

## Treasurer Update Dr. Michael Scalia

### Treasurer Update:

- Given that donations to the NJDA PAC have been declining significantly of late, Dr. Les Hayling (our NJDA PAC Representative) had requested that MDS make a contribution to the NJDA PAC. The MDS Executive Board approved two emergency payments to the NJDA PAC of \$1,000 each, one at the end of 2023 and one at the beginning of 2024, to help reverse this trend. Many other component societies are also making NJDA PAC donations.
- MDS has also made our \$500 annual pledge donation to Dental Lifeline - a service that provides free dental care to enrolled patients. This program is made possible through financial donations and the volunteer work of dentists and other dental professionals alike.
- Lastly, we have made the 5th and last of our \$2,000 annual donation to the NJDA Headquarter Construction Fund, headed by our very own Dr. Sidney Whitman.



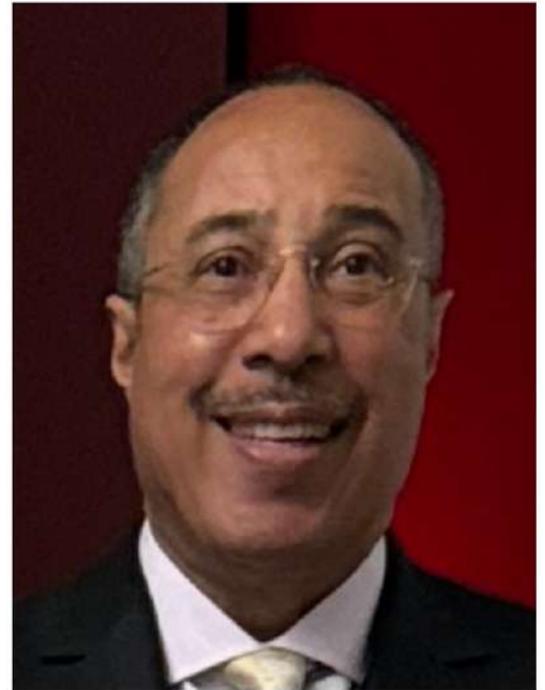
### PAC Committee Update:

2024 has brought with it the need to fill over 25 legislative positions in NJ. This is, to my understanding, a much larger number than usual and will require NJDA to make connections with each of these legislators so that our perspective on any particular legislations can be shared with these new legislators. Unfortunately, donations to the NJDA PAC have recently been in decline. To counter this, MDS has formed a local PAC Committee to help educate members regarding what the NJDA is up to when it comes to current legislation that may affect dentistry and to ask members to either increase donations to the NJDA PAC or to make a donation to the MDS PAC. Dr. Les Hayling is the Committee Chairperson and Dr. Sara Siddiqui, Dr. Thomas Morgenstern and Dr. Michael Scalia are committee members.

Moving forward you'll see/hear more about NJDA PAC on a consistent basis as part of our efforts to educate members and also to make requests for donations to the NJDA PAC of our members. Having said this, please feel free to scan the QR code below and make a donation to the NJDA PAC. Any donated amount will be very much appreciated. These monies help us to make connections with legislators so that our NJDA representatives have a better chance of educating them about our perspective on topical issues and legislations affecting dentistry. Your donations will help our profession as a whole and will also trickle down to help patients. Thank you for any amount of monies that you can donate.

**New Jersey Political Action Committee**  
**by Dr. Les Hayling, MDS PAC Chairperson**

The New Jersey Dental Political Action Committee (NJDPAC) is the premier political organization for dentistry in New Jersey. It builds the key relationships with candidates and lawmakers necessary for the enactment of policies that help our profession and advance oral health. These relationships are the driving force behind NJDA's advocacy efforts. The NJDPAC supports the dental profession, not a political party. Contributions are voluntary and not part of NJDA's membership dues, but support for NJDPAC is critical to the Association's success. Without strong relationships with lawmakers, insurance reform wins such as the removal of the disallow clause from insurance contracts, and provider choice over repayment methodology are not possible.



While NJDA is hard at work advancing legislation, it is the NJDPAC that is strengthening friendships with New Jersey's politicians. We need your support to maintain a strong political voice! Please help these efforts by contributing today via this link. <https://www.njda.org/government-affairs/njdpac/join-njdpac>

If you have not yet paid your 2024 NJDA Dues, you can contribute directly by NOT CHECKING THE BOX on your Due Bill. To learn more about NJDA's advocacy efforts and the Four Pillars of Advocacy click here <https://www.njda.org/government-affairs>



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latest news and  
updates!!





**Shoutout to MDS Sponsors!!  
Thank you so much for your support!!**



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**Happy National Dentist Day to the wonderful dentists who are part of Mercer Dental Society Executive Committee and to all the dentists out there!! Here's to changing lives one smile at a time 🙌🙌🙌 #nationaldentistday #march6**



**Dr. Cathy Hung**



**Dr. Radwaa Saad**



**Dr. Roena Romero**



**Dr. Michael Scalia**



**Dr. Sarah Siddiqui**



**Dr. Sid Whitman**



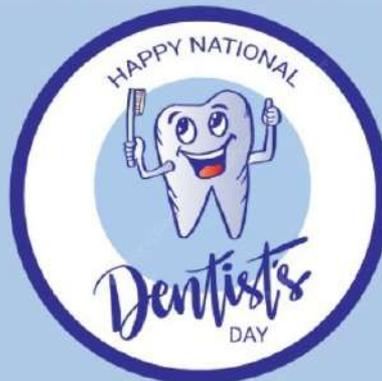
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**Dr. Bo Wang**



**Dr. Priti Dagli**



## Meet the MDS Board 2023-24



**President**  
**Dr. Cathy Hung**  
609-860-6369



**Past President**  
**Dr. Radwa Saad**  
609-890-1888



**Vice President**  
**Dr. Roena Romero**  
609-759-0019



**Secretary**  
**Dr. Sara Siddiqui**  
301-466-4216



**Treasurer**  
**Dr. Michael Scalia**  
319-594-1599



FEBRUARY 2024

# MERCER DENTAL SOCIETY

Professional Dental Association of Mercer County, NJ



**Dr. Cathy Hung**  
**President**  
**Mercer Dental Society**

Greetings colleagues and friends,

This newsletter marks the last one for my term and I am sincerely thankful for the opportunity to serve Mercer Dental Society as president. I am most grateful for my friend Dr. Radwa Saad who adopted me into Mercer Dental Society three years ago without question and our Executive Board that entrusted me with ideas and decisions. In my years as line officers I had the opportunity to manifest my visions and initiate the first New Dentist Committee on the component level in New Jersey with the support of our Executive Board members. Now the efforts trickle over to other components and I am pleased to see others hosting their first New Dentist Event. I have no doubt that the New Dentist Committee will continue to grow in time to render a leadership pipeline for the next generation. We have also actively and successfully recruited new blood into our membership and the Executive Board. Our education program will continue to draw the best speakers on various clinical and non-clinical topics for our members and our sponsorship is stronger than ever. My goal during this term is to ensure that Mercer Dental Society continues to welcome diverse opinions and afford opportunities to invite dentists who are enthusiastic to get involved, regardless of your race/ethnicity, gender, age, appearance, age, religion, and other external factors that are irrelevant to intelligence and talent. It should not take twenty years for anyone with leadership potential to reach to the top. Your authentic self should be valued to contribute comfortably in a group setting without being shunned by others who have come before you. As professionals, we learn how to agree to disagree, and that is the beauty of democracy. Only with humility and curiosity will our society grow as a whole.

Recently, I had an invaluable experience lobbying on behalf of AAOMS, representing New Jersey with my fellow OMS at Day on the Hill along with our own Jim Schultz and Jeffery Wood. I would encourage anyone to take upon opportunities and be there to represent our profession. Political advocacy is the power behind organized dentistry. This year, Mercer Dental Society initiated the first Political Advocacy Committee (PAC) on the component level under the leadership of Dr. Leslie Hayling and Dr. Michael Scalia. PAC funding ensures that we continue to form allies with those in the power seat to help push forward issues pertinent to dentists. Your contributions are crucial to maintaining the relationship with key stakeholders and decision makers. Regardless of your personal political affiliations and beliefs, trust that your contributions will be put in good use in your best interest as members of Mercer Dental Society and its tripartite structure.

I am extremely proud to learn that our component has the highest renewal rate of membership and I encourage you to bring your friends and colleagues to come to our educational and social events. Please consider getting involved and become one of the officers for MDS. You are paving our future.

Last but not least, MDS passed the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement at the March General Member meeting by the vast majority. Our professional landscape is continuously evolving to include a diverse membership base which reflects the demographics that we serve. NJDA leadership recognizes DEI as part of tripartite efforts for the betterment of our membership.

Below is our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement:

"Mercer Dental Society welcomes a diversity of members and non-members, including but not limited to race, ethnicity, national origin, gender identity, age, physical abilities/qualities, sexual orientation, religious and ideological beliefs, professional practice choices, and personal lifestyle preferences. Mercer Dental Society strives to foster an inclusive culture that embraces individual differences and opinions to propel progress, promote a sense of belonging, and provide equity for its members and non-members. These diversity, equity, and inclusion actions align with the visions and missions of the New Jersey Dental Association and the American Dental Association, strengthening the tripartite efforts."

[https://www.ada.org/-/media/project/ada-organization/ada/ada-org/files/about/ada\\_diversity\\_inclusion\\_plan.pdf?rev=df409055f9be4287afe6e8034aa02975&hash=AEB90D473CFF19A4249AE4ADB15A99E9](https://www.ada.org/-/media/project/ada-organization/ada/ada-org/files/about/ada_diversity_inclusion_plan.pdf?rev=df409055f9be4287afe6e8034aa02975&hash=AEB90D473CFF19A4249AE4ADB15A99E9)

With tremendous gratitude,  
Cathy Hung

## NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS



**MDS Staff Appreciation Event:**  
**Pickleball: 4/18/24**  
**7pm-10pm.**  
**Location: Mercer Bucks Pickleball**  
**370 Sullivan Way, Ewing, NJ 08628**

**Tuesday, 5/21/24**  
**Dr. Matin Imanguli, MD**

**New Jersey Political Action Committee:**  
**Dr. Les Hayling, Jr.**  
**MDS PAC Chairperson**

**Treasurer's Report:**  
**Dr. Michael Scalia**

**MDS Executive Committee**  
**MDS Sponsors**