

MERCER DENTAL SOCIETY

Professional Dental Association of Mercer County, NJ

APRIL 2025



Dr. Roena Romero
President
Mercer Dental Society

Dear MDS Members,

I hope everyone is enjoying a wonderful spring! It has truly been a fantastic year at the Mercer Dental Society, and I'm honored to have served as your president. I am incredibly grateful for our amazing and dedicated executive board—your support and commitment have made this year a memorable one.

As we look ahead, I'm excited to pass the torch to our current Vice President and incoming President, Dr. Sara Siddiqui. Sara brings fresh ideas and a strong vision to our society, with a special emphasis on community service and how we, as dental professionals, can give back in meaningful ways. I know she'll lead us into another great year.

Mercer Dental Society Updates:

We had a fantastic turnout at the New Dentist Social on April 8th at Metro North in Princeton! It was a pleasure connecting with fellow colleagues in such a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Thank you to everyone who joined us—we're already looking forward to planning more of these social events in the near future!

At our most recent meeting, we had the privilege of hosting Dr. Mohammed Kamel, an experienced prosthodontist who delivered an insightful lecture on comprehensive treatment planning. He shared several fascinating full mouth reconstruction cases that sparked engaging discussion and offered valuable clinical takeaways.

Looking ahead, don't miss our next meeting on May 20, 2025 @6:30pm at Americana Kitchen and Bar, where we'll welcome Dr. Nicole McGrath of Kindersmiles for a powerful presentation:

“Looking Through The Lens Of Public Health Dentistry: Making a Difference in our Profession.”

Dr. McGrath's dedication to public health and expanding access to care is truly inspiring, and her talk promises to offer meaningful perspective and motivation. We hope to see you there!

Warm regards,
Roena Romero

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

Tuesday, 5/20/25

May Member Meeting:
Dr. Nicole McGrath-Barnes

Government & Public Affairs:
Dr. Fred Babinowich

Council on Annual Session:
Dr. Cathy Hung

Board of Trustees Report:
Dr. Janhavi Rane

Introducing Dr. Keyur Modi

MDS Executive Committee
MDS Sponsors

MDS Executive Secretary:
Jolanta Matusiak Gora

Newsletter & Social Media:
Geetu Gupta



What a fantastic turnout and an even better learning experience at the Mercer Dental Society CE meeting in March held at the Americana Kitchen & Bar in East Windsor. Thank you to everyone who joined us for an evening of learning and networking 🦷 🦷 🙌



Tuesday, May 20th, 2025

6:30 pm

2 CEs

Americana Kitchen & Bar

359 US-130

East Windsor, NJ 08520

1. Introduction

- a. Professional career path
- b. Serving the community

2. Public Health Dentistry

- a. Definition
- b. Data & statistics
- c. Barriers
- d. Education

3. KinderSmile Foundation

- a. History
- b. Community Programs

4. Opportunities in Public Health Dentistry

- a. NJDA
 - i. Give Kids A Smile Day
 - ii. Dental Lifeline
- b. KinderSmile Foundation
 - i. Give Back A Smile Program
 - ii. Give Kids A Smile Event
- c. Zufall
 - i. Smiles For Our Heroes

**Looking Through The Lens Of Public Health Dentistry
"Making a difference in our Profession"**



**Nicole McGrath- Barnes, DDS FACD
Founder & CEO**

KinderSmile Community Oral Health Center Trenton

Dr. Nicole McGrath-Barnes is the Founder and CEO of KinderSmile Foundation, which she established in 2007 following a personal story of a patient in her own community of Montclair NJ, and reaffirmed after the heartbreaking death of Deamonte Driver, a 12 year-old boy from Prince George's County, MD, who died from a tooth infection that traveled to his brain. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, KinderSmile Foundation's mission is to provide underserved children and families with access to comprehensive dental care and educate underserved children and their families about the importance of dental hygiene, envisioning a future where every child has access to a dentist and dental diseases are eradicated.

**Scan the
QR code
to register**



*Congratulations to Dr. Keyur Modi on becoming a member of the
NJDA Well Being Committee*



Dr. Keyur Modi is the owner and head Dentist of Town Center Dental, Robbinsville, NJ. Dr. Modi graduated from University of Illinois, Chicago. He has completed his GPR from Hackensack University Medical Center. He also completed his masters in public administration (MPA) with Major in Public Health from Rutgers University. Dr. Modi received two dean's scholarships during his dental school at UIC and a Pi Alpha Alpha award during his MPA at Rutgers. Dr. Modi is also an international Dentist graduated from India in 2009 and worked in the restorative department as clinical associate and pre-clinical instructor for two years before he decided to move to USA. Dr. Modi worked as an Associate Dentist for 7 years before he became an owner of his own Dental Office at Robbinsville. Dr. Modi's passion is to teach and enjoy helping dental students in their journey to be future dental professionals. Dr. Modi has hobby to read autobiographies, listen to western and classical music and explore different countries with his wife and three kids.

Board of Trustees Report
By Dr. Janhavi Rane, Trustee Mercer Dental Society
Meeting was held at NJDA headquarters on March 5th, 2025

The Board approved a Medicaid and Medicare Committee and unanimously approved Dr. Sidney Whitman as Chair of the Committee. Also was approved to have Dr. Velazquez sign the contract for Chief Executive Officer Reva Brennan.

New Perk provider: Torch Dental and Nobel Biocare
The Board approved joining the Autism NJ Healthcare Consortium. Dr. Janhavi Rane shared that the Membership Council has approved the faculty discount and is working on membership recognition awards to be presented at the House of Delegates meeting on May 16, 2025, at the Bridgewater Marriott in Bridgewater, NJ.



Bylaws Task Force Chair Dr. Tirpack announced that the Bylaws Task Force has completed its mission, and the Bylaws have been divided into four sections for the membership Reference Committee meetings. Dr. Brett Handsman shared the schedule for the upcoming Reference Committee meetings to review the Bylaws, which are open to membership. For those unable to attend the scheduled Zoom meetings, feedback can be submitted via an online form.

Dr. Velazquez shared that the New Dentist Committee and Communications Committee met at the Bradford Rooftop in Bridgewater, NJ, on January 23, 2025. The NJDA Celebration will take place there on Friday, May 16, 2025, from 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm.

The New Jersey Dental I.D. Team has scheduled a didactic course on Friday, October 3, 2025, at NJDA Headquarters.

Dr. Cathy Hung, Chair, reported that the Well-Being Committee is in the process of scheduling their kickoff meeting and that she will be presenting on wellness, stress, and burnout for the Pennsylvania Dental Association.

Javier Perez is the staff liaison for the Council on Dental Benefits. Dr. Michelle Weddle will serve as the Council's Chair for the 2025-2026 term. They have an upcoming meeting with Chair, Dr. Kimberly Goldenbaum and President, Dr. Elisa Velazquez to better gather data to categorize inquiries and establish a more structured framework.

The Board had a Workplace Harassment Training by Mandlebaum and Associates. Dr. Tauk reminded the Board of the requirement to have portable oxygen in their practice, which was shared in the Monday Morning Email on March 3, 2025.



Council on Annual Session NJDA Well-Being Committee Report by Cathy Hung

COUNCIL ON ANNUAL SESSION: LICENSING RENEWAL YEAR!!

The NJDA 2025 Annual Convention from May 16th-17th at Bridgewater Marriott is quickly approaching. If you have not signed up I would urge you to do so. This year is a licensing-renewal year. NJDA provides the Licensure Requirement Series Bundle which includes pharmacology and internal medicine, ethics, opioid and infection control. You can get them all on one day for a very reasonable price. There are also other clinical CEs including implant, botox, periodontal surgery, and cybersecurity. There are over thirty exhibitors and different levels of ticket pricing for you and your team members. On Friday night, May 16, at the Bradford Rooftop of AC hotel, we will be honoring NJDA President Dr. Elisa Velasquez. Scan the QR code in this newsletter for more information and secure your hotel room block if you wish to stay overnight.

NJDA WELL-BEING COMMITTEE CHAIR

The newly formed NJDA Well-being Committee will kick off the first meeting on April 10. I have the fortune to chair this committee this year and Dr. Keyur Modi is a member on the committee representing our component. The well-being committee's action plan aims to "support and promote the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of dental professionals...and address stress, burnout, and overall work-life balance within the dental community by developing initiatives and resources that enhance resilience, provide wellness education, and foster a healthy professional environment."

I recently attended the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) New Jersey Chapter's Annual Convention with our NJDA Secretary Dr. Maria Ambrosio, and had many conversations with different organizations, including governmental agencies. As an ADA Ambassador, my job is to relate and gather resources for our members. Dentistry can take a toll on our mental and physical health. In the future, I will continue to keep you informed on wellness initiatives including potential future events with panel speakers. Our upcoming annual session will have a wellness corner in the lounge area, so drop by and join us for conversations. Dr. Ambrosio, our current NJDA secretary, is also an ADA wellness ambassador. I expect to work with her closely in pushing wellness initiatives forward in the near future.

Under the website NJDA.org, there is a tab for member resources, under which you can find "wellness resources" which is a public tab. The page is frequently updated. Check out the Well-being Index, a collaboration between Mayo Clinic and ADA to help track your own well-being over time in an anonymous way. Sign up only takes a few minutes. This index helps you to assess yourself and gives you a good idea where you stand comparing to other dentists in terms of your well-being. There are also podcasts, links and other resources under the "wellness resources" tab.

NEW JERSEY DENTAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION
Friday Course LINE UP DAY 1 • MAY 16, 2025
BRIDGEWATER MARRIOTT

NJDA'S 2 DAY CONVENTION HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERY DENTAL TEAM MEMBER
BREAKFAST AND LUNCH INCLUDED

FEATURING FRIDAY COURSES

- 8:00am | Registration opens
- 8:30am - 5:00pm | Licensure Requirement Series Bundle
 - 8:30am - 11:30am | F202 - Pharmacology & Internal Medicine
 - 11:00am - 2:00pm | F103 - Ethics: Dental Practice Ownership
 - 2:00pm - 3:00pm | F104 - Prescription Opioid Drugs
 - 3:00 - 5:00pm | F105 - Infection Control Update
- 9:30am - 11:30am | F206 - Medical Updates for Dentists
- 1:00pm - 3:00pm | F209 - Oral Surgery for the General Dentist
- 1:30pm - 3:00pm | F207 - The Magic of Behavior Management
- 3:30pm - 4:30pm | F310 - Dental School Curriculum 2025
- 4:00pm - 5:00pm | F208 - Building a Resilient Practice

MANDATED REQUIREMENTS IN ONE DAY

EXHIBIT FLOOR 12:00-5:00pm
8:00am-5:30pm 30+ Exhibitors

CHECK OUT COURSES FOR DAY 2!

REGISTER

SPEAKERS

- Hilal Echrow, DMD
- Glenn Maron, DDS
- Denise Abassi, Esq.
- Eyel Simchi, DMD
- Richard Wynn, PhD
- Eileen Heekin, DMD
- Donald Lapine, DMD
- Gary Salzman

ADA CERP | 2025 convention supported by MRL

NEW JERSEY DENTAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION
Saturday Course LINE UP DAY 2 • MAY 17, 2025
BRIDGEWATER MARRIOTT

NJDA'S 2 DAY CONVENTION HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERY DENTAL TEAM MEMBER
BREAKFAST AND LUNCH INCLUDED

FEATURING SATURDAY COURSES

- 8:00am | Registration opens
- 9:00am - 1:00pm | S111 - Implant Treatment Planning: From Medical, Radiology and Models on Kiosks
- 9:30am - 12:30pm | S215 - The Next Generation Botox and Filler Treatments for Facial Esthetics: Dentistry and TMJ/Orofacial Pain Therapy
- 1:30pm - 3:30pm | S214 - The Gum Builder Filler Shot To Reverse Gingival Recession, Hypersensitivity and Fill Block Triggers
- 1:30pm - 4:30pm | S112 - The Periodontal Ligament Injection: The How and Why: Stay Connected to the Manufacturer Block for Most Restorative Core

TAKE A LOOK AT FRIDAY COURSES
DAY 1 INCLUDES MANDATED REQUIREMENTS AND OTHER COURSES YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS!

REGISTER

SPEAKERS

- Dr. Hilal Echrow
- Dr. Glenn Maron
- Dr. Denise Abassi
- Dr. Eyal Simchi
- Dr. Richard Wynn
- Dr. Eileen Heekin
- Dr. Donald Lapine
- Dr. Gary Salzman

ADA CERP | 2025 convention supported by MRL

NEW JERSEY DENTAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION
BRIDGEWATER MARRIOTT

Calling All Dental Students!
FRIDAY, MAY 16TH

The NJDA is offering an opportunity to dental students to volunteer at the 2025 Annual Convention. For your time, you will be refunded for any courses taken!

FRIDAY COURSES (availability dependent)

- 9:30am - 11:30am | F206 - Medical Updates for Dentists
- 1:30pm - 3:00pm | F207 - The Magic of Behavior Management
- 4:00pm - 5:00pm | F208 - Building a Resilient Practice

SATURDAY COURSES (availability dependent)

- 9:30am - 12:30pm | S215 - The Next Generation Botox and Filler Treatments
- 1:30pm - 3:30pm | S214 - The Gum Builder Filler Shot
- 1:30pm - 4:30pm | S112 - The Periodontal Ligament Injection

NETWORK | VOLUNTEER | LEARN

ADA CERP | 2025 convention supported by MRL

Government and Public Affairs Dr. Fred Babinowich



Legislative Update:

1. Elimination of the Sales Tax on oral hygiene products. SSUTA is a 24 state consortium aimed at simplifying the sales tax code. New Jersey is a member of SSUTA. NJDA has argued that oral products directly contribute to the sustenance of one's overall health and well being and should therefore not be subject to a sales tax. Presently oral hygiene products are grouped with grooming and hygiene products. In order to eliminate the sales tax SSUTA would need to make oral hygiene products a separate grouping. The SSUTA governing board met on December 2nd and approved NJDA's petition to create an oral health product category. The next step is to seek sponsors in the state legislature and to engage with the Governor's office and the Treasury regarding the negative impact on tax revenue. Any decrease in tax revenue on top of COVID revenue running out will result in a state budget shortfall and a hiring freeze. Right now we are still on a solid path of getting the elimination of the sales tax on oral hygiene products. The first bill to eliminate the sales tax has unanimously passed the Assembly.

2. Medical Loss Ratio/Dental Loss Ratio. This ratio defines how much money an insurance company can allot for administrative costs and how much money must be returned to the subscriber. New Jersey presently has a MLR regulation in place regarding dentistry. It is 80%/20%. Unfortunately the legislation has not been enforced. As a result insurance companies have inflated their administrative costs at the expense of money returned to the subscriber. This has resulted in a reduced reimbursement to dentists. NJDA has made it a priority to engage legislators regarding the accountability for premium dollar usage.

3. SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs). NJDA and PAC is advocating for SNAP recipients to purchase personal healthcare products through this assistance program. Presently there is no current legislation on this matter.

4. Joint Negotiation Bill. This bill has been progressing slowly. The premise of this bill is that it would allow groups of dentists to sit down and negotiate with insurance companies on their reimbursement to dentists. These negotiations will be chaired by the State Attorney General. Presently dentists are not allowed to do this because doing this is considered an Anti Trust violation by the Federal Government. Advocacy efforts by NJDA have been focused on building a coalition with physician organizations and consumer groups to support this legislation NJDA is also hoping to fracture the insurance sector, at a minimum seeking neutrality from Delta and Horizon. NJDA is working with Connecticut which is the only other state that is focused on this issue. Unfortunately a member in the Assembly has hijacked this bill, meaning they now have the privilege of being the only ones able to introduce it, stopping all other members from doing so. No one knows who this person is. A new bill will now need to be introduced and it must be materially different from the last one in order to bypass the hijacking. There has been interest in the Assembly to move this bill. NJDA has spoken with the ADA in order to make the bill more consumer focused.

5. Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact. This bill would allow for portability of a license for dentists and dental hygienist If dentist or hygienist wants to move to another state, provided that state is a member of the compact (presently there are 10 states that are members and 3 more are pending), they would not have to go through all of the steps for credentialing or a license. All they would have to do is fill out a questionnaire. NJDA presently has sponsored in the state Senate and Assembly for this bill Unfortunately the second reading of the bill in the Assembly has been held up due to strong lobbying against it. Regarding this compact there has been a lot of discussion on the wellness aspect of the questionnaire. It is felt that there is language in the application that creates a stigma to dentists who have suffered from mental illness or substance abuse. As a result these dentists are being discriminated against by the credentialing boards. States have been working to remove these questions on the questionnaire. NJDA has also created a Wellness Committee to help monitor this situation.

6. Creation of a Cleft and Craniofacial Awareness and Prevention Month. This legislation is the first step towards eventually having legislation drafted to mandate coverage by carriers for these issues. NJDA had sponsors in the Senate and Assembly who support this issue. The bill aims to advocate for funding and research related to craniofacial conditions.

Additional information.

ADA has created a new work category. Oral Preventive Assistant. This is a dental assistant that is allowed to clean teeth. The reason for this creation is was to help dental offices who are suffering from a shortage of dental hygienist. Personally I am not sure if this is a good idea because it could be utilized by dental assisting and dental hygiene groups in the state to promoted their interests.

Public Affairs.

Community Water Flouridation. There has been alot of recent discussion in the media on water flouridation espically in light of Robert Kennedy's appointment to head the department of Health and Human Services. RFK is opposed to flouridation in drinking water. There have been some studies that have shown that high levels of flouride in the drinking water of young children can lead to a drop in their IQ. What is important to note is the levels of flouride used in these studies were twice as high as allowed by the FDA. In these studies were not done in the USA. Another point to mention is towns in Colorado have naturally occurring high levels of flouride in their well water. There does not appear to be any adverse effects on Colorado's test scores. Now the federal government does not have the authority to stop flouridation. It is mostly a local issue since town councils have to vote on the funding for the program. It is important that members be aware of the actions of their local boards and if the topic comes up to be prepared to respond.

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COMMONWEALTH



TRANSITIONS

THINKING OF SELLING YOUR DENTAL PRACTICE OR REAL ESTATE?

DON'T DO IT ALONE!

When it comes to selling your dental practice, trust the local experts. Just like you trust your taxes to a CPA and your legal matters to an Attorney, trust us to guide you through your practice sale—because when you work with the right team, **everyone wins.**

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Mercer Dental Society

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www.mercerdentalsociety.com



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*** Roena Romero**
President
609-759-0019



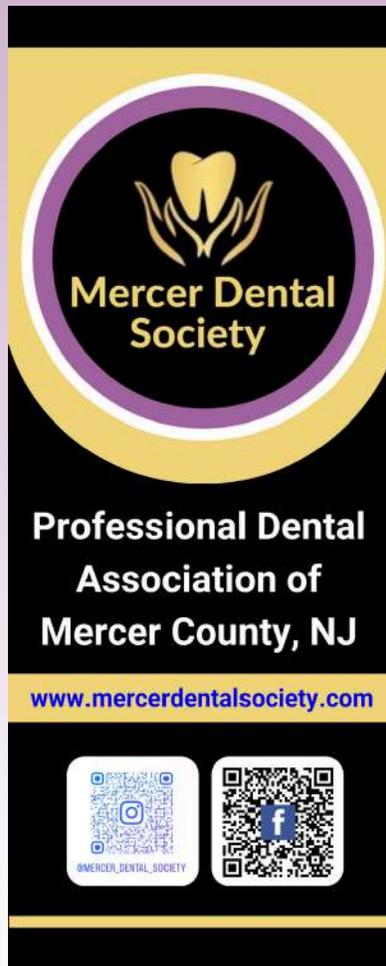
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