



(left to right) Members Catagay Erakin, Anna Viron, Jessie Reisig, Jacqueline Katz, Irina Reyzelman, NYSDA Vice President Maurice Edwards, NYCDS President Mina Kim, and member Chanelle Small gather together at the September General Membership Meeting.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
**MAKING NYCDS AN
INDISPENSABLE
MEMBER RESOURCE!**

Mina C. Kim, DDS

“The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things.” – Ronald Reagan

This quote by former US President Ronald Reagan inspired me to get more dentist members involved. In my presidential address in January, I shared my wish to empower all of you. Part of empowering members is giving our leaders the tools to excel. In my final months as president, I want to motivate ALL of you to make the dental profession better by working collectively. First, I thought I should share a little about myself and why I choose to be involved.

I took over my father's midtown office, a general practice where we take pride in having many patients for over 35 years and place an emphasis on preventative care. In several families, we have 4 generations of patients! I am now past 10 years in practice and have a clear idea of what I enjoy, what skills I want to hone and who I want to refer. Like many of you, I had a very hard time during COVID-19, and am still recovering. As much as I love dentistry, I am constantly troubled by staffing, dental insurance, and my overhead that is increasing faster than my revenue.

Outside of my professional life, I love all kinds of food. As New Yorkers...

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Finance Administrator

Judy Chei

NYCDS

(212) 573-8500

Editor

Susan Schiano Ingoglia

Design & Production

Jordan Bettencourt

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Continuing Education

What I Have Learned As Your Education Director

Mitchell Rubinstein, DMD

Education Director



After six exciting and eventful years, the time has come. 2023 will be my final year as New York County Dental Society's Education Director. It has been a true honor, and also a privilege, to bring new and innovative continuing education programs to NYCDS. Soon you will have a new Education Director to shepherd the program into the future, face the next set of challenges, and make the program even better, and stronger.

Over the past six years, I have been proud to bring a new level of world class lecturers to our program, including such luminaries as Erin Elliot, David Garber, David Rice, Martin Trope, Andi Miro, and Rhodri Thomas. We have rekindled important relationships with loyal sponsors such as Brasseler, Ivoclar, Cosmedent, Dentsply, and Henry Schein. We have dramatically improved our hands-on programs, expanding for the first time into in-depth, multi-day courses. And perhaps most important, attendance at our programs is now steadily increasing. We've been adding courses to meet the increased demand, and I fully expect this trend to continue.

As it happens, my own tenure as Education Director coincided with a series of profound challenges that tested our Society and also our profession. We faced an explosion of competition from for-profit CE providers, a technological revolution in remote learning, and, of course, the unprecedented challenges of the Covid-19 Pandemic. In 2020, our live in-person course catalog fell apart and was replaced by recorded webinars and Zoom lectures. It took us a long time to dig ourselves out of the deep pit of Covid, but I'm proud to say we did it. It has been exhilarating but also exhausting at times, and I must thank the members of my CE committee and the staff of New York County Dental Society, particularly Valerie Burgos, Susan Ingoglia, and our Executive Director, Diane Laurenzo. These are the people who do much of the hard work of cultivating, publicizing, and organizing our program, and making sure the courses we offer are the best available for our members.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to past Presidents Ken Cooperman and Jim Jacobs, who first approached me about taking this position. Their faith in my abilities was an immense source of motivation (and maybe a little anxiety as well). Moreover, I am thankful to the entire NYCDS Board of Directors, whose unwavering support and guidance have been instrumental in shaping the program's success during my tenure.

The Education Director's position has been, in many ways, one long continuing education course for me. I've learned that choosing the people you learn from is as important as selecting the topics you wish to study. The valuable lessons I've learned from my colleagues, committee members, and the dental community will remain with me for the rest of my career. Every challenge we faced became an opportunity to grow, and every success was a testament to the dedication and resilience of our entire team. I'm very pleased to be leaving the program stronger, more respected, and on improved financial footing.

Though I bid farewell to this role, I remain committed to the continued success and growth of the Continuing Education program at NYCDS. Serving as your Education Director has been a rewarding journey, and I am eternally grateful to have been given this opportunity.

Thank you Dr. Rubinstein for your years of service as Continuing Education Director.



**NO
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Meeting Dates:

November 24-29, 2023

Exhibit Dates:

November 26-29, 2023

Meeting is Held at the
Jacob K. Javits Convention Center

 WWW.GNYDM.COM



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FALL 2023

09/27 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM	<u>Basic Life Support/CPR Certification Course</u>	Marc Reilly, Rescue Resuscitation
09/28 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	<u>Preparing Your Dental Practice for Sale</u>	Mark Epstein, David Goodman, and Mitchell Brill
10/04 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM	<u>Actions and Algorithms for Medical Emergencies: How to Save a Life, Including Your Own</u>	Dr. Daniel Pompa
10/11 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM	<u>Mandatory Prescriber DEA Education Renewal for Licensed Dentists*</u>	Dr. Marc Gottlieb
10/25 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM	<u>Infection Control for the Dental Practice</u>	Dr. Peter Mychajliw
10/27 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM	<u>Speed Learning: 6 Speakers, 6 Hours, 5 Credits</u>	Please see registration page for full list of speakers and lecture topics
11/01 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM	<u>Orofacial Pain - The 12th Dental Specialty: A Look to the Future</u>	Dr. Donald Tanenbaum
11/16 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	<u>Avoiding Pitfalls in the Hiring Process*</u>	Dennis Alessi and Brent Pohlman
12/06 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM	<u>Basic Life Support/CPR Certification Course</u>	Marc Reilly, Rescue Resuscitation
01/17 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	<u>HR Management Documentation for Dental Practices*</u>	Dennis Alessi and Brent Pohlman
01/24 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM	<u>Mandatory Prescriber DEA Education Renewal for Licensed Dentists*</u>	Dr. Marc Gottlieb
02/08 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM	<u>12 Hour Sedation Certificate Renewal Day 1</u>	Dr. Marc Gottlieb
02/09 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM	<u>12 Hour Sedation Certificate Renewal Day 2</u>	Dr. Marc Gottlieb
03/08 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM	<u>Orofacial Myofunctional Therapy and Orthodontic Intervention: A Hands-On Approach</u>	Dana Hockenbury and Judith Dember-Paige

* = virtual course

New courses are added regularly so be sure to visit www.nycdentalsociety.org for the latest course schedule.

Upcoming Speed Learning Event

Hear cutting-edge lectures featuring clinicians who will provide a wealth of expertise on topics applicable to your practice. This Speed Learning event provides an opportunity for speakers to present tips and techniques in a variety of dental disciplines.

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Full speaker bios and lecture descriptions can be found on the [registration page](#).

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Friday, October 27
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

ADA members: \$99.00
Non-Members: \$145.00
CE hours: 5.0

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Dr. Bhagwati Mistry



Dr. Juliana Ramalho



Dr. Julie Connolly



NEW YORK COUNTY
DENTAL SOCIETY



June Pride Month Celebration

Members came together at Mondrian Terrace on June 20th to raise a glass in honor of Pride Month. This was the second year NYCDS held a Pride celebration in honor of those who went before us and bravely paved the path to greater acceptance for everyone in the LGBTQ+ community to live and celebrate openly. NYSDA's support of this event was greatly appreciated.



(Above) Member Shawn Salehezadeh with former NYCDS President Maitreya Padukone came early to kick off the celebratory event.

New Dentist Pizza Party

August 2 was a perfect night for an outdoor Pizza Party at a classic NYC pizza parlor. New dentists turned out for a casual and fun event sampling a variety of pizza styles, capped off with some delicious desserts. It was a great way to catch-up and relax with friends and colleagues. Committee Chair Gregory Shank had this to say: "As New Dentist chair, one of my goals is to provide fun, less formal opportunities for our new dentists to network with their peers. This event was a blast and a great start!"

Events don't just happen – New Dentist Committee member Jacqueline Katz helped organize the event. "I had such a great time meeting new dentists and making new connections while enjoying some of the best slices in New York with our existing dental community and friends! Thank you so much to everyone who came and made it a terrific night!" Special thanks to MLMIC Insurance Company for their sponsorship of this event.

Check your email and social media for future New Dentist events – you don't want to miss them!



NYCDS officers and members met on June 20th to raise a glass in honor of Pride Month. Here is a snapshot of the group that stayed till the end. (left to right: Vice President Vera Tang; Board Member Jaskaren Randhawa; guest Connor Balog; members Michele Perna and Laura Conciatori; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair Leo Paige; member Yassmin Parsaei; President Mina Kim; and Immediate Past President Ioanna Mentzelopoulou.



Luisa Fernandez with MLMIC Insurance Company (a Corporate Friend of NYCDS and event sponsor) shares a moment with Rob Malandrucolo (left) and Jarrett Mathews from Bank of America Practice Solutions, also a Corporate Friend of NYCDS.

(left to right) NYCDS Secretary Andrew Deutch, New Dentist Chair Greg Shank, President Mina Kim, and New Dentist Committee member and event organizer Jacqueline Katz share a moment together between sampling pizza.



New Dentist Chair Greg Shank (left) with Diversity Committee Chair Leo Paige, New Dentist Committee Member Kendra Irizzary, Board Member JoAnna Pufnock, and member Michael Schiffman connecting during the pizza party.

we have the whole culinary world at our doorstep. I am partial to cheese and carbs, but I have more refined tastes as well. I am also the proud dog mom of the best puppy in the world, Vito. It is ironic that the First Dog has a Class III malocclusion and severe crowding. I also think I have the best accessories of any of our presidents, but I am sure I will be shortly bested by one of my successors.

Part of why I became a dentist was that we have the opportunity to use our skills to help others. This is why I started the NYC chapter of Give Kids a Smile (GKAS). Under the leadership of Deborah Weisfuse and Michelle Lee, the NYCDS GKAS is now the largest in the country. I am also a Special Olympics chairperson and spearhead dental initiatives with Anna Viron for different competitions. I also do my best to champion the needs of diverse dentists.

Now that you know a little about me, you may be scratching your head as to how I got here. I often get confused looks when I am introduced as the president of NYCDS, the 2nd largest component in the ADA. My secret is that I have had a network of mentors, like former NYCDS Presidents David Shipper,

Jim Jacobs, Maurice Edwards and Ioanna Mentzelopolou, who have helped me on my leadership path. I am very lucky to have NYSDA Trustee Lois Jackson as my sponsor. I also have wonderful clinical role models in my father, Dr. Syngbum Kim, my uncle, Dr. Syngcuk Kim, and my former professors at Columbia and New York Methodist Hospital.

Every one of the mentors I mentioned above are members of NYCDS. Through volunteering and socializing, I have also made many close friends in organized dentistry. Once I needed an implant driver, and an NYCDS member lent it to me without any reservations. Another lent me \$20 for cab money, when I left my wallet at home. I want NYCDS to feel like a community and the "go-to" resource for all our members.

However, I am not naïve enough to think that camaraderie and outreach are enough to influence everyone to become members. My goals going forward are to take a hard look at our shortcomings and address them. I know we can do a better job of providing members with what they need and want. To do that, we need to hear from ALL of you. We already have wonderful initiatives, like our legislative efforts to help with student loans, dental insurance reform and staffing concerns, but we are not communicating in the best way possible. I recently held a Future Focus meeting on September 19 consisting of both members and non-members to identify the greatest issues facing dentists and came up with action items to improve the Society. From our future focus meeting, I learned that we need to do more to increase member value. We need to make information more accessible to our members. I will also spearhead an initiative to provide member dentists with resources to help them with some of the headaches with dental insurance. Eventually, we will require collaboration from dentists, legislators and ideally insurance companies.

I also plan to hold a dental insurance forum in the next few months. We need to identify the greatest issues facing dentists and find a pathway to fixing them. This will require collaboration from dentists, legislators and ideally insurance companies.

Dentists often ask why I spend so much time with organized dentistry. I would like to turn around and ask you why aren't you doing this? This is our profession; let us work together to make positive changes so we can practice comfortably and provide excellent care for our patients. This is the only big ask I will make this year. Thank you for your support and your continued support of our upcoming leadership. Whether or not you aspire to be in the leadership at NYCDS, please still be an involved member. Please help us turn the Society into an organization that is an indispensable resource.

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The Future is Here!



Columbia ASDA representatives Adam Mucci, Kristin Woo, and Michael Prado reconnect with NYCDS Executive Director Diane Laurenzo (2nd from right) after first meeting at the NYSDA House of Delegates.



Guest speaker Dr. Christian Stohler (center) connecting with attendees prior to his lecture (left to right) Columbia resident Michelle Skelton, Board Member Gabriela Lee, President Mina Kim, NYSDA Trustee Lois Jackson, Board Member Gail Schupak, Columbia resident Sidney Shapiro, and member Stacy Spizuoco

Despite heavy traffic from the U.N. Assembly Meeting, NYCDS had a large turnout for the September 18th General Membership Meeting featuring Christian S. Stohler, DMD, lecturing on *My AI Copilot: Dental Practice and Dental Education in the Times of Artificial Intelligence*. Dr. Stohler is dean of Columbia University College of Dental Medicine and senior vice president of Columbia University Irving Medical Center.

Dr. Stohler started his fascinating lecture on the future of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by noting that several of the slides in his presentation were created by ChatGPT. It would have taken him many hours, if not days, to do the research for slides that ChatGPT was able to create in a matter of seconds. His lecture traced the rapid history of AI and the seminal moment in November 2022 when ChatGPT was launched – starting the revolution that will change how we live, and especially, how medicine is practiced going forward. As he noted, AI in medicine and dentistry must keep pace – ChatGPT is just the beginning – next will be interactive AI.

A larger concern is dental education and whether students are being taught to be “future ready.” In dental practice, AI algorithms can analyze dental images to detect anomalies or early signs of issues. AI-powered software can automate appointment scheduling, reminders, and follow-ups. AI can help in creating personalized treatment plans based on the specific needs, history, and preferences of the patient, enhancing the patient experience. According to Dr. Stohler, however, dental education will be a far cry from what it is now. The only problem that limits the speed of professional transformation is the lack of innovation in dental education that detracts invest-

ment. Without growth in innovation in the local community, or within the dental profession, the ability for service sectors, like dentistry to invest in new AI technology may be limited. Dr. Stohler wants the profession to embrace AI and believes data can help dentists make smart decisions. The role of AI will only grow and he emphasized the need to view the situations as “man and AI” not “man vs. machine.” Dr. Stohler increased everyone’s awareness of the significance and scale of artificial intelligence to change our personal and professional lives and the need to be open to those changes.

President Mina Kim announced the proposed slate of officers, President-Elect Vera W.L. Tang, Vice President Andrew S.



Board Member Gail Schupak (center) with NYU ASDA representatives Pooneh Khazaeipool (left) and Kristen Johnson.

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Deutch, Secretary Egidio A. Farone, and Treasurer Jaskaren Randhawa, to serve with 2024 President Suchie Chawla, which will be voted on at the November 6th General Membership Meeting. In addition, Gary Nord and Whitney Mostafiz-Levinson are nominated to serve on the Board of Directors and Marsha Rubin and Evan Schwartz are nominated as Alternate Directors. Special thanks to the Nominating Committee for their role in selecting the slate to serve: Ada Cooper, Ken Cooperman, Maurice Edwards, Lois Jackson, James Jacobs, Irvind Khurana, Gabriela Lee, Michelle Lee, Ioanna Mentzelopoulou, JoAnna Pufnock, and Robert Sorin.

Dr. Kim encouraged everyone to attend and volunteer for the Greater New York Dental Meeting taking place November 26-29, 2023. She also announced upcoming outings, the September 27 Golf Outing and the October 1 Fishing Trip, and two upcoming volunteer events, the October 14 Special Olympics and February 2, 2024 Give Kids A Smile (see page 10 for details). Legislative Chair Ken Cooperman addressed members briefly to update everyone on the steps taken by the committee to increase legislators' awareness of the Dental Society as a resource and to advocate on behalf of the profession and Chair of the Member Benefits and Services Committee Gary Nord reviewed many of the benefits available to members, spotlighted regularly through email. Special thanks to the evening's sponsors: Haleon, MLMIC Insurance Company, and Torch Dental.



President Elect Suchie Chawla (left) and member Mica Baevsky take a moment away from catching up.



(left to right) Give Kids A Smile NYC Co-Chairs Maggie Romao and Anna Viron with member Maia Palagi at the September General Membership Meeting.

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Random Visits by Inspectors from the Office of Radiological Health

Marty Schnee, CRESO

Big Apple Radiation Safety Inc.

Marty Schnee, a practice partner with NYCDS, was a senior scientist with the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for three decades, serving as chief of the Radiation Equipment Division, supervisor of the Radioactive Materials Division and supervisor of the Emergency Response Team. In addition, he is a consultant to both the NYPD and FDNY for radiation. Members in need of an inspection or with questions can contact him at scientist004@aol.com or call 718-373-6348. For CBCT call 917-838-8481.

There seems to be a new policy by the NYC Office of Radiological Health (ORH) inspectors where they are doing random checks at dental facilities. One dental office received a summons for not having a copy of their last CRESO report to show the inspector. I always leave a copy of the CRESO report at the facility. It is your responsibility to have it on hand and readily available. Besides this I leave a handout at all my facilities with a warning that the inspectors may drop in at any time. You must have the following items to show them if requested:

1. Current permit
2. Copy of last CRESO report dated within 5 years
3. Copy of Article 175 on your computer [health-code-article175.pdf \(nyc.gov\)](#)
4. Proof of training and annual evaluations of staff, appropriate office policies and regulatory requirements concerning Article 175.
5. Posted Notice to Employees (possibly)

Call: ORH @ (718) 786- 6002 or ORH@health.nyc.gov for CRESO report.

Call: DCWP @ (212) 487-4060 for copy of permit or renewal forms.

In addition, if you miss your designated date of CRESO inspection or your permit is not up to date you can receive a summons by mail. Unfortunately, sometimes the mail is not delivered as it should be. You may not receive your Commissioner's Order for your 5-year inspection. That's unfortunate because that is not an excuse for not complying with the requirement to be inspected. Think of your car the day after your inspection was due -- you will be ticketed if an officer inspects your registration/inspection dates. You must keep track of your due dates (hint: use Siri or Alexa).

Others have been issued summonses for missing their 5-year inspection. Some are getting tickets for not renewing their permits on time. Some are getting punished for not registering a new CBCT or a new dental office. There are facilities that have not had a CRESO inspection since 2015.

So far, they haven't enforced the training and evaluation regulation (175.49 (a)2):

The registrant must provide initial training and annual evaluations of x-ray operators to include but not limited to: positioning of the x-ray tube, image processing, operator loca-

tion during x-ray exposure, source to skin distance, radiation protection, appropriate radiographic protocol and applicable regulatory requirements. Records of training and annual evaluations must be maintained for inspection by the Department.

This is already a question on every CRESO inspection report; page 4 question #15. I have been avoiding answering this question on every CRESO inspection report by writing "advised" for the past 4 years but the requirement to provide radiation training and evaluation of x-ray operators is on the books and no one knows when it will start to be enforced. Only a dentist can teach how to take an x-ray.

Important Radiation Reminders!

1. Renew your x-ray permit(s) **every 2 years**.
2. Have an inspection **every 5 years**.
3. Always let the Office of Radiological Health know if you close or sell your practice. **This is critical!** Send a note to ORH@health.nyc.gov or call 718-786-6002.
4. Don't ignore a Commissioner's Order. Even if you closed your practice, or you are the new owner with a new permit – make a note on the letter and send it back.
5. Questions? Email the Office of Radiological Health at ORH@health.nyc.gov.

PERMITS

The permit for your x-ray equipment must be renewed **every 2 years** (including CBCT scans which also require an annual calibration). A single permit covers as many machines as you have, with the exception of CBCT machines. Contact Consumer Affairs at 212-487-4060 to check the status of your permit.

INSPECTIONS

The inspection of your X-Ray equipment must be performed by a Certified Radiological Equipment Safety Officer **every 5 years**. Contact the NYC Department of Radiological Health 718-786-6002 or email ORH@health.nyc.gov to check your last inspection date.

Have you CLOSED or SOLD your practice?

Permits are specific to each dental practice and are **not transferable** from one owner to another. The permit is also not transferrable to another address or suite even for the same owner. A lapsed permit does NOT cancel your permit – you must close it out. **You need to cancel your permit** with the NYC Department of Health in writing using this form: [Cancellation of Registration Form](#).

Have you BOUGHT a practice, PURCHASED new x-ray equipment or need to RENEW your 2-year permit?

You can register or renew your equipment with the NYC Department of Health [HERE](#).

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

LAST CHANCE!
The 7th Annual NYCDS Charity Golf Outing
 September 27, 2023
 Metropolis Country Club in White Plains, NY
 Benefiting *Special Olympics New York*

Register Today!



Give Kids (and Yourself) A Smile!
 2/2/24 / 7:30 am - 12:30 pm



ADA American Dental Association*



Be part of the **GKAS** movement!

It's time to register for our largest community-based volunteer event! Help provide dental screenings, fluoride treatment, and oral health education to elementary school children in East Harlem through our award-winning event.

VOLUNTEER

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\$75/member dentist
\$100/family member

Ocean Eagle V Fishing Boat
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REGISTER: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nycds-fishing-trip-tickets-668345127267>

Special Olympics
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Randall's Island Park (Field 10)
8:30 AM- 1:00 PM

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Free health screenings conducted by health care professionals and medical students!

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Register to volunteer at:
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Do I Really Need a Partnership Agreement for My Dental Business?

William Barrett, Esq.

CEO, Mandelbaum Barrett PC



Bill Barrett is the CEO of the full-service law firm Mandelbaum Barrett PC, co-chair of the firm's National Dental Law Group, and an unparalleled dental dealmaker who has successfully closed hundreds of transactions nationwide. With two best-selling books, "Pain Free Dental Deals" and "The DSO Decision: Winning Answer from Every Angle," Bill's expertise extends beyond the written word, as he is also a nationally recognized speaker for events and dental study clubs throughout the country. Mandelbaum Barrett PC is a Corporate Friend of NYCDs.

The key question here is: “Do I need a partnership agreement if I am going into business or already in business with a partner?” The term “partnership agreement” refers generally to an agreement between owners of a dental practice. However, depending on the type of legal entity, an operating agreement or shareholders’ agreement may be the appropriate terminology. Over the years we have seen many dental business partners who form a legal entity for their practice and decide not to adopt a partnership agreement. Excited by the prospects of the business, partners believe that negotiating a partnership agreement is an unnecessary cost that will slow momentum and create unnecessary legal obstacles. Like many people they think “what could possibly go wrong by proceeding without a partnership agreement?”

To illustrate the myriad of things that could go wrong, consider the following hypothetical: A deeply shared interest in providing high quality dental care along with compassionate service was the catalyst for a dental practice partnership between Matthew and Alex. The business weathered a rocky start but appeared to be making progress toward sustainable growth. Unfortunately, by that time, the partners’ relationship had deteriorated. They were clashing often, especially over questions of contribution and control. Matthew felt he was doing the real work, while Alex criticized Matthew for mismanaging finances and employees. A friend and fellow dentist weighed in and helped Matthew see his mistakes which cost the business money and good employees. Matthew acknowledged his errors and decided he wanted out of the practice. He contacted a dental school colleague and started negotiating a purchase price for his equity in the practice. When Alex learned this, he felt angry and betrayed, and the hostility between the partners festered. Unfortunately, the situation depicted here is far from rare. These disputes arose primarily because Matthew and Alex did not have a clear partnership agreement that addressed the issues they confronted.

By adopting a well-drafted and custom-tailored partnership agreement, partners can set and manage each other’s expecta-

tions and avoid future disputes or at least have a mechanism to resolve them when they arise. For example, in the hypothetical, a partnership agreement would have served to define terms such as who would manage the company on a day-to-day basis, and what responsibilities each person would be accountable for. A partnership agreement would have allowed Matthew and Alex to agree in advance about how to manage company finances, plan distributions of profits, and whether they would make additional capital contributions or loans to the practice when necessary. Alex could have negotiated to maintain responsibility for managing practice employees. A partnership agreement could also have identified a person(s) that would resolve disputes if the partners encountered a deadlock or could not agree on an important decision. Further, addressing important issues such as restrictions on sale or transfer of ownership may have prevented Matthew from starting sale negotiations. Similarly, incorporation of a notice of partner withdrawal requirement, and a right of first refusal would have given Alex priority to purchase Matthew’s interest in the practice before any third parties. These partners could also have pre-established how equity purchase price and deal terms would be determined in the event of a future sale or other triggering events such as death, disability, retirement, or early withdrawal.

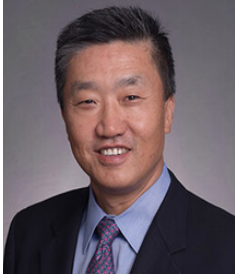
There are many key topics and questions that should be addressed in a partnership agreement. When deciding whether to prepare a partnership agreement, dental professionals should also understand that absent a written and binding agreement, a company is governed by the default statutes and regulations of the state where the company was formed. Although many state’s rules are comprehensive, they may not adequately address the rights and obligations of the partners under many different scenarios, or they may create a dead lock between the partners.

By way of example, state rules may not discuss what happens when the company needs more capital, or whether an owner is prohibited from competing with his/her other dental business. Similarly, statutes and regulations will not address how to share profits when one partner produces significantly more dentistry and revenue than another partner. Because each dental business is unique, and relationships between partners vary greatly, accepting the one-size-fits-all approach of state laws or even a generic form of partnership agreement can be dangerous. For this and many more reasons, a well-structured partnership agreement prepared by counsel, which sets forth the parties’ intentions and provides for agreed upon rights and protections in advance is the only logical option.

The Promises and Challenges of Artificial Intelligence in Dentistry

Steven H. Cho, DDS

Ethics Committee Chair



Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly finding its way into various fields, including dentistry, intending to enhance clinical practice. The growth of technology will always come with its share of pitfalls. Simultaneously, the benefits of AI in dentistry seem vast and intriguing. It has shown promise in revolutionizing diagnostics, treatment planning, and patient care.

Here, we will examine the advantages and disadvantages for the increasingly widespread use of AI in today's current culture.

The following are examples of how AI can benefit dentistry: AI has the ability to analyze large amounts of data from patient records and images (e.g., X-rays, CBCT and intra-oral scans) and dental history with high precision and efficiency. This allows dentists to make more informed decisions about patient care without needing to sort through endless documentation with the risk of human error in collecting all necessary information. AI's speed and efficiency can help identify potential oral health problems such as cavities, periodontal disease, and other oral conditions early on, potentially providing more accurate diagnoses and better treatment outcomes before the disease state progresses.

Incredibly, in addition to assisting in collecting information to help dentists make accurate diagnoses, AI can also be utilized for treatment purposes in cases like creating custom-made dental prosthetics, orthodontic aligners, and other devices. This can help ensure perfect fit and optimal patient comfort. The discovery of new treatments, dental materials, and medications may very well be on the way.

Along with more clinically-related responsibilities, AI can help practices run more efficiently by automating specific tasks, such as scheduling appointments and managing patient records. This could potentially mitigate some of the tedious and time consuming, yet necessary work, which may free up more time for patient-related attention.

On a more global scale, AI-driven virtual consultation tools allow patients to seek advice and receive preliminary diagnoses from dentists remotely. Though it is typically best to have these interactions in person, it's a way to make dental care more accessible, especially in underserved areas. For those who feel more comfortable in their homes or may not have the means/mode to attend an in-person visit, professional healthcare can still be made possible.

There are also potential pitfalls regarding AI in dentistry considered here:

As mentioned as a benefit, AI-powered tools can analyze and sort through vast amounts of patient data with speed and efficiency. Though mind-boggling, it may also raise privacy concerns. If the data is not secured properly, it could be vulnerable to cyber-attacks and other breaches. This is something to keep in mind, especially with the promise of patient confidentiality. AI-powered tools are only as accurate as the data they are trained on. If the data is incomplete, biased, used improperly, or without appropriate oversight, it can lead to inaccurate diagnosis or treatment plans. Just because something is reported from a powerful computer system, doesn't necessarily mean it is giving you the most complete picture of the situation.

The complexity of oral diseases necessitates using reliable AI systems that cater to different patient groups without bias. AI systems can inadvertently reinforce human prejudices and preferences if not adequately monitored. To ensure ethical AI implementation, developing diverse and inclusive datasets that represent various demographics is essential. Humans are complex and unique; no two individuals are built the same or follow the same patterns. For this reason, using AI with caution becomes that much more critical when it comes to quality, personalized patient care.

AI holds great promise in dentistry, but it raises important ethical issues worth thinking about. Dental practitioners must navigate the ethical landscape of AI to ensure its responsible and beneficial use in patient care. Constant vigilance is necessary to detect errors and ensure transparency within the system. Constant monitoring, transparency, and diversity in datasets are essential to mitigate bias and provide reliable AI-driven solutions. The dental community must address these concerns and adopt AI responsibly and ethically to ensure patient welfare remains a priority.

In a world where the use of technology is exciting and more powerful than ever before, it is crucial to remember what matters most: the patient. Dentists train hard to acquire the knowledge and skills that ultimately allow for the gift of patient care. Leaders in healthcare must not lose their clinical judgment and expertise to make informed decisions. And those in the field should not lose their sense of human touch, potentially one of the most effective ways to build patient trust and connection. As the course of technology continues to evolve, it is important to self-reflect on the ways in which you may or may not want to use AI or other related systems as a healthcare provider and ask, *is this really enhancing how I practice and who I am helping?*

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Connor Balog, DMD
Medical University of South Carolina
2019
General Practice

Reinstated

Jeremy Montrose, DMD
Oregon Health Science University
2010
General Practice

Transferred to NYCDS

John Dinan, DMD
University of Medicine & Dentistry
New Jersey 2013
Orofacial Pain
Transferred from Air Force Component

Residents & Graduate Students

Swetha Alugubelli, DDS
Columbia University 2023
General Practice

Mario Bradford Antonioni, DDS
University of Michigan 2019
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Michael Borshov, DMD
Nova Southeastern University 2023
General Practice

Bernardo Assumpcao Caldas, DMD
Nova Southeastern University 2023
Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics

Anamaria Carrasco, DDS
Columbia University 2023
Pediatric Dentistry

Briana Castillo, DDS
NYU 2023
General Practice

Eric Justin Chan, DMD
Harvard University 2023
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Jennifer Chou, DMD
University of Pennsylvania 2021
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