



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





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THE ORACLE

President's Message

January 2026

Save the Dates

2026

Feb 2

GMM Live Webinar

Feb 18

Dentist Day Annapolis

Mar 2

GMM In- Person

Mar 22-24

ADA Lobby Day

Apr 6

GMM Live Webinar

A New Year, A Shared Purpose

As we step into a new year, I welcome you with a sense of optimism, possibility, and shared responsibility. Dentistry is evolving quickly, and while that brings exciting innovation, it also reminds us of the importance of staying connected—to education, to advocacy, and to one another.

From digital workflows and AI to 3D printing and regenerative dentistry, the future of our profession is already here. One of the most energizing ways we are engaging with these changes is through our Dental Technology and AI Study Club series. Our first session on January 12 drew over 80 attendees, and the enthusiasm and discussion that night were truly inspiring. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped set such a strong tone for the year.

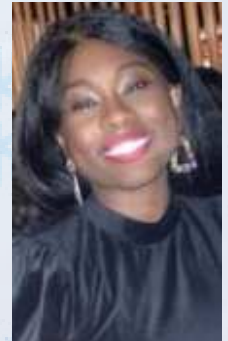
We are keeping that momentum going with our next study club on February 2 at 6:30 PM, where we will explore 3D printing and regenerative dentistry. I hope you will join us—and bring a colleague along. If you are a speaker, or know someone who would enjoy facilitating a future session, we would love to connect as we continue building out this series.

Beyond clinical innovation, advocacy remains one of our most critical responsibilities. At both the state and national levels, issues surrounding student loan programs, workforce sustainability, reimbursement structures, and the future of dentistry demand our attention. Engagement in advocacy is essential to protecting our profession and ensuring that dentistry continues to thrive for future generations. Our collective voice carries weight, but only if we use it. MSDA Dentist Day is February 18th- you should be already receiving emails about sign up but if not, please register at msda.com/event/2024-msda-dentist-day/.

Finally, I want to acknowledge that there is a lot of uncertainty in our country right now. In times like these, community becomes essential. As dentists, we are uniquely positioned to build it—we see people regularly, we listen, and we connect across generations and backgrounds. Whether through education, outreach, mentorship, or simply intentional conversation, each of us has the ability to make a meaningful impact locally.

I look forward to growing, learning, and building community with you in the year ahead.

Warmly,
Kristen Millender, DDS
President, Southern Maryland Dental Society





Southern Maryland Dental Society

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

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PEER REVIEW

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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

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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

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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,

❄️ Happy New Year! I hope everyone is stocking up for more snow!

★ New Member Spotlight: Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our newest members:

- Dr. Kaitlin Davis
- Dr. Erickson Manuel
- Dr. Lakesha Richardson

As the new year is underway continue to encourage colleagues to join our dynamic community and reap the rewards through the MSDA Member Referral Program (details on pg.9).

🦷 New Year's Resolutions: Let this be the year you dive into new topics like AI and 3D. Patients are increasingly interested in how their office is utilizing technology for their treatment and experience.

Make sure you RSVP for the upcoming Live Webinar "Print. Spin. Heal. The Rise of Regenerative Dentistry" by emailing Valerie Fridley valerie@smdsdentists.org

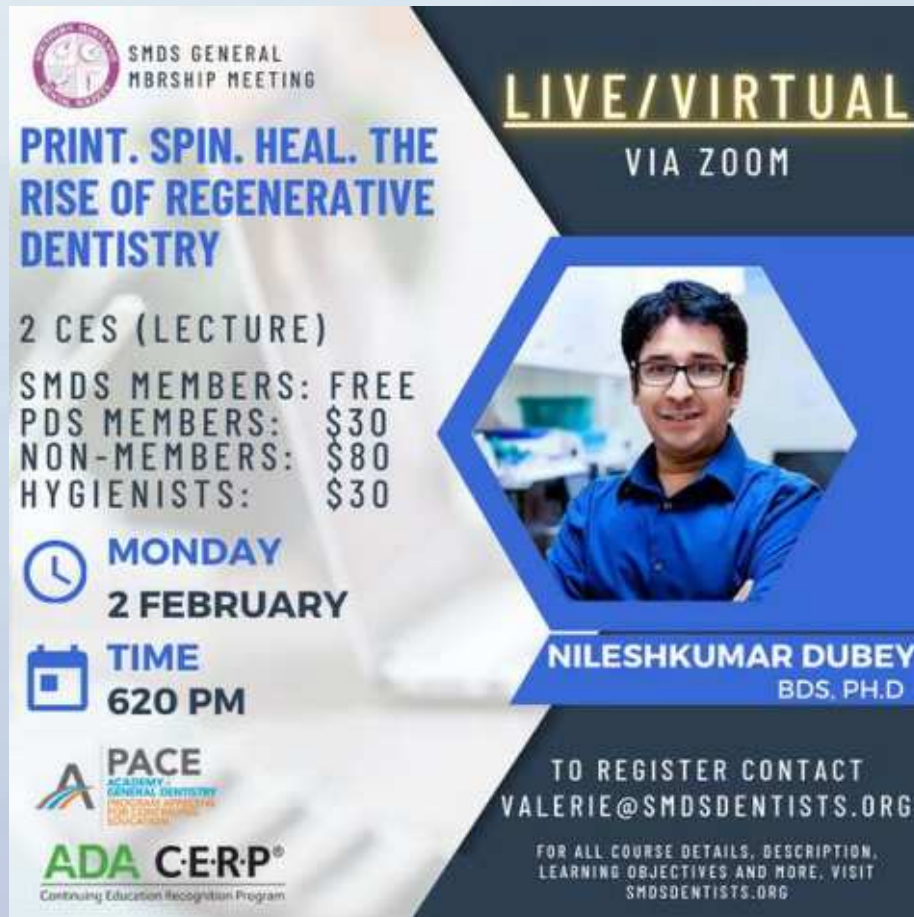
Warm Regards,

Dawn Clarke, DDS
Editor, SMDS
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

PRINT. SPIN. HEAL. THE RISE OF REGENERATIVE DENTISTRY

2 CES (LECTURE)

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

MONDAY
2 FEBRUARY

TIME
620 PM

NILESHKUMAR DUBEY
BDS, PH.D.

TO REGISTER CONTACT
VALERIE@SMDSDENTISTS.ORG

FOR ALL COURSE DETAILS, DESCRIPTION, LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND MORE, VISIT
SMDSDENTISTS.ORG

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ACADEMY
GENERAL DENTISTRY
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ORTHODONTIC DENTISTRY
EDUCATION

ADA C-E-R-P®
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

2026

Feb 2nd GMM Live Webinar

Feb 18th Dentist Day

Mar 2nd GMM In- Person- MSDA Officer visitation

Apr 13th GMM Live Webinar

New Year, Safer Practices

Start the year strong by reviewing your facility's waste management and safety protocols. Here's a quick checklist to help you kick off 2026 with confidence:

- Review and update your OSHA compliance documentation
- Ensure all staff are trained on proper waste segregation and handling
- Check that sharps containers and waste bins are correctly labeled and not overfilled
- Schedule your annual compliance training with BWS
- Confirm your pick-up schedule meets your facility's needs
- Don't forget about your document and paper management - start recurring shredding services or schedule your annual purge

BWS is here to support your compliance goals every step of the way. If you need resources or have questions, contact customercare@bwaste.com

new years 2026 Compliance *checklist*

Local Friendly Support: (410) 437-6590

- Customer Care: customercare@bwaste.com



Preparing for Inclement Weather

Winter weather is upon us! Make sure you're receiving email pick up and route change notifications. In the event of inclement weather, we will communicate any modified operating hours or closures to customers as quickly as possible through email [Route Adjustment service notifications](#). Should the weather and safety conditions force closures, we will reschedule service with every effort to accommodate customers.

[Sign Me Up For Notifications](#)

Many self-service resources are available online in the [Client Portal](#), such as making a payment, view invoices, access manifests, and account requests.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR JAMAICA RELIEF EFFORT



Organized by Dr. Maurice Miles

WHERE TO SEND DONATIONS

Miles of Smiles
14300 Gallant Fox Ln #106
Bowie, MD 20715
(301) 262-6696

*The office will handle
all shipping to Jamaica*

Clothing

- Socks, shirts, underwear, shoes
- Baby clothes, lightweight blankets

General Supplies

- Flashlights, batteries, solar chargers
- Towels, toys
- School supplies, backpacks
- First aid items



REQUESTED DONATION ITEMS

- Toothpaste, mouthrinse, toothbrushes, floss
- Soap, shampoo, lotion, deodorant
- Baby wipes, diapers, pull-ups

Cleaning Supplies

- Laundry detergent
- Dish soap
- Garbage bags

*Your support will make
a meaningful difference.
Thank you for helping us
bring comfort, dignity,
and hope to families in
Jamaica.*

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

Save the Date for Upcoming MSDA & ADA & Fellow FCDS Events!



2026 MSDA Dentist Day

February 18, 2026

**Governor Calvert Inn,
Annapolis, MD**

2026 MSDA Member Perks Retreat

March 6-8, 2026

Wisp Resort, McHenry, MD

2025 ADA Dentist and Student Lobby Day

March 22-24, 2026

**Marriott Marquis, Washington
DC**

Save the Dates for Upcoming FCDS Continuing Education Seminars & Social Events:

Thursday, November 13, 2025

Sasan Jafari, DDS, MS

Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT) in Modern Dental Practice

Thursday, March 19, 2026

India Chance, RDH

Learn Today, Prevent Tomorrow! Infection Control for Dental Professional

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Topic & Speaker Forthcoming!

**Regular CE meetings will be held at Dutch's Daughter
Restaurant in Frederick. Additional meetings may be
added.**

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 (\$80 TAX-DEDUCTIBLE)	DENTAL OFFICE (\$130 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



Allegany County • Anne Arundel County • Baltimore City
Baltimore County • Carroll County • Eastern Shore
Frederick County • Harford-Cecil • Howard County
Patuxent • Southern Maryland • Washington County

UNLOCK THE POWER OF MEMBERSHIP WITH MSDA: YOUR GATEWAY TO EXCEPTIONAL BENEFITS!

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
EXTRAORDINARY BENEFITS AND MORE .

STRENGTHEN YOUR CONNECTION TO THE
DENTAL COMMUNITY!

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8901A Herrmann Dr.,
Columbia, MD 21045

MSDA



Maryland State Dental Association

2.18.2026

**GOVERNOR CALVERT HOUSE
HISTORIC INNS OF ANNAPOLIS**

ANNAPOLIS, MD



2026 PERKS RETREAT



APRES SKI AND CE

3.5.26 - 3.8.26

Earn up to 8 CE credits while enjoying the scenic Western MD mountains. Bring your office staff, family members, and spouses to join in the fun. Registration will open soon.



4.29.2026

RENDITIONS GOLF COURSE



HEALTHY VOLUNTEER RESEARCH STUDY

You May Qualify For This Study If You:

Are 18 years or older, have a minimum of 20 natural teeth, and are willing to allow genetic testing.

Study Details:

- 1 hour screening visit
- 2 hour out-patient visit
- An oral exam, medical and dental history
- Dental X-rays and photos
- Provide a blood, urine and saliva sample
- Gum Biopsy



FOR MORE INFORMATION

NIH Clinical Center
Office of Patient Recruitment
800-411-1222 | TTY dial 7-1-1
ccopr@nih.gov

Study #12-D-0100
<https://go.usa.gov/xpuTQ>



National Institute of Dental
and Craniofacial Research

CONTACT US

NIH Clinical Center

Office of Patient Recruitment

800-411-1222

ccopr@nih.gov

Visit: ClinicalTrials.gov

Study Number 12-D-0100

Laurie Brenchley RDH, MS

Laurie.brenchley@nih.gov

Phone: 301-451-2551



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DENTAL
AND
CRANIOFACIAL RESEARCH

ORAL IMMUNITY

ORAL IMMUNITY

The oral cavity is a unique environment. Researchers seek to further understand the immune systems in the oral cavity by looking at environmental triggers that may cause a higher chance of gum disease.

THE STUDY

Researchers are interested in looking at the oral bacteria and genotypes of people that present with periodontal disease at an early age (before age 35) or have a persistent decline in their periodontal status despite consistent and adequate oral hygiene care and treatment.

ELIGIBILITY

You May Qualify for This Study If You Are:

- ☐ At least 7 years of age
- ☐ Have been diagnosed with the disease periodontitis (gum disease)

You May Not Qualify If You:

- ☐ Have a history of an autoimmune disorder (such as lupus or rheumatoid arthritis)
- ☐ Are pregnant or breast feeding
- ☐ Have a bleeding disorder
- ☐ Have had radiation therapy to the head or neck

Study Visits Include

- ☐ 1-hour screening visit
- ☐ 2-hour out-patient visit
- ☐ An oral exam, medical and dental history
- ☐ Dental X-rays and photos
- ☐ Provide a blood, urine and saliva sample
- ☐ Gum Biopsy

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.



Be part of the **GKAS** movement!

Volunteer/donate today:
linktr.ee/msdafoundation