



Mercer Dental Society

The Professional Dental Association of Mercer County, NJ

Presidents Note

"A leaders job is to serve" Anonymous

Welcome back from what I hope was an enjoyable summer for all of our members, their teams and their families. While I am still pretty new to Mercer Dental Society, it is my honor and privilege to serve this year as it's President.



My goal this year is to help to continue to re-build the Mercer Dental Society. This, to me, means many things: strengthening our organizations infrastructure; improving communications between members, officers and the NJDA; having the current membership become more active (in small and large ways) in helping our Society become stronger; having non-members become members; having more of our members donate to our PAC's; having excellent CE's for members - along with great programming; and having some fun social activities.

We have some talented and enthusiastic new officers getting involved with our Society - among them Dr Khurram Sheikh, our incoming President Elect and Dr. Anthony Prousi, our Membership Chairperson. Additionally we continue to have so much help from our seasoned officers who have given much time and energy to MDS over the years - including Dr. Janhavi Rane, Dr. John Lu, Dr. Sidney Whitman, Dr. Fred Babinowich, Dr. Tom Morgenstern and many others. Also, I should mention, and thank, Mrs. Geetu Gupta and Mrs. Jennifer Moffett for all of their work to date in helping us stretch to achieve our goals at MDS. A full list of our current officers is posted on our new website...

What's that - MDS has a website? Yes! In an effort to provide a central location for members to access information about MDS - including programming, contact info, event information, etc... we have created a website to make communications with members more efficient. Please check out the website at it's URL: mercerdentalsociety.com... to be launched on August 15th! Also, please see the current open officer and Council-member positions, listed in the "About us" section of the website, and let us know if you have an interest in getting involved with MDS in these areas - you'll have fun while contributing your energy to your organization.

I'll end my first letter with a request... get involved with organized dentistry.

We are in an amazing profession... one where we still have a fair amount of ability to govern ourselves - which, ultimately, means being able to provide better care for our patients. We don't have to lose our ability to govern ourselves.



Special Announcement MDS Launches New Website!

The Mercer Dental Society Executive Committee is excited to announce the launch of our new website!

**You can access our site at
www.mercerdentalsociety.com.**

We will be updating this site regularly and we want to hear from you about suggestions for improvement.

We hope this new resource will be beneficial to our mercer dental community.

We can, I believe, regain more governance of ourselves through strengthening our component chapters, the NJDA and the ADA. This has to be done at the grassroots level - there is no other way. Increasing membership one at a time, increasing member participation one at a time, putting aside differences for the benefit of the the whole ... is the best (and only way, in my opinion) to create the strongest representation we can for ourselves - and again, allow us to provide the best care that we can for our patients as a result.

Our incoming NJDA president, Dr. Bryon E. Roshong, said it well during his acceptance speech at this past Annual Session - "Do we stay relevant or shrink into irrelevance?"

Other sentiments uttered at the Annual Session that are quite inspiring:

"Why become a member?"... "Because it's worth it."

"While we are in a competitive profession, we are in this together."

So let's have some fun, be constructive and make the most of our organization. Please feel free to contact me, or any other officers with questions, concern and suggestions. I look forward to serving our membership and profession in the coming year.

Thank you,
Michael Scalia

MERCER DENTAL SOCIETY
CE SCHEDULE 2014/15

ALL MEETINGS ARE BEING
HELD FROM:

6:30pm-9:30pm
(aside from the February All Day meeting)
At
The Hyatt, 102 Carnegie Center
Princeton, NJ 08540

9/16/14

NJDA Officer Visitation
2 C.E Credits
\$25 members, \$35 at the door

10/21/14

DENTAL TRAUMA
Dr. Christopher Hughes
Dept. Chair Pediatrics,
Rutgers Dental School
2 C.E Credits
\$35 members, \$45 at the door

11/18/14

The Atmosphere in your Practice
“SECRETS OF SUCCESS”
Shelley Renee
2 C.E Credits
\$35 members, \$45 at the door

1/20/15

Member Case Presentations
2 C.E Credits
\$35 members, \$45 at the door

MERCER DENTAL SOCIETY
CE SCHEDULE 2014/15

2/18/15

ALL DAY MEETING
PRACTICE MANAGEMENT MIX
DEBRA NASH
7CE CREDITS

3/19/15 (Thursday)

Lecturer To Be Determined
2 CE Credits
\$35 members, \$45 at the door

4/21/15

“STREET DRUGS”
Dr. Thomas Viola, PHD
2 CE Credits
\$35 members, \$45 at the door

5/19/15 (Thursday)

Lecturer To Be Determined
2 CE Credits
\$35 members, \$45 at the door

STAFF APPRECIATION NITE
(SPRING 2015)
(Details to Follow Shortly)

***** NOTE, One of the member CE meetings**
will be on a THURSDAY NIGHT this year.

This is an effort to test how Thursday nights
might work for members.

For information and to register contact:
Jennifer Moffett: (805) 294 3078
execsec.mds@gmail.com

Council on Annual Session Report



Michael Scalia

This years Annual Session, at the Revel Casino, was the last of it's kind that you'll see coming from the NJDA in future years. While the venue was unique and enjoyable, given the changes in our industry, along with the deluge of available CE on the market, the format of the Annual Session has become outdated. The NJDA is acutely aware of this and is making appropriate plans moving forward.

What you have been seeing this year, and will see more of in 2015 and into the future, are several full day CE formats that focus on three key areas for our members:

1. New Dentists (the New Dentist Conference)
2. Clinical and science based lectures (a Scientific Session, replacing the traditional Annual Session format - more on this below)
3. Practice Management lectures (the upcoming Dental Team Forum on October 1, 2014 - see the NJDA website for more information)

These efforts are meant to provide our members with more flexibly scheduled CE's on topics of relevance. We have also begun talking about how the responsibilities of our Council on Annual Session will be changing as a result of this change in format.

I'll finish this Report on the Annual Session with information on next years Scientific Session... to be held in our backyard at the Princeton Marriott on May 1st and 2nd... Registration will be opened early - on October 1, 2014. Look for more details on the NJDA website over time.

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Dee Woodward
Territory Representative
484.268.7085
dwoodward@solutionreach.com

ADA Delegate Report



Sid Whitman

On July 23, 2014 a meeting of the ADA Delegates was held at NJDA. Dr Frank Graham was elected the Chairman of the delegation. Dr Richard Riva was elected treasurer.

The two candidates for President-Elect Dr Carol Summerhays from California and Dr Steven Gounardes from New York spoke and answered a series of questions. Both candidates are members of the ADA Board of Trustees and are very well versed in the issues facing dentistry. The issues at the forefront are Health Care Reform, Student Debt and Government Regulation.

Due to a new format in order to reduce costs they will not attend our Fourth District Caucus in Delaware.

From NJDA PAC (Political Action Committee) Representative Dr. Lorraine Kosztyu, Lawrenceville, NJ

Thanks to all who have contributed this year to the PAC fund. This financial support opens the doors for communication with those who make decisions in our State regarding OUR profession – our elected representatives. A return from our investment is our ability to discuss with our state representatives future laws that will impact us and our patients. These impacts can be anything from health to financial impacts. Contributions must be from ALL dentists (general dentists and specialists) in order to stand as one strong voice. If you have any questions regarding what the NJDAPAC does for you or how to contribute, please call me directly, or Mr. Jim Schulz at NJDA headquarters.

Dr. Lorraine Kosztyu
609 896 1050.

Trustee's Report : Dr. Fred Babinowich

(Please see Dr. Babinowich's entire report online at mercerdentalsociety.com)

Donated Dental Services name has been change to Dental Lifeline. Recently Dental Lifeline has lost a grant From Horizon for the amount of \$50,000. NJDA will give \$2,500 to the program and ask the component societies if they could also make a contribution. Mercer Dental Society has also given a \$500 contribution.

There is a motion that has been adopted by the Board to separate the Annual Session from the House of Delegates meeting and the President's dance. The reason for this motion was to decrease the cost of the Annual Session.

As of August 19th the prescription pads dentists are currently using will be out of date. Members can go to the NJDA web site to get a list of companies that are printing and selling the new prescription pads.

AETNA recently notified dentists that it would not be issuing EOB's and checks directly to dentists, instead depositing payments directly into the dentists bank accounts. The NJDA has concerns with this new policy and has acted immediately, contacting AETNA and the Dept. of Banking and Insurance for the state of NJ to have it's concerns addressed.

Dentists should be aware that HIPAA's security rule requires portable devices, i.e. laptops, also be encrypted. Check the NJDA web site for more details.

The NJDA has been pursuing a bill to prevent insurance companies from reducing payment for non covered services. At the present time NJDA has sponsors in both the Assembly and Senate for this bill.

NJDA gave \$2,500 to Rutgers School of Dentistry to help with sending dental students to Indian Reservations in the Dakotas for a summer internship. In addition NJDA gave \$1,500 to the school to help support the Student Summer Research Fellowship.

NJDA did suffer a setback with the NJ courts regarding overpayments by an insurance company. NJDA had wanted to stop the practice of insurance companied from withholding payment on other patients to make up for an over payment made on a separate patient. The lower courts in NJ heard this case and ruled in favor of the insurance companies therefore allowing the practice to continue. NJDA is going to take this matter up with a higher court.

NJDA has also filed a petition with the State Board of Dentistry requesting that they clarify the law in NJ regarding ownership of a practice. NJDA is concerned by the rise in cooperate ownership of dental offices in other states. At the presented time the Attorney General of NJ and the Department of Consumer Affairs want more time to look at our proposal for a clarification of the law.

There has been some concern about E-mailing radiographs and records with regards to security and HIPAA. NJDA has brought this matter up with the ADA and has asked them to generate a document to clarify this potential problem to the members.

MERCER DENTAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2014-2015



BACK ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT):

**MEMBER AT LARGE:
DR. TOM MORGENSTERN**

**TREASURER:
DR. JOHN LU**

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:
DR. ANTHONY PROUSI**

**PRESIDENT ELECT:
DR. KHURRUM SHEIKH**

**NJDA TRUSTEE:
DR. FRED BABINOWICH**

**ADA DELEGATE:
DR. SIDNEY WHITMAN**

**OTHER MEMBERS NOT
PRESENT IN THE PICTURE:**

**NJDA PAC REPRESENTATIVE:
DR. LORRAINE KOZTYU**

FRONT ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT):

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:
JENNIFER MOFFETT**

**PRESIDENT:
DR. MICHAEL SCALIA**

**PAST PRESIDENT:
DR. JANHAVI RANE**

**EDITOR:
GEETU GUPTA**