



# The **ORACLE**

Published by the Southern Maryland Dental Society



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THE ORACLE

## President's Message

August 2025

### Save the Dates

**2025**

Sep 8

GMM Live Webinar

Sep 18

Chesapeake Dental  
Conference

Sep 25-Dec 18

Dental Assisting (MDG)  
Course

Oct 6

GMM Live Webinar

Oct 23-25

ADA SmileCon

Nov 3

GMM In- Person

Dec 8

GMM Live Webinar

**2026**

Feb 18

Dentist Day Annapolis

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

First, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our Immediate Past President, Dr. Tuan Nhu, for his leadership and dedicated service to SMDS. His light-hearted spirit and steady commitment have strengthened our society and created a culture of collaboration that we will continue to build upon.

For those I have not yet met, I am Dr. Kristen Millender, a general dentist practicing in Waldorf, Maryland. I graduated from the University of Maryland, School of Dentistry in 2019, and I've been involved in organized dentistry ever since. Beyond the operator, I am passionate about community and innovation that expands access to care for vulnerable populations.

As dentists, we have been entrusted with the privilege of improving health, restoring confidence, and uplifting communities. Every patient we see carries a story, and through our skills, compassion, and advocacy, we can be the change that restores not only their smiles, but also their hope and dignity.

As we look ahead, I see exciting opportunities for SMDS to grow and thrive together:

- Streamlining CE registration and payments so participation is simple and seamless.
- Strengthening our digital presence, ensuring members stay informed and connected in real time.
- Building community through outreach because nothing can replace the power of education and connection.

We are also in the early ideation phase of a Study Club that will explore dental AI and emerging technologies.



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The goal is to equip members with practical tools to increase efficiency in daily practice. If you know of innovative speakers or technologies we should highlight, I invite you to share your ideas with me at [Dr.KristenMillender@gmail.com](mailto:Dr.KristenMillender@gmail.com).

Innovation lights the path forward; solidarity gives us the strength to walk it together. One of the best ways we can strengthen that solidarity is by growing our membership. Organized dentistry is more than a professional network—it is our shared commitment to protect, elevate, and advance the profession we love. Our strength lies in unity, and every new member adds to the impact we can make together. I encourage you to invite a colleague to join us at a program and remind them of the value of being part of this community. And if you—or someone you know—would like to get more deeply involved, please reach out to Valerie Fridley at [Valerie@smdsdentists.org](mailto:Valerie@smdsdentists.org).

There are some exciting opportunities to engage beyond SMDS this Fall:

- ADA SmileCon 2025 | October 23–25, 2025 | Washington, D.C.
- MSDA Chesapeake Dental Conference | September 18–19, 2025 | Ocean City, MD

These conferences provide valuable CE, networking, and fresh insights that we can bring back to strengthen our community here at home.

Before I close, I want to sincerely thank our Executive Board members for their leadership and dedication, and our staff for their tireless work to keep our operations strong and sustainable, even down to shredding old files so we can move forward responsibly- we appreciate you guys! Together, with gratitude for where we've come from and excitement for where we are headed, I believe this can be a year of growth, connection, and innovation. Let us embrace the opportunity to inspire change—not only within our society, but in the lives of every patient we serve.

With Optimism and Determination,

Dr. Kristen Millender  
President, Southern Maryland Dental Society

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**Stay Current on all Continuing Education  
Trainings via our website!**  
[SMDSDentists.Org](http://SMDSDentists.Org)





## **Southern Maryland Dental Society**

4920 Niagara Road • Suite 306  
College Park, MD 20740  
301.345.4196  
Fax 301.345.0016

### **OFFICERS 2024-2025**

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Maurice Miles, D.D.S

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Tom Stanton, DDS

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Dawn Clarke, D.D.S

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#### **SMDS TRUSTEE**

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#### **LEGISLATIVE**

Gigi Meinecke, D.D.S drmeinecke@live.com  
Thomas a'Becket, D.D.S drsaint226@hotmail.com

#### **PEER REVIEW**

Scott Gritz, D.D.S 301.926.2700

#### **D.A. CONTINUING EDUCATION**

Alonzo Ted Thomas, D.D.S 301.681.9220  
Chetan Parikh, D.D.S 301.231.0173

#### **DENTIST PROGRAMS AND ARRANGEMENTS**

Tom Stanton, D.D.S 301.881.9755  
Chetan Parikh, D.M.D 301.231.0173

#### **COMMUNICATIONS- WEB, TEXTING**

Yaser Roumani, D.D.S 301.231.0744  
Susan Rofe, D.D.S shuyanjan@gmail.com

#### **MEMBERSHIP AND DIVERSITY**

Kristen Millender, D.D.S 301.359.1188  
Maurice Miles, D.D.S 301.262.6696  
Shuyan Rofe, D.D.S shuyanjan@gmail.com

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,  
As the summer winds down please welcome our 2024-25 President, Dr. Kristen Millender and incoming SMDS executive board. I am looking forward to an exciting year!  
Be sure to mark your calendars for the lineup of insightful seminars, meetings and engaging workshops planned.



Remember that our website serves as a valuable resource hub. It's consistently updated with details on upcoming events and training opportunities. Make it a habit to check in regularly, ensuring you don't miss out on any of the enriching activities we have in store. Check out the website here: [www.smdsdentists.org](http://www.smdsdentists.org)

Welcome to our newest SMDS Members Dr. Imani Fuller and Dr. Terry Akpua .

I'm looking forward to our upcoming virtual General Membership Meeting on September 8th where Dr. Sylvan Mintz discussing the topic "When to use a night guard and when to not" (RSVP to [valerie@smdsdentists.org](mailto:valerie@smdsdentists.org))

Fall is right around the corner so let's make the rest of this summer count!


Warm regards,

Dawn Clarke, DDS  
[smds.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto: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**


**LIVE/VIRTUAL**  
VIA ZOOM


**WHEN TO USE A  
"NIGHT GUARD" &  
WHEN NOT TO**


2 CES (LECTURE)


SMDS MEMBERS: FREE  
PDS MEMBERS: \$30  
NON-MEMBERS: \$80  
HYGIENISTS: \$30

 **MONDAY**  
**8 SEPTEMBER**

 **TIME**  
**630 PM**

 **PACE**  
ACADEMY /  
GENERAL DENTISTRY  
PROGRAM APPROVAL  
FOR CONTINUING  
EDUCATION

 **ADA CERP®**  
Continuing Education Recognition Program



**SYLVAN MINTZ**  
DDS

TO REGISTER CONTACT  
[VALERIE@SMDSdentists.ORG](mailto:VALERIE@SMDSdentists.ORG)

FOR ALL COURSE DETAILS, DESCRIPTION,  
LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND MORE, VISIT  
[SMDSdentists.ORG](http://SMDSdentists.ORG)

### 2025

Sep 8 GMM Live Webinar Dr. Sylvan Mintz

Sep 18 Chesapeake Dental Conference

Oct 6 GMM Live Webinar: Dr. Hanae Saito

Oct 23-25 ADA SmileCon (Washington, DC)

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

### 2026

Feb 18 Dentist Day



### 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](mailto:valerie@smdsdentists.org)





# *Celebrating* THE LIFE OF

## *Dr. Murray Sykes*



Dr. Murray Sykes, past President of the Maryland State Dental Association. Dr. Sykes was a respected member of the dental community. He was president of the Southern Maryland Dental Society, the Maryland State Dental Association and a Trustee for the ADA. He helped start the Donated Dental Program helping low income individuals with their dental needs.

For more details and donations visit  
[shorturl.at/M4sDO](http://shorturl.at/M4sDO)

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## *Dr. Henry Blank*

For over 32 years, Dr. Henry S. Blank has provided high quality dental care to the residents of Aspen Hill and the surrounding communities of Olney, Kensington, Rockville, and Silver Spring. Dr. Henry Blank was a member of SMDS for 54 years.



## 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).

#### **Is there an Exception for Those Renewing their Dental and Dental Hygiene licenses in 2025, 2026, and 2027?**

Yes. Notwithstanding the effective date of these regulations, because of unexpected delays in finalizing the regulations, those who are **scheduled to renew their dental or dental hygiene license in 2025** may receive continuing education credit for Board-approved courses completed between January 1, 2023 and June 30, 2025. In addition, you will be considered to have met the infection control requirement if you completed a single Board-approved 2-hour infection control course, or if you completed two one-hour Board-approved infection control courses in lieu of the Board-approved 3-hour infection control course.

**visit [tinyurl.com/adacereqs](https://tinyurl.com/adacereqs) for more details**



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



Save the date for MSDA Chesapeake Dental  
Conference & House of Delegates 2025

September 18-21, 2025

Princess Royale

Ocean City, MD



Save the Date for ADA SmileCon 2025

October 23-25, 2025

Walter E. Washington Convention Center,  
Washington DC



## National Museum of Dentistry

31 S. Greene Street,  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
[dentalmuseum.com](http://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"><li>One FREE annual visit to the museum</li></ul> <a href="#">Become a NMD Colleague Member</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>FREE Admission</li><li>10% Discount on Gift Shop purchase</li><li>5% Discount on Facility Rentals</li></ul> <a href="#">Become an Individual Member</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>FREE Admission</li><li>10% discount on Gift Shop purchase</li><li>5% discount on facility rentals</li><li>Smithsonian Affiliate Membership benefits*</li></ul> <a href="#">Become a Family Member</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>FREE Admission</li><li>20% discount on Gift Shop purchase</li><li>20% discount on facility rentals</li><li>Smithsonian Affiliate Membership benefits*</li></ul> <a href="#">Become a Dental Office Member</a>

Visit

[dentalmuseum.com/msdamembers](http://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](mailto:nmd@umaryland.edu)



# DONATIONS NEEDED



Donate a product, service, or  
monetary contribution for the  
MSDAF's

## SILENT AUCTION

Donate bottles of wine or  
make a monetary donation  
for the MSDAF's

## WALL OF WINE



**All donations are tax-deductible**

and go towards the MSDA Foundation's fundraising efforts at the Chesapeake  
Dental Conference, held September 18-20 2025.

Email [Foundation@msda.com](mailto:Foundation@msda.com) for pick-up/drop-off by September 5th.



The MSDAF is a 501(c)(3) organization. | TIN: 52-1810697  
Visit: [MSDAF.org](http://MSDAF.org) for more information



# MSDA ADVOCACY EDUCATION MEMBERSHIP

it's what we do.

msda.com | 410.964.2880

[msda.com/msda-member-referral-program/](https://msda.com/msda-member-referral-program/)

## MSDA Member Referral Program

We are thrilled to introduce the Maryland State Dental Association's (MSDA) Member Referral Incentive Program—a fantastic opportunity for our valued members to earn rewards for their support and dedication to our association.

For every three (3) non-member dentists you refer, who successfully join the MSDA, you will receive a \$100 Amazon gift card as a token of our appreciation

## 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)
<b>\$FREE</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$150</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One FREE annual visit to the museum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FREE Admission</li> <li>10% Discount on Gift Shop purchase</li> <li>5% Discount on Facility Rentals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FREE Admission</li> <li>10% discount on Gift Shop purchase</li> <li>5% discount on facility rentals</li> <li>Smithsonian Affiliate Membership benefits*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FREE Admission</li> <li>20% discount on Gift Shop purchase</li> <li>20% discount on facility rentals</li> <li>Smithsonian Affiliate Membership benefits*</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Become a NMD Colleague Member</a>	<a href="#">Become an Individual Member</a>	<a href="#">Become a Family Member</a>	<a href="#">Become a Dental Office Member</a>

Visit

[dentalmuseum.com/msdamembers](https://dentalmuseum.com/msdamembers)

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



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

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; 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.



**Volunteer/donate today:**  
**[linktr.ee/msdafoundation](http://linktr.ee/msdafoundation)**