

MERCER DENTAL SOCIETY

Professional Dental Association of Mercer County, NJ



Dear Members,

Happy Spring!

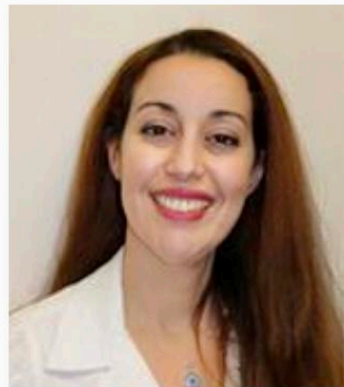
Our first Social Event was a huge success and we had an amazing time to connect with new members on both the professional as well as the personal level. We are happy to announce the formation of our New Dentist Committee and the addition of some new members to our MDS Executive Board.

We would like to welcome our new Executive Board members; Dr. Sehla Wani as our new Dentist committee chair, Dr. Sarah Siddiqui as our new Dentist committee member, Dr. Bo Wang as our new member at large as well as Dr. Nesrine Bestandji.

Our meetings would not have been possible without our sponsors, so a big thank you to all our sponsors : HiOssen, Zimvie, Straumann, WEO, Itero and Envista.

We are still looking for more members to join us for more different committees, so if you are interested, please contact us.

Wishing everyone a beautiful spring and see you all this May!



Dr. Radwa Saad
DMD, BDS, MSc, MICOI
President
Mercer Dental Society

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

MDS member meeting:
Tuesday, 5/16/23
Dr. Suzanne Gilman, DMD, Esq. LLC
Ethics & NJ Law related to the
practice of Dentistry.

MDS Vice President Report:
Dr. Cathy Hung

New Dentist Committee Chair:
Dr. Sehla Wani

Council on Dental Benefits:
Dr. Sid Whitman

Treasurer Report:
Dr. Michael Scalia

**Council on Government & Public
Affairs: Dr. Fred Babinowich**

**MDS Executive Committee
MDS Sponsors**



Report by MDS Vice President, Dr. Cathy Hung

I am very excited to announce that Mercer Dental Society's Executive Board passed the votes to open the New Dentist Committee Chair position at the component level during the February board meeting. Our February EB social was very successful. Leadership themed activities were running while dinner was served at Vidalia Restaurant of Lawrenceville. Our board members and some of our new members mingled to get to know one another. Vision boards sought three responses:

1. I wish for Mercer Dental Society to be more...
2. Name one thing I could do to help Mercer Dental Society to grow in the next four weeks.
3. Leadership to me is....

The emerging themes from the vision boards appeared to be recruitment and engagement of members.

Dr. Sehla Wani had volunteered on the spot to become our New Dentist Committee Chair. I am proud to say that Mercer Dental Society is the first component in New Jersey that holds the New Dentist Committee position. Currently, about 29% of the ADA membership consists of new dentists, defined as dentists practicing less than ten years. The American Dental Association has been increasing efforts to recruit and retain new dentists, focusing on building leadership skills and wellness for new dentists. One of the efforts includes ADA's Accelerator Series. The New Dentists Committee on the ADA level, chaired by Dr. James Lee of Massachusetts Dental Association, has a strong voice in helping new dentists to build coping skills and to achieve better work-life balance.

Going forward, the New Dentist Committee of Mercer Dental Society aims to recruit more members including newly graduates and to relay resources from the NJDA and ADA level, as well as potentially hosting activities to foster camaraderie among colleagues.

Wellness Corner: work-related stress

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines work-related stress as "the response people may have when presented with world demands and pressures that are not matched to their knowledge and abilities and which challenge their ability to cope."

There are many ways to mitigate short-term stress before it manifests into burnout: a long-term occupational phenomenon rather than a medical condition. For busy dental professionals, start by practicing small skills that are portable, even during lunch time. Dr. Sheela Raja, Director of Resilience Center at University of Illinois, Chicago, suggests building mindfulness through simple resilience skills, such as basic abdominal breaths. She describes starting by putting one hand on your abdomen and one hand on your chest. Take a few normal breaths, then take a few slower, deeper breaths through the belly. Slow count to ten, and with each breath, feel the air flow from your nose and mouth, through your chest, and down to your abdomen. Gently bring your attention back to breathing whenever you feel your thoughts wandering. She suggests practicing every day, anywhere, thirty breaths each time.

Create a surrounding that brings you back to a familiar surrounding and a happy period of your life. Watching old movies, listening to music, using online modules or apps, practicing yoga and meditation, doing a personal project, or going away for a short personal retreat, can help to relieve stress in the short run.





Dr. Suzanne Gilman, DMD, Esq. LLC

Tuesday, 5/16/23

Time: 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm

**Location: Crowne Plaza Princeton
900 Scudders Mill Road
Plainsboro, NJ 08536**

2 CEs

Ethics and New Jersey Law Related to the Practice of Dentistry

- Understand the ethical and legal implications when the previous dentist performed subpar treatment.
- Recognizing when posting on Social Media may be a violation of the HIPAA Privacy Rule.
- Formulate a protocol for consistent and cohesive record keeping according to State Board of Dentistry Rules and Regulations.
- Be cognizant of New Jersey and State Board of Dentistry advertising law.
- Have an awareness of patient dismissal protocol under state law.
- Understand when to contact an attorney for guidance.

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
March 29, 2023
Dr. Sid Whitman**

The ADA's Enhanced CDT Task Force is seeking comment on the proposed framework of dental procedure modifiers. Numerous virtual conferences have taken place for the benefit of our members. Unfortunately, very few have taken advantage of this opportunity.

The Enhanced CDT Modifier would be documented and reported in conjunction with a dental procedure code that is in the current five character code reported. Up to four discrete modifiers may be reported with a single CDT code.

If this enhanced system became a reality, it would mean a revamp of our software and additional time for documentation.

None of this appears to help the practicing dentist.

While the ADA states that they are just exploring the possibility, the CODB is opposed to this concept. At a recent NJDA BOT meeting, the board was opposed to Enhanced CDT Codes.

In December, 2022 there were 2.2 million people covered by New Jersey Family Care. This number represents a 29% percent increase during the last four years. This has to do with the fact that no one was removed from NJFC due to the pandemic. All children regardless of immigration status are now eligible to be covered.

Starting in April, 2023 financial eligibility will begin to be checked for NJFC members.

According to a recent survey, 59% of New Jersey's third grade children have at least one tooth with decay experience, similar to the national average. 36% of NJ's third grade children have untreated tooth decay, substantially higher than the national average of 20%. 29 % of our third graders have dental sealants, substantially lower than the national average of 42%. 48% of New Jersey's third grade children need restorative dental care including 15% that need urgent dental care because of pain or infection.



**Please scan the QR
codes to follow
Mercer Dental Society
on Facebook and
Instagram for all the
latest updates!!**



@MERCER_DENTAL_SOCIETY

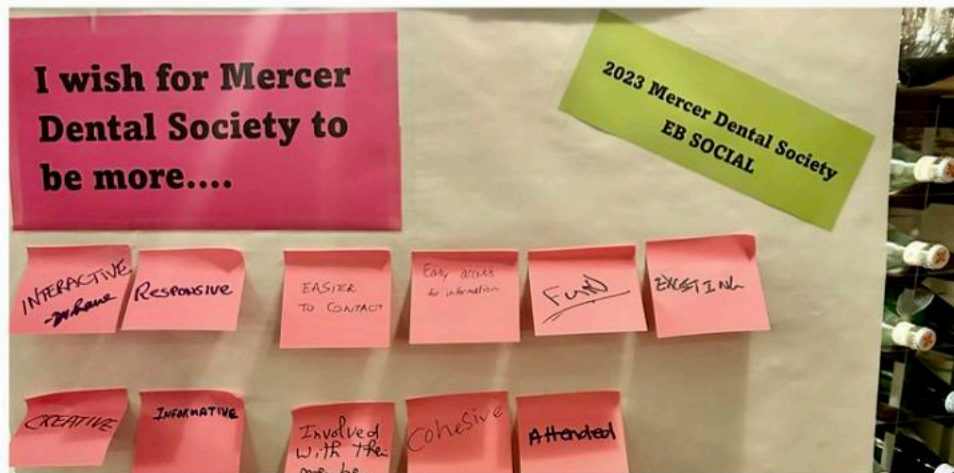
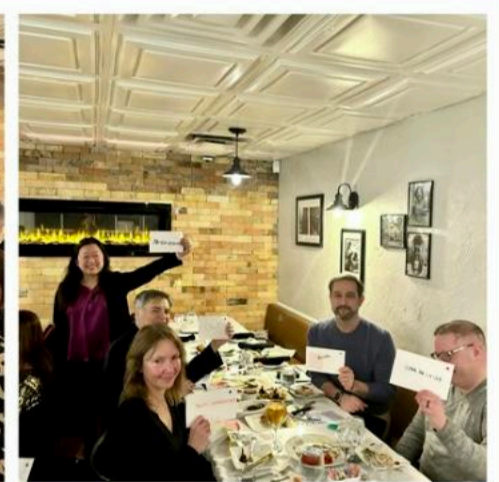
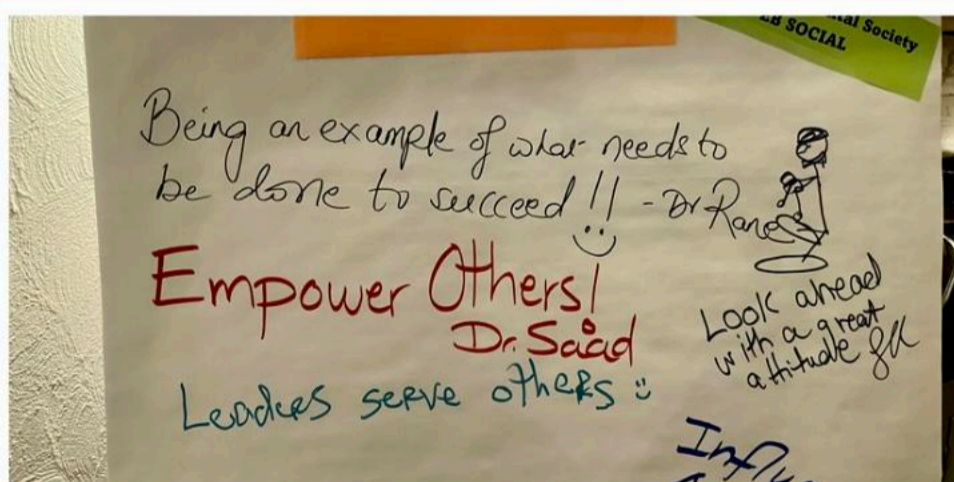
Meet Dr. Sehla Wani, MDS New Dentist Committee Chair

Dr. Sehla Wani was born and raised in India. She started her dental school journey in Indira Gandhi Government Dental College on a full scholarship. After graduating, she got married and moved to the US, residing in New Jersey. She continued to pursue DDS from the advanced standing program of Columbia University College of Medicine in 2021. She has been living in Mercer County since 2014 with her husband and daughter and has been a member of MDS and NJDA since graduation. Dr. Wani works in private practice in Lawrenceville. She is dedicated to improving the lives and smiles of others through compassion and hard work, at the same time trying to dedicate time for other new dentists who face challenging situations regarding employment, debt management and skill enhancement.



Being a new dentist amidst COVID puts new dentists in a challenging situation such as securing employment or delaying in getting a state license. However, one thing that is always helpful is support through organized dentistry. ADA's New Dentist Committee is dedicated to all new dentists, defined as dentists practising less than ten years, by allowing opportunities to develop strong networks that can provide support and mentorship. It aims to benefit members by helping to voice their concerns and talking about the challenges that dentists face in their professional careers. Mercer Dental Society welcomes new dentists to seek assistance by making strong connections among themselves as well as within the dental community. This can be achieved through participation in events and mutual collaboration. Dr. Wani looks forward to this exciting new endeavor as the New Dentist Committee Chair for Mercer Dental Society.

Glimpses from MDS Executive Board social event recruiting new board members with leadership building activities and successful addition of a New Dentist Committee



Council On Government and Public Affairs

Dr. Fred Babinowich

Dental Therapist Legislation:

There have been concerns in the state of New Jersey that there is a problem with access to dental care. At the present time, parts of 10 counties in the state have a dentist shortage while one county has a shortage throughout. The ratio of dentists to the population is 1:1914. The dental hygienist association has introduced legislations sponsored by Assemblywoman Carol Murphy to establish a dental therapist position for NJ. Under their proposal, some of the things a dental therapist would be allowed to do are simple extractions of primary and periodontal involved teeth, fabrication and placement of temporary crowns, indirect and direct pulp capping, preparation and placement of direct restorations, and palliative treatment of pain. In order to become a dental therapist in NJ, you must be first a licensed dental hygienist. The bill is currently locked up in committee in the assembly at the moment, and there is currently not a Senate companion bill. The premise of this bill is that it will increase access to dental care by creating this new position.



At the present time there are 200 dental therapists in the USA. Eight states have enacted this legislation and four more allow it in tribal lands. In the state of Maine the legislation has been in place for 7 years and only last year did Maine license their first dental therapist.

NJDA opposes this legislation. NJDA believes there are other quicker and more cost effective ways to address access to care in NJ. NJ has one of the most dispersed dental workforce in the USA with more than 90% of all New Jerseyans able to access a dentist regardless of whether or not they have public or private dental benefits. NJDA instead supports expansion of dental residency programs, emergency department dental diversion initiatives, dental examinations for school aged students, improving oral health literacy, and expansion and investment in NJ Medicaid programs.

Virtual Credit Card Legislation:

NJDA is drafting legislation to stop the abusive insurance practice of providing claims repayment to healthcare providers by use of virtual credit cards. NJDA feels this practice is particularly egregious in that plans often insinuate that this is the only way to receive claims payment remunerations when in fact Federal Rules provide that other alternatives must be offered. The legislation will state that healthcare providers be paid via electronic fund transfer or via a good old fashioned check, whichever is the dentist choice.

Dental License Reciprocity:

The ADA, American Dental Hygienist Association, Council on State Governments, and the Department of Defense support the mobility of licensed dentists and dental hygienists through the development of a new interstate compact. This compact will create reciprocity among participant states and reduce the barrier to license portability. Like the compact for a drivers license, each compact state agrees to mutually recognize the licenses issued by other participating states.

What is driving this movement are military dentists and the young dentists.

The Council voted in favor of NJDA joining in this movement.

Disallow Legislation:

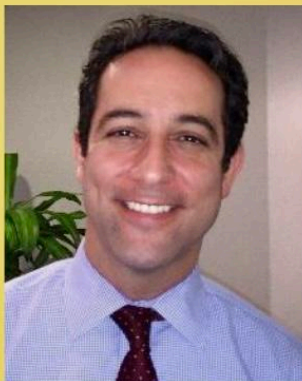
A carrier shall not preclude a participating dentist from billing a covered person for a covered service under a dental plan and collecting payment from the covered person for the covered service. A covered person must be notified prior to performing the covered service that the dentist may not be paid by the carrier and that the covered patient will be responsible for payment of the covered service. The dentist must obtain the covered person's consent in writing before performing the service. The dentist will accept payment in the full amount the participating dentist would have accepted from the carrier under the covered patient's dental plan. The carrier must provide the covered patient's an explanation in writing of the benefits and material cost differences of suitable alternative options for the service.

Also NJDA met with ADSO (Association of Dental Support Organization). They represent the DSO (Dental Service Organizations). The DSO wants NJDA and the ADA's help with insurance and we want their help with membership. Discussions have been preliminary.

NJDA Workforce Task Force:

Presently New Jersey is faced with a shortage of trained dental assistants-CDA and RDA-and dental hygienists. Prior to the pandemic there was a balance between those individuals departing from these professions with those entering these professions. Since the pandemic this balance has been disrupted. NJDA established a workforce task force to try to address this problem. The task force is trying to determine the priorities in the different counties in the state. What is the shortage-dental assistants or dental hygienists/ What are the funding needs for new educational facilities? What are the staffing needs? Can a pre-existing building be used? A major problem is the time necessary to obtain the necessary credentials to perform these jobs. Another problem is the financial burden on the individuals. The task force is looking into these matters but my concern is that if we shorten the time it takes to become a trained assistant and dental hygienist yet increase the amount of material they have to learn how competent are these individuals going to be able to handle the expanded duties we are giving them.

Sponsorship Update



Dear MDS members,
I hope that you are enjoying the beginning of spring. As always, I am writing to you to let you know who will be sponsoring our upcoming meetings. Please come to our meetings - the camaraderie is fun, you can learn a lot and you can visit with our dedicated vendors to learn about their goods and services as well as to have the chance to win some fun raffle prizes.

1. Dr. Ruchi Batra will be taking over as Chairperson of the Sponsorship Committee over the next 4-6 months. Please welcome her to this position. Thank you Dr. Batra for your interest and help with the Sponsorship Committee!
2. Please visit our vendors at our upcoming May meeting. You will have a chance to win a \$125 Amazon gift card or one of two talking hamsters!!!!
3. Our vendor sponsors for May will be:
 - a. ZimVie
 - b. WEO Media
 - c. HioSsen
 - d. Itero/Align Technologies
 - e. Straumann/ITI
 - f. Envista (Implant Direct)
4. If you any have suggestions vendors whom might be possible sponsors for the 2024 academic year, please share them with Dr. Batra and she can contact them when she begins our planning for the 2024 Sponsorship year.

We hope to see all of you at our May meeting. Until then, enjoy the spring.

Warmly,
Michael Scalia
Treasurer, MDS



Smiles that last a lifetime.

Nicholas Malvasi, Territory Representative
Nicholas.Malvasi@hiossen.com

862-702-3180 (Office)
732-241-1420 (Mobile)
862-702-3180 (Fax)

South NJ Branch
197 Route 18 South, Room #212
East Brunswick, NJ 08816

Michael Sparacino
Surgical Territory Manager
Liberty Region

Straumann USA, LLC
60 Minuteman Road
Andover, MA 01810

Cell (215) 421 3949
mike.sparacino@straumann.com
www.straumanngroup.us

(800) 448 8168



NICK GALLETTA
iTero Restorative Territory Manager

ngalletta@aligntech.com
1 732 278 0700 cell
1 888 822 5446 customer service

Align Technology, Inc.
3030 Slater Road, Suite 150
Morrisville, NC 27560
www.aligntech.com



Ez Paling
Territory Sales Manager / Education Ambassador



646-263-3607 Cell
800 342 5454 Customer Service
Ez.Paling@zimvie.com (Please note new email)



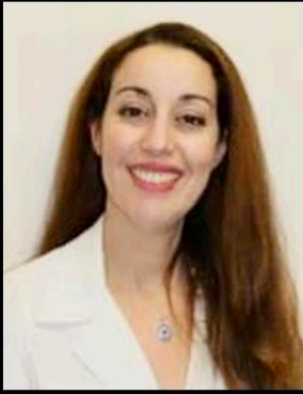
DOES YOUR WEBSITE SUCK?

OUTSMART YOUR COMPETITION AND GET NEW PATIENTS WITH A NEW WEBSITE FROM WEO MEDIA
Request a free website audit and competitor analysis
No obligation, no pressure.



888-246-6906
weoly.com/audit

Meet the MDS Board 2022-23



President
Dr. Radwa Saad
609-890-1888



Past President
Dr. Priti Dagli
609-716-7100



Vice President
Dr. Cathy Hung
609-860-6369



Secretary
Dr. Roena Romero
609-759-0019



Treasurer
Dr. Michael Scalia
319-594-1599