MERCER DENTAL SOCIETY

Professional Dental Association of Mercer County, NJ

Dr. Radwaa Saad, President, MDS

Dear Members,

It is of great honor to have this opportunity to serve Mercer Dental Society as your President. We had a successful year last year, and this could not be possible without the collaborative work from MDS's officers and staff members, as well as support from the members and our corporate sponsors. I first want to sincerely thank our immediate past president, Dr. Priti Dagli, for her amazing dedication and efforts in leading Mercer Dental Society. Dr. Dagli put in a lot of time organizing behind the scenes in order to streamline our event planning, aloneside with other members of the Executive Board. We are very grateful for her leadership.

Mercer Dental Society has a strong representation at the NJDA level and we strive to continue to thrive. We are looking positively at another strong year. We need your active participation in educational and social events and we would love to see you bring your colleagues to our events. Our corporate sponsors are very supportive in seeing dentists' success through continuing education events, and Mercer Dental Society will continue to bring in great speakers that will help you to fulfill your state requirements.

I would encourage members to look out for potential open positions to volunteer your time to Mercer Dental Society as we want to carry on the torch that has been passed down for many years. The best time is now and it is never too early to get involved in organized dentistry. Believe in the power of organized dentistry especially in the times of COVID. Together we can do more.

I look forward to meeting everyone soon, and wish everyone health, happiness and prosperity in the upcoming year!

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

Tuesday, 9/20/22
September Member Meeting:
NJDA Officer Visitation

MDS Calendar 2022-23

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

Board of Trustees Report:
Dr. Janhavi Rane

MDS Executive Committee
MDS Sponsors

Tuesday, 9/20/22

NJDA Officer Visitation

6:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Crowne Plaza Princeton, 900 Scudders Mill Road, Plainsboro, NJ 08536

Scan the QR code 👇 to Register

Registrations can also be made on MDS website
www.mercerdentalsociety.com

Members: All Meetings and Dinners are Complimentary

Non Members: First Meeting is Complimentary after that $65pp

Please email MDS Executive Secretary, Jolanta@exesec.mds@gmail.com with any questions.

Mercer Dental Society Calendar for 2022-23		
9/20/22	NJDA Officers Visitation	
11/15/22	Dr. Thomas Sollecito	Oral Complications of Cancer Therapy
1/17/23	Dr. Maria Marangia 2nd Vice President of the ADA	Pathways to Leadership Location: Virtual
3/14/23	Dr. David Thomas	Sleep Medicine
5/16/23	TBA	TBA

Meet Dr. Roena Romero, the new MDS Secretary.

Dr. Roena Romero
MDS Secretary

If you were to ask Dr. Romero where she is from, she would probably tell you "everywhere". She was born and raised a Navy Brat in Japan then moved to San Diego to attend the University of California, San Diego. At UCSD, she received her B.S in Biochemistry and Cell Biology and double minored in Political Science and Japanese studies. Dr. Romero then went on to attend the University of the Pacific, School of Dentistry in San Francisco and graduated with a Doctorate of Dental Surgery in 2002.

Starting off her dental career in San Diego, she worked at the Sycuan Medical Dental Center on the Sycuan Indian Reservation. Her husband's training and career as a veterinary surgeon moved them to Colorado, Michigan and finally to the East coast.

For the past decade, Dr. Romero worked as an associate in Newtown, PA while making time to participate in her children's activities through the PTA and leading their Girl Scout troops. Dr. Romero finally decided that it was time to venture out on her own and recently opened her own practice in West Windsor, NJ.

Mercer Dental Society wants you to consider becoming a more involved member!!

Forge new contacts and deepen business relationships with other Dentists.

Become more informed and help have an impact on legislative developments that impact dentistry.

Join us for the September meeting and bring some friends!

Open positions:
Sponsorship Committee Chair
Bylaw Committee Chair
Delegate to attend the NJDA meetings
Executive Committee Member at large

Contact suzannereinhardt@gmail.com for more information.

Dr. Suzanne Reinhardt
Chair, Nominations Committee
Mercer Dental Society

Council On Government and Public Affairs
Dr. Fred Babinowich

Jim Schultz is meeting with several legislators and staff to discuss modernizing the provider and insured notification process in NJ to increase transparency for both the patients and the doctors.

NJDA is looking to develop a partnership with the New Jersey Dental Assistant Association to help address the dental assistants shortage.

Jim Schultz has met with legislators on Hospital expansion. Jim discussed with them the opening of a new residency program at Cooper Hospital. There has been some discussion on having mandatory GPR program for graduating dental students. Problems with this program will be calibration, implementation, and the ability to place NJ's own students. Another problem is ADA is trying to make it easier for dentists to be licensed in other states and this would make it more difficult for the state of NJ.

Nationally there appears to be a waning for id level provider based on interest, cost of education and policy arguments. NJDA intends on staying vigilant with the subject even though there is a waning interest in the policy among some of the major foundations like the Pew Charitable Trust.

NJDA is working to obtain an assembly sponsor to help the branch office license problem. There has been major delays in obtaining branch office license. NJDA has joined other licensee associations who are also frustrated with the endemic problems with the NJ division of Consumer Affairs to push legislation to correct this problem.

The Life Hazard Permit ($974 a year) has been applied to dental offices that use sedation which can render patients ambulatory and thereby require special equipment to remove them from the premises. Art Meisel said that the 45 day period has past for determining findings and conclusions regarding the application of this law to dental offices. The next order is for the administrative law judge to mail to all parties the proposed findings of facts and conclusion. NJDA has not yet received these items as of April 6th. Once NJDA receives them it has the ability to agree or disagree with the findings. The Department of Community Affairs will then make its final determination.

The disallow legislation has passed the NJ Senate 38-0-2. It now moves to the Assembly. This legislation prevents an insurance company form not paying a dental claim if they disallow the procedure. The dentist will need to obtain a written informed consent from the patient prior to the procedure being performed. This legislation gives patients information to make their dental health determinations and ensures that practitioners will be fairly compensated for their care.

NJDA is supporting legislation to exempt personal protective equipment from sales and use tax.

NJDA is supporting legislation to prevent insurance carriers from offering Dental Benefit Plans with waiting periods.

Lastly please consider contributing to ADA and NJDA PACs. We need members financial support in order to continue our efforts in monitoring legislation at the state and federal levels and to help protect the livelihoods of our members.

Board of Trustees Meeting Update
By Dr. Janhavi Rane, Trustee Mercer County Dental Society
Held at NJDA headquarters in North Brunswick, NJ on 8/10/2022

The minutes of the April 27, 2022 meeting were approved.

Council Reports

Council on Annual Session - Next year NJDA will be offering a destination conference, one full day of CE and all of the new State Board mandated requirements can be taken that day, an event will follow in the evening. Dates in April or May 2023 are being considered.

Council on Dental Benefits - Discussed fully insured plans and self-funded plans along with overpayments. There is an insurance online seminar on August 25th regarding self-funded plans.

Membership – Dr. Janhavi Rane is the New Chair of the Membership Council. The numbers for membership year for 8/2022 are same as of 8/2021. The first Membership Council meeting will be held on September 19th, 2022.

Governmental & Public Affairs - The work force is working with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, as there is an overall national shortage. Licensure issues are being addressed and discussed with new hire on state level to help with license issuance delay issues.
The Disallow bill is passed by the Senate, and next goes to Assembly at end of summer break.
The Spa grant has been approved by the ADA for July 2022 through December 2022.
Prescribing opioids for chronic pain only and prescribing antidote along with prescription info is on the website.

Peer Review- reported numbers/percentages for peer review 2021 and 2022.

Committee Reports

Finance & Investment- F&I are on task for preparing budget for 2023, as final drafts have been completed. Dr. Vora will be reviewing RBC investments.

Management Succession- the search firm Kittleman and Associates will interview some key employees and then meet with the search committee to discuss Executive Director position.

Continuing Education- The Oral Diagnostic Test is available on NJDA's website offering members 1 CEU at no cost. A new test is offering members this benefit 4 times per year. NJDA's Lunch Session Seriescontinues exclusively for member's staff.
CPR Certification -there are 3 certification options available each month. Information on NJDA website.
NJ ID Team will offer the second session at NJDA Headquarters on September 28th, 2022, 9:00am-5:00pm. Members interested in being on the NJ ID Team need to participate in these programs.
Rapid Resource Day- NJDA's NEW interactive education has 3 October dates / 3 sessions each day.
Shredding will be available from 10:00am -2:00pm at each location.

Non-Dues Revenue- No meeting to date but reported on NEW programs and advertising in development for 2023, which include a Commuter Series that will be live on The NJDA On-Demand Platform.

Rules and Order- The committee which includes Drs. Peter DeSciscio, Antoinette Tauk, Ed Tirpack and Kevin Corry, and one additional member to be named will be reviewing the by-laws and rules of the board.

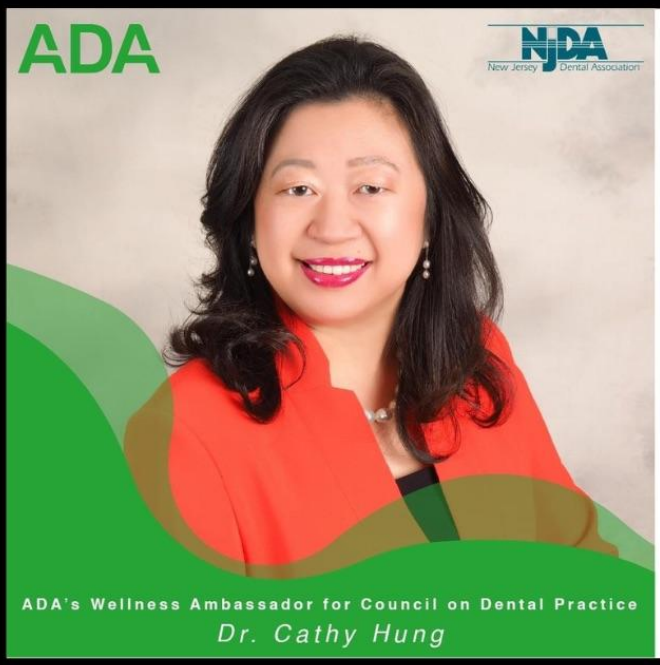
NJDPAC – Discussed self-funded vs fully ins plan, and Medicaid, In-office plans, third party payers andLicense portability-state to state for army/military.
There is a golf outing event scheduled on October 28, 2022.
The importance of contributions and component involvement was emphasized.

Other Reports

Emphasized the importance of growing AMT. Members should be reminded to call AMT to get a quote.
In-office dental plans, as per the State Board of Dentistry must be available to all patients with or without insurance.
A motion was made and approved to make the services of Arthur Meisel, Esq. available through December 31, 2022, to appeal the decision of the Department Community Affairs.
Commuter's Series looking to join for the D4's and a social to follow.
Info was given on celebratory event honoring Past President Dr. Luciano Ghisalberti on Sept 10, 2022.

President's report- Dr. DeSciscio discussed the new direction for membership to focus on non-owner dentists (associates and fulltime dental school faculty).

Vice President-Dr. Elisa Velazquez gave report, attended the State Board of Dentistry meetings
Social media task force will recruit new members in fall.
The next Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for Wednesday September 21, 2022.



Mercer Dental Society Vice President, Dr. Cathy Hung was appointed as the Wellness Ambassador for ADA's Council on Dental Practice. This program is a pioneer cohort for dental wellness especially on suicide prevention, in lieu with COVID's impact on Dentists.

Dr. Janhavi Rane, current Trustee for Mercer Dental Society has been appointed the new Chair of the Membership Council for the New Jersey Dental Association

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Suzanne Gilman Esq. LLC

Legal Guidance for Dental Professionals

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

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Mercer Dental Society

Meet the MDS Board 2022-23

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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