

APRIL 2022

# MERCER DENTAL SOCIETY

Professional Dental Association of Mercer County, NJ



## MDS 2022 Spouse/Staff Event



### Sari Greaves, RDN

Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist

Tuesday, May, 17th, 2022

Crowne Plaza  
900 Scudders Mill Road  
Plainsboro, NJ 08536

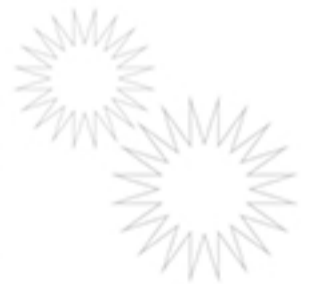
6:30 pm to 9 pm

Sari Greaves will debunk nutrition myths by exploring popular diet trends and their implications on overall health and nutrition.

- Identify popular diet and nutrition myths
- Separate fact from fiction regarding the role of dietary choices on:
  - Healthy aging
  - Weight Loss
  - Dental Health
  - Gut health
  - Sex life
- Explore new meal ideas and recipes for busy dentists and their spouses



**Register Here**



- **FREE for Members. Registration Required to reserve a spot.**
- **Prepayment of \$65 per person is required to reserve a spot for spouse/staff**
- **Scan the QR code to Register and to pay to reserve a spot.**
- **Non Members: First meeting is free after that \$65**

.....  
Email Jolanta at [exesec.mds@gmail.com](mailto:exesec.mds@gmail.com) with questions and for more information

# Mercer Dental Society wants you to consider becoming a more involved member!!

Forge new contacts and deepen business relationships with other dentists.

Become more informed and help have an impact on legislative developments that impact dentistry.

Open positions:

Secretary for the Executive Committee

Sponsorship Committee Chair

Bylaw Committee Chair

Delegate to attend the NJDA meetings

Executive Committee Member at large

Contact [suzannereinhardt@gmail.com](mailto:suzannereinhardt@gmail.com) for more information.



Dr. Suzanne Reinhardt  
Chair, Nominations Committee  
Mercer Dental Society

## MDS March 2022 Meeting



## President's Report

Dear Members,

As this year comes to an end, I would like to thank everyone for their support and guidance, especially the executive board members. I would like to thank the staff at MDS, who have been invaluable in making sure we have a smooth operation. I would also like to thank our sponsors for their continued support for our meetings.

I want to also take this opportunity to thank my family, especially my husband and my two children.

It was a good year for Mercer Dental Society, as we were able to meet in person after almost a year. Virtual meetings are great, but the in person meetings have their own charm. The networking, socialization and the camaraderie you develop is pretty rewarding.

In addition to our regular members, we hosted a few student members at every meeting, hoping to give them a glimpse of organized dentistry and its many benefits.

Please continue to follow us on Instagram and Facebook for more updates.

Please reach out to us if you are interested in volunteering. We always appreciate any help.

I would like to congratulate Dr. Radwa Saad as the new incoming President and wish her the best year ahead.

Wishing you all a safe and healthy year !



**Dr. Priti Dagli**  
**President, MDS**

## Mercer Dental Society Calendar for 2022-23

9/20/22	NJDA Officers Visitation	
11/15/22	Dr. Thomas Sollecito	Oral Complications of Cancer Therapy
1/17/23	Dr. Maria Marangia 2nd Vice President of the ADA	Topic: TBD Location: Virtual
3/14/23	Dr. David Thomas	Sleep Medicine
5/16/23	TBA	TBA

## Council On Government and Public Affairs

### Dr. Fred Babinowich

#### Legislative action:

**Assembly Bill #1866**-To develop plan to phase out the use of latex gloves in health care facilities.

NJDA is opposed to this legislation. Latex gloves remain a safe and cost effective alternative for the vast majority of the population. Only 1 to 5 % of Americans have a latex allergy. Healthcare workers should have the option to determine what's best to use in their offices with their patients, and not be mandated to take away a viable glove option.

**Assembly Bill #1871**-To add a dental assistant to NJ State Board of Dentistry. NJDA opposes this legislation. State Board's goal is to protect the interest of the public, adjudicating disciplinary cases against dentists, dental hygienist, and dental assistants. It is not to provide representation to regulated groups. A keen knowledge of the practice of dentistry and it's scope is essential to properly protect the public's interest.

**Assembly Bill #2830**-regulates dental therapy and the licensure of dental therapist. Legislation states that a Dental Therapist must first be a dental hygienist in order to advance to a dental therapist. This legislation is being pushed hard by the NJ Dental Hygienists' Association. There is support within the NJ Department of Health. NJDA opposes this legislation. The premise of creating dental therapist is to increase access to care. Data has shown that there has not be a rapid improvement in this area where there are dental therapists. Today there are 200 dental therapists in eight states. Maine was the first state 7 years ago to allow for therapist. Today Maine is struggling to fine therapist to treat patients. NJDA feels that there are other quicker and more cost effective ways to address access to care in NJ like expanding dental residency programs, placing dental facilities in hospitals, expansion and investment in NJ Medicaid programs, and dental examination requirements for school aged children.

NJDA continues to drive an initiative to end the rampant usage of "disallow" in provider network agreements. NJDA has once again had Assembly and Senate legislation introduced to advance this initiative. In the last session the legislation passed the Senate and the Assembly Insurance Committees unanimously only to not be addressed by the Assembly Appropriations Committee before the sessions's end.

Workforce issues continue to be a major issue nationally. NJDA President Luciano Ghisalberty has established a Task Force to look at ways to improve the auxiliary job market in NJ. One key area is to figure out how to pipeline more dental assistants into the marketplace. There are several factors that are affecting this issue. Salary costs are higher than what dentists think. Dentists are not well educated about the marketplace. Also DSO's are driving the salaries and providing more opportunity for growth for the assistants.

Licensure issues have been exacerbated during the pandemic and have exposed many chronic problems with the State Board of Dentistry and the Division of Consumer Affairs. NJDA along with the NJ Funeral Directors and the NJ business and Industry Association, have reconstituted a Coalition of Regulated Professions to tackle licensure reform. NJDA has also introduced legislation to eliminate Branch Office Licenses.

Art Meisel discussed the issue regarding Life Hazard Use and that certain municipalities have interpreted the International Fire Code to include dental practices. The annual cost of a Life Hazard Use Fire Permit is nearly \$1,000. The central issue behind the administrative law case is the interpretation of the language and that if one person is sedated annually and cannot self-ambulate from a dental practice in case of an emergency, like a fire, that that practice is required to register for the Life Hazard Use permit. NJDA contends that the code states "persons" and not person. Therefore, not all practices should be subjected to this regulation. In addition NJDA has questions regarding the definition of sedation for the purposed of this regulation.



**Board of Trustees Meeting Update**  
**By Dr. Janhavi Rane, NJDA Trustee Mercer County Dental Society**  
**Held at NJDA headquarters in North Brunswick, NJ on 3/9/2022**

**Council on Annual Session-** The annual session will be held virtually the entire month of March and will offer approximately 24 credits of CE.

**Council on Dental Benefits-** Cigna, United Healthcare, and Delta Dental Premier fee schedules were decreased. The ADA Council on Dental Benefit Programs has created a task force to enhance the CDT code.

**Membership Report-** Date to renew membership is by March 31st (with a grace period from April 1st to June 30th)

**Nominations-** Dr. Antoinette Tauk was nominated for NJDA Secretary.

**Governmental & Public Affairs-** The 2022-2023 legislative session has begun. The NJDA has begun investigating policy changes relating to prompt pay, and practitioner and patient notification to increase transparency and disclosure when plans make policy changes. NJDA has initiated a Task Force to address the mounting dental workforce shortage here in NJ. It will work to identify innovative ways to increase dental auxiliary personnel and improve the dental licensure process.

**Peer Review-** There are currently 12 open cases.

**Executive Director-Announcement-** Art Meisel will be retiring at the end of 2022 calendar year.

**Finance and Investment-** Accounts are doing well and options for RBC investments reviewed.

**New Dentist-** In-person social events are on hold as of last meeting. Business of Dentistry Ownership Series has been introduced and will be held on Tuesdays from April 19th through May 24th, 7:30pm-8:30pm. Residents, D-4 students, and new dentists are all welcome.

**CE-** Annual Session is happening now through the month of March. On May 20th and 21st NJDA is going to host a Zest Overdenture Master's Program. The virtual lunch and learn series is offered from April through November. This series is available to team members only. The price is \$99 for all 3 programs, or \$49 per course. Three new CE requirements will need to be completed for license renewal on December 31, 2022, for dental hygienists and December 31, 2023, for registered dental assistants. Please see the NJDA website for details and programs offered.

**Student Report-** Student representatives are advertising for meetings on social media.

**NJDPAC - Lobby Day** is a 3-day event which will be March 20, 2022, through March 22, 2022.

On May 12, 2022, there is a women's event at Lucas Restaurant in Edison at 6:30 pm.

**Executive Director-** The requirements regarding masks and screening in office-based healthcare practices issued by the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs on May 6, 2021, are still in effect. There has been no decision to date from The Supreme Court on Smile Direct Club.

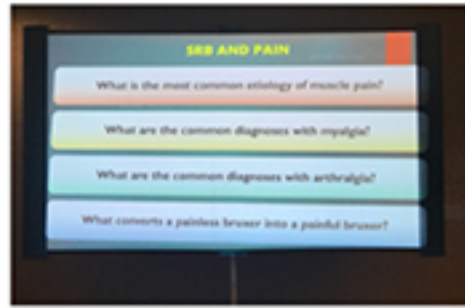
**President's Report-** *Dr. Luciano's I have a dream.... and goal for organized dentistry, bringing all of dentistry together (specialty and general courses) under one roof, right here at NJDA.*

**New Business-** we have a new updated website.

MT, TDIC and Bell have all signed new contracts.

The next Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for Wednesday April 27th, 2022.





March 2022  
MDS  
meeting  
at  
Hyatt  
Regency  
Princeton

Mercer Dental Society



# Mercer Dental Society Sponsors



Thank You  
FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT

## Meet the MDS Board 2021-22



**President**  
**Dr. Priti Dagli**

609-716-7100



**Past President**  
**Dr. Chandini Hudson**

609-588-0606



**Vice President**  
**Dr. Radwa Saad**

609-890-1888



**Treasurer**  
**Dr. Michael Scalia**

319-594-1599



**Secretary**  
**Dr. Cathy Hung**

609-860-6369