

APRIL 2021

MERCER DENTAL SOCIETY

PROFESSIONAL DENTAL ASSOCIATION OF MERCER COUNTY, NJ

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



DR. CHANDINI HUDSON

Hello everyone,

Hope almost everyone is back to work and are in the swing of things! On behalf of MDS I would like to extend a warm welcome to our entire membership and all our new members. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve as MDS president. Although it came with its challenges considering the pandemic, it was an extremely rewarding and positive experience. It is a pleasure for me to introduce Dr. Priti Dagli who will soon be MDS president.

We hope that most of you have been successful in scheduling your COVID19 vaccine. We at MDS are here to serve and support all of you in anyway we can. Please reach out to any of the members of our executive board should you need support, assistance, or advice as we are all here to help.

For now, to maintain safety and compliance with all COVID19 protocol we will be holding our membership meetings virtually via ZOOM. Please look out for pertinent information about these meetings, invited speakers, associated CE credits etc. which will be sent out to you all via email. We sure do hope to be able to resume all our in-person meetings soon enough.

I would like to welcome Dr. Saad who will serve as MDS president elect this year. A special acknowledgement to all our other Executive Board members without whom MDS would not be possible.

We have several exciting events/meetings planned as we move forward this year. So please mark your calendars when you hear from us. We will keep you posted on all relevant updates regarding these.

Thank you for your support and encouragement throughout this period. I look forward to staying in touch with you all. See you at the next meeting!

Tuesday, May 18th, 2021

**HACK ATTACK: CYBERSECURITY
FOR THE DENTAL OFFICE**
HTI Consultants, Parsippany

2 CE

Virtual Format

Treasurers Report: Dr. Scalia

Council on Dental Benefits
Report: Dr. Whitman

Board of Trustees
Report: Dr. Kosztyu

Council on Government and Public
Affair: Dr. Babinowich

MDS Executive Committee

MDS Sponsors

www.mercerdentalsociety.com

609-577-3606

exexec.mds@gmail.com



Members: All Meetings are Complimentary
Non Members: First Meeting is Complimentary after that \$55

HACK ATTACK: CYBERSECURITY FOR THE DENTAL OFFICE

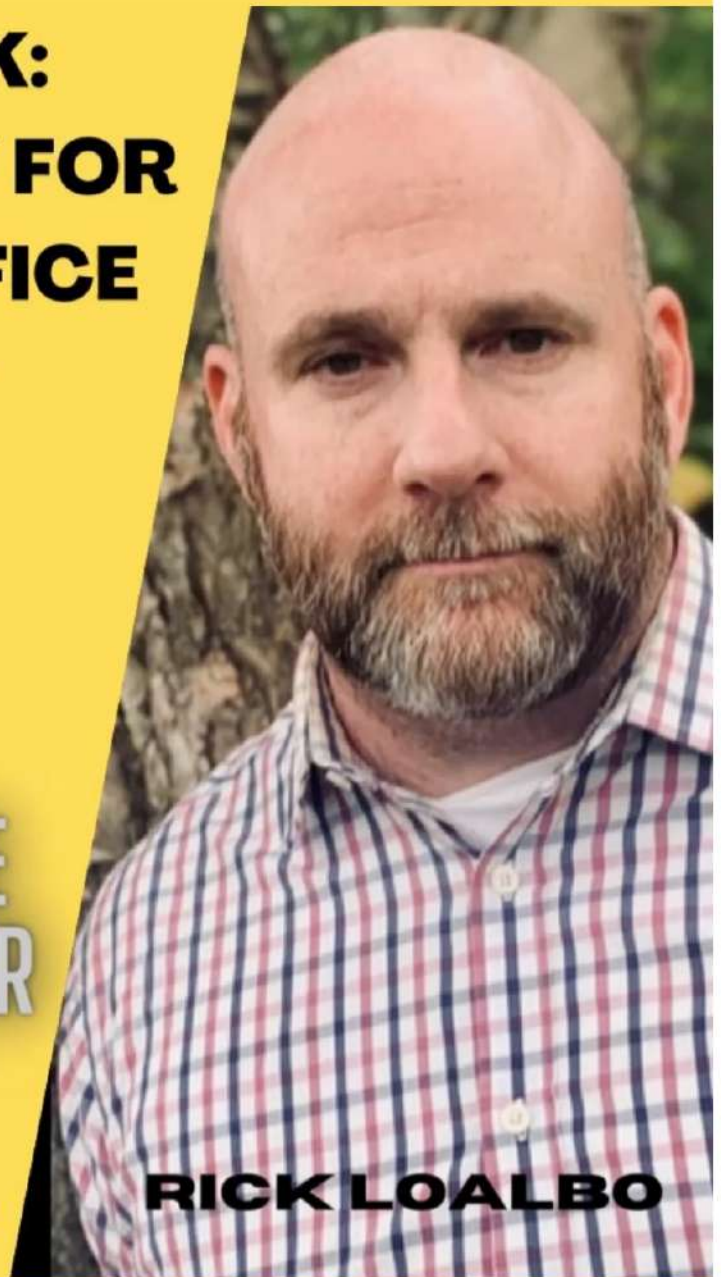
TUESDAY, MAY 18TH, 2021
TIME: 6:30 PM TO 9:30 PM
VIRTUAL FORMAT
2 CE




**SCAN HERE
TO REGISTER**

What you Need to Know to Prepare and Recover from a Ransomware Attack.
Let HTI take you through battling Ransomware from the first sign of attack to dealing with a breach.

**Please email Jolanta at
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RICK LOALBO

Learning Objectives

- Ransomware Prevention
- Dealing with an Attack
- Ransom Mitigation
- Overall Best Practices

The information that a dental office holds is precisely what a hacker needs in order to steal someone's identity (social security numbers, medical history, address, phone number, birthdates), this type of cyber threat has become unnervingly prevalent. While healthcare professionals never intend to put their patient's data at risk, outdated cybersecurity practices are simply a risk that must be addressed in the modern world.

Meet Dr. Priti Dagli, DDS incoming MDS President for 2021-22.



Dr. Priti Dagli has been in the field of dentistry for more than 15 years, having graduated from NYU College of Dentistry in 2003. She completed a rigorous residency program at Montefiore and Jacobi Hospital.

Dr. Dagli is a graduate of the esteemed Rosenthal - NYU Esthetic One Year program with celebrity dentist, Dr. Stephen Chu and the NYU Two-Year Implant program. She has been awarded fellowship status by International Congress of Implantologists. She maintains a private practice in Plainsboro, NJ.

She has been active beyond the dental world, networking with women business owners, exchanging business intelligence across the board. She has been the PTA President and has advocated for oral health at schools.

Dr. Dagli is married with two children, and has just adopted a handsome golden doodle puppy. She loves doting on them and feeding them home cooked meals, going for long walks, and celebrating holidays with friends and family.

Board of Trustees Report, March 10, 2021 Dr. Lorraine Kosztyu



NJDA Dinner Cruise on the Hudson Sunday, April 25th honoring Past President Dr. Tom Rossi. Please go to the NJDA website for further information and to sign up.

Membership Report:

Active members as of 3/08/2021 are 2,629 as compared to 2,601 in 2020. 79.47% of members renewed in 2021 compared to 77.75% in 2020. These percentages reflect all categories of membership (not only active).

****The NJDA has been informed by the ADA that the NJDA has received the highest satisfaction score from members than any other association in the nation.**

Governmental Affairs:

There is a virtual reception and fundraiser for Assemblywoman Pamela Lampitt on March 31st, Wednesday. Donations to attend are \$150 pp for the happy hour at 4:30 pm and \$250 pp to attend the dessert reception at 7 pm. All members are encouraged to donate and attend as she is a friend to dentistry. Please reach out to me, Dr. Leslie Hayling or Jim Schulz if interested. Your attendance is sincerely welcomed.

Annual Session:

At 186, there are less registrants this year compared to other years. However, 12% of the 186 are new attendees and the overall response has been overwhelmingly great according to NJDA staff. In 2019, there were 28 people registered/course and this year 67/course. Sponsors are extremely pleased.
FREE - May 7th from 10am-2 pm shredding event at our headquarters.

Executive Director:

Smile Direct case has been scheduled for oral arguments on 4/28 in appellate court. Mr. Meisel stressed that this case deals with the role played by DSOs and what they can and cannot do as the central issue to the case.

President Report:

In a meeting with the DOH Commissioner, not enough vaccines are coming in and there is not a mass need for vaccinators until another month and a half from now. Stay tuned on how to help out.

State Board of Dentistry Update:

Meetings remain closed to the public and remote among members. There are three new appointees. The new president is John Feeny and VP Stephen Cohen. There has been created an online application site which still needs about two weeks to be up and running. All licensees will be able to have their own account with their info where they can pay and alter information as needed. In the meantime, paper processing continues slowly as employees have been laid off or furloughed.

There are 9 dentists, 1 hygienist, 2 public members and 1 state representative (Dr. Darwin Hayes, MDS member) on the board.

For the 10/31/21 license renewal, there have been 10 new CE and 6 new CE requirements for dentists and auxiliaries respectively. An extension was requested for the new CE requirements due to the pandemic. The only two that may not be extended are the 1 hr CE on opioid addiction and 2 hr CE for infection control. The NJDA is addressing the two subjects and the future regarding these requirements for licensing this year. Look for updates via email from the NJDA.

PLEASE reach out to me with questions of if you would like to begin some sort of involvement in your local or state society. Thank you for allowing me to serve the MDS in this position and I in turn thank the dedicated staff and dentists serving us at the NJDA.



Council On Government and Public Affairs Dr. Fred Babinowich

Disallowed Clause:

This clause allows an insurance company to deny a dental claim and prevents the dentist from getting paid. In other words it is a non payment mechanism by the carrier. NJDA feels that this is unfair. We are not saying a carrier can not deny the claim but we feel the dentist should still be compensated for the treatment. Presently a bill which has the backing of NJDA has past the state Senate and is now in the Assembly. The insurance carriers and NJEA are opposed to the legislation saying it is "anti-consumer" and that the legislation promotes balance billing. Right now NJDA is attempting to education the state representatives that the legislation is good for the consumer and Main Street Dentists.

Dentist Vaccination Authorization Legislation:

There are presently two legislative efforts regarding vaccination. The first one involves allowing dentists to administer all types of vaccines and the second one involves ensuring dentist can administer the covid-19 vaccine under the current state vaccination plan. For the past 6 yo 7 years NJDA has been trying to get dentists to be able to give vaccine. Resistance has come from Pediatricans who fear lost revenue. Right now the State Board of Dentistry has not yet given approval for courses dentists would need to take to be able to give the vaccine. I just they feel we do not know have to give shots. There is a bill in the Assembly that would give dentist permission to give multiple vaccines. We do not have a Senate bill regarding vaccinations.

Dental Therapist Legislation:

There presently is a bill in the state house to allow in certain clinical settings dental therapists (dental hygienist) to render unsupervised dental care. This proposal would create an independent hygiene provider. The hygiene association is saying that there are areas in New Jersey that are under served by dentists. By passing this legislation the hygienist argue that they can provide this care to these areas (although nothing is preventing them from opening up an office in Princeton).The Hygiene Association did ask NJDA to support this bill but we told them no but we did tell the that we could talk with them on other ideas. So far they have not come back with a response. Instead they went to the legislators to see if they could get support for the legislation. At the present time there is not a Senate sponsor for the legislation. This movement by hygienists has been going on nation wide but it has been limited to rural areas. NJ will be the first urban state to take up this issue.

State Oral Health Plan:

The State of New Jersey is devising the first every statewide oral health plan. It is being formulated by the office of oral health within the NJ Department of Oral Health (NJDOH). The purpose of the plan is to help promote dental health and to improve access and reduce racial disparities. There has been a strong effort underway by the hygienists who serve on the NJDOH working group to push for a scope expansion on what a hygienist can and can not do similar to that espoused in the Dental Therapist Legislation.

Community College of Morris:

The community college (CCM) has plans to build a new health sciences pavilion which would be used to house a new dental auxiliary program. It has been a ong time effort of NJDA to expand dental auxiliary education programs in NJ because there has been a slow and steady decline in them over the past 20 years. CCM is interested in building ahealth sciences pavilion that will house when completed both a dental hygiene and dental assisting program as well as other medical related auxiliaries. Senator Joe Pennacchio, a member dentist, who represents parts of Morris County, has been a strong advocate for the school to be built and is working to help identify funding opportunities for its development.

The idea was discussed by the council. Dr. Rossi expressed how critical it will be for organized dentistry's involvement with the school for it to be a success. I mentioned that a dental assisting school had been setup in the past next to Nottingham High but unfortunately it failed. The reasons were lack of support from local guidance counsels in the high school, lack of support by the dental community, and unrealistic monetary expectations by the graduates.

Presently Mercer County Community in association with Kinder Smile (based in Essex County) has established a facility which will provide services to the people of Trenton and also house a hygiene program and dental assisting program. MCCC provided the building. This was the first time I had heard of this facility and the contribution by MCCC to the program.

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Meet the Board

MDS LINE OFFICERS		2020-2021
President		*Chandini Hudson
Past President		*Dana DiGerolamo
Vice President		*Priti Dagli
Secretary		*Radwa Saad
Treasurer		*Michael Scalia
*Has Exec. Board voting rights		

Council On Dental Benefits Dr. Sid Whitman



The ADA is looking to become more inclusive and diverse. More work is needed to improve representation among Hispanic and Afro-American dentists. Diversity among clinicians and leaders in dentistry holds promise for enhancing care, reducing health disparities and improving diversity among dental school faculty and student population is an important step in the process.

A search is on for a new executive director of the ADA. Dr. Kathy O'Loughlin will retire on 12/31/21.

There is a lot of discussion on all levels about a dental benefit in Medicare. There are many different opinions on the subject.

Discussions are taking place on the possibility of a single standardized test that would allow a dentist to practice in any state.

The ADA has become more aware of the importance of the Medicaid population in terms of dental needs. 1 out of 2 births is now a child covered by Medicaid. Medicaid is by far the largest payer for emergency department dental related visits.

There is still a chance to contribute to the NJDA Capitol Building Campaign. So far approximately \$550,000 has been raised.

Treasurers Report Dr. Michael Scalia



The proposed budget for the 2021-2022 MDS year is complete and will be sent to members for review and ratification very soon (by the time this newsletter is printed you might have already received a copy via email for your review). We will be voting on this proposed budget at the May virtual meeting. More details to follow within the email mentioned above. Fiscally MDS remains in a healthy position given that our membership meetings (typically the largest expense line item in our budget) are virtual and thus have low associated costs.