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News You Need

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Free Keynote, Courses, Events Highlight this Year's Annual Session in Lansing — Be There and Bring Your Team

A free keynote address — “Pursue Your Purpose, Not Your Dreams: The Hidden Life Curriculum that All Dental Professionals Need to Know” — is sure to be a “don’t miss” event at the 2024 MDA Annual Session, April 17-20 at the Lansing Center in downtown Lansing.

The Keynote Address takes place Thursday, April 18, from 3:30 until 4:30 and features the well-known speaker Joe Johnson, PhD. The program is open to all Annual Session attendees and offers one CE credit.

As Johnson says, “The world we live in continues to evolve. However, the way we’ve been taught, and the knowledge received from traditional education has not always evolved at the same rate.” He adds, “What if dental professionals were able to increase their understanding of what’s needed to create the life and career they desire?”

According to Johnson, participants will learn how to discover the power of awareness and accountability, learn the importance of being a disruptor, and understand the power of building the right team.

The keynote address is designed for every member of the dental team. The keynote is just one of more than 60 continuing dental education courses available at Annual



Johnson

Session for dentists, hygienists, assistants, and office personnel. There’s much more, too, at this year’s in-person Annual Session. Highlights include:

CE for everyone: Annual Session — as always — is chock-full of great continuing education, so be sure to spread the news about Annual Session to your dental team. Bringing your staff to Annual Session is a fantastic team-building experience, plus an easy way to get the CE they need — especially those courses mandated by the state of Michigan. Providing CE is a great benefit, one that helps you recruit and retain staff as well.

Bonus Day with Gordon Christensen: On Wednesday, April 17 the MDA will present Dr. Gordon Christensen with “The Christensen Bottom Line 2024,” an all-day session including continental breakfast and lunch. This popular, fast-moving course is open to the entire dental team and covers the areas of dentistry with the most activity and change during the past year. The program offers six CE credits, and also counts toward the MDA Certified Dental Business Professional program, for two credits in the clinical basics category.

New dentist course track: Annual Session again features a special grouping of courses targeted specifically for new dentists, dental residents, and dental students. These courses have been selected and recommended by the MDA New Dentist Committee. Some of them are listed in this month’s “CE Spotlight” department on Page 71 — you’ll find all of them at annualsession.michigandental.org. Register for any of them and you can attend this year’s New Dentist Network Lounge on Friday, April 19, at no charge.

Leadership track.: Check out this year’s Leadership Track, with eight courses across three days to accelerate your leadership skills. See your *Annual Session Preview* for details.

Exhibits! The MDA Exhibit Hall — Michigan’s largest dental expo — will be open two full days, Thursday, April 18 and Friday, April 19, with more than 100 exhibitors. Stop by for special promotions, helpful advice, and the newest dental products. While you’re there, grab coffee at the MDA Welcome Center, then be sure to visit the MDA-Endorsed Provider Aisle, with even more great exhibitor values.

For complete details, see the *Annual Session Preview* in last month’s *Journal*, or visit annualsession.michigandental.org. Affordable CE for you and your staff, plus great special events — it’s all yours at Annual Session — see you there!

For On-Site Information, Download the MDA App

Download the free MDA Connection app for quick access to the most-important Annual Session information. Click the Annual Session button from the home screen for daily schedules, speaker lineup, and quick access to the MDA Annual Session website. And, don’t forget to allow push notifications after installing for access to important information and updates on-site.

To download the app, search “MDA Connection” on the Apple App Store and on Google Play.

Note: There will be no on-site printed program this year, so be sure to download the app!



2024 ANNUAL SESSION

mda michigan dental ASSOCIATION
YOUR CONNECTION TO ORAL HEALTH™

Candidate Slate Released for this Year's MDA House

The MDA House of Delegates Nominating Committee on Feb. 6 announced its slate of candidates for the positions of MDA president-elect, secretary/treasurer, trustee, and ADA delegation, to take effect after April 20 for the 2024-25 MDA administrative year.

Open positions and candidates include the following:

MDA president-elect (one to be elected)

Dr. Jerry Kohen, Dr. Cheri Newman.

MDA secretary/treasurer (one to be elected)

Dr. Christopher Gorecki.

MDA trustee (three-year term) (three to be elected)

Dr. Naila Farooq, Dr. Graham Greenland, Dr. Michael Haddow, Dr. Jerry Kohen, Dr. Cheri Newman, Dr. Tamar Shrikian. Note: If either Kohen or Newman are elected as president-elect, their respective name will be removed from the trustee ballot.

ADA delegation (17 to be elected; three delegates and 14 alternates)

Dr. Vincent Benivegna, Dr. Lisa Christy, Dr. Margaret Gingrich, Dr. Graham Greenland, Dr. Humaira Habibi Majjhoo, Dr. Raymond Kim, Dr. Elizabeth Knudsen, Dr. Maria Manautou, Dr. Daniel Miller, Dr. Cate Nelson, Dr. Donald Park, Dr. Hayley Popp, Dr. Erick Rupprecht, Dr. Riley Schaff, Dr. Gary Scott, Dr. Tamar Shrikian, Dr. Tamika



Kohen



Newman



Gorecki

Thompson, Dr. Sarah Tomaka, Dr. Benjamin Underwood, Dr. Lauryne Vanderhoof, Dr. Alexa Vitek-Hitchcock. If Greenland and/or Shrikian are elected as trustee, their respective name(s) will be removed from the ballot for the ADA Delegation, as they will automatically be included.

The next opportunity for candidates to be considered for nomination will be at the House of Delegates meeting taking place Thursday, April 18, via nomination from the floor of the House of Delegates. Anyone interested in self-nominating from the floor of the House should contact the MDA's Michelle Nichols-Cruz at mcruz@michigandental.org in advance for information about the process and paperwork required.

The application, curriculum vitae, conflict of interest statement, and contact information of all candidates will be available this month for viewing on the "Candidates for Office" page of the MDA website.

Questions regarding the nomination process should be directed to Election Commission Chair Dr. Deb Peters at debraadds@gmail.com.

Nominating Committee members include Dr. Vince Benivegna (chair), Dr. Michael Dincau, Dr. John Leitner, Dr. Niman Shukairy, Dr. William Ballard, Dr. Josiah Most, Dr. Michael Peters, Dr. John Kamar, Dr. Curt Ralstrom, Dr. Jaime Reichlmayr, Dr. Brandon Knapp, Dr. Marvin Sonne, and Dr. Matthew Logan. Dr. Eric Knudsen, MDA president, is a non-voting member of the committee.

Trustee Candidate Forum: The MDA is seeking questions from members to include in a Trustee Candidate Forum taking place Thursday, April 18 during the Annual Session in Lansing. Candidates for positions on the MDA Board of Trustees will answer questions submitted by MDA members.

To submit questions, email the MDA's Michelle Nichols-Cruz at mcruz@michigandental.org before April 1. Trustee elections will take place April 20 at the second House session.

Foundation Sparkling Smiles Event Returns to Annual Session

As part of your 2024 Annual Session experience, join your colleagues at the Michigan Dental Association Foundation for the 2024 Sparkling Smiles Celebration, taking place Wednesday, April 17 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Marriott Hotel at University Place in East Lansing, with complimentary food and beverages.

The Sparkling Smiles Celebration celebrates the Foundation's grant, scholarship, and partnership programs — and the extraordinary donors and volunteers who make it all happen. The event is open to all interested Annual

Session attendees to introduce them to the Foundation and hear stories from people who help and have been the beneficiaries of Foundation activities around the state.

It's sure to be an event to remember — to take part, RSVP to foundation@michigandental.org, or call 800-589-2632 and ask for the MDA Foundation. If you're unable to attend and would like to make a contribution to improve dental health or honor Foundation donors, visit the MDA Foundation website at foundation.michigandental.org.

See also the advertisement on Page 61.



MDA SERVICE PROMISE

The MDA Service Promise: Helping You Succeed

The MDA works hard to provide the very highest level of service to members. The MDA stands ready to help you access member benefits such as insurance products, endorsed services, continuing education, dental supplies, and more. Plus, the MDA is your resource to answer questions about human resources, licensure, dental benefits, HIPAA/OSHA, legal questions – everything about dentistry in Michigan.

The MDA Service Promise to you:

HELPFULNESS

The MDA will work hard to make sure your individual needs are met in a timely manner.

KNOWLEDGE

The MDA will be your information resource, providing you with what you need to know, no matter what your practice setting or stage of practice.

HONESTY

The MDA will be your trusted source for accurate information, and will offer options to address your particular challenges.

VALUE

The MDA will seek your input to create products, services, benefits and resources to enhance value and help you succeed.



For more information:
michigandental.org/Service-Promise

KEEPING CURRENT

Events and Such

To publicize a local meeting or dental event in this space, contact Jackie Hammond at jhammond@michigandental.org. Continuing education courses are listed in the *Journal* Continuing Education department on Page 70 of this issue.

March 4 — Bylaws Language Review Committee via Zoom, 7 p.m.

March 6 — MDA President's Visit, Detroit District Dental Society, 6 p.m.

March 7 — Committee on Peer Review/Dental Care, 9 a.m.

March 8 — New Dentist Committee via Zoom, 7 a.m.

March 8 — MDA Foundation Board, 9 a.m.

March 11 — MDA President's Visit, Washtenaw District. Weber's Inn, Ann Arbor, 6 p.m.

March 12 — MDA Presidents Visit, Muskegon District. The Lake House, Muskegon, 5:30 p.m.

March 13 — MDA Presidents Visit, Saginaw Valley District. Midland, 5:30 p.m.

March 13 — Membership Committee via Zoom, 7 p.m.

March 14 — Finance Committee via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.

March 15 — Committee on Peer Review/Ethics, 8 a.m.

March 15 — Committee on Government and Insurance Affairs, 8 a.m.

March 15 — Executive Committee via Zoom, 9 a.m.

March 15 — Mission of Mercy Committee, Dort Financial Center, Flint, 1:30 p.m.

March 15 — MDA President's Visit, West Michigan District. Cascade Hills Country Club, Grand Rapids, 6:15 p.m.

March 21 — Committee on Peer Review/Health and Well-Being, 8 a.m.

March 26 — House of Delegates Orientation via Zoom, 7 p.m.

Welcome, New Members!

The MDA is pleased to officially welcome the following individuals into membership:

Cloverland: Sarah Hoffmeister; Detroit:

Halima Abukabbos, Anshita Agarwal, Akosua Appiagyei, Carolin Ibrahim,

Sangeeta Juneja, Ruaa Waely; **Jackson:**

Paridhi Kimble; **Livingston:** Steven Bryson;

Macomb: Ray-an Buhay, Jessica Kowynia;

Muskegon: Jacob Streng; **Oakland County:**

Fadi Abshara; **Resort:** Adalene Chabon;

Saginaw Valley: Joshua Leal; **Southwestern:**

Khalid Sajjad; **Vacationland:** Christopher

Gamble, William Koenig; **Washtenaw:** John

Bazzi, Joshua Deuel; **West Michigan:** Sara

Schwager.

In Memoriam

Dr. Thomas Bennett, Paw Paw.

Kalamazoo Valley District. Died Oct. 16, 2022. Age, 79.

Dr. Aimee Matthews, Lincoln Park. Detroit District. Died Jan. 18, 2024. Age, 30.

Dr. James E. Wright, Bloomfield Hills. Oakland County District. Died Jan. 29, 2024. Age, 74.

BHS Disciplinary Report

Visit www.michigan.gov/lara to access the latest disciplinary reports for dentists, registered dental hygienists, and registered dental assistants. You may also check any licensee for disciplinary actions at the same web address.

Self-Reporting of Criminal Convictions and Disciplinary Licensing Actions

Section 16222(3) of Michigan's Public Health Code requires any licensee or registrant to self-report to the Department of Community Health a criminal conviction or a disciplinary licensing or registration action taken by the state of Michigan or by another state against the licensee or registrant. The report must be made within 30 days after the date of the conviction or action. Convictions and/or disciplinary actions that have been stayed pending appeal must still be reported.

Should the licensee or registrant fail to report, and the Department becomes aware of the conviction or action, an allegation will be filed against the licensee or registrant. Sanctions for failing to report can include reprimand, probation, suspension, restitution, community service, denial or fine. For more information contact the MDA's Ginger Fernandez at 800-589-2632, ext. 430.

Free Suicide Prevention Webinar Scheduled

In recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month, the MDA will present “QPR: Protocol for Inspiring Hope to Individuals Experiencing Suicidal Crises,” a live webinar taking place Wednesday, May 15 from 7 until 8:30 p.m. Eastern time. The speaker will be Juliette Daniels, EdD, with 1.5 hours of CE credit.



Daniels

QPR stands for *Question, Persuade, and Refer* — three steps anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide. Just as people trained in CPR and the Heimlich Maneuver help save thousands of lives each year, people trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help.

The speaker is the assistant dean of student services and enrollment management at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry. She is a trained suicide prevention protocol trainer and a Deputy Title IX Coordinator.

As Daniels says, “QPR Training reinforces that quality education empowers all people, regardless of their background, to make a positive difference in the life of someone they know.”

At the end of the course, attendees will be able to identify:

- the warning signs of suicide.
- risk and protective factors for suicide.
- how to help someone in a mental health crisis.

This webinar is free for MDA members and staff (\$35 for non-members). For more information or to register, visit michigandental.org, click on Continuing Education, then Find CE Courses, then MDA CE Live: Virtual.

NEWS BRIEFS

Detroit Mercy Alumni to Host Reception at Annual Session

Detroit Mercy Dental will hold an Alumni Networking Reception on Thursday, April 18, during the MDA Annual Session in Lansing. The event, hosted by Detroit Mercy Dental Dean Dr. Mert Aksu, will take place from 5:30 until 7 p.m. at Lansing Brewing Company, 518 E. Shiawassee Street, Lansing, MI 48912, located just a few steps from the Lansing Center, host venue of the Annual Session. To RSVP for the reception, contact Amy Percha at perchaae@udmercy.edu.

Detroit Mercy Alumni Relations staff will also greet alumni, family, friends and students at a booth on the MDA Annual Session exhibit floor.

Dental Editors, Writers to Meet

The American Association of Dental Editors and Journalists will hold its 2024 Dental Editors University May 2-3, 2024, at the Daniel Laskin Institute of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons in Rosemont, Ill.

Dental editors, component executive directors, writers, and anyone interested in dental journalism and communication are encouraged to attend. The seminar will offer credits toward the Certified Dental Editor certification. Information on fees, speakers, and courses is available on the AADEJ website at www.aadej.org, or email Denise Maihofer, AADEJ executive director, at denise.aadej@gmail.com.

Is Your Find-A-Dentist Profile Up to Date?

The MDA's Find-A-Dentist feature on the MDA public-facing website smilemichigan.com receives thousands of visitors each month. And with all those visitors, it's important that your profile on the Find-A-Dentist feature is up to date. Is yours?

Note that profiles featuring photos, email addresses, website links, and other key details appear higher on the page when patients are searching for a dentist. For example, profiles with photos receive 11 times more clicks compared to the profiles without photos.

Maximize the value of this *free* marketing channel by updating your profile at www.ada.org/updatenow.

Names in the News

Congratulations to **Dr. Daniel Eisinger**, of Burton, who recently joined the executive committee of the Detroit Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Great volunteerism! Eisinger has also been active with Genesee District Dental Society and has served as an alternate delegate to the MDA House of Delegates. MDA member **Dr. Colette Smiley**, of Grand Rapids, serves as co-chair of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Michigan and Indiana, which is the parent organization of the Detroit society.



Eisinger



Smiley

MDHHS Announces Water Fluoridation Quality Recipients

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Oral Health Program on Jan. 23 announced the Water Fluoridation Quality Award recipients from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The award recognizes communities that achieved excellence in community water fluoridation by maintaining a consistent level of fluoride in drinking water.

“Fluoride is a mineral that prevents tooth decay and supports healthy bones,” said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, chief medical executive. “These awards demonstrate the commitment to quality by these community water systems. Water fluoridation benefits all residents and it has demonstrated its effectiveness in preventing tooth decay throughout an individual’s lifetime.”

“Water fluoridation is one of the best investments that a community can make in maintaining the oral health of its citizens. It is equally as effective in preventing cavities in children and adults,” said Gina Thornton-Evans, DDS, MPH, acting director, CDC Division of Oral Health. “Fluoridation is also highly cost-effective. Studies continue to show that for every \$1 a community invests in water fluoridation, \$20 are saved in dental treatment costs.”

Community water fluoridation has been recognized by the CDC as one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century. The CDC recommends water fluorida-

tion as one of the most practical, cost-effective, equitable, and safe measures a community can take to prevent tooth decay and improve oral health.

In 2022, a total of 1,209 public water systems in 27 states received these awards, including 75 systems in Michigan. They include: Adrian, Algonac, Alpena, Ann Arbor, Baraga, Battle Creek-Verona System, Bay Area Water System, Benton Township, Big Rapids, Bridgman, Buchanan, Great Lakes Water Authority, Dexter, East Jordan, East Lansing Meridian Water Authority, Eaton Rapids, Elk Rapids, Escanaba Water Dept, Fenton, Frenchtown Township, Gladstone Water Dept., Grand Ledge, Grand Rapids, Gratiot Area Water Authority, Harbor Springs, Hillsdale, Holland board of Public Works, Howell, Huron Shore Regional Utility Authority, Ionia, Jackson, Jonesville, K.I. Sawyer, Kalamazoo, Lake Odessa, Lansing Board of Water and Light, Linden, Lowell, Ludington, Manistique, MHOG Sewer and Water Authority, Marquette, Marshall, Marysville, Mason, Menominee Water Dept., Midland, Milford, Monroe, Munising, Muskegon, Negaunee-Ishpeming Authority, New Buffalo, Northwest Ottawa County Water System, Otsego, Ravenna, Saginaw, Sault Ste. Marie, Schoolcraft, South Lyon, Sparta, St. Clair Water and Sewer Authority, St. Ignace, St. Joseph, Standish, Sturgis, Summit Township, Tecumseh, Union City, Wakefield, Wayland, West Branch, and Wyoming.

Livingston Dentists’ Gold for Food Program Raises \$46,793

The Livingston County Gold for Food Program, in which money is raised from donated extracted teeth and given to the Gleaners Food Bank of Livingston County, during the past year collected \$23,396, a total matched by Ford Motor Company for a total donation of \$46,793.

Since its inception the Gold for Food Program has raised an impressive \$573,504 to benefit the hungry of Livingston County.

Patients are asked if they would like to donate any extracted teeth that contain precious metals such as gold, silver, platinum, or palladium. These teeth are collected by participating dentists over a year and then sent to Atlantic Precious Metals, a refinery located in Pennsylvania. The proceeds are then donated to the Gleaners. The program was founded by Dr. Fred Bonine in 1996.

MDA-member dentists who partici-

pate in the program include Dr. Brad Rondeau, Dr. Virginia Eick, Dr. Matthew Matuszak, Dr. Walter Goodell, Dr. Tara Wilson, Dr. Todd Charlick, Dr. Melissa Shalhoub, Dr. Michelle An-

drusyszyn, Dr. Bill Mathers, Dr. Christina Scanlon, Dr. Jonathan Birchmeier, Dr. John G. Keeton, Dr. Gwynne Attarian, Dr. Elizabeth Prast, and Dr. Fred Bonine.



Gold for Food — Livingston dentists raised \$23,396 for this year’s drive benefiting Gleaners of Livingston County. That total was matched by Ford Motor Company, increasing the donation to \$46,793. GFF founder Dr. Fred Bonine stands at left.

Dental Medicaid Updates Announced

The MDA has received the following updates to the Michigan Medicaid program:

■ Effective March 1, 2024, full-mouth debridement may be performed the same day as a comprehensive or periodic oral evaluation when all the required components of the evaluation have been accomplished and documented in the beneficiary's record. It is covered for beneficiaries age 14 and over once every 365 days. It is not a covered benefit when performed on the same date of service as a comprehensive periodontal evaluation (D0180) or prophylaxis.

■ The Blue Cross Blue Shield EDI Clearinghouse is no longer responsible for issuing 835 remittance advices. All providers who were previously utilizing BCBCM EDI will need to designate a new billing agent to receive their electronic remittance advices. If no designation is made, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services will not send an electronic remittance advice for that Tax ID number, and the provider will have to utilize the paper RA or CHAMPS remittance advice screens.

■ Children's Special Health Care Services has been expanded to cover eligible young adults until age 26.

For additional information on dental Medicaid, visit michigandental.org/Medicaid.

NEWS FROM THE ADA

New ADA Guideline Recommends NSAIDs to Manage Dental Pain

A new clinical practice guideline from the American Dental Association recommends nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs taken with or without acetaminophen as first-line treatments for managing acute dental pain in adults and adolescents 12 and older.

According to the guideline, when used as directed, NSAIDs, such as ibuprofen and naproxen, on their own or in combination with acetaminophen can effectively manage pain after a tooth extraction or during a toothache when dental care is not immediately available. The guideline was the cover story of the February issue of JADA. You can access it at JADA.ADA.org.

ADA Academy Accepting Applications

In support of dental educators, the ADA Council on Dental Education and Licensure is accepting applications to attend the Academy for Advancing Leadership's Institute for Teaching and Learning program.

Three scholarships are available to candidates who are full- or part-time educators or general dentist private practitioners interested in pursuing a career in dental education. The Institute for Teaching and Learning is a four-day, on-site program that provides participants with the opportunity to refine their teaching skills and enhance the quality of their interactions with students in the classroom and the clinic.

The scholarship application deadline is March 29. Successful applicants will be notified by May 16. You can direct any questions to the Council on Dental Education and Licensure by emailing CDEL@ada.org.

World Oral Health Day Coming this Month

This year's World Oral Health Day is Wednesday, March 20, sponsored by the FDA World Dental Federation, a group of about 200 national dental associations including the ADA. This year's World Oral Health Day marks the launch of a three-year campaign using the theme, "A Happy Mouth Is . . ."

For more information and resources, visit wohd.org/resources.



IT'S TIME FOR A CHECKUP.

You take care of your patients' smiles daily, but when is the last time you checked the health of your practice?

Get started today with Rehmann's annual checklist to maximize your potential this year!



Rehmann