



SEPTEMBER 2021

MERCER DENTAL SOCIETY

The Professional Dental Association of Mercer County, NJ

CHECK OUT WHAT'S INSIDE THE ISSUE:

Mercer Dental Society
Calendar 2021-22

President's Report: Dr. Dagli

Council on Dental Benefits
Report: Dr. Whitman

Council on Government and
Public Affairs: Dr. Babinowich

MDS Executive Committee

Please contact MDS Executive
Secretary, Jolanta with any
questions at:
609-577-3606
exesec.mds@gmail.com

Members:
All meetings and Dinners
are Complimentary

Non Members:
First meeting is
Complimentary after that \$65



NJDA OFFICER VISITATION

Tuesday, 9/14/21
6:30 pm to 9:30 pm



**Hyatt Regency, 102 Carnegie Center
Princeton, NJ 08540**

Mercer Dental Society's annual NJDA Officers
Visitation membership meeting will be held
in person at Hyatt Regency, Princeton.
Let us renew friendships, create new ones and
make it a memorable evening.

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



Mercer Dental Society Calendar 2021-22



Tuesday, 9/14/21
NJDA OFFICER VISITATION
6:30 pm to 9:30 pm
2 CE
Hyatt Regency, 102 Carnegie Center
Princeton, NJ 08540



Tuesday, 11/16/21
Dr. Jon Korostoff
"Peri-implantitis"
Time: 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM
Location: TBD
2 CE



Tuesday, 1/18/22
Dr. Yasmi Crystal
"Silver Diamine Fluoride"
Time: 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM
Location: TBD
2 CE



Tuesday, 3/15/22
Dr. Davis Thomas
"Orofacial Pain"
Time: 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM
Location: TBD
2 CE



Tuesday, 5/17/22
Diet Myths Debunked
Sari Greaves, RDN
Time: 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm
Location: TBD
Spouse Event

On behalf of Mercer Dental Society Board of Directors I would like to welcome the entire membership to an exciting new year. I would like to thank you all for giving me this opportunity to serve on the Board as the President for the year. I also want to thank the Executive board members who have volunteered on this board currently and in the past, guided me and prepared me to take on this responsibility. I would like to especially thank Dr. Chandini Hudson for navigating us through a tough year last year.



**President
Priti Dagli, BDS, DDS, FICOI**

Our community has faced difficult times due to the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic. The new emerging mutations of the virus, along with the breakthrough infections are presenting new challenges. We as dentists need to make sure that we are taking all necessary precautions to help mitigate the spread.

We have been adhering to strict COVID protocol and had a series of virtual membership meetings, with tremendous attendance.

But it's time, yes it is time to meet in person. I would like to invite everyone to our first in-person membership meeting for NJDA Officers Visitation on September 14th at 6:30pm at the Hyatt. You will get a chance to meet and greet our NJDA President Dr. Luciano Ghisalberti and network with like minded colleagues, whilst enjoying a scrumptious meal. You will also meet our sponsors who have generously supported us in the past and have pledged to do so in the upcoming year. We will be following strict guidelines to make this a safe and successful meeting for all of us.

We would like to thank you all for your continued support. Please remember that no organization can run without a plethora of volunteers. There is no greater gift than that of your time. It is definitely a rewarding experience that will help in personal enrichment, developing professional relationships and making new friends. The pandemic has taught us that organized dentistry is the only way of making our voice heard.

I would definitely encourage you to volunteer. You can reach us via email or phone to discuss these opportunities.

Wishing you all a safe and healthy year.

Council on Governmental and Public Affairs

Fred Babinowich



Disallow Legislation:

To review the disallow clause allows an insurance company to deny a dental claim and prevents the dentist from being about to charge for the procedure. NJDA is attempting to change this clause to allow for a dentist to be compensated for his treatment even though the insurance company has disallowed the procedure. Most dental insurance carriers are opposed to this legislation. Jim Schultz and Art Meisel have entered into negotiations with delta dental and Horizon to fine compromise language in the legislation. Presently the legislation to allow dentist to be compensated has passed the Assembly Insurance Committee unanimously and the bill has been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee where it is awaiting action. The bill has already past the Senate.

Business Interruption Insurance Legislation:

Many Dentist who have a Business Interruption Insurance policy, like other business, were largely unable to apply for a claim during the pandemic since the plans they had did not typically have a "pandemic" application. NJDA along with other businesses in NJ have advocated for reform of the Business Interruption Insurance to include "pandemic". This legislation represents a compromise with the industry. If past it will not be retroactive. Insurance company have argued that if they had to pay these claims they would cease to exist as an industry.

Vaccination Legislation:

There is a bill on the floor to allow dentist to administer the Covid-19 vaccine under the current State vaccination plan. There is now a Senate sponsor (Senator Turner) for the bill. Also the Health Commissioner's Administrative Order allowing dentist to vaccinate for COVID is still in place ever though the Public Health Emergency Order has been rescinded by the Governor.

Dental Therapist Legislation:

As of now the legislation has not been acted upon, nor has a Senate companion bill been introduced to date. The larger underlying notion of access remains a priority for a number of groups, certain dentists and those within the government. The Hygiene Association is stating that access to care in under served areas, i.e. Trenton, relates to racial injustice and equity issues. NJDA strongly opposes dental therapists at this time and believes there are other more effective ways to address access to care and social inequity in relation to care. On way is expanding residency programs and another way is increasing payment for services under Medicaid. NJDA, via NJ Department of Health, is working collaboratively with the NJ Dental Hygiene Association to fine common ground to improve access to care. Although the meetings are cordial there is an air of tension during these meetings and the hygienists are very aggressive in their comments.

State Fire Safety Code:

Art Meisel briefed the council on the aspects of the Life Hazard Use Permit and the costs associated with the permit (\$974 a year). The permit is to cover the cost incurred by Fire Departments in evacuating a facility where there are ambulatory patients. This permit is being imposed by some municipal fire districts. Some of the municipal fire commissioners believe dental offices fall should have permits due to sedation being used in some offices which may render patients ambulatory. Originally it applied to institutional facilities but local fire chiefs are expanding its scope. It now applies to any facility that uses sedation. Oral Surgery, Orthodontic, and Pediatric offices have been targeted. Unfortunately the law is vague and it is being interpreted by the local fire commissioners. NJDA is trying to get dentistry to be exempt for the law. Those opposed to this exemption are concerned that NJDA is increasing patient's risk. NJDA is seeing a meeting with the Department of Community Affairs and its Division of Fire Safety that oversees the Uniform Construction and Fire Safety Code.

Branch Office License Elimination Legislation:

There has been major delays in obtaining initial licensure, licensure by credentials or receiving Branch Office Licenses. This frustration about the significant delays have caused Jim to meet directly with the Governor about the State's failure to license in a timely way. Jim is organizing a coalition of other regulated associations to address this topic in the next legislative session. Licensure reform will be greater than just dentistry since this will deal with the Division of Consumer Affairs. However, Branch office licenses are unique to dentistry and something we can seek to eliminate to reduce this barrier to care and small business growth.

Council on Dental Benefits Sid Whitman



Congratulations to NJDA Director of Governmental & Public Affairs Jim Schulz for being named one of the Top 100 Policymakers in New Jersey.

In June, NJDA representatives testified to the NJ Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance committee in support of S.2853/A.4820. This bill, if signed into law, would stop dental plans from using a “Disallow Clause”, and sets rules around “bundling” and “downcoding”. The legislation improves consumer transparency and choice while ensuring dentists can be fairly compensated for services provided.

Smile Direct Club Litigation- On July 12, 2021 a Petition for Certification was filed on behalf of NJDA and a member dentist requesting the NJ Supreme Court to hear a case brought to enjoin Smile Direct Club from engaging in dishonest competition.

Dental Therapist Legislation- In January 2021, NJ became one of 7 states which had legislation introduced to establish a Dental Therapist. The NJDA voiced its opposition to the bill sponsor, who was receptive to our concerns. We explained that there are other, more impactful and immediate approaches to improving access to care than one which establishes a two- tiered delivery system.

**The NJDA, in participation with the ADA requests your participation in research on how dentists collect fees for services and materials that are not typically covered by dental plans. This survey will provide data which will help prevent dental insurance companies from holding dentists to fees for services the plans do not cover. You can find the survey here:
<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6325814/ADA-Survey>.**

In NJ Medicaid & CHIP enrollment increased by almost 15% between Dec 2019 and Feb 2021.



Upcoming Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021
NJDA Officer's Visitation
Time: 6:30 PM TO 9:30 PM
Location: Hyatt Regency,
Princeton

2 CE

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Mercer Dental Society Calendar

Click Here to see the meeting schedule.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Meet The Board

Click here to meet the members of the Board.

[CLICK HERE](#)

MDS April 2021 Newsletter

Click here to view last month's newsletter.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Welcome to MDS



Mercer Dental Society is excited to announce that our website www.mercerdentalsociety.com has a fresh new look!!

Mercer Dental Society Opportunities:

Become a more active member by joining a Committee or consider a more prominent role in the Executive Board.

- Attend periodic meetings
- Deepen business relationships
- Forge new contacts
- Discuss details of legislative developments that impact dentistry

Please contact MDS Nominations Chair
Dr. Suzanne Reinhardt
suzannereinhardt@gmail.com



**Mercer Dental Society Executive
Committee Members,
Dr. Radwa Saad
Dr. Lorraine Kosztyu
Dr. Janhavi Rane
Dr. Sid Whitman
at the New Jersey Dental
Association President's luncheon.**

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
Open Position