

New York County delegates at the 2021 NYSDA House of Delegates meeting.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THE POWER OF CONNECTION

Ioanna G. Mentzelopoulou, DDS

It is customary that the first article written by the Society's new president is a printed version of the message delivered at the installation ceremony held in January. This year our installation was postponed due to the omicron variant spreading rapidly in NYC.

In light of the postponement I decided to write something very personal to me that has affected my life as a dental professional, and it is one of the most powerful reasons I am so involved in organized dentistry -- **the power of connection.**

I became involved in organized dentistry very early on because of my residency director who happened to be president of the Second District Dental Society, Dr. Steven Gounardes. During my GPR year, he always encouraged me to attend local membership meetings with the hope that I would make connections with local dentists (and as an added bonus, eat for free!). After taking several positions at the local, state, and national levels, I had my daughter in 2011 and I decided to step back for a few years to enjoy motherhood.

Then, in October 2012, New York City was hit by Hurricane Sandy.

(continued on page 6)

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Continuing Education

Catching Up

Mitchell Rubinstein, DMD
Education Director



Many of us are finally seeing the light at the end of a long, dark tunnel. With the pandemic finally receding, we're becoming more comfortable resuming some of the things we've been missing

for the past two years. Restaurants, shopping, and family gatherings are just a few of the activities we're again allowing ourselves to enjoy, hopefully with less anxiety and fear than we would have had this time last year. Now that we have vaccines, therapeutics, and most of all, more knowledge about Covid-19, we can be more confident that interacting with our fellow humans is safe, enjoyable, and productive.

The Henry Spenadel Continuing Education program at New York County Dental Society has also begun our return to live in-person programming. You can find many of our upcoming programs listed on page 4. As clinicians, speakers and sponsors become more willing to travel and participate in live events, we hope to ramp up the number of in-person programs. We will however continue to offer remote programs and continuing education as well. If there is anything we achieved in the past two years, it is a huge improvement in the types and quality of learning we can bring you online. But I'm most excited about resuming a wider variety of classes given in person, particularly hands-on courses, which had been some of our most popular offerings in the years prior to 2020.

And it can't come soon enough, considering all the changes our profession has seen in the past two years. In many ways, we face a completely new set of challenges and opportunities than we did prior to Covid. Two years have brought tremendous advances in technologies such as 3D

printing, scanning, and digital dentistry. But we've also seen many of our patients retreat to the suburbs, and many of them are still telecommuting. An explosion of telemedicine applications has given us more opportunities than ever to serve our patients remotely. Yet at the same time, many of the dental insurance companies our patients rely on have significantly reduced their reimbursements and increased their restrictions and barriers to care. Participating in these networks has become more difficult and will likely deteriorate further. Worse still for recent graduates, several dental insurance companies have recently adopted a tiered reimbursement schedule, in which they pay newer dentists significantly less than more experienced dentists for the exact same procedures.

Our profession thrives on several factors -- the most important being solidarity and education. We tend to balkanize ourselves into fragmented dentist subgroups (general dentists vs. specialists, corporate vs. independent, in-network vs. fee-for-service, etc.) when we really need to strive for cohesion based on our shared objectives. We also need to continually educate ourselves as our profession evolves and advances. We will continue to do our best to bring you the educational programs you need to make your practices healthy and successful.

We have a great deal of catching up to do. Let's get started!

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[General Membership Meeting](#)

Monday, April 4, 2022 at 7:00 PM
VIA ZOOM



Featured Speaker:

Amr M. Moursi, DDS, PhD

Lecture Topic:

Behavior Guidance for Today's Parents

[REGISTER HERE](#)

NYCDS Members Receive 1 Free CE Credit

Save the Date!

The Sixth Annual NYCDS Golf Outing June 21, 2022 New Venue – New (Lower) Fees



After an almost three-year hiatus, New York County Dental Society will host the Sixth Annual Golf Outing benefitting the NYCDS Fund.

The outing will take place at the Westchester Hills Golf Club in White Plains (www.westchesterhills.org) on Tuesday, June 21, 2022. This year the registration fee will be only \$275, which includes a round of golf on a beautiful, newly renovated course, a sumptuous brunch, an open bar cocktail hour, raffles, and a fantastic buffet dinner. There will be a Putting Contest in addition to other contests during the rounds - with prizes.

Further details about the Golf Outing, including registration, will be forthcoming.

Compelling Lecture on Humanitarian Outreach

We encourage you to watch the ACD Mentoring Lecture Program on Humanitarian Outreach: Program Development and Participation held on February 16. The popular program focused on the development of World of Smiles, an international outreach initiative in the Dominican Republic that provides comprehensive care for thousands annually. Important to the discussion were the ethics and professional obligations of healthcare providers who participate in outreach, as well as the rewards and challenges that come with participation.

The discussion is led by World of Smiles founders, Drs. James Hudson, Yakir Arteaga, and Jerry Halpern.



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Henry Spenadel Continuing Education Program

Winter 2022 Continuing Education Program Calendar

We are pleased to return to in-person Continuing Education while also offering virtual courses to fit a variety of schedules.

March 2022

3/23	The Latest & Most Current Approach to Esthetic Dentistry (in-person)	Dr. K. Michael Ghalili
3/24	Medications/ Injection Options for Orofacial Pain Problems (virtual)	Dr. Donald Tanenbaum
3/29	The ONE Thing: How One Book Can Change Your Whole Life (virtual)	Casey Gocel, Esq.
3/30	How to Start an Exceptional Dental Career (virtual)	Keith D. Drayer, MBA

April 2022

4/7	Medications/ Injection Options for Orofacial Pain Problems (virtual)	Dr. Donald Tanenbaum
4/20	Pediatric Sleep Apnea and Craniofacial Development (virtual)	Dr. Rebecca Binder
4/21	Elusive Medical Problems and Orofacial Pain (virtual)	Dr. Donald Tanenbaum
4/27	Basic Life Support/ CPR Certification Course (in-person)	Marc Reilly/Rescue Resuscitation

May 2022

5/4	Contemporary Implant Removable Prosthesis (in-person)	Dr. Kenneth Kurtz
5/11	Basic Life Support/ CPR Certification Course (in-person)	Marc Reilly/Rescue Resuscitation
5/18	Hands-On Course on Indirect Posterior Dentistry (in-person)	Dr. David R. Rice
5/18	Peer Review: Facts, Findings, and Dispelling Myths (virtual)	Dr. Egidio Farone

For more information go to www.nycdentalsociety.org or call the education staff at 212-573-8500.

My Experience in the ADA's Institute for Diversity in Leadership

Stacy Spizuoco, DDS



Dr. Spizuoco is a graduate of New York University College of Dentistry. She has a private practice in Manhattan and has volunteered as a clinical instructor at Columbia College of Dental Medicine. She is actively involved with the humanitarian outreach World of Smiles.

In 2003, the American Dental Association introduced the Institute for Diversity in Leadership (IDL) program. This program was designed to enhance the leadership skills of dentists of diverse backgrounds including, but not limited to: racial, ethnic, and/or gender backgrounds that have been traditionally underrepresented in leadership roles. Hundreds of dentists have been enrolled in the program since its inauguration, and Institute alumni have since served as volunteer leaders at the local, state, and national levels of the ADA, as well as other dental associations and service organizations.

As a member of the ADA since dental school, I sought to participate in this leadership program as an opportunity to gain leadership skills, to network and build relationships, and to support the field of dentistry. Due to Covid, our program started in December of 2020 when we were introduced to the previous

class and to knowledgeable instructors and staff. We were encouraged to participate in group discussions and break-out sessions. I found these sessions to be informative and enlightening. Subsequent sessions were in person and we were encouraged to work on a project that encouraged diversity in dentistry. We worked together and collaborated on thoughts and ideas.

I chose to highlight how dental outreach programs in underserved areas can promote dental health and encourage those interested in the profession. I am heavily involved with one such outreach called World of Smiles. With World of Smiles, I go to La Romana, Dominican Republic and treat children in underserved areas, some of whom have never heard of a toothbrush. Through my interactions and education, I am able to promote oral health. I am also able to educate the students about the profession of dentistry and influence some to become dentists.

At the conclusion of our program in December 2021, our class was introduced to the incoming class to which we presented our projects. This last meeting was bittersweet. IDL gave me the opportunity to work with like-minded colleagues from all parts of the country. We enhanced our leadership skills and gained leadership experience. We were able to strengthen our professional networks and build a lifetime of supportive relationships. I know I walk away as a more confident leader ready to set new leadership paths within the profession and communities.

For an inside look at World of Smiles, see the webinar on page 3.

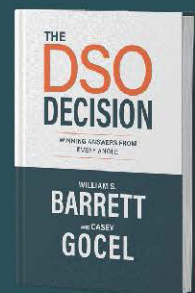
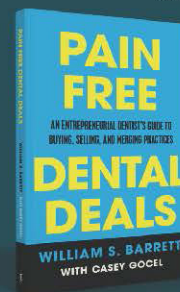
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William S. Barrett, CEO
National Dental Law Center at
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President's Message

(continued from page 1)

Suddenly, I got a call from the ADA Director of the New Dentist Committee who I had not spoken to in years. She said that there was someone that used to be on the ADA's New Dentist Committee, someone I had never crossed paths with, and she was stranded in lower Manhattan. She asked if I could connect with her to help because she heard the hurricane was coming directly to NYC. I didn't think twice about it. I reached out to Dr. Madalyn Davidson, and since the weather reports were not very optimistic, I gave her directions to my house and told her she could stay with me.

I met Dr. Davidson for the first time outside my house and the rest is history. We spent the next three days cooking pumpkin soup, ordering takeout sushi from local restaurants, and playing with my 1½-year-old daughter. We were in a protected environment while the television showed devastating pictures of destruction from water and wind.

During that time I learned that she was the representative of the New Dentist Committee for Illinois, she lived in a small town south of Chicago called Champaign, her dad was a dentist and her mom was a hygienist.

After the hurricane was over, all of lower Manhattan from 39th Street South, was without electricity; it was a disaster. My office is on 40th Street so I was lucky enough to be able to go back to work right away.

Dr. Davidson stayed for a few more days so that she could get a flight out of NYC. One day she called to tell me that she was walking all around lower Manhattan not knowing where she was taking pictures. Her Midwest demeanor of exploration and curiosity during a tumultuous time was refreshing.



President Ioanna Mentzelopoulou (left) with Dr. Madalyn Davidson, who she connected with during Hurricane Sandy thanks to organized dentistry.

Fast forward a few years later and Dr. Davidson moved to NYC for personal reasons. Again we connected at a professional level and now she is practicing right next door to me!

The connection is not just a personal connection between two people. It is a professional connection that would have never have happened if it was not for the ADA. More so, it never would have happened if we both weren't involved in organized dentistry!

As dentists, we typically get to know colleagues through dental school, or meet at continuing education courses. Being involved with the ADA and the state and local organizations provides a home for everyone, no matter where you come from, which school you attended, or which part of the country you were raised in (or in my case, which country you are from.) It is that power of connection that made me go back and get involved again at the local level.

I hope one day that you experience what I have experienced by coming to our local meetings and introducing yourself to new professionals. You never know where that connection will lead.



Eric J. Ploumis, D.M.D., Esq. and **Joel M. Greenberg, Esq.** have joined Rivkin Radler's Health Services Group where they will continue to focus on providing exceptional legal services for dental professionals.

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eric.ploumis@rivkin.com or
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The GNYDM Exceeds Expectations With the Largest Face-to-Face Dental Convention of the Year

Jayme McNiff Spicciati
Program Manager, GNYDM



The Greater New York Dental Meeting (GNDYM) thanks you for making it the largest face-to-face dental event in the United States. At the 97th Annual session in 2021, the GNYDM registered a total of 23,539 attendees, including 9,692 dentists, 1,213 dental students, 1,253 dental assistants, and 1,565 dental hygienists. The GNYDM continues to be the largest in-person dental convention and event in the United States. We hope that you took the opportunity to make new friends, renew old acquaintances and make new contacts with decision-makers and partners for your continued success.

The exhibit floor offered special discounts and giveaways. Professionals visited over 800 exhibit booths. It was a great week of business, learning, and networking. The GNYDM education included 150+ seminars, hands-on workshops, and essays, with programs in Spanish and Portuguese. The GNYDM included a Free Health Screening Fair and Vaccinations (Flu, COVID-19 boosters, Shingles, and pneumonia vaccines) on the Sunday of the Meeting; the GNYDM gave out 250+ vaccines to attendees. The in-person event followed all the safety protocols from the state and federal mandates. The Javits Center required that everyone be fully vaccinated and wear a mask. These health and safety protocols led to a successful meeting with no COVID-19 infections reported.

The GNYDM continues to expand the Specialty Meetings, including nine in 2021: World Implant EXPO, Global Orthodontic Conference, Pediatric Dentistry Summit, Sleep Apnea Symposium, 3D Printing & Digital Dentistry Conference, Public Health Symposium, Oral Cancer Symposium, Special Care Dentistry Forum, Women Dentists Leadership Conference, and the GNYDM Lab Symposium. The Specialty Meetings each continue to increase attendance and revenue for the GNY-

DM, as they welcome world-renowned clinicians to New York City. Seminars and hands-on workshops were offered daily. The Nurse's Program continued; it is a collaborative effort to train nurses about proper oral health and the importance of referring patients to dentists for yearly checkups and overall health care. Added to the Nurse's Program included volunteer efforts and RAM (Remote Area Medical).

The Organizational Committee of the GNYDM works tirelessly to ensure the Meeting's success throughout the year. With the leadership of the General Chair Dr. James H. Doundoulakis, the General Chair-Elect Dr. Richard L. Oshrain, along with the New York County Dental Society (NYCDS) chairs on the GNYDM Organization Committee: Drs. Steven M. Moss, Irvind Khurana, Richard Lewenson, and David M. Momtaheni, the Meeting continued its success in 2021. Of course, additional thanks for allowing the Meeting to run smoothly and effortlessly must go to the countless NYCDS member volunteers who were a part of the many sub-committees.

While the Meeting is a remarkable achievement, the GNYDM is acutely aware that close friends such as you make the Meeting's accomplishments special. The warmth and collegiality shared by the Greater New York Dental Meeting family create an atmosphere often not evident at other venues. The GNYDM's achievements always translate to financial accomplishments for the NYCDS; through the GNYDM, the NYCDS has been able to continue its long tradition of low cost, high-quality continuing education, and member services.



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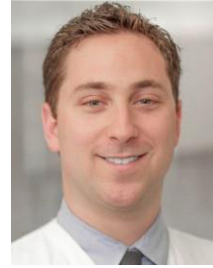
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Of Professional Interest

Advice on Marketing Your Personal Brand on Social Media

Dr. Lewis Chen, DDS, FICOI, FIADFE



Dr. Lewis Chen is the managing partner and director of operations of Finesse Dental Partners, a community built by dentists for dentists. He currently manages and oversees multi-specialty dental preventive practices with his partners in the New York metropolitan area.

Do you ever notice yourself scanning at how many lit up faces are glued to phones while you are on the subway? How many times have you unintentionally glanced over the shoulders of New York City denizens in a cramped subway car and noticed that they were browsing through some form of social media app and assessed the content that they were perusing? I think we've all done that to some extent.

Now, let's circle back to ourselves for a little bit. I can venture to say that a large percentage of us has some form of social media for personal usage whether it's Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, etc. As someone who has a personal social media page that also provides various content, establishing and creating a digital footprint is no small feat especially if you are looking to promote yourself as a healthcare professional.

While you are building your personal brand, there are some major pitfalls to avoid from personal experience. To start, it is important to identify the purpose of sculpting your personal brand. Who and/or what are you promoting? It goes without saying that being disingenuous or inauthentic can easily be recognized and may detract from your image, especially with all the unsolicited eyes you may attract.

This triggers the next question in the logic chain – who is your target audience? The more specific you know your audience, the better you can understand how to promote to your audience and manage your personal brand expectations. This is your niche! More importantly, the more you know about them, the better you can engage and connect with them. By not engaging with your audience, you lose traction with them; remember, your audience is looking to hear from you. This is how you can build relationships and your reputation.

So, what content should be publicized to garner interaction from your audience? I wish there was a crystal ball; however, always try to manifest positive energy and promote engagement in your content. Be careful with the message you deliver. It is important to be consistent in your message and your brand,

especially during the beginning phases of your growth. To be clear, the content does not necessarily need to promote you, but it can promote your personality and your values while attracting a like-minded audience.

Lastly, your brand should represent quality, not quantity. Developing content is nearly a full-time job. Your brand takes time to develop so ditch the “immediate gratification” mindset. It takes a lot of time, creativity, and work. Oftentimes, one approach is to publicize the content across multiple platforms to reach more audience; however, spreading yourself across too many platforms will dilute your efforts, your impact, and most importantly, your brand. The goal is not to attract the most people but to manage the quality relationships you build with your audience. They will inevitably build the size of your reach.

When I first started social media, it took me a bit of time to understand how to manifest my vision through content. Initially, I thought I wanted to position myself as a clinical educator, but I immediately recognized that as a young graduate, there was no way for me to benchmark myself among the clinicians who I idolized. I had too much to learn and little to no experience. I knew this wasn't my authentic self. Next, I pivoted into brand marketing for startup dental companies to promote their products on my social media platform. Being a doctor and promoting products was certainly unique since our doctorate degree didn't teach us how to market! This didn't become a part of my brand and niche since my target audience was far from my purpose, which was to gain inspiration from my network and spread inspiration through my extended network. Instead of focusing on what my audience wanted to hear, I focused on my story stemming from when I was 19 years old, which was to provide the highest quality of affordable care in a boutique setting on a broader scale. In turn, the quantity of content has decreased, the quality of engagement has increased, and most importantly, there is a more refined definition of my personal brand.

Truly, there is no recipe that can dictate the success of your brand. We are human, not a painted version of how we want to be perceived. Aside from falling forward, embrace the journey. Have fun with it. You'll end up building more meaningful relationships than not.

GKAS NYC Continues to Educate East Harlem Students!



ADA American Dental Association®

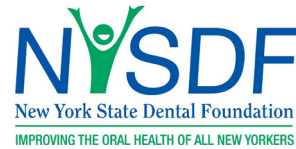
We are proud to report that the underserved children in District 4 East Harlem schools received critical oral hygiene awareness education in early 2022 in a safe way. Initially, plans were under-way to move forward with an in-person program. However, Covid infection rates increased significantly early in the year, so the schools indefinitely postponed the in-person portion of the event. We moved forward with the remote/virtual and oral health poster contest portions of the program developed last year by the Give Kids A Smile Steering Committee. In addition, 1,600 toothbrushes, toothpaste and educational pamphlets were delivered to the schools for distribution to the students.

Fortunately, in 2021 the committee had prepared three unique and engaging educational oral health video presentations for the lower, middle, and upper school children that were part of the teaching curriculum in late February/March. Thanks to the popularity of the poster contest first introduced last year, a new contest was held, inviting students to submit drawings of themselves with a super smile holding a toothbrush. The students really put a lot of creativity into their artwork! Sore-

ly needed school-related prizes were awarded to a grand prize winner and three honorable mention winners from each school. These awards are made possible by a generous grant received from the New York State Dental Foundation and Henry Schein.

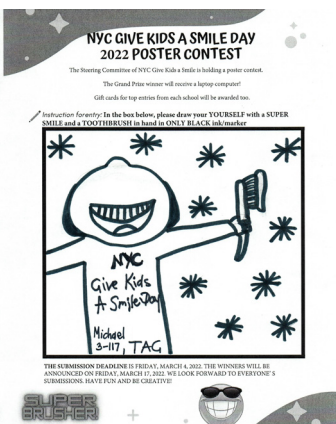
A live-stream Parent Workshop was held on March 17. Members of the GKAS Steering Committee reviewed with the parents much of the same information the children received, and provided guidance on the best ways parents can help their children achieve and maintain good oral health. Interpreters were available as needed and there was a live question and answer period on all dental-related topics. After the presentation, the winners of the poster contest were announced to eager and enthusiastic students and their families.

None of this would be possible without the leadership of GKAS NYC General Chair Deborah Weisfuse and Steering Committee members: Drs. Raya Abu-Zahra, Megan Chin, Ken Cooperman, Lois Jackson, Anne Kossowan, Michelle Lee, Ioanna Mentzelopoulou, Whitney Mostafiz, Katherine Park, JoAnna Pufnock, Jaskaren Randhawa, Anya Viron and staff Alexandra Gonzalez and Susan Ingoglia.



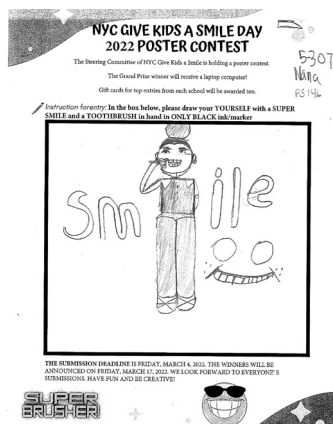
Give Kids A Smile NYC 2022 Poster Contest

All 52 drawings entered into the Oral Hygiene Poster Contest showed a lot of enthusiasm, effort, and creativity. There was one grand prize winner and twelve honorable mention winners. Congratulations to all who participated!



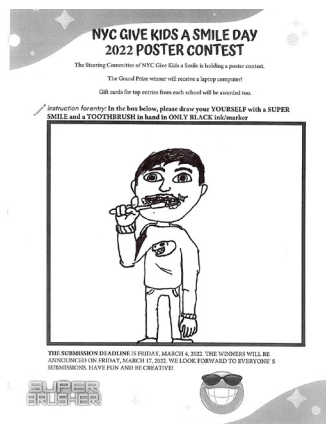
GRAND PRIZE WINNER!

Michael
TAG



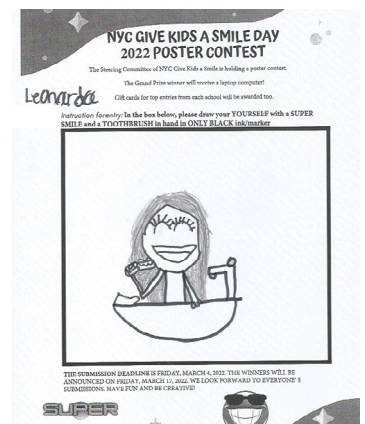
Honorable Mention

Nana
PS 146



Honorable Mention

Gabriel
PS 83



Honorable Mention

Leonarda
PS 182

Webinars Worth Watching!

If you didn't have the opportunity to attend the final four video recordings of the Road to Recovery Series sponsored by Henry Schein, here is your chance. Each program offers insights that can improve the operations of your practice. With such a wide-range of topics covered, there is something here for everyone.

Lease Negotiations: How to Avoid \$100,000 Mistakes in Your Dental Office Lease



Cyber Hygiene: Safeguarding Your Technology and Dental Practice Against Cybersecurity Threats



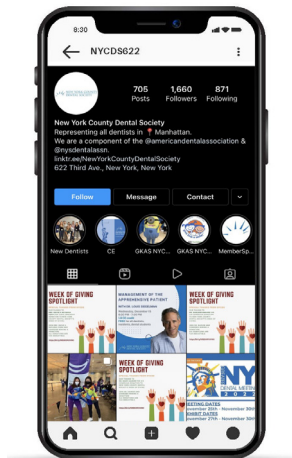
Controlling Stress in the Dental Environment



7 Deadly Sins of Insurance Claim Denials



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Social Media and Ethics in Dentistry

Steven H. Cho, DDS

Ethics Committee Chair



The use of social media is widespread across all ages and professions. Since its introduction, social media has grown to include over 4 billion users. With a rapidly evolving society, many dentists and other health care practitioners have adopted the use of social media to post and share content on sites like Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Youtube, Tumbler, etc.

These sites have been widely used for entertainment and to efficiently communicate with others. Reasons for use vary, but many dentists use social media to enhance patient care, professional networking, education, marketing, showcasing patient results, and sharing and exchanging clinical information.

There's no denying that the use of social media can be advantageous. For one, it's widely used by many people, making sharing of information easy and efficient. A post that takes just several minutes to craft can reach a wide range of people. Additionally, finding reputable accounts and platforms can be a great way to gain new knowledge and expand one's mode of thinking. But, with the good also comes the not-so-good.

“Before you decide to post content or comment on someone else's post, take a moment to carefully *evaluate the nature* and *appropriateness* of what you are about to share with the public. *Think:* Would I say this to a patient in real life?”

Irresponsible use of social media can lead to professional liability issues. Plus, allowing what you post to be public means you always run the risk of disclosing inappropriate information about oneself or a patient that can prove to be rather detrimental. With platforms like Facebook and Instagram, it's too easy to reveal a detailed account of one's personal life. Information is disseminated rapidly and globally. Any unprofessional behavior captured online may have a possible permanent impact on an individual's professional reputation and career, thus adversely impacting patient trust. For this reason, one should assume that all online content is potentially retrievable and permanent. Dental practitioners should take extra caution to use social media in the same manner as they would behave publicly. It's important

to establish clear boundaries between private and professional life. Should a provider be interested in using social media for both professional and personal purposes, it would be a good idea to create separate accounts for the two and to utilize the appropriate privacy settings.

We, as dental practitioners, should use social media platforms responsibly and strive not to breach the code of professional ethics. The indiscretions associated with the use of social media include, but are not limited to, the posting of unprofessional content, posting tweets that are harmful to an individual or the profession, posting digital photographs taken during surgery without consent, other violations of patient privacy, the use of profanity or discriminatory language, images of sexual suggestiveness, negative comments about patients, and the airing of frustrations or venting about patients on online forums. Clearly, these behaviors are not recommended. Not only can they result in disciplinary action, but they can even lead to employment termination or being refused admission to further education programs and professional societies.

Before you decide to post content or comment on someone else's post, take a moment to carefully evaluate the nature and appropriateness of what you are about to share with the public. Think: Would I say this to a patient in real life? Would I be okay with all people seeing this, or just a select few? It is also essential to consider and respect patient confidentiality. The same standards of patient consent and confidentiality within the office setting most definitely apply to the online sphere. If you want to share a patient photograph online, you must receive full consent and respect the patient's preferences. Refusing permission for the content to be posted is allowed and should be handled professionally. Even if identifying information is concealed, best practice would still suggest being granted approval. If granted, the post should declare that consent has been obtained to minimize any confusion or suspicion. Great care must always be taken to ensure that Protected Health Information is safeguarded. Such infractions may expose dentists to liabilities under federal HIPPA and state privacy laws.

Ultimately, it is our job to uphold the standards of professionalism. Though providers are humans too who may or may not decide to use social media for varying reasons (i.e., business or personal), the ethical duty of reporting inappropriate, negligent,

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Social Media and Ethics in Dentistry

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or unprofessional dentists applies to the online world. If you see content posted by other professionals that may be harmful to patients or the public (e.g., advertising false claims, posting unprofessional content, misrepresenting credentials, etc.), there are ways to go about reporting this activity.

The potential of social media to improve relationships with our patients through better access to oral health care services, communication, and information sharing is limitless. The use of technology and social media is ever growing and if learned to use appropriately, can be a great asset to dentistry. What will ensure positive growth and productivity while using social media is abiding by the ethical and professional standards as discussed. When careful, foundations of public trust can be fortified and ultimately benefit both clinical care experiences and one's practice.

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Legislative Update

Kenneth B. Cooperman, DMD

Legislative Chair

Spring is approaching, and we are continuing to promote our legislative agenda here at NYCDS. When there is a legislative issue that comes before the political leaders of our city that deals with dentistry or the health and wellness of New Yorkers, we want our elected representatives to know that NYCDS is available as a valuable resource. We want the dentists of NYC to be represented during these deliberations.

We have had a few meetings with Deborah Glick, a NYS Assembly member representing parts of lower Manhattan. She is the chair of the NYS Assembly's Committee on Higher Education, which oversees issues dealing with licensure and scope of practice. We discussed our enthusiasm for bill A7754A, which addresses the expansion of the scope of practice of hygienists and assistants. This bill would permit hygienists to administer nitrous and do local infiltrations for any dental procedure, rather than for only hygiene procedures. This bill would also let assistants fabricate and place temporary restorations.

We also discussed the burdensome delays in the provision of licenses to newly graduated dentists and hygienists. Assembly-member Glick is now more fully aware of the onerous student loans encumbering new dental graduates. We discussed how challenging it is to have to wait an extra 3-4 months as the state slowly processes applications for licensure, during which time these new dental professionals are unable to work. There are changes coming to make things more efficient, but these changes have been delayed due to hiring freezes and the planned implementation of an online license application system.

We will continue to represent the dentists of NYCDS as we have these important conversations with our local representatives.

New Members

Alexander Daitch, DMD

Rutgers 2020
General Practice

Mabel Mai, DDS

SUNY Stony Brook 2019
General Practice

Menka Sinha, DDS

New York University 2002
General Practice

Reinstated Members

Stephanie Demas, DDS

SUNY Stony Brook 2008
General Practice

Jeremy Dixon, DDS

SUNY Buffalo 2000
Pediatric Dentistry

Jennifer Fligr, DDS

New York University 2005
General Practice

Marino Guzman, DDS

New York University 1995
General Practice

James Kleinfelder, DDS

Ohio State University 2018
General Practice

Kunal Lal, DDS

Manipal College of Dental
Surgery 2004

Ningkun Li, DDS

Harvard University 2015
Pediatric Dentistry

Mimi Yeung, DDS

New York University 1995
General Practice

Graduate Students

Mahmoud Aboulfarag, DDS

Cairo University 2002
General Practice

Yasmecn Abugharbiyeh, DDS

Foreign Dental School 2010
General Practice

Dima Abuhamda, DDS

Cairo University 2016
General Practice

Leslie Andujar, DDS

University Iberoamericana 2005
General Practice

Aldaod Hajir, DDS

Foreign Dental School
2010

Juan Martinez, DDS

University de Carabobo
2013

In Memoriam

Ruben Cohen, DDS

New York University 2002
Oral and Maxillofacial

Neal Alan Demby, DMD

University of Pennsylvania 1968
Dental Public Health/ General Practice

Ester Lim, DDS

Foreign Dental School
1974

Edward Luboja, DDS

Columbia 1947
General Practice

David Nusblatt, DMD

University of Pennsylvania
1980

Louis Rubins, DDS

Columbia University 1960
General Practice

Maxwell Simkin, DDS

New York University 1941
General Practice

Brian Webber, DDS

Columbia University 1977
Endodontics



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