

MERCER DENTAL SOCIETY

Professional Dental Association of Mercer County, NJ

SEPTEMBER 2023



Tuesday, September 12th, 2023

6:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Registration from 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm

**Princeton Marriott at Forrestal Village
100 College Rd E, Princeton, NJ 08540**

NJDA OFFICER VISITATION



Dr. Renee Arace
President, NJDA



Dr. Elisa Velasquez
President Elect



Dr. Mark Vitale
NJPAC



Jim Schultz
NJPAC



Please scan the QR code to register or visit
www.mercerdentalsociety.com

Members: All meetings and Dinners are Complimentary
Non Members: First meeting is Complimentary after that \$65

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

Tuesday, 9/12/23
September Member Meeting:
NJDA Officer Visitation

MDS Calendar 2023-24

MDS President: Dr. Cathy Hung

MDS Secretary: Dr. Sara Siddiqui

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

New Dentist Committee:
Dr. Sehla Wani

MDS Executive Committee
MDS Sponsors

MDS Executive Secretary:
Jolanta Matusiak Gora

Newsletter & Social Media:
Geetu Gupta



Meet Dr. Sara Siddiqui, the new MDS Secretary

Dr. Sara Siddiqui is the new secretary of the Mercer Dental Society. She moved to Mercer County from New York City last year. Her interest in organized dentistry began when she joined the MDS and she is excited to bring about new ideas with her colleagues. She is looking forward to helping the MDS grow and working with members to give back to the community.

Mercer Dental Society Calendar for 2022-23

<p>9/12/23 6:30 pm</p>	<p>NJDA Officer Visitation</p>	<p>Princeton Marriott at Forrestal 100 College Rd E Princeton, NJ 08540</p>
<p>11/14/23 6:30 pm</p>	 <p>Dr. Davis Thomas Asst. Clin Prof, Rutgers University Diplomate, American Board of Orofacial Pain Fellow, American Academy of Orofacial Pain</p>	<p>Systemic Factors Influencing The Experience Of Pain</p>
<p>1/16/24 6:30 pm</p>	 <p>Dr. James Lee ADA Chair of the New Dentists Committee</p>	<p>Talks about New Dentists Virtual Format</p>
<p>3/19/24 6:30 pm</p>	 <p>Dr. Steven Singer Professor and Chair: Department of Diagnostic Sciences Interim Director: Division of Oral & Maxillofacial Radiology Rutgers School of Dental Medicine</p>	<p>CBCT: Interpreting normal and abnormal findings</p>
<p>5/21/24 6:30 pm</p>	 <p>Dr. Matin Imanguli, MD Assistant Professor - Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Division of Head and Neck Surgical Oncology Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Associate Member - Rutgers Cancer Institute of NJ</p>	<p>Update on management of oral cancer</p>

Dr. Cathy Hung **President, Mercer Dental Society**

Greetings, colleagues of Mercer Dental Society:

Our first event of the year kicks off on September 12 as NJDA leadership visits Mercer Dental Society at Princeton Marriott at Forrestal. Dr. Renee Arace, president of NJDA and Dr. Elisa Velasquez, president elect of NJDA, as well as Dr Mark Vitale and Jim Schultz from NJPAC will speak on important issues happening on the state and national level. I am especially excited about this year's leadership as many are friends and colleagues with similar visions, and the camaraderie is strong within the organization.



In my span of twenty years plus of career, I have always believed in servant leadership, that is, to give before to receive. It has always been my personal mantra and I have been very fortunate to bond with incredibly brilliant colleagues I call friends, along my personal and professional journey to strive for higher goals. To me, communication and transparency is key to success in any type of group setting, particularly in organized dentistry where we are forced to step out from our comfort zones and somewhat siloed environment of daily practice and work towards common goals. For this year, I would envision that we continue to succeed in recruiting more members and make the society grow past COVID pandemic, and that our component society continues to represent strongly to NJDA on different fronts.

Our newly-established New Dentist Committee will be hosting our first new dentist event on the component level in the Fall to connect with new dentists practicing less than ten years. We strongly encourage you to spread the word about this event and contact us for participation and conversation. More details to follow. As far as continuing education, we have a new lineup of speakers this year who are leaders in the field, bringing you various topics of interest. Our January virtual CE will be given by the ADA New Dentists Committee Chair, Dr. James Lee from Massachusetts, to inform us what is going on with new dentists on the national level. New dentists are roughly one-third of all dentist members according to ADA statistics, and are at the critical mass of making social impacts for our dental profession. Therefore, I strongly believe that our future is represented by the new dentist sector of our workforce.

I will be signing off from the first cohort of the Wellness Ambassador program, supported by the Dental Team Wellness Advisory Committee of Council on Dental Practice of ADA, and handing my baton to the second cohort in the first week of September in Chicago Headquarter. Great news is that my job does not end here as a wellness ambassador. Throughout a year of conversation, the New Jersey Dental Association is working on opening a new tab under NJDA.org and we will be bringing in more resources regarding dental wellness, including but not limited to: work-life balance, managing pregnancy, mental health, ergonomics, and so forth. I will continue to bridge conversations between the state and national level to funnel information pertinent to dentists.

As some of you might know, my life's work is diversity and inclusion. I am currently working with different organizations in different capacities to promote diversity and inclusion and I shall update you with the progress in the next months to come. Mercer Dental Society has been one of the most diverse component societies and we are proud to say that our differences bring in innovative ideas to help us thrive.

Colleagues and friends, I encourage your support and I would love to see more of you attending our fantastic CE courses this year. I want to thank the entire Executive Board for their relentless work behind the scenes to make great things happen. It is not possible without passionate minds to volunteer their time and energy to sustain organized dentistry in today's climate.

Cheers to a wonderful year ahead!!

Council On Government and Public Affairs
Dr. Fred Babinowich

State Legislative Update:

Senate Bill 3938:

This bill will allow dentists and hygienists to be able to move and practice in another state. It will create reciprocity among participating states and reduce barriers to license portability. Right now two states have past similar bills (Washington and Minnesota). Fifteen states are working on this bill with NJ being one of them. There will be more uniformity with rules and regulations between states that have approved this bill. Also if a dentist or hygienist has been disciplined in a state, the state boards of other states that have approved this bill will be informed. Presently this is not the case. There is concern that the autonomy of the state boards would be effected by the passage of this bill. But nothing in the legislation takes away the rights of the licensing boards for discipline oversight, for the scope of practice or for continuing education requirements. A point to mention is if a hygienist is expanded duties in a state she will not be able to preform these duties if the state she moves into does not allow expanded duties.



The Department of Defense has been pushing this idea. When military personal are transferred to another state their spouses who are dentists are having difficulty in getting a license to practice in the new state. NJDA supports this Bill.

Assembly Bill 1580:

This bill exempts personal protective equipment from sales and use tax because they are essential and required products used by dental professionals when treating patients. Personal protective equipment means coveralls, face shields, gloves, masks respirators, and other equipment to protect the wearer from the spread of infection. NJDA supports this Bill.

Assembly Bill 5480:

This bill lowers the age and education requirements to qualify as a radiology technician from 18 to 16. It will allow students enrolled in qualified secondary school or its equivalent to qualify for the program without needing a high school diploma or its equivalent. This legislation will help dentist with the current workforce shortage. NJDA supports this Bill.

Assembly Bill 4913:

This bill will prohibit the health insurance companies from issuing virtual credit cards for claims payment. While Dental offices can process these payments it has been reported that this form of claims payment regularly carries a higher percentage than a traditional credit card or debit cards. It is the NJDA's position that dental practices should not be paying processing fees for claims issued by insurance carriers. NJDA supports this Bill.

Assembly Bill 3866:

Presently the Federal Trade Commission does not allow dentist to get together to negotiate with insurance companies. This bill will allow all competitors (dentists) to join together to negotiate with insurance companies. Understand that this bill does violate the federal antitrust provisions but the bill is set up so that any negotiations will be under the supervision of the state attorney general. So dentists a a group could negotiate.

Presently this bill is in its early stages. There was some discussion at the meeting how this would be implemented. I argued that NJDA should be the one negotiating with the insurance companies and not say like 50 dentist from Bergen County.

Assembly Bill 5434:

Presently Delta is no longer the number one provider of dental insurance in the state. As we all know Delta's reimbursements have gone down while their premiums to the patients have gone up. Delta is having a problem with an increase in competition with medical insurance companies. Since 95% of the people with dental insurance do not max out medical insurance companies are now offering dental coverage when they negotiate with companies and organizations like the Trenton Board of Education. This bill will not change the dental service practice act but it allows Delta Dental to expand into other non dental areas. Its purpose is to improve the health and viability of dental service corporations that only provide one line of health benefits in the marketplace.

NJDA supports this bill. The idea is that if Delta can improve its solvency and cash position they will increase their reimbursements to participating dentist.

New Business:

The council voted unanimously to support a bill to exempt oral hygiene products from sales and used tax. We would not be the first state to do this. Maryland and Florida have already done this. There will be a cost to the state of New Jersey of about \$5 million dollars. The bill would classify items like toothpaste, mouth rinses, and dental floss as essential. I stated to the council that with the numerous interrelationships between periodontal disease and medical issues (diabetes and heart problems) there is no doubt that home care products are essential in maintaining good oral and medical health.

To summarize there are dozens of bills on the floor of the Assembly and Senate with a direct or indirect effect on dentistry. That is why it is so important to support our Political Action Committee. Presently there are 525 dentists in Mercer County. 259 or 49% are members of Mercer Dental Society. Out of these member dentists only 26% contribute to PAC. Although Mercer ranks fourth in participation out of the 12 counties with PAC we still can do better.

New Dentist Social

10/11/23
6 pm to 8 pm

Great opportunity for the new Dentists to network, meet and socialize!!

KC prime
restaurant steakhouse

4160 Quakerbridge Rd
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

For more details please reach out to:

MDS New Dentist Committee Chair
Dr. Sehla Wani
drsehlawani@gmail.com

New Dentists Committee Members

Dr. Sara Siddiqui
sarasid158@gmail.com

Dr. Bhumika Patel
bhumikapatel126@gmail.com



Dr. Sehla Wani

Special Olympics Special Smiles®



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Saturday, November 4, 2023
Lawrenceville, NJ

- Dentists
- Dental Assistants
- Dental Hygienists
- Students and general volunteers

Follow Mercer Dental Society on social media for latest updates!!



Dear MDS members,

Please visit our vendors at our upcoming September meeting. You will have a chance to win a \$100 Amazon gift card or a talking hamster!! Members get one raffle ticket for every sponsor they visit.



Our vendor sponsors for September will be:

- o ZimVie
- o WEO Media
- o HioSsen
- o Itero/Align Technologies
- o Straumann/ITI
- o Envista (Implant Direct)

If you any have suggestions for vendors whom might be possible sponsors, please reach out to Dr. Ruchi Batra, MDS Chair for the Sponsorship Committee at rb352@gmail.com

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