

MERCER DENTAL SOCIETY

Professional Dental Association of Mercer County, NJ

December 2022



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2nd Vice President of ADA

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Happy Holidays!

Dear MDS Members,

What an amazing opportunity is to be part of "Organized Dentistry".

On behalf of MDS, I would like to welcome all our new members and existing members.

I would love to thank all the executive board members and staff for showing true commitment and perseverance in making our dental society one of the best and most organized. But most importantly, we are blessed in our specific dental society to share a true sense of camaraderie and friendship. This is something that we absolutely need in our daily hectic and sometimes stressful profession.

We are happy to announce that Dr. Romero joined us as a Secretary and Dr. Batra is our new "Sponsorship Chair". We still have some open positions, so please consider joining our amazing Executive board team. You can reach out to me or any of our team.

We are always lucky to be the first dental society in the state to host the "NJDA officer visitation". We met with all our NJDA officials and we celebrated Mr. Art Meisel's long history of giving and guidance to all of us as dentists in New Jersey. It was a true heart-felt celebration where he shared some of his experiences and funny stories about being the executive director of NJDA.

This year, we are so lucky to have a LARGE number of sponsors. We have 5 gold sponsors: Zimvie, Itero, Hiossen, WEO, Straumann and we have few Bronze sponsors too. These companies provide the best technologies in the dental market. I would like to thank them all for their continuing support.

Our next Membership meeting will be in January 2023 and it will be a virtual meeting. Lastly, it's the holidays season! It is a beautiful time to enjoy quality family time but also to reflect on this year's accomplishments and focus on your next year goals and plans. What are your plans for the holidays? Share some pictures about your decorations, your pets, your next getaway? Let us all connect on "Mercer Dental Society" Facebook and Instagram.

As MDS president, I would love to wish you all a Happy and Joyous Holidays and a prosperous new year!

See you all in 2023!



Dr. Radwaa Saad
PRESIDENT, MDS



ADA's new initiative to help dentists finding resources to improve wellness: The Wellness Ambassador Program Words from your Vice President, Dr. Cathy Hung



To say dentistry is a stressful profession is an understatement. When COVID pandemic hit, ADA conducted a survey in 2021 showing that dentists diagnosed with anxiety more than tripled compared with data from 2003. Other mental health issues and physical symptoms such as headaches and backpain have also increased drastically amongst dental professionals.

In the past, dentists' mental health issues were not nearly focused as much as clinical or practice management topics. In fact, mental health topics were almost viewed as taboos. There were few channels and outlets dentists could turn to in times of crisis. The lack of support often leads to substance use and misuse and, unfortunately, suicide of some of our colleagues. Dr. Princy Rekhi, chair of the ADA's Dental Wellness Advisory Committee urged immediate attention and action to dentists' overall wellness. The Wellness Ambassador program kicked off this year in attempts to address these issues. This program is led by Dr. Hana Alberti, the Senior Director of Council on Dental Practice/Center for Dental Practice Policy (CDPP) and Ms. Felicia Bloom, Manager, Elder Care and Dentist Health and Wellness, Center for Dental Practice Policy. A group of volunteer dentists were selected as the first cohort and the first in-person meeting was conducted in the Chicago Headquarter on November 4, 2022. ADA President Dr. George R. Shepley, and Executive Director, Dr. Raymond Cohlma, visited the cohort and greeted the group with encouraging words.



I was honored to be selected as one of the first cohort of the Wellness Ambassadors representing the State of New Jersey and District 4. As a Wellness Ambassador, my responsibilities include not limited to: attending in-person and monthly virtual meetings to learn and share information on various topics of wellness including not limited to: stress management, anxiety and depression, suicidal prevention, pregnancy and work balance, ergonomics, substance use and misuse, burnout and how to build resilience, just to name a few. My role is not to provide therapy to dental colleagues but to help direct to appropriate resources that will help improve physical and mental health. I will be speaking and writing on various topics pertaining to wellness, relaying information from and to ADA on a local, state and regional level, and potentially collaborating with other local organizations for new initiatives. These efforts will well extend into future years. As time goes on, the Wellness Ambassador program will recruit more cohorts to expand the program as not every state has representations at this time.

ADA's new podcast "ADA Dental Sound Bites" is linked to the NJDA website. I will be sharing some pearls with you as a practicing OMS and a certified life coach in Episode #5 "The Power of Connections", airing November 22. This episode addresses the importance of networking, mentorship, connection and wellness. As the holiday season approaches, this is an opportune time to reflect and remind ourselves of the abundance around us and to share kindness with your family, friends and colleagues. At this time, please check out ADA.org/wellness for more information. Please email me at drcathyhung@gmail.com should you have any questions regarding the Wellness Ambassador program.

Humbly to be your servant leader and happy holidays,

Cathy Hung, DDS

Mercer Dental Society Upcoming Events

1/17/23	Dr. Maria Maranga 2nd Vice President of the ADA	Pathways to Leadership Location: Virtual
3/14/23	Dr. Davis Thomas	Sleep Medicine
5/16/23	Suzanne Gilman, Esq, LLC	Ethics & NJ Law related to the practice of Dentistry



Second Vice President of ADA 2021



**Dr. Maria Maranga, DDS
Endodontist**

Teaching Positions

**June 2018 -Present: Endodontic Attending to
GPR Program - Interfaith Medical Center**

**Oct 2016-Present: NYU-Lutheran Hospital, Post
Graduate Endodontics**

**Oct 2016-Present: NYU College of Dentistry -
Faculty**

**Oct.2016-Present: NYU Langone Medical Center -
Faculty**

**Jan.2014-Present: ADA original online CE course-
Pathways to Leadership**

**Aug 2012-Present: Endodontic Attending to the
GPR Program, Brookdale Hospital**

**Aug 2012-Present: Endodontic Attending to the
GPR Program, Jamaica Hospital**

**Sept.1997-2013: Clinical Assistant Professor Post
Graduate Endodontics, SUNY at Stony Brook**

Tuesday, 1/17/23

Time: 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Location: Virtual

2 CE

Pathways To Leadership

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- **DEFINE AND EXPLORE LEADERSHIP**
- **DISCUSS LEADERSHIP SELECTION PROCESSES**
- **DISCUSS BARRIERS TO LEADERSHIP**
- **IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHANGE & SUPPORT**
- **DISCUSS DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION IN ORGANIZED DENTISTRY**

**To register scan the QR code or visit
www.mercerdentalsociety.com**



Members:

All meetings and Dinners are Complimentary

Non Members:

First meeting is Complimentary after that \$65

Council on Dental Benefits Dr. Sid Whitman

There was a discussion to update the bylaws of the CODB which will add specialty group representation to the council.

You have the right to speak with a dentist from an insurance company in the event that there is an adverse decision for a patient's insurance. The dentist for the company must be a NJ licensed dentist or registered with the NJ State Board. It would appear that more audits are taking place. Make sure you document your charts fully. More is better.

A bill regarding virtual credit card reimbursement has been introduced to the Senate which would require health insurance carriers to reimburse health care providers using check or electronic funds transfer.

Initiation of transparency bill.

Will apply for SPA grant in 2023.



NJ Dept. of Labor identifies Dental Assistants as "In Demand Job". The NJDA workforce Task Force is working with NJ Dept. of Labor.

NJDA is working with several counties to establish new dental assisting programs that could lead to more CODA approved schools thereby increasing the number of RDAs in the state.

Currently working on getting the Disallow Legislation through Assembly.

The Massachusetts ballot measure calls for dental insurance carriers in the state to establish a medical loss ratio for dentistry so that patients can receive more value from the premiums they pay. It requires the state's carriers to spend at least 83% of premium dollars on patient care rather than on administrative costs, salaries, and profits.

A meeting of the NJDA Committee on Medicaid is set for Nov 30th. Medicaid is a very difficult issue, especially in NJ. While we have a wide compliment of benefits we have relatively low reimbursement. This makes it less advantageous to see Medicaid patients than commercial insurance patients.

There are 5 different Managed Care Organizations that administer NJFC. Each one has a third party administrator that works with dental. Credentialing is cumbersome. It would appear that commercial insurance is easier to navigate.

Many offices are not able to see patients in a timely fashion because of the number of patients and their restorative needs. OR scheduling is still a major issue although with the change in the suggested fee increase via CMS for Medicare it is hoped that this will improve the situation.

Dr. Michael Scalia: Treasurer MDS Sponsorship Update

Mercer Dental Society has had the good fortune to develop more relationships with sponsors this year. We have 5 Gold level sponsors (Gold = sponsorship of all member meetings), one Silver level Sponsor (Silver = sponsorship of three member meetings) and three Bronze Level sponsors, with a possible fourth to be soon confirmed (Bronze = Sponsorship of one member meeting).

Vendor sponsors are vital to the functioning of our component. Please be sure to visit their tables and ask them about their products and services when you see them at our upcoming meetings. Remember, you don't have to buy anything - and you may find that you learn of a very interesting product or service.

To date our sponsors are:

- ZimVie - Gold
- WEO Media - Gold
- HioSeen - Gold
- Itero/Align Technologies - Gold
- Straumann/ITI - Gold
- Envista/Implant Direct - Silver
- HTI - Bronze
- Garfield Refining - Bronze
- Sue Gilman, JD, DDS - Bronze



MDS Sponsors



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Happy Holidays

Mercer Dental Society

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Suzanne Gilman Esq. LLC
— Legal Guidance for Dental Professionals —

*Practice Transition Contracts *Letters of Intent
*Employee/Employer Agreements *Non-Disclosure Agreements

Call Suzanne Gilman, D.D.S., F.A.G.D., Esq. 973-229-0670

Some glimpses from a very well attended MDS November 2022 meeting





Board of Trustees Meeting Update By Dr. Janhavi Rane, Trustee Mercer County Dental Society Held at Delta Hotels, Somerset, NJ on 11/9/22.

The minutes of the Sept. 21, 2022 meeting were approved.

Council Reports

The Council on Annual Session- Registration has opened for the Annual Session • The format of the 2023 Annual Session is as follows: • A full day conference at the Mainland Hotel • An in-person licensure requirement series will be offered • 1 full day of didactic session • 7 CEUs • Up to 300 attendees in 1 room only • Two Lunch Options are offered (both requiring pre-registration) • Lunch and Learn (1 CEU with product prizes awarded) • Networking lunch (Social, no CEUs) • Same menu at each lunch option • 12 Sponsors and Exhibitors will be invited to casually interact in the pre-function space • There will be a pay one price registration option. • Registration will be \$199.00 per member dentist • An optional dinner reception will be offered as an add-on at the hotel LBI • Room block rates will be offered (April Mid-Week: \$159.00 plus tax) • The Annual Session will be held on Thursday, April 13th, 2023.



Council on Dental Benefits- The next CODB meeting is November 16, 2022 at 9:30 AM. • We will be proposing new Bylaws for the council as the existing ones are out of date.

Dental Advocacy Governmental & Public Affairs- A bill regarding virtual credit card reimbursement has been introduced to the Senate which would require health insurance carriers to reimburse health care providers using check or electronic funds transfer. • Initiation of transparency bill • Will apply for SPA grant in 2023 • NJ Department of Labor Identifies Dental Assistants as an “In Demand” Job. • The NJDA Workforce Task Force is working with the NJ Department of Labor. • NJDA is working with several counties to establish new dental assisting programs that could lead to more CODA approved schools thereby increasing the number of Registered Dental Assistants in the state.

Membership - Reviewed and discussed membership numbers. • Next meeting is on November 14th via zoom.

Peer Review- The Peer Review Training Workshop was held virtually via zoom on Wednesday November 2, 2022. • There were 49 participants who attended.

Committee Reports

NJDPAC - The importance of contributions and component involvement was emphasized, and emails went out to each component. • NJDA contributed to the passing of question #2 on the Massachusetts ballot, dental only plans are to meet the same MLR as other insurers. • Now that this has passed in Massachusetts, we can then take it to legislation. • Continued contributions are needed to NJDPAC in order for New Jersey to remain a leader in insurance reform.

Finance & Investment- NJDA Semi-Annual House of Delegates passed the 2023 budget unanimously this afternoon on 11-9-2022. • Reviewed 3rd quarter report.

Non-Dues Revenue- The first meeting took place last week. • There are new programs and advertising in development for 2023. • My Career My Community is a 7-month program and will run throughout the school year. • All My Career My Community events are free for RSDM students. • Advanced registration is required for each event in the program. NJDA meeting facility rentals and contracts are available [CLICK HERE](#) for more information. • NJDA will no longer be using the terminology “endorsement”, the new program will be NJDA Perks.

Continuing Education- The next Monday Morning Email (MME) will feature CE for next year, as 2023 is a license renewal year. • All CEs for 2023 license renewal can be taken through NJDA.

Other Reports

AMT- AMT Financials for 2022 continue to trend with significant improvement from 2021 numbers. • NJDA encourages its members who are not participating in an AMT plan (administered by Horizon and using the Horizon BCBS network of providers) to get a no cost quote from AMT. • AMT has diverse health plan options at competitive price points and is an NJDA member only benefit.

Executive Director's Report- Arthur Meisel addressed the Board of Trustees, as this will be Art's last Board of Trustees meeting prior to retiring at the end of December 2022. • Art thanked everyone for everything over the 50+ years working with NJDA.

President's report- Peter DeSciscio, DMD reported • Art's retirement celebration was a success. • Central's Officer Visitation meeting was held last night, it had a good turn out and went very well. Also, this was the last officers' visitation meeting for Art Meisel and of 2022.

President-Elect report- Dr. Renee Arace, DMD concurs with Dr. DeSciscio's above report.

Vice President report- Elisa Velazquez, DMD presented • The social media task force is going great. • All components continue sharing and posting photos on all social media platforms.

New Business- In response to an inquiry, Dr. DeSciscio gave a status update on the search for a new Executive Director. The search is on as planned.

Past President- Dr. Ghisalberty, DMD, attended the ADA HOD in Houston and acknowledged District 4 was well represented.

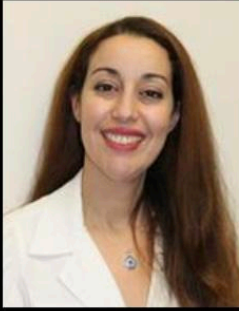
Good and Welfare- Everyone wishes Art all the best, as this is Art's last Board of Trustee meeting with NJDA, as communicated this is a great moment and milestone.

The next scheduled Board of Trustees Meeting is on Wednesday January 18, 2023





Meet the MDS Board 2022-23



President
Dr. Radwa Saad

609-890-1888



Past President
Dr. Priti Dagli

609-716-7100



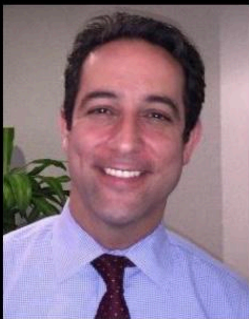
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Dr. Cathy Hung

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Secretary
Dr. Roena Romero

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Treasurer
Dr. Michael Scalia

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