



The **ORACLE**
Published by the Southern Maryland Dental Society





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the ORACLE

President's Message

October 2025

Save the Dates

2025

Oct 23-25

ADA SmileCon

Nov 3

GMM In- Person

Dec 8

GMM Live Webinar

2026

Feb 18

Dentist Day Annapolis

Mar 2

GMM In- Person

Apr 6

GMM Live Webinar

Dear Colleagues,

As we move through October and into the final stretch of the year, this is a wonderful time to reflect on where we are as a profession and where we are headed. Dentistry is evolving at an incredible pace—AI, digital workflows, and new approaches to patient care are opening doors we could only imagine a few years ago. At the same time, we recognize the challenges around us. Many of our patients are being directly affected by the government shutdown, and we as providers feel those ripple effects in our practices. These moments remind us how vital it is to lean on one another, stay connected, and continue to lift up both our patients and our colleagues.

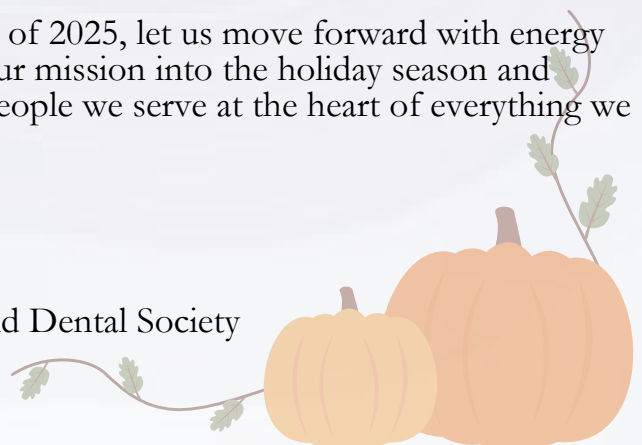


One of the greatest challenges we face as a dental society is declining membership. When our numbers shrink, so does our collective voice—diminishing our ability to advocate, educate, and lead. I encourage you to recommit to your membership and invite a colleague, peer, or new graduate to join us. Our upcoming in-person CE on November 3rd, Antiresorptive and Medication-Related Osteonecrosis of the Jaw (MRONJ), is the perfect opportunity to bring someone along. Membership is about more than CE—it's about building a strong community, mentoring the next generation, and ensuring the future of dentistry in Southern Maryland remains vibrant and resilient.

As we look toward the close of 2025, let us move forward with energy and connection—carrying our mission into the holiday season and beyond, while keeping the people we serve at the heart of everything we do.

Warmly,

Dr. Kristen Millender
President, Southern Maryland Dental Society





Southern Maryland Dental Society

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The ORACLE is published eight times a year by the Southern Maryland Dental Society, 4920 Niagara Road, Suite 306, College Park MD and sent to all members of the Society.

The SMDS will publish signed articles relating to all phases of dentistry (space permitting), but assumes no responsibility for opinions expressed by the contributors.

Acceptance of advertising in no way constitutes professional approval or endorsement.

Deadlines for all materials is the 1st of the month preceding the issue. Publishing dates are August, September, October, November, January, February, March, May

Editor's Letter

Greetings Colleagues,

🍁 Welcome to October: As some of our little ones prepare for spooky season, it's important to be extra diligent about maintaining good oral hygiene practices for our patients, especially with the extra treats around!

Welcome our newest SMDS members:

- Dr. Farnaz Adibi
- Dr. Keon Manesh
- Dr. Gorge Tadros
- Dr. Michael Guo
- Dr. Heywan Gessesse

🏆 MSDA Honorary Member: Congratulations to our SMDS Executive Director, Mrs. Valerie Fridley on your well deserved Honorary Membership! Thank you for your continued service to our organization.

🦷 National Dental Hygiene Month: October is National Dental Hygiene Month, a time to honor and show appreciation for our dedicated dental hygienists. Let's recognize their vital role in our practices and patients' oral health. Consider ways to express your appreciation, such as sending a simple thank-you note or sharing a small token of gratitude.

🌈 Hispanic Heritage Month: We celebrate the heart, heritage, and healing hands of our Hispanic and Latinx colleagues, patients, and partners who inspire smiles across Maryland.

Here's to a fruitful October, filled with appreciation, health, and the new opportunities!

Warm regards,
Dawn Clarke, DDS
smds.newsletter@gmail.com



Upcoming Meetings

Please mark your calendars and save the date for these upcoming meetings and events below.
Note: General membership meetings (GMM) dates are in **bold** and may be subject to changes.



SMDS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

ANTIRESORPTIVE AND MEDICATION RELATED OSTEONECROSIS OF THE JAW

2 CES (LECTURE)

SMDS MEMBERS: FREE
PDS MEMBERS: \$45
NON-MEMBERS: \$80
HYGIENISTS: \$45

MONDAY
3 NOVEMBER

TIME
6 PM

VIVEK THUMBIGERE MATH
BDS, PHD

TO REGISTER CONTACT
VALERIE@SMDSdentists.org

FOR ALL COURSE DETAILS, DESCRIPTION, LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND MORE, VISIT
SMDSdentists.org

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FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

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Continuing Education Recognition Program



REMINDER

General Membership Meetings are **FREE** to SMDS members who register in advance.

Failure to register at least one week in advance will result in a \$25.00 late charge.

To register **Please call** 301.345.4196 or
Email valerie@smdsdentists.org



2025

Oct 23-25 ADA SmileCon (Washington, DC)

Nov 3- GMM In- Person: Dr. Vivek Thumbigere

2026

Feb 18 Dentist Day

Mar 2 GMM In- Person

Apr 6 GMM Live Webinar

Event Highlight

MSDA held their annual House of Delegates sessions on Friday, September 19th, and Sunday, September 21st. Special Thank you to our SMDS Delegates and Trustees.
See below for some exciting photos from the event.



MSDA Honorary Member:

Valerie Fridley

RESOLUTION

25-012 Honorary Membership, Mrs. Valerie Fridley

:

SUBMITTED BY:

DISTINGUISHEDSERVICE AWARDS COMMITTEE

ASSIGNED TO:

FISCAL IMPACT:

NONE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

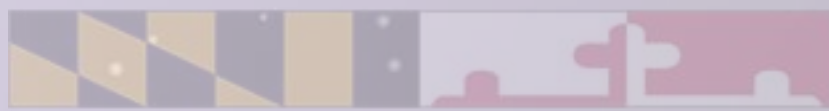
RECOMMENDATION:

Background In 1979, a young dentist set up a practice in Temple Hills, Maryland. He would later joke that he started with 3 patients, his mom, dad and a neighbor of his. Down the hall by the water fountain was a radiology office. Employed there was a wonderful lady named Valerie that he would stop by to chat with between patients. They were married in October of 1981. Later, their daughter Stacey would work between classes in her father's dental practice. The dentist and former MSDA President was the late Arthur Fridley DDS.

Valery Fridley stated working as Secretary for the Southern Maryland Dental Society (SMDS) in 1985. Later, Valerie became the SMDS Executive Director. Valerie worked with leaders Dr. Bill Schneider and Dr. Tom Soliday to find an office & board room space in College Park. As SMDS grew, Valerie managed the expansion of the office to include a fully functional classroom for the education of dentists and dental axillaries. Valerie and her office partner Janice Farber know every SMDS member on sight and warm greetings are a fixture at every continuing education event. Besides being a friendly face, Valerie has stressed fiscal management to her board leaders and encourages members to be creative thinkers on ways to improve service to our members. She is an active communicator with MSDA Staff and her own SMDS Board. Meetings are always prepared with agendas and budget reports. Valerie has been active in helping the community access peer review when needed. Valarie continues to constantly improve the entire dental community. She is the Energizer Bunny even after 40 years of service to the Maryland dental community.

Resolution

Resolved, that the Maryland State Dental Association confirm honorary membership upon Ms. Valerie Fridley with all of the rights and privileges.



Maryland State Dental Association

BULLETIN

Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners

Change in Continuing Education Requirements for Dentists and Dental Hygienists

THIS BULLETIN AMENDS THE PREVIOUS BULLETIN AND NOW INCLUDES THOSE WHO ARE SCHEDULED TO RENEW THEIR DENTAL OR DENTAL HYGIENE LICENSE IN 2027

These Frequently Asked Questions are intended to provide dentists and dental hygienists with a **brief summary** of the significant changes to the continuing education regulations that took effect on **March 3, 2025**. This document is not a comprehensive review of the regulations. You are strongly encouraged to read the attached regulations titled Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 10.44.22 Continuing Education in their entirety. References are to the attached regulations.

What are the New Infection Control Course Requirements?

The required number of hours for the infection control course has increased from 2 to 3 hours. The infection control course must be taken as a condition of license renewal (.04M). The course must be a single 3-hour Board-approved course (.04BB). All courses must be Board-approved (.04A). The required number of continuing education hours remains at 30 (.04B).

What is the Time Frame for Completing Continuing Education?

Prior to the recent changes, the 2-year time to complete your continuing education ended on December 31st of the year preceding the year of your license renewal. The present period will coincide directly with the renewal period. Therefore, the new timeframe for completing continuing education extends for 2 years from July 1 through June 30 of the second year following the effective date of your renewal (.05).



MARYLAND

Division of State Documents

10.44.22.05

.05 Time Frame for Completing Continuing Education.

A. The period for completing continuing education requirements extends for a 2-year period from July 1 through June 30 of the second year following the effective date of the license.

B. The 2-year period in which the continuing education shall be completed ends on June 30 of the year in which the license is due for renewal.

C. For the renewal period beginning on June 1, 2025, only, the period for completing continuing education requirements extends for the period January 1, 2023, through June 30, 2025.

visit tinyurl.com/adacereqs for more details and updates

Upcoming Requirements: Reporting Noncontrolled Prescription Drug Disposes

Dear Drug Dispensing Permit Holders,

We are writing to let you know about upcoming reporting requirements for noncontrolled prescription drugs (non-CDS) dispensed in Maryland. Maryland law ([Health General Article §19-145](#)) requires licensed dispensers, including dentists with dispensing permits, to electronically submit non-CDS dispense information to CRISP. **Dispensers must begin reporting non-CDS dispense information to CRISP by September 1, 2025.**

Dispenser Manual

The final *Noncontrolled Prescription Drugs Dispenser Data Submission Manual* is available [here](#) and aligns closely, to the extent possible, with the *Maryland PDMP Data Submitter Guide*. A multi-stakeholder approach guided iterative development of the manual, which offers dispensers technical guidance for submitting non-CDS information to CRISP.

Waiver Requests

COMAR 10.25.18.13F allows dispensers that meet certain conditions to request a time-limited waiver from non-CDS reporting. A waiver request form is available [here](#) and includes more information on who can request a waiver and how to submit a waiver request for MHCC's consideration.

For more information on non-CDS reporting, please visit MHCC's dedicated [webpage](#). Questions can be directed to mhcc.noncds@maryland.gov.

Note: dispensers who do not already submit dispense data to the Maryland PDMP must register with RxGov [here](#) in order to submit data. Prior to submitting **any** non-CDS data, CRISP requires all submitters have a data agreement in place. This may be either a Participation Agreement, which allows for data submission and clinical access, or a Connection Agreement, which allows for data submission only. Contact the CRISP Technical User Support team by phone at 1.877.952.7477 or email at support@crisphealth.org for questions and to access an agreement. Pharmacies should include "Pharmacy Onboarding for Non-CDS – [Agreement Name of your choosing]" in the subject of the email.

Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners

Spring Grove Hospital Campus
The Benjamin Rush Building
55 Wade Ave/Tulip Drive
Catonsville, MD 21228

visit tinyurl.com/drugdispensing for more details

**Save the Date for Upcoming
MSDA & ADA Events!**



Register: ada.org/smilecon

National Museum of Dentistry

31 S. Greene Street,
Baltimore, MD 21201
dentalmuseum.com



Special Offer for MSDA Members!

Be a part of the story. Become a member.

| NMD COLLEAGUE SPECIAL MSDA MEMBERSHIP | INDIVIDUAL (\$50 TAX-DEDUCTIBLE) | FAMILY (\$88 TAX-DEDUCTIBLE) | DENTAL OFFICE (\$138 TAX-DEDUCTIBLE) |
|---|---|---|---|
| \$ FREE | \$ 50 | \$ 100 | \$ 150 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One FREE annual visit to the museum Become a NMD Colleague Member | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• FREE Admission• 10% Discount on Gift Shop purchase• 5% Discount on Facility Rentals Become an Individual Member | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• FREE Admission• 10% discount on Gift Shop purchase• 5% discount on facility rentals• Smithsonian Affiliate Membership benefits* Become a Family Member | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• FREE Admission• 20% discount on Gift Shop purchase• 20% discount on facility rentals• Smithsonian Affiliate Membership benefits* Become a Dental Office Member |

Visit

dentalmuseum.com/msdamembers

or scan the QR Code below
for a **1-year FREE membership** to the
National Museum of Dentistry.



31 S. Greene St., Baltimore, MD 21201 | Tues-Fri 10am to 4pm | 410-706-0600 | nmd@umaryland.edu

MSDA

 Maryland State Dental Association



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Baltimore County • Carroll County • Eastern Shore
Frederick County • Harford-Cecil • Howard County
Patuxent • Southern Maryland • Washington County

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WHY CHOOSE THE MSDA?

As a member of the Maryland State Dental Association, you are part of a dynamic community that's dedicated to advancing the dental profession. Explore the incredible benefits that come with your MSDA membership:

CAREER ADVANCEMENT

- Propel your career with guidance and support from MSDA Career Center.
- Join committees and engage in leadership opportunities.
- Access tools to help you succeed in the dental field.

STAY INFORMED

- Stay up-to-date on the latest industry news and trends.
- Advocate for dental healthcare at local and national levels.
- Receive exclusive updates on legislative matters affecting your practice.

EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTS

- Enjoy member-only discounts on products and services through MSDA Member Perks.
- Access special rates for MSDA events and conferences.

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

- Access to cutting-edge dental education and CE opportunities.
- Stay ahead with industry-leading seminars and workshops.
- Receive valuable resources and publications to enhance your practice.

NETWORKING

- Build lasting connections with fellow dental professionals.
- Connect at exclusive MSDA events and conferences.
- Collaborate and share insights with peers who understand your journey.

ADVOCACY

- Be part of a unified voice for dentistry in Maryland.
- Influence policy decisions that impact your profession.
- Participate in advocacy efforts for the betterment of oral healthcare.

ELEVATE YOUR DENTAL CAREER, EXPERIENCE
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DENTAL COMMUNITY!

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410.964.2880



8901A Herrmann Dr.,
Columbia, MD 21045

GET **FREE** MEMBERSHIP FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR

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15
FOR 12

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- ✓ National & state Legislative advocacy
- ✓ Networking with top dental professionals
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Questions? Call **Membership** at
410-964-4325 or email
Membership@MSDA.com

JOIN HERE

*This offer allows you to join membership for 2026 at the 2025 national, state and local dues rate. A credit card and commitment to auto-renew is a requirement of this offer. This offer is non-transferable. Details about this offer and the auto-renew program are available in the application.

***DENTAL ASSISTANTS
GET LICENSED IN
MARYLAND GENERAL DENTAL ASSISTING
QUALIFIED FUNCTIONS (MDG)***

Dates: Thursdays, Sept. 25 – Dec. 18, 2025

TIME: 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 P.M.

Fee: SMDS Member/Staff \$765. or Non-Member/Staff \$815. including books

Our course for the dental assistant focuses primarily on the dental assistant and his/her advancement. The goal is to prepare the assistant to be test ready for the DANB Expanded Functions General Exam. It is our responsibility to review didactic material while the doctor/assistant review the clinical material during the course of the office's daily routine. A positive interaction will advance the assistant while working, and the office can benefit from the increased ability of the assistant as he/she accomplishes more complex tasks as outlined by the dental law. We feel this mentor type environment fosters a positive working environment for both the doctor and assistant while accomplishing continuing education.

The formal lectures and in-office clinical experience combine the dynamics required for review and the setting to expose the assistant to materials required for licensure. The course requirements are attendance, competency sheets, quizzes and examinations. This 12-week course should be of interest to the doctor and assistant to keep the office productive, dynamic, and cooperative.

MGD APPLICATION

LEGAL NAME _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

HOME ADDRESS _____ EMAIL _____

HOME/CELL PHONE _____ SS# _____ HIGH SCHOOL GRAD _____ YES _____ NO
(Last four # only)

DENTIST'S NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ EMAIL _____

EMPLOYING DENTIST PLEASE COMPLET THE FOLLOWING:

This employee has been working for _____ months _____ years in this dental office and I agree to provide clinical experience under my direct in-room supervision. I agree to evaluate the applicant's performance. Once the course is completed assistant may NOT continue to perform these duties until the required boards are passed & state certificate received. Additional information on website.

Aug. 4, 2025

Dentist's Signature _____ Date

Call 301-345-4196 to inquire about next training

NOTICE TO APPLICANTS

The provisions of this publication are not to be regarded as a contract between the student and the Southern Maryland Dental Society (SMDS). The SMDS reserves the right to change any provision or Requirements when such action will serve the interests of the SMDS and other applicants. The SMDS Further reserves the right to ask a student to withdraw when it considers such action in the best interest Of the SMDS. Class size is limited. **FLUENCY IN ENGLISH IS REQUIRED.**

SMDS is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons to the end that no person, on the Grounds of sex, race, age, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status or status as a qualified individual with a disability shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity of the SMDS

TO REGISTER - Complete the information on the application and return it at least 10 days prior to the starting date along with payment to: Southern Maryland Dental Society, 4920 Niagara Road, Suite 306, College Park, Maryland 20740. **REFUNDS** can only be given if you withdraw 10 days prior to the first class. A \$30.00 administration fee will be charged for your refund or transfer. **BOOKS** can be picked Up during regular office hours once registration and payment is complete. Classes are held in Suite 300 At this same address unless otherwise indicated. **CHECKS** or Money Orders are to be made payable to the Southern Maryland Dental Society (SMDS). We do not take credit or debit cards. **Late Registration** Is possible based on availability. For additional information contact Janice Farber at 301-345-4196.

Other Location: Maryland State Dental Association, Columbia, MD., 410-964-2880.

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS APPROVED PATHWAYS FOR CERTIFIED RADIATION TECHNICIAN ALL PATHWAYS REQUIRE A BOARD APPROVED RADIATION COURSE (SOURCE MSDA)

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Pathway I | <ul style="list-style-type: none">* 18 years of age* 3 months (300 hours full time in clinical setting in a dental office* Basic oral anatomy course* Must be working in a dental office for direct clinical supervision |
| Pathway II | <ul style="list-style-type: none">* 18 years of age* Pre-test for acceptance into radiology course (basic oral anatomy and dental terminology)* If student fails pre-test, must take basic dental assisting course* Must be working in a dental office for direct supervision |
| Pathway III | <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Basic Dental Assisting Course prior to Board approved Radiology Course (18 years of age for Radiology) Not taken concurrently.* Must be working in dental office for direct clinical supervision, unless classroom facility offers hands on clinical. |

Students are required to have the appropriate non-returnable books, workbook & handouts for each course.

The Classifieds

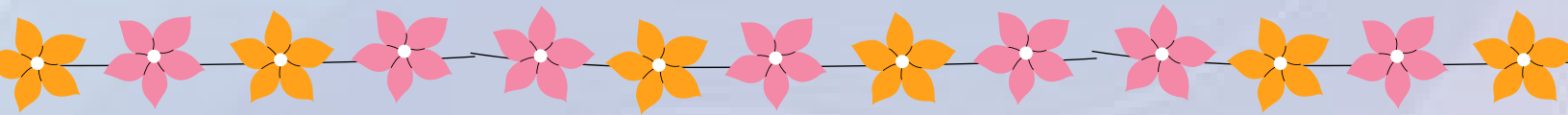
DENTAL OPERATORY FOR SUB-LEASE !!

Great option for retired Dentists who want to practice 1 or 2 days per week OR new graduates looking for opportunity to future buy-in/full purchase of an established community general family practice.

Available: 2 large fully equipped Ops with assets valued \$250,000. in spacious 3000 square feet of 6 Ops; 21st Century digital private practice. Prime location downtown Silver Spring, MD. 20910; 2nd Floor with park-view; at 1300 Spring St. off busy street - Georgia Ave;
Please make contact by email: DentalAppt4U@Hotmail.com

SPACE FOR RENT 2-3 DAYS/WEEK

A 4-operatory office space in Silver Spring Maryland is available for rent 2-3 days a week. If interested, please send a text to 301-275-5752.



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linktr.ee/msdafoundation