomplish much more for our profession.

My theme for this year was "Bridging the Gap: Common Ground." So, what is this common ground? I focused on commonalities that bring dentists together and increase member value. This is the key! What are these commonalities and how can we identify them and keep member dentists active and engaged? I have witnessed a lot while serving in a leadership role, and it appeared that there was a degree of apathy that takes place along the way. As we go through life, sometimes we feel as though we are on a roller coaster or in silos. I proposed that if we can identify commonalities and engage nonmembers or members that are just existing, going through the motions, we can become stronger together. That common thread is that we are all dentists. When we wake up, we are dentists. When we go to work, we are dentists. When we come home, we are dentists.

We represent dentists of all career stages: recent graduates, actively practicing dentists, and retirees. We sometimes neglect the middle group of dentists and their needs. They may need help with refinancing, negotiations, insurance contracts (personal or professional). We represent all types of practices: corporate, private, or group. We represent every district, from the smallest to the largest district.

We created initiatives that will help bring all dentists under one umbrella. This includes corporate dentists as well as all dental societies and associations. As president, I represent the members, not myself, but I represent the dentists of the state of Georgia and their needs.

We live in an uncertain world. We may face hard times going forward, but what we must realize is that if we work together, we can accomplish so much more. We don't know what the future holds, but I know that when looking at my past as a GDA member, this

organization will represent me well and will be there to "help member dentists succeed."

In closing, I ask each of you to think about your role as a member. In doing this, think about the word integrity. Integrity is a very powerful word. Integrity is the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles. Let's embrace the word and embrace each other. The world lost a great woman in Ruth Bader Ginsburg. One of the things that was shared at her memorial concerned her dissents. They brought up the fact that her dissents were not for defeat, but they served as blueprints for the future. Imagine that! We as leaders create a blueprint for our future generations to follow. Our character, our beliefs, our moral, our integrity is being observed by everyone that we come in contact with whether we realize it or not. We are molding the future. I want each member to be a guide for those you lead. Each of you possesses the talent. Embrace it, and we will be able to bridge the gap and create an even stronger foundation for the GDA. Every good and generous thought, word, and act makes a difference, in more ways than can ever be known. Step by step and brick by brick... GDA Strong. 🦋



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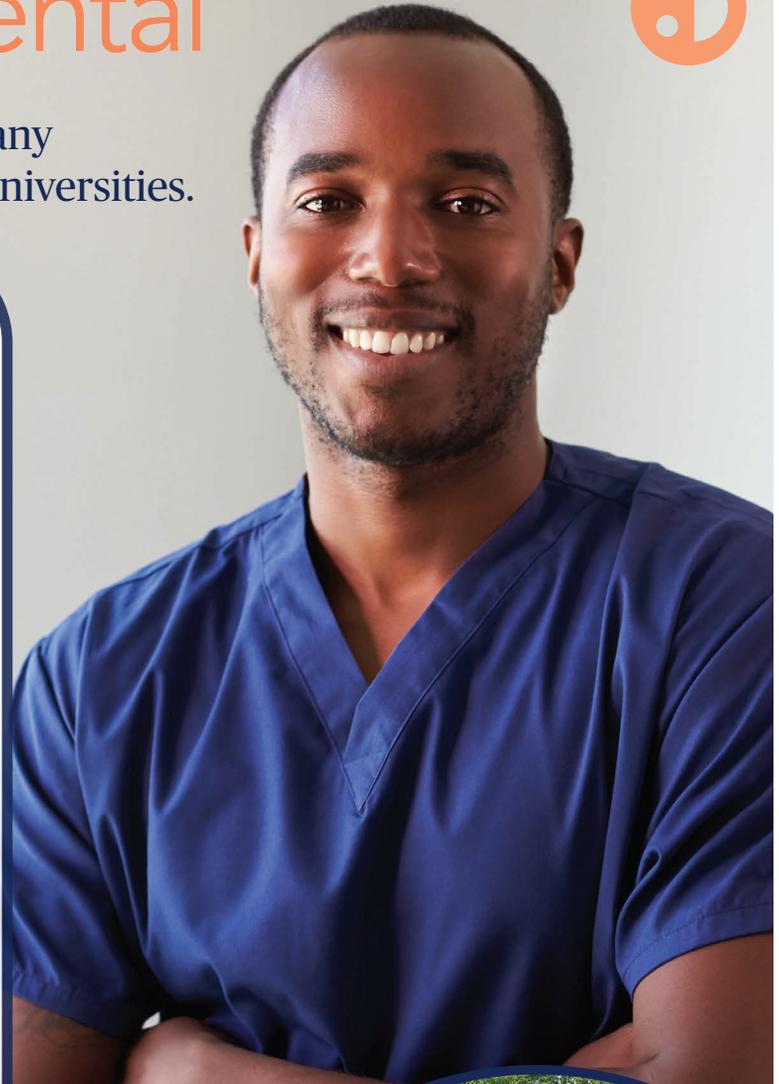
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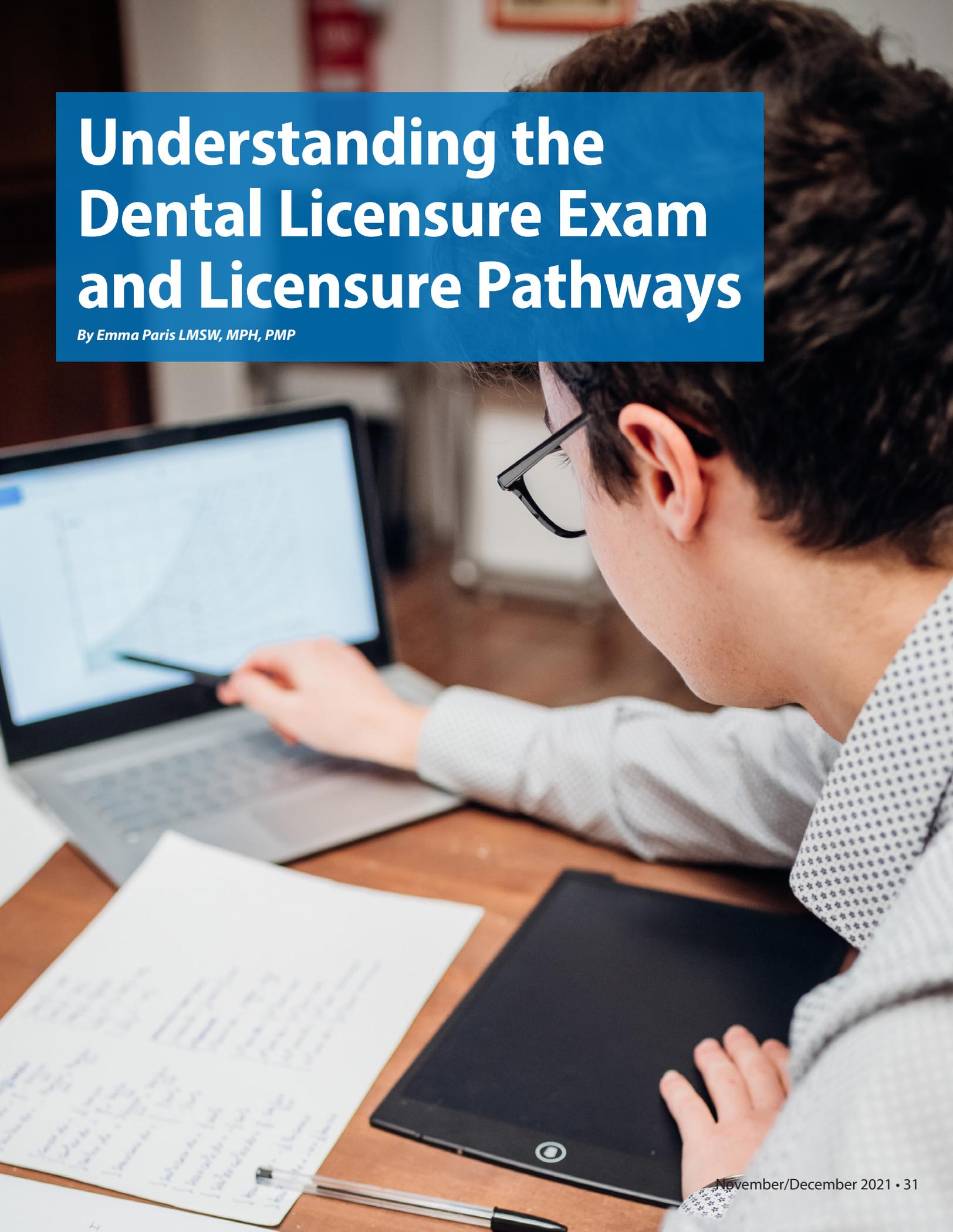
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Understanding the Dental Licensure Exam and Licensure Pathways

By Emma Paris LMSW, MPH, PMP



DENTAL LICENSURE EXAM AND LICENSURE PATHWAYS

Continued from page 31

This overview is meant to provide a high-level summary of pathways to dental licensure. It should not serve as a commentary of superiority of one organization, license, exam format, or be used to inform any dentist on how to obtain a dental license in the state of Georgia. It is also not reflective of a position of the Georgia Dental Association and is merely informational in nature. Further, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, many states, including Georgia, have issued temporary changes to the licensure process, with some states implementing permanent changes to pathways. This article reflects changes that were confirmed at the time of initial writing, in May 2021, although additional changes are possible.

The full report is available by request to emma@gadental.org

Introduction

Passing of a dental licensure exam is the final step in the process to becoming a licensed dentist. Candidates must have previously completed a DDS or DMD program and satisfy their state's specific requirements. In Georgia, this means the passing of a CODA accredited program (if applying for licensure by examination), National Board Scores from the ADA Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations, jurisprudence exam, a national practitioner data bank certified report of any pending or final disciplinary action or malpractice, relevant criminal history, CPR certification, and two references. There are additional requirements for licensure by credentials.

Prior to the COVID-19, the Georgia Board of Dentistry only accepted the live patient version of CRDTS to satisfy licensure requirements by the Board of Dentistry. At the time of this writing, the Board of Dentistry was temporarily also accepting the ADEX exam live-patient or manikin version, and the manikin version of CRDTS, provided that the exam was taken on or after January 1, 2021. This is pursuant to an Executive Order, which is tied to the public health emergency which can be ended or extended by the Governor.

Upcoming Changes to National Dental Licensure Exams

Prior to June 2021, there were five organization that administered multiple dental licensure exams: The Commission on Dental Competency Assessments (CDCA), previously known as NERB, the North East Regional Board, The Council of Interstate Testing Agencies (CITA), The Western Regional Examining Board (WREB), Southern Regional Testing Agency, Inc. (SRTA), and Central Regional Dental Testing Services, Inc

At the time of this writing, the Board of Dentistry was temporarily also accepting the ADEX exam live-patient or manikin version, and the manikin version of CRDTS, provided that the exam was taken on or after January 1, 2021.

(CRDTS). On June 15, 2021, CDCA and WREB announced a merger to become one new entity known as CDCA-WREB. The combined organization intends to administer both the ADEX exam and the current WREB exam throughout 2022 and will begin to administer only the ADEX exam at all locations for the Class of 2023.*

The chart below shows the current testing agencies and the exams they administer:

Testing Agency	Exam Administered
CDCA	ADEX
CITA	ADEX
STRA	SRTA
CRDTS	CRDTS
WREB	WREB*

Post-Graduate Year One (PGY-1) and Portfolios

Some states do not accept any of these licensure exams for initial licensure. They instead require a Post-Graduate Year One (PGY-1) residency or operate their own, state-specific dental exam, as is the case in Delaware. PGY-1 are completed over a year's time span in a clinical setting and are structured similarly to medical residency programs.

Portfolios and residencies are relatively new alternatives to the single-encounter dental licensure examination. Currently, only New York and Delaware require a PGY-1 to become a licensed dentist. PGY1 is optional in Minnesota, California, Colorado, and Ohio; Washington state accepts PGY-1 if completed in certain settings.¹

California is currently the only state that currently accepts portfolios for initial licensure. The California Portfolio Examination became effective in 2014 after several years of collaboration with the six California dental schools and the California Dental Association. From the California portfolio handbook, "the competency examination for oral diagnosis and treatment planning (ODTP) is designed to assess the candidate's ability to identify and evaluate patient data and clinical findings, formulate diagnoses, and plan treatment interventions from a multidisciplinary perspective. ODTP clinical experiences will include a minimum of 20 patient cases...in at least three of six disciplines: periodontics, endodontics, operative (restoration), fixed and removable prosthodontics, orthodontics, and oral surgery."

The ADEX Exam

The Council of Interstate Testing Agencies (CITA) exclusively administers the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) exam. The Commission on Dental Competency Assessments (CDCA) also exclusively administers ADEX and is the largest administrator of the ADEX Exam. The ADEX is an exam only and is not independently administered. Those wishing to take the ADEX exam must register through CITA or CDCA.

ADEX can be a pathway for initial licensure or moving a license from one state to another. Passing of ADEX in one state is not a guarantee of reciprocity in another state.

The ADEX is comprised of five skill-specific components: Periodontal Scaling, Endodontics, Prosthodontics, Restorative Anterior/Posterior, and completion of the Diagnostic Skills Examination (DSE OSCE). These clinical examinations can either be performed on a patient or a manikin. Each state has specific requirement on whether they will accept non-patient-based portions of the exam. This is largely why successful passing of ADEX is not a guarantee of licensure reciprocity.

Candidates are provided with ADEX testing manuals from the CDCA and CITA for all parts of the exam at no cost. CITA and CDCA administer the same version of ADEX. Additionally, students can purchase CompeDont testing materials to practice on ahead of time should they decide to take the non-patient version of ADEX. If opting for the patient-based version of the exam, students are required to find candidates/patients that meet the requirements of the exam.

Southern Regional Testing Agency, Inc. (SRTA) Exam

SRTA is both a dental licensure exam and the exam administrator established in 1975. SRTA does not administer any other dental licensure exams. Passage of SRTA in one state

is not a guarantee of reciprocity in another state. Although the name suggests regional acceptance, SRTA is accepted coast to coast. It is, however, only administered at the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry and West Virginia University.

Candidates are provided with a manikin or patient-based manual at no cost upon registration for the exam to assist in exam preparation.

SRTA is comprised of three required components and one optional component: Endodontics, Fixed Prosthodontics, and Anterior/Posterior Restorative; Periodontal Scaling is optional based on the state where the candidate is seeking licensure. The Endodontics and Fixed Prosthodontics portions are performed on manikins; restorative and the optional periodontal portion are performed on a live patient.

Candidates are provided with a manikin or patient-based manual at no cost upon registration for the exam to assist in exam preparation. STRA also utilizes the Acidental CompeDont typodont manikin for the non-patient portions of the exam. Students can purchase materials to practice on. →

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DENTAL LICENSURE EXAM AND LICENSURE PATHWAYS

Continued from page 33

Like the ADEX, candidates are encouraged to check with their state dental boards to determine if manikin or patient-based exams are permissible for licensure.

SRTA is available in three different formats. The first format is the traditional manikin and patient-based sections administered over two consecutive days. The second format is the Progressive Integrated Examination (PIE I and PIE II), also manikin and patient-based administered on separate occasions. This format is available to current students, graduates, and residents deemed eligible by the participating university. Lastly is the Curriculum Sequenced Examination (CSE). CSE is only offered at select sites and is only patient-based and requires that the student and patient are of record at the host institution.

Western Regional Examining Board (WREB) Exam

WREB is both a dental licensure exam and the exam administrator established in 1975, with the first exam administered in 1977. As with other licensure exams, passing of WREB in one state is not a guarantee of reciprocity in another state.

The WREB exam consists of three required portions, Operative, Endodontics, and Comprehensive Treatment Planning (CPT), and two option portions, Prosthodontics and Periodontal, if the state where a candidate is applying for initial licensure requires it; there are no additional fees to take the optional section of the exam.

As with other licensure exams, students are encouraged to check for exam requirements in the state where they are seeking licensure, not the requirements of the state where they are taking the exam.²

The operative portion of the exam may either be completed on a live patient or manikin, depending on availability at the testing site, and what the state the candidate seeks licensure in requires. The endodontics portion is completed on manikin simulation teeth. The CPT portion is completed at a Prometic exam location and is scheduled after the candidate has enrolled in a licensure exam. The optional prosthodontics portion, if requested by the candidate, is completed on a manikin. The periodontal portion can be completed on a live patient or a manikin. If the candidate is taking the periodontal portion on a live patient, the patient is subject to an acceptance criteria.

Central Regional Dental Testing Services, Inc. (CRDTS) Exam

As with other licensure exams, passage of CRDTS does not guarantee license reciprocity in another state. Despite the name implying regionality, CRDTS is accepted across the country. CRDTS is currently offered in four different states, however, some exams are available only to students at the respective dental school where the exam is held.

The CRDTS exam has four required components: Endodontics, Fixed Prosthodontics, Periodontal, and Restorative. Documentation of completion of the National

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Dental Board Exam is not required to complete the clinical portions of the exam.

Both the endodontics and fixed prosthodontics portion of the CRDTS exam are timed and performed on a manikin. The periodontal and restorative portions are performed on a live patient.³ There are no optional portions of the CRDTS exam, however candidates can request a manikin-based restorative and periodontal exam if approved by their state board. There are no computer exams, treatment planning, or diagnostics skills-based assessment on the CRDTS exam.⁴

The Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE)

The DLOSCE is a licensure exam that was created by the ADA and the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE, 2021). It has been available since 2020. From the JCNDE, the DLOSCE was developed to “give dental boards the ability to identify those who lack the skills necessary for safe practice, using a professionally developed examination backed by strong validity evidence, eliminates undesirable situations and complications that can arise from the use of patients in the examination process (e.g., patient’s more pressing needs not treated in lieu of pursuing the “perfect lesion”), allow for more objective and comprehensive measurement of candidate skills, and to help dental boards in their mission to protect the public.”

Whereas other dental licensure exams are primarily hands-on in nature, the DLOSCE is entirely virtual, meaning it is completed entirely in a Prometric center with no psychomotor skills portion. The exam is 150 questions and administered in three testing windows each year.

The lack of hand skills was a planned distinction for the DLOSCE compared to other exams. The DLOSCE chose not to include a psychomotor component because the Steering Committee noted a lack of research evidence that supported the single encounter, patient procedure examination and manikin examinations, citing “There is no peer-reviewed scientific evidence that correlates [clinical licensure examination] outcomes with other validated assessments of clinical competence ... the process yields no verifiable value in its ultimate objective of providing for the protection of the public.”⁵

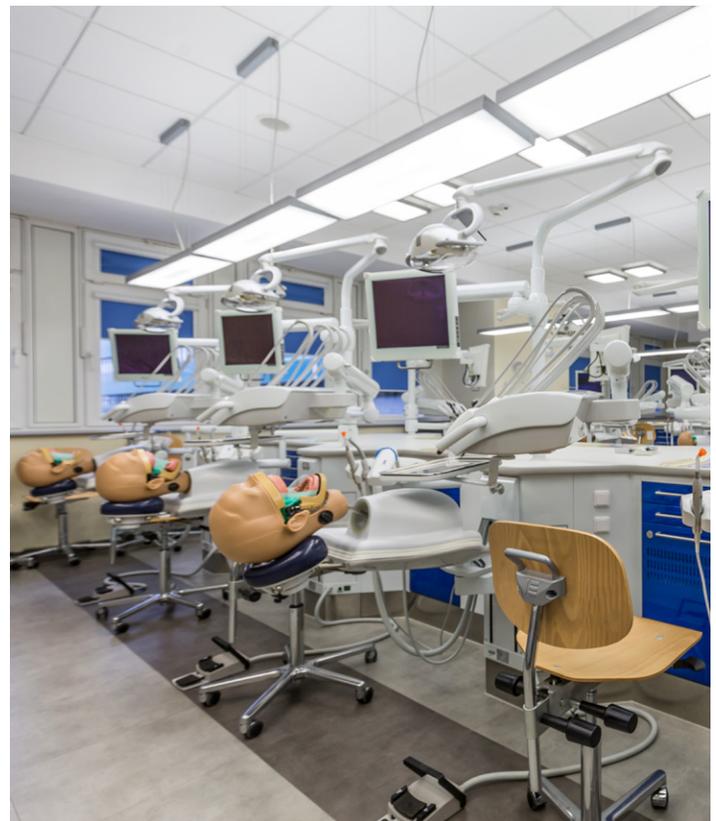
The DLOSCE provides a wider, less general range of tested components for candidates including: restorative dentistry (24%), prosthodontics (19%), oral pathology, pain management, and TMD (13%), periodontics (10%), oral surgery (9%), endodontics (8%), orthodontics (6%), medical emergencies (6%), and prescriptions (5%). Diagnosis and Treatment Planning—as well as Occlusion—are covered across the topics listed above. All sections are required on the exam.

The DLOSCE includes questions involving patients of various types and backgrounds, including pediatric, geriatric, special needs, and medically complex patients. Candidates are provided with radiographs, photos, and 3D mouth models of virtual patients and are asked multiple choice, multiple response questions.

Conclusion

The purpose of this report was to provide a comprehensive overview of the various licensure pathways for the dental profession. Although overall similar in structure and components, many states continue to show a preference to specific licensure exams or organizations. The complete report contains additional information highlighting the differences across CODA approved dental schools and states to show how variances in the licensure process likely do not impact the dental workforce.

It also contains an in-depth literature review which will help the reader understand how dental licensure exams aim to protect the public, assesses the shifting perceptions of live-patient examinations, the advancements of manikins and simulations, and how these changes are altering the licensure process for dentists. 🦷



1. From <https://www.ada.org/en/education-careers/licensure/licensure-dental-students/licensure-pathways>

2. From https://wreb.org/Candidates/Dental/2021_Dental_PDFs/2021_WREB_Exam_Procedures.pdf

3. From <https://www.crdts.org/Default.aspx?PageID=47>

4. From <https://www.crdts.org/asda.aspx>

5. From Friedrichsen, S.W. (2016). Moving toward 21st-century clinical licensure examinations in dentistry. *Journal of Dental Education*, 80(6), 639-640.



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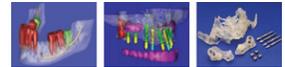
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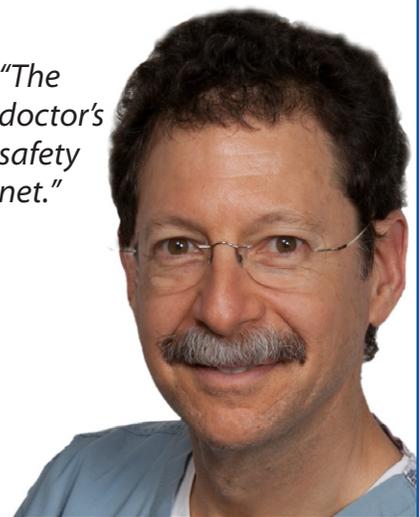
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This allows you to ask us questions or receive further guidance as you begin to implement services around orofacial pain, TMD and dental sleep medicine. And if you need additional guidance and advice beyond those two months, we also offer a pay-as-you-go mentorship service.

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The Lemon

Imagine waking up one morning to find yourself in the hospital. You don't know what's wrong with you. Your body hurts. You're having trouble breathing and speaking. The doctor is consulting with you regarding a treatment plan that includes additional testing, specialists, pharmaceuticals, etc. A loved one has entered your room and you see the fear in their face and the world just stops.

It's times like this when the last thing on a person's mind is their health insurance coverage. It's also the time when it's crucial to have comprehensive health insurance with built-in out-of-pocket maximums, exceptional pharmaceutical coverage, and a broad network of physicians to choose from. You may also need to

engage a health advocate to help with answers to your questions and work with providers. When you're battling an illness, you're more likely to worry about your loved ones than whether or not your health insurance will allow you the freedom to see the specialists you may need. You should only need to focus on your health at a time like this. Your loved ones, on the other hand, carry the load of worrying about you, about the kids and future bills. They often need to make the hard choices regarding treatment. Wouldn't it be nice to know that if something like this happened to you, your family would have somewhere to turn? Someone to guide them without the stress and fear of limited networks and exorbitant bills?



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The Lemonade

CHOICES

The last thing you want to hear when you are concerned about your health and/or your family's health is that your coverage has limited options for hospital choices or that you must obtain a referral from your primary care physician in order to see a specialist. That means one more bill to pay and more of your valuable time spent in order to see a specialist. Rest easy. The GDA Group Health Plan has you covered by offering:

- **Broad Network:** Our broad network of providers gives you the freedom and flexibility to choose the doctors and hospitals you want.
- **No Referrals:** You don't need a referral from your primary care physician to see a specialist.

PROTECTION

GDA Group Health Plans allow you and your family to focus on your and/or your family's health, not the financial hardship that even a short hospital stay can bring. A solid insurance plan isn't

only for you but for the peace of mind of your family and loved ones. Good insurance steps in where your family cannot.

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- **Health Advocate:** The medical process can be very complicated. GDA Group Health Plans offer a health advocate to help navigate and work with you when you have medical/billing questions. They can even help you understand your medical condition, guide you through your benefit options, and offer suggestions for in-network providers that may be more convenient for you or your family member.
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Your CE Requirements Simplified



CE Requirements for Dentists

At least 40 Hours of Continuing Education obtained in 2020 and 2021

Further Requisites—of the 40 hours:

- 30 hours must be clinical in nature (pertaining to patient care)
- 20 hours can be from webinars and other forms of online CE
- 20 hours must be obtained in-person (the Board of Dentistry has allowed live webinars and other forms of live virtual CE for the 2020–2021 license renewal period)
- 1 hour of CE on “the impact of opioid abuse and/or the proper prescription writing and use of opioids in dental practice”
- Proof of CPR certification (CE obtained in the renewal of the certification may apply toward your 40-hour requirement)

CE Requirements for Dental Hygienists

At least 22 Hours of Continuing Education obtained in 2020 and 2021

Further Requisites—of the 22 hours:

- 15 hours must be clinical in nature (pertaining to patient care)
- 11 hours can be from webinars and other forms of online CE
- 11 hours must be obtained in-person (the Board of Dentistry has allowed live webinars and other forms of live virtual CE for the 2020–2021 license renewal period)
- Proof of CPR certification (CE obtained in the renewal of the certification may apply toward your 40-hour requirement)

CE Required in Georgia

Opioid CE—1 hour of CE on “the impact of opioid abuse and/or the proper prescription writing and use of opioids in dental practice”

- Required For: All licensed Georgia dentists (no exceptions)
- Date Required: For license renewal—end of 2021

CPR Certification

- Required For: All licensed Georgia dentists and hygienists (no exceptions)
- Date Required: For license renewal—end of 2021

OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Training

- Annual OSHA bloodborne pathogen training is required for all dental staff that may come in contact with blood
- Required For: Any staff that may come in contact with blood (nearly all dental staff)
- Date Required: Annually

HIPAA Training

- Required For: All staff, new hires
- Date Required: Code of Federal Regulation (CFR § 164.530) requires HIPAA training for all staff, new hires within a reasonable period of time after hire, and any time “functions are affected by a material change in the policies or procedures”

Pharmacology, Anesthesia, Emergency Medicine or Sedation—4 hours

- Required For: Dentists in practices with a sedation permit
- Date Required: For license renewal—end of 2021

Radiation Safety Training—6 hours

- Required For: Dental Assistants or anyone that did not get radiation safety training in their dental education
- Date Required: Prior to the use of x-ray equipment

For more information on education and training requirements in Georgia contact GDA CE Director Scott Piper at 404.636.7553 x128 or scottp@gadental.org.

GDA 2021 Fall Live Webinar Series

Thank you to all who have joined us for the GDA 2021 Fall Live Webinar Series. There are more webinars in the series you can attend if you still need a few more hours to fulfill your license renewal requirements.

Annual OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Training* and COVID Update



Friday, Nov. 5, 2021



Noon – 1 pm

Opioid Live Webinar — Healers or Dealers?*

*One hour of CE in the opioid epidemic is required for all dentists each license renewal period.



Friday, Nov. 19, 2021



Noon – 1 pm

Risk Management in the Dental Practice*

*This Risk Management training will satisfy one hour of the four-hour CE requirements for doctors in a clinic with a sedation permit.



Friday, Dec. 3, 2021



Noon – 1 pm



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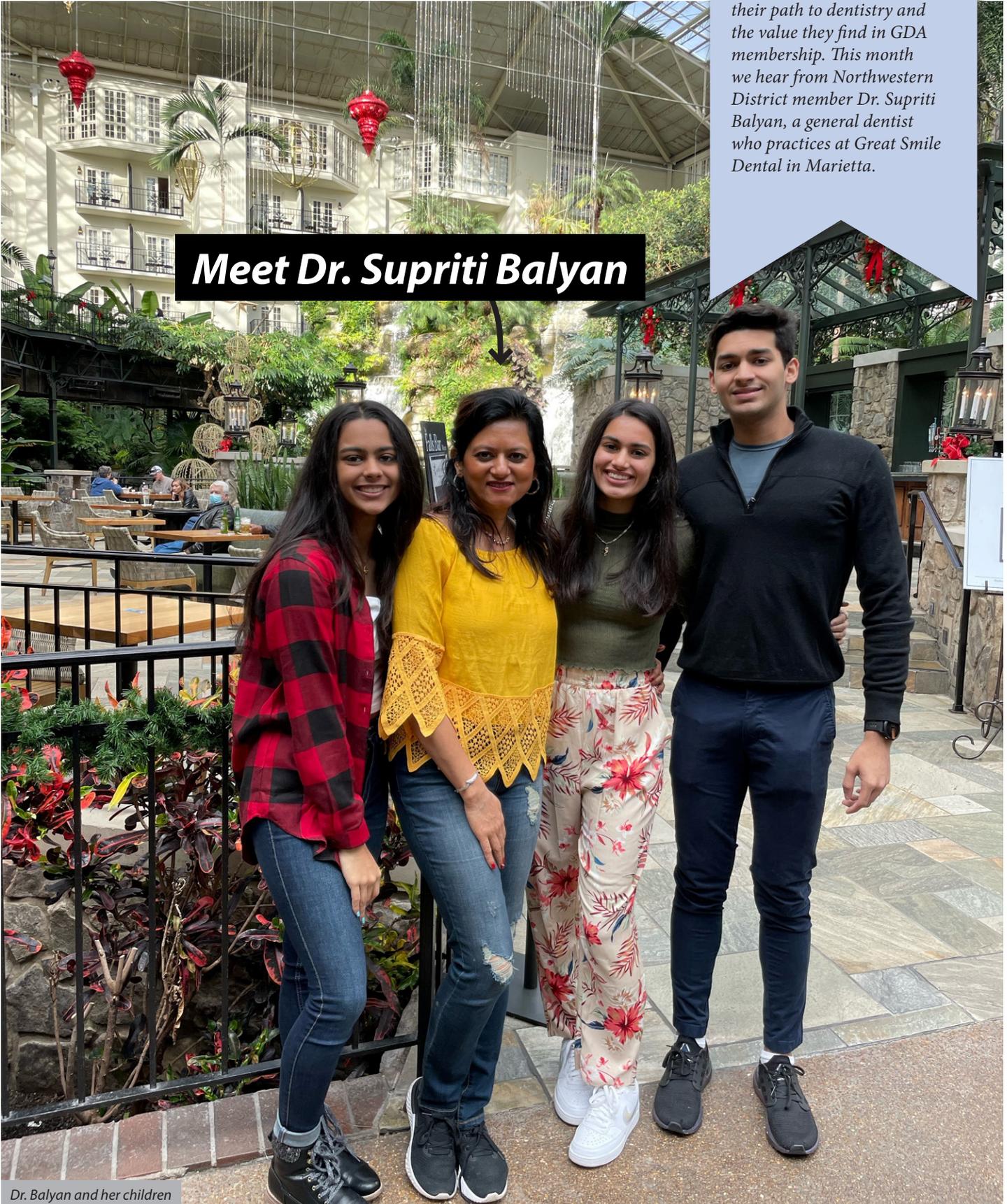
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GDAMEMBERPROFILE

This column highlights GDA members talking about their path to dentistry and the value they find in GDA membership. This month we hear from Northwestern District member Dr. Supriti Balyan, a general dentist who practices at Great Smile Dental in Marietta.

Meet Dr. Supriti Balyan



Dr. Balyan and her children



What inspired you to become a dentist?

Much of my family is in the healthcare field, hence healthcare was always a big part of my life. I was captivated by the feeling of satisfaction after helping others who were in need. Along with this, I always had a passion for art, and the aesthetics of a beautiful smile was something that complimented my passion. Altogether, dentistry was a perfect fit for me, and I truly love what I do!

What did you want to be when you were growing up?

Growing up, my parents encouraged me to become a physician like them, but as I grew older, I was convinced that I wanted to become a dentist instead. The combination of art, healthcare, problem solving, science, having a business, and patient interaction was perfect for me in the dental profession.

When and how did you become a GDA member?

I first became a GDA member when I moved to Georgia and wanted to connect with my professional colleagues to share our mutual passion together. While I was in college, I was involved with the American Association of Women Dentists and this encouraged me to join GDA, too.

What is the single most important thing, in your opinion, the GDA does to help members?

Most importantly, GDA helps its members by promoting high standards of dentistry, as well as lobbying and raising its members' concerns to protect the dental profession.

What is your most memorable GDA experience?

Definitely, it was traveling to Amelia Island with my three kids. I loved the morning sunrise walks on the beach with my friends, talking about work, personal life, and other things. My kids and I also enjoyed the social event, alongside the shore, and the singing and mini competitions we did.

What advice would you give to an aspiring dental student?

Stay focused, stay involved in your community, be open minded and don't be afraid to ask for help. Find time to take care of yourself, and as the journey of life goes on, enjoy it with all your heart and ultimately, love what you do.

What was your first job?

My first job was as a dental assistant in New York.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

In my spare time, I love gardening with my daughters and expanding my inventory of vegetable, fruits, and other plants in my backyard. I also enjoy hiking and traveling with my three kids, as I am fond of nature and love meeting new people in different parts of the world. Further, I am a people person and love the company of my friends.

Without saying "I am a dentist," what would you say if someone asked what you do?

I am an architect of the mouth, and build smiles all day!

What is your all-time dream vacation?

My all-time dream vacation is Bali, Indonesia because of the scenic beaches, stunning waterfalls, and overall attractive scenery of Bali. I would love to explore and experience Balinese art and culture, visit The Island of a Thousand Temples, see Rice Terraces, among many other things. 🌴



GDA CLASSIFIEDS

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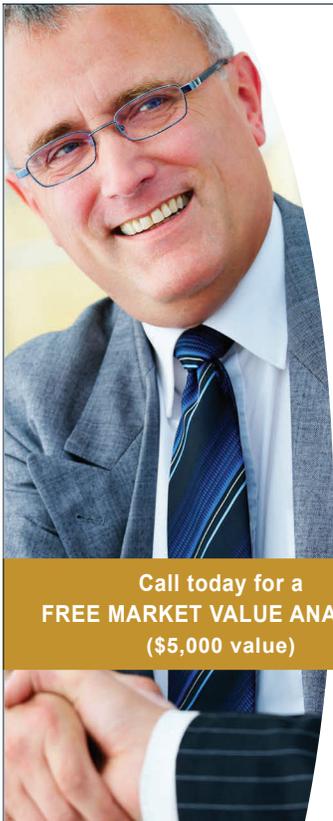


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Dr. Kersh is so nice and patient and understanding. We had to reschedule my root canal because I chickened out the first time and he was so kind through all that. He did a super great job and made sure I was comfortable the entire time!

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