



(left to right) NYCDS President-Elect Vera Tang, Jarrett Mathews with Bank of America, NYSDA Vice President Maurice Edwards, panelist Ace Watanasuparp, NYCDS President Suchie Chawla, panelist Dr. Minerva Patel, past NYCDS President Mina Kim, Chinese American Dental Association President Darryl Wu, NYSDA Executive Director Greg Hill, and NYSDA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair Ioanna Mentzelopoulou at the May AAPI program.

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## CELEBRATING, SUPPORTING AND ADVOCATING FOR MEMBERS

Suchie Chawla, DMD, MD



It is an honor to serve and represent the New York County Dental Society as your president. As I reflect on the past months, it is hard to believe that half of my term is over. From the outset, my primary goals have been to promote wellness and address the pressing issues surrounding dentists. I am proud of the strides we have made in these areas and would like to share some of the key accomplishments and milestones of this year.

### Prioritizing Wellness: A Core Mission

"You are your most valuable asset. Take care of yourself as such." This piece of advice from my good friend Brett Kessler, the ADA president-elect, has been a guiding principle throughout my presidency. This resonated deeply with me and underscored the importance of mental and physical health as our most valuable assets. To this end, we have placed a strong emphasis on wellness initiatives aimed at supporting our members' overall well-being.

### Educational and Wellness Initiatives

We were honored to kick off the year with a lecture by Dr. Sara Barenbaum, assistant professor in the Department of Comprehensive Weight Control at NYP-Weill Cornell Hospital.

(continued on page 4)

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# Continuing Education

## Is Online Dental Education the future?

**Irvind Khurana, DDS**

Education Director



Online courses, mostly webinars given by the manufacturers promoting their products, have been around for at least ten years or more. It enabled them to find a cost-effective way to market their products by offering free CE credits and thereby reaching out to a wide range of participants. Since Zoom and other interactive online platforms gained momentum during and after the pandemic, we have seen a plethora of online courses either free or at minimal cost, including those from NYCDS. Obviously, these courses are convenient to take, and the price is attractive, but how much are we learning from them?

Several studies have shown that distractions cause the learning capability of the human brain to decline after 45 minutes sitting in front of a computer. I personally agree with that, but what do you think? How do you compare online courses with in-person presentations? Would you prefer interactions with clinicians and your peers in person? Would you like to see, feel, and work with the materials you may be using on patients in your office? Let's open this debate for further discussion. Please share your opinion with me via email at: [ikhuranadds@yahoo.com](mailto:ikhuranadds@yahoo.com).

Since the beginning of this year, we have introduced you to some nationally known speakers like Dr. Marc Geissberger, Dr. Jeffrey Hoos on esthetics, Dr. Jay Levy on occlusion and TMJ and some local talents like Dr. Amy Dukoff on COVID, Drs. Kenneth Kurz, David Jurman and Andrew Pacinelli on implants. There are several other very talented speakers who are coming later this year. We are also offering a free webinar on mastering social media by sought-after speaker Minal Sampat on August 7th. You must register for this free course. (Yes, it's on Zoom so you can participate wherever you may be in August!) We continue to add new courses during the year so keep checking our website and the emails we send you.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: Plan ahead and check out our upcoming fall courses on page 16.**

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Her insights into weight loss and healthy living set the tone for our wellness-focused initiatives. This event highlighted the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle, which is essential for both personal and professional success. Building on this foundation, our New Dentist Committee has been proactive in organizing a series of health and wellness events throughout the year. One notable event was our Health and Wellness Fair at NYCDS, which focused on the significance of nutrition and lifestyle choices. This event provided members with valuable information and practical tips to improve their daily lives. In June, we took our wellness efforts a step further by hosting a spin cycle event at Equinox. This event was not only a great workout but also a fantastic opportunity for members to connect and support each other in a healthy, active environment.



*New Dentists flexed their muscles at Equinox on June 11th.*

## **Celebrating Diversity and Inclusion**

Another significant aspect of our year has been celebrating diversity and inclusion within the dental community. In collaboration with the New York State Dental Association (NYSDA), we hosted several key events that highlighted the contributions of diverse groups within our profession. In February, we celebrated Black History Month with a special event that featured esteemed panelists who shared their life stages and insights for aspiring dentists. This event was a powerful reminder of the rich diversity within our community and the importance of supporting each other. Following this, in May we celebrated Asian American Pacific Islander Excellence. This event was an opportunity to honor the achievements and contributions of our AAPI colleagues and to foster a more inclusive and supportive environment within NYCDS.

## **Advocacy and Representation**

One of the highlights of my term so far has been the opportunity to accompany both new and experienced board members to the New York State Dental Association House of Delegates (HOD) in Verona, New York. It was a privilege to witness the strong representation, passion, and camaraderie among our members. They represented NYCDS with poise and class, addressing some of the most pressing issues facing our profession today.



*(Back Row, Left to Right)  
Drs. Egidio Farone,  
Suchie Chawla, and ADA  
President-Elect Brett  
Kessler.*

*(Front Row, Left to Right)  
Drs. James Jacobs,  
Maurice Edwards,  
David Shipper, and ADA  
President-Elect candidate  
Maria Maranga.*

I'd like to recognize everyone who participated, starting with past NYCDS President and current NYSDA Vice President Maurice Edwards, President-Elect Vera Tang, Vice President Andrew Deutch, Secretary Egidio Farone, Treasurer Jaskaren Randhawa, immediate past President Mina Kim, NYSDA HOD Reference Committee Chair and past President James Jacobs, past President Ioanna Mentzelopoulou, past President David Shipper, Continuing Education Director Irvind Khurana, New Dentist Chair Gregory Shank, and Board Members Ada Cooper, Gabriela Lee, Whitney Mostafiz-Levin, Gary Nord, JoAnna Pufnock, Maggie Romao, and Marsha Rubin.



*The delegation representing NYCDS at the June House of Delegates (HOD) meeting in upstate New York. The HOD is the governing body for the New York State Dental Association.*

## **Addressing Workforce Challenges**

Among the main issues addressed at the House of Delegates were the workforce challenges that are affecting the dental profession globally. These challenges, which include staffing shortages and the need for better workforce planning, are critical to ensuring the sustainability and success of our practices. NYSDA is working alongside the ADA to develop strategies and solutions to address these concerns, and I am committed to continuing this important work.

## **Insurance Transparency and Reimbursements**

Another critical issue that was discussed extensively at the House of Delegates is the ongoing problem of insurance transparency and reimbursements. These issues have been a chronic challenge for dentists, affecting our ability to provide the best possible care to our patients. I want to assure you that we are actively fighting for fairer policies and better transparency in insurance practices. We will continue to voice our members' concerns and work towards meaningful reforms.

# APRIL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

## Popular Weight Loss Drugs are Focus of April Lecture



*NYCDS President Suchie Chawla with the evening's guest lecturer Sarah Barenbaum, MD.*

As a change of pace, the Society's General Membership Meeting on April 29th featured Sarah Barenbaum, MD, delving into the science behind today's popular weight loss drugs. Dr. Barenbaum discussed obesity as a chronic disease that is the underlining cause of multiple comorbidities and explored treatment goals and available anti-obesity medications, including the newest generation of weight-loss drugs which are revolutionizing how weight loss is addressed and viewed. She discussed the physiological mechanism of obesity and how the various cutting-edge weight loss drugs (GLP-1 receptor agonists known by popular names such as Ozempic and Wegovy) work. Dr. Barenbaum emphasized that obesity is not a disease of will power – it is a metabolic adaptation. The goal of the new drugs is to improve metabolic health while helping patients make lifestyle modifications and incorporate exercise. Some of the drugs can achieve up to a 30% loss of total body weight. According to Dr. Barenbaum, the treatment of obesity is being revolutionized at an important time as half of the U.S. population is expected to be obese by the year 2030 and obesity is on the rise world-wide.

Dr. Barenbaum is an assistant professor of clinical medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College and an assistant attending physician at New York-Presbyterian Hospital. She serves as the Obesity Medicine Director of the GI Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery practice, and as the program director of both the Obesity Medicine and the Obesity Medicine/Bariatric Endoscopy fellowship programs. Dr. Barenbaum specializes in the care of patients with obesity and weight-related medical complications, and she sees patients at both the Comprehensive Weight Control Center and the GI Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery program.



*President Suchie Chawla with fellow oral surgeons, Dr. Antonio Del Valle and Dr. Ghazal Mahjoubi.*



*The June meeting provided the opportunity for NYSDA's Committee on Substance Abuse and Well-Being member Dennis Bohlin (left) to catch up with 2024 Greater New York Dental Meeting General Chair John Young, Jr.*



*There are almost enough Board Members in this photo for a quorum! (left to right) Secretary Egidio Farone, Treasurer Jaskaren Randhawa, Board Member Whitney Mostafiz, Board Member Ada Cooper, Immediate Past President Mina Kim, Member Sharon Chass and Board Member Gabriela Lee.*

President Suchie Chawla opened the meeting by inviting Secretary Egidio Farone, who is also a board member of the New York State Dental Foundation, to say a few words about the work of the Foundation. Dr. Farone encouraged members to get involved with the Foundation which is committed to improving the oral health of all New Yorkers and supporting outreach to communities in need. To learn more, visit [www.NYSDentalFoundation.org](http://www.NYSDentalFoundation.org). Dr. Dennis Bohlin, a longtime member of NYSDA's Committee on Substance Abuse and Well-Being, also addressed members. Dr. Bohlin encouraged members, or someone they know who may be struggling, to reach out to the Committee on Substance Abuse and Well-Being. He assured members that there is no connection or reporting to any government agency and stressed the confidential, caring and safe nature of the committee's work. He also noted that to call about a colleague is an act of caring. Help is available by calling 1-800-255-2100, ext. 250 or by calling Dr. Bohlin directly at 201-280-2849.



Vice President Andrew Deutch (center) with New Dentist Chair Greg Shank (left) and Alan Withall from Corporate Friend Henry Schein Dental

In other business, the slate members selected to serve on the Nominating Committee was approved. The committee will interview candidates to serve as officers and directors in 2025, as well as nominate a new NYSDA Trustee.

Many thanks to the evening's sponsors MLMIC Insurance Co. and Torch Dental.

(left to right) President-Elect Vera Tang, Continuing Education Director Irvind Khurana, member Janet Youn and Board Member Maggie Romao at April's membership meeting.



## SAVE THE DATE General Membership Meeting

9 9 24  
Date Month Year

### President's Outgoing Message continued from page 4

#### Looking Ahead

As we move into the second half of my term, I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. We will continue to prioritize wellness and support initiatives that promote the mental and physical health of our members. Our focus on diversity and inclusion will remain strong, with more events and programs planned to celebrate the rich diversity of our community. Advocacy will also continue to be a key priority. We will persist in our efforts to address workforce challenges and advocate for better insurance practices. By working together and supporting each other, I am confident that we can make a positive impact on the dental profession.

#### Conclusion

I am grateful for the support and dedication of our board members, committees, and all our members. Together, we have achieved significant milestones and made meaningful progress towards our goals. As we look to the future, I am confident that we will continue to build on this foundation and achieve even greater success. Thank you for the honor of serving as your president.

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## The Ripple Effects in Dentistry of the FTC Noncompete Ban

**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.*

Although noncompetition agreements (NCAs) have been a staple in associate dentist employment agreements in New York for decades, there could soon be a seismic shift regarding a practice's ability to limit where an associate can work. While the restricted geographic range may vary from a few blocks to a few miles, to 10 -20 miles depending on the location of the practice, employers could count on New York courts enforcing reasonably drafted NCAs. However, there could soon be a seismic shift regarding a practice's ability to limit where an associate can work. This is the result of a rule that was recently issued by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). In a 3-2 vote on April 23, 2024, the FTC adopted a final rule that essentially bans all NCAs arising from the employer/employee/independent contractor relationship. This would enable an associate to open a competing practice in the same building, block, borough, or town as their prior employer.

This rule will cover almost all dental practices and clinics unless the business is established as a not-for-profit entity. The rule prohibits any "contractual term between an employer and a worker that prevents the worker from seeking or accepting employment with a person, or operating a business, after the conclusion of the worker's employment with the employer." The rule does not prohibit "exclusivity agreements," which require that an associate work only for one practice or that prohibit an associate from working for a competing practice during the term of employment. The rule also does not prohibit non solicitation agreements or confidentiality agreements. However, if the non-solicitation agreement is too broad to essentially prohibit an employee from working in a specific geographic area, then it may be determined to be a de facto NCA and will not be enforceable.

### When does the rule go into effect?

The rule takes effect 120 days after it is officially published in the Federal Register. This means it may become effective sometime in September or October 2024. However, there are already legal challenges to the rule that question whether the FTC has the authority to enact a ban on NCAs, or if the Commission usurped Congresses' legislative authority. There's a possibility that the courts will issue an injunction, which will stay the rule while the lawsuits are pending.

### Impact on existing non-compete agreements

All NCAs between employers and employees will be void and unenforceable once the rule goes into effect. Consequently, any employer that entered into an NCA with a worker will be required to rescind that NCA prior to the effective date. If the rule becomes effective, employers will be required to provide written or electronic notice to current and former workers who are subject to an NCA. This is to inform them that the NCA is no longer in effect and will not be enforced against the workers, and that the workers are free to seek employment with a competitor of the employer or operate a business that is competitive with the employer. We recommend that for existing employees, the company provide an addendum to the employment agreement that voids the NCA.

### Are there any exceptions?

There are two exceptions to the rule. The first exception permits an NCA in an employment agreement with a senior executive provided it was entered into prior to the ban's effective date. Once that agreement terminates, even this senior executive cannot be required to enter into a successor agreement that includes a noncompete clause. However, the definition of who is a senior executive is extremely narrow. A senior executive is defined as a highly compensated person, earning at least \$151,164 a year, who has final authority to make policy decisions on significant aspects of operating a business entity. In the dental industry, this is unlikely to be applicable to more than one person in a traditional practice or clinic but may apply to more employees at a large or corporate practice.

The second exception permits an NCA that arises from or ancillary to the sale of a practice. If a dentist sells their practice, the buyer can negotiate the inclusion of a traditional geographic NCA in the purchase agreement.

### What are the next steps?

If an injunction against the FTC rule is issued while the litigation is proceeding, then the status quo will be maintained. However, until there is clarity from the courts, employers should identify all current and former employees who are subject to an NCA and be prepared to issue the required notification should the rule become effective. Practices should also determine if there are any employees who would fit the definition of senior executive.

This current uncertainty may continue for a while, as the wheels of justice can move slowly. The courts may enforce the ban on NCAs, strike down the ban on NCAs, or permit a modified rule. It's important for dental practice employers and employees to stay up to date on the status of this rule, which could drastically alter the employer/employee relationship in the dental world.

*Mandelbaum Barrett, PC, is pleased to offer NYCDs members a 30 minute complimentary consultation and 10% off their regular legal services hourly rates, as well as access to their continuing education content and recent industry publications. You can view the full suite of services offered by the firm at [www.mblawfirm.com](http://www.mblawfirm.com).*

## Celebrating Asian American Pacific Islander Excellence



*(left to right) NYSDA Vice President Maurice Edwards, NYCDs President Suchie Chawla, member Stacy Spizuoco, past President Mina Kim, President-Elect Vera Tang, NYSDA Trustee Lois Jackson, member and AADS President Janet Youn and member Ray Cheng take a moment for a photo.*

In honor of Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Month NYCDs, NYSDA, and the Asian American Dental Society (AADS) hosted a special program celebrating Asian American Pacific Islander excellence on May 7th. The celebration highlighted the many successes of the AAPI community and created a call to action for the next generation to break down even more barriers. Many thanks to our inspiring and motivating panelists Dr. Minerva Patel and businessman Ace Watanasuparp. Wearing a magnificent sari, President Suchie Chawla, welcomed members and reflected on her own journey as the daughter of Asian immigrant parents. Past NYCDs President and NYSDA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair Ioanna Mentzelopoulou led an enlightening panel discussion. Dr. Patel spoke about her fearless approach to overcoming obstacles she faced on her way to becoming president of the 9th District Dental Society in 2019. Dr. Patel encouraged new dentists to aim high and assume more leadership and ownership roles. While Asian Americans represent the second largest group of dental professionals in the U.S. today, they are under-represented as practice owners.

Prior to achieving success through banking, real estate, and restaurants, Ace Watanasuparp was the first Asian-American in the University of Connecticut's history to become a member of their prestigious men's basketball team. The son of Thai and Taiwanese parents, he spoke about the challenges of following his own career path rather than his parent's wishes that he become a lawyer, and growing into leadership roles at an early age. Both speakers inspired attendees with their individual but connected stories of achieving success despite challenges and preconceived notions. We would be remiss if we didn't mention that the event featured a wonderful selection of delicious dishes that spanned the diverse cuisine of the AAPI community! Many thanks to the sponsors of this special event: Bank of America Practice Solutions, the Chinese American Dental Association, Henry Schein Dental, and Kettenbach USA.



*Guest speakers for the evening: businessman and entrepreneur Ace Watanasuparp and pediatric dentist Dr. Minerva Patel, an ADA delegate and Membership Committee vice chair.*

*Attendees enjoying the delicious selection of Asian food.*





## New Dentists Level-up Their Investing Knowledge



Members socializing at the March Money Matters program prior to getting into specifics of managing money and investing.

Due to the popularity of the first Money Matters program in January, the New Dentist Committee decided to hold a follow-up program on March 27 focused on “Strategies to Retire When and How you Want.” Planning for retirement when one is just starting out professionally may seem like a paradox but according to financial advisor Mitchell Brill with Altium Wealth Management, it makes perfect sense. If you get things “right” during the accumulation years, then living your best life in retirement is feasible. He shared a shocking statistic that 85% of dentists retire at a lower standard of living ... making the case that proper planning, not hope, is essential to a financially sound future. To that end, some of the topics Mr. Brill touched on included asset allocation of investments, the pros and cons of tax-differed and after-tax investments, and he made a distinction between “good” debt such as a home mortgage or practice loan and “bad” debt such as student loans and credit card debt. Members were eager to get their financial questions answered. When it came to the conundrum many new dentists face -- buying a house or a practice first – he advised buying the practice first because a practice is an asset, while a house is a liability until it is sold. There is so much involved when it comes to managing finances and investing but this program was able to shed some light on a complex subject.



Guest speaker Mitch Brill with Altium Wealth Management being introduced by New Dentist Committee Chair Greg Shank on March 27.

## Members Attend an Evening Focused on Health & Wellness

The New Dentist Wellness Subcommittee held a special event on May 1, a “Health & Wellness Fair: Optimizing Your Nutrition With Your Busy Schedule,” offering members the opportunity to learn different approaches to achieve health and wellness. To kick off the event, several vendors provided nutritious and delicious bites for members to sample. A Breath & A Bite, Made Meals, Plant Powered Metro NY and Shire’s Naturals were all represented at the fair. There was even the opportunity to try a popular relaxation technique known as ASMR (auto-sensory meridian response) provided by the founder of WhisperWave, New York’s first ASMR spa. All attendees had the chance to win a number of health-related raffle prizes, and everyone went home with the latest book written by panelist Oz Garcia.



President Suchie Chawla (left), with members of the New Dentist Wellness Subcommittee: Shariss Ostrager, Yassmin Parsaei, Treasurer Jaskaren Randhawa, Haemin Chin, Manisha Goswami, and Jacqueline Dikansky

Dr. Haemin Chin, a member of the Wellness Subcommittee, spearheaded the event and served as moderator of a panel discussion with three diverse health-focused professionals sharing guidance for a healthy life. The intention for the fair was to put a focus on lifestyle behaviors that promote long-term health despite the demands healthcare workers face on a daily basis. Dr. Chin noted that “As practitioners, spreading health and wellness starts from work within. Our philosophy is reflected in the diagnosis and treatment of our patients. My hope is to promote long-term health and wellness by addressing the root causes of disease rather than simply alleviating symptoms.” Following the vendor portion of the evening, the panelists shared their distinct approaches to living a healthy lifestyle, allowing attendees to consider the approach(es) that might work best for them.

Rachel Atcheson, deputy director, NYC Mayor’s Office of Food Policy, has a whole-foods, plant-forward approach to wellness.

(continued on page 10)



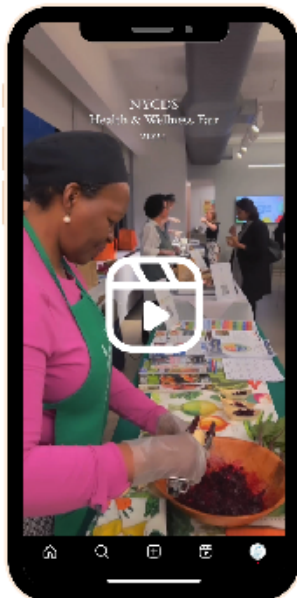
Health-conscious members turned out for the Health & Wellness Fair on May 11!



Fair organizer Dr. Haemin Chin (2nd from right) with panelists (left to right) Nisha Saini, Rachel Atcheson and Oz Garcia

Oz Garcia, author, nutritionist, and president of Oz Wellness, stressed that quality sleep is a key building block for health, along with targeted supplements, exercise, and nutrition. Nisha Saini, founder and director of the New York Ayurveda and Panchakarma Center placed emphasis on living in accordance with your ayurvedic constitution and achieving balance -- attendees were invited to determine their constitution using a handout of three body types: Vata, Pitta, and Kapha. Ms. Saini detailed the foods to eat or avoid depending on one's body type. The Health and Wellness Fair was a celebration and exploration of healthy lifestyles. It provided food for thought, body and mind!

## Click The Play Button to Watch All of The Highlights From The Health & Wellness Fair



## New Dentists Get Physical!



New Dentists breaking a sweat at Equinox!

New Dentists enjoyed a special opportunity to take a cycling class at the exclusive Equinox gym and enjoy refreshments afterwards, on June 11. Shoutout to New Dentist Wellness Subcommittee member Shariss Ostrager for organizing the event!

Relaxing with appetizers and drinks at Cask Bar & Kitchen after their workout!



New Dentists and their Equinox instructor celebrate all the hard work they put in!



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## Implant Overdentures: Partial or Complete - A Restorative Perspective

**Kenneth S. Kurtz**

**DDS FACP FDS RCPSS(Glasgow) FRCSI**



*Dr. Kurtz is board certified in prosthodontics, the specialty of implant, esthetic, and reconstructive dentistry. He is a clinical professor and director of the Division of Maxillofacial Prosthetics at Stony Brook University School, of Dental Medicine in the Department of Prosthodontics and digital technology and director, Prosthodontic Research, Graduate Prosthodontics, Montefiore Medical Center.*

Partial and complete edentulism is a patient treatment diagnosis that has numerous restorative treatment approaches. Conventional complete denture therapy can have a successful outcome dependent upon the original established PDI Classification (Prosthodontic Diagnostic Index) which rates prosthetic treatment complexity from favorable to unfavorable on a number scale from 1 to 4, with 1 describing a favorable patient clinical scenario and 4 describing a very unfavorable treatment scenario. There are a number of factors describing the individual clinical condition of the patient seeking this type of treatment, but for this discussion the primary factor is linked to the remaining height of the patient's existing residual alveolar ridge. Added complexity for an edentulous patient can be a pharmacologically induced xerostomia and/or a history of previous failed conventional denture therapy. In a similar fashion, partially edentulous patients may have favorable prosthodontic prognosticating factors, but are reluctant to have a visible clasp retaining a removable partial denture. For these types of patients, an appropriate patient-specific restorative treatment utilizing dental implants can be selected.

A prosthetic approach to gain a more favorable treatment prognosis could involve the use of dental implants to assist in better retaining the prescribed removable prosthesis in position intraorally. Many papers and textbooks deliver an in-depth analysis of the many treatment approaches incorporating dental implant therapy for fabrication of stable and retentive removable dental prostheses. The purpose of this essay is to describe elements incorporated into the recent New York County Dental Society hands-on course on the topic of implant overdentures. The didactic component involved a review of treatment presentations using one, two, or three dental implants to stabilize a removable partial overdenture. Primarily the universal hinge attachment selected for this treatment approach is the Locator abutment.

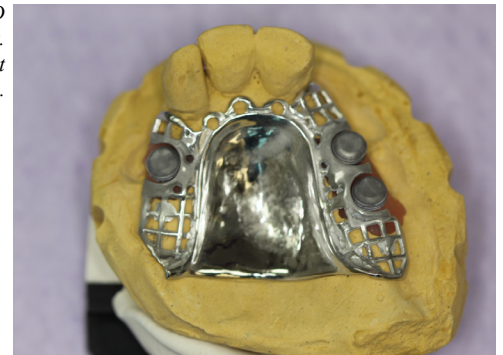


*Panoramic radiograph demonstrating ailing dentition and three (3) integrated dental implants.*



*Universal Hinge Attachments (Locators) in position; patient had a right maxillary resection and demonstrates atypical anatomy.*

*Cast CrCo RPOD framework on master cast. Housings attached on cast then verified in mouth.*



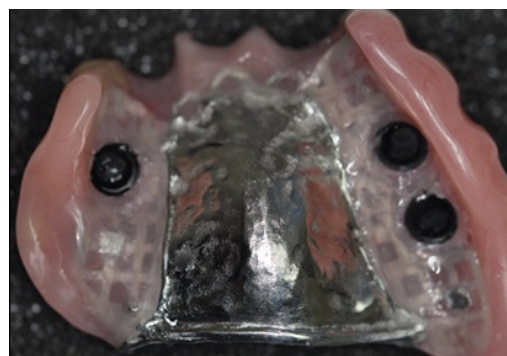
The first step after verification of successful implant integration is measuring of the tissue cuff height above the restorative platform. Once selected, the Locator abutment is torqued into position atop the implant restorative platform. Exposing a radiograph to assess the seat of the Locator and health of the implant at the time of abutment installation is a prudent treatment choice. Sometimes, advanced restorative dentistry is accomplished utilizing survey crowns to idealize guide planes and rest seat position to create an ideal prosthesis. Otherwise, conventional design approaches are utilized to create rest seats and guide planes that present a favorable path of delivery, and removal for the prosthesis. A digital or analog impression can be made to allow for the fabrication of the removable framework design. If an analog impression is selected, impression copings are placed atop the Locator abutments, and the elastomeric impression is made.

Then, Locator analogs can be secured into the counterpart impression coping and then the impression can be cast in the selected dental stone. Some clinicians will perform this activity in their office, others may prefer to use a dental laboratory for this step. If a digital impression is made, the Locator abutments can be scanned, but the final prosthesis will require a chairside pick-up procedure.

With the analog cast approach, the Locator fabricating male in its metal housing can be air-particle abraded, metal-primed. Then these male housings can be attached on the master cast to the framework using autopolymerizing polymethylmethacrylate resin (PMMA) or a selected light-polymerized resin. Notably, if the Locator abutment is in the esthetic zone and unfavorably positioned, a tooth colored PMMA or composite resin may create a more favorable outcome rather than a pink attachment mechanism. Once attached, the framework can be tried-in the mouth to assess appropriate seating. If one attachment does not seat properly, it can be picked-up intraorally at the time of prosthesis delivery. An advantage of this approach is the stability of the Removable Partial Overdenture (RPOD) framework incorporating the Locator male attachments. This can facilitate making the inter-occlusal registration with the clinician's selected recording material. Then, the selected artificial tooth arrangement (ATA) is placed onto the framework and a final verification of the vertical dimension of occlusion (VDO) and centric relation (CR) record can be accomplished. The final step is delivery of the completed removable prosthesis. Appropriate verification of proper seating of the prosthesis and occlusal verification is then accomplished. Spending time with the patient to demonstrate the placement and removal of the completed prosthesis can be accomplished by the treating restorative dentist or a trained dental auxiliary staff member. Placement and removal of the prosthesis by hand is emphasized; patients can decide to bite the prosthesis into position, but this can lead to unfavorable outcomes such as bending the nylon retentive component so that it no longer works properly. It is also very advisable to discuss the need to replace the nylon retentive components as necessary.



*Verification of complete seating of attachments intraorally*



*Intaglio Surface of final MxRPOD*

*Cameo Surface of final MxRPOD*



The patient should be made aware of the fee associated with this dental prosthesis maintenance service. Some patients require replacement much earlier than others, for a variety of reasons. A suggested guideline to use is a 3-12 month range can occur for this service. It is also important to understand and appreciate that over time the Locator abutment itself may require replacement due to wear. The retentive males should be replaced with the least retentive element. There is no need to move up to the next color of the rainbow scale. Replacing the worn attachment with the same color can go on for a time period. If the replaced components are less retentive than previously noted, then it is appropriate to move on to the next male attachment. The didactic component of the course demonstrated the maxillary complete palateless overdenture using 4 unsplinted implants as well as the mandibular complete overdenture using 2 implants. An array of removable partial overdentures using different numbers of implant support in both the mandibular and maxillary arches was also depicted. Finally, more advanced treatment scenarios were described using bars and conventional and zygomatic arch implants were described. The patients depicted in the treatment reviews had very challenging clinical scenarios and truly benefited from implant support and retention of their removable prostheses. After the didactic session was completed, a hands-on component for the course was accomplished by the course attendees.

## OF PROFESSIONAL INTEREST

Two attendees shared the use of a lab engine to modify the denture prostheses as needed for the pick-up exercise. Autopolymerizing acrylic resin (PMMA) was used to attach the proprietary male retentive component (Novalock-Straumann) to the denture prosthesis. The technique requires air particle abrasion and metal priming of the retentive metal housing. Pre-polymerization of a small amount of PMMA is advisable. The preferred method includes drilling a hole in the prosthesis superior to the location of the abutment. The denture is then held into position while the PMMA is placed around the metal housing. Some clinicians have the patients “close lightly” into the indicated occlusal position.

This can sometimes create problems with “overclosure” and tissue compression which creates an unfavorable outcome. The attendees then removed the lab fabricating male from the metal housing and installed the selected retentive male component using the proprietary removal and seating tool. The Novalock system also has a tooth-colored nylon housing, which can be beneficial if the implant/abutment position creates an unfavorable esthetic outcome. Sometimes a custom-made artificial tooth is fabricated by the lab to enhance the esthetic appearance of the final prosthesis. The course was supported by both the Straumann dental implant company and Marotta lab, and their selected personnel capably assisted in the hands-on portion of the course.

### Reference QR Code (Click or Scan to View)



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## Releasing Dental Records When Requested: What You Need to Know

**Steven H. Cho, DDS**

Ethics Committee Chair



Sometimes patients complain when their healthcare providers don't release their medical records upon request. As dental providers, we bear the responsibility of maintaining accurate and complete patient records. These records include a patient's journey through their entire dental health history and treatment, holding crucial

information that is vital for safe and effective patient care. Providers are also responsible, however, for knowing when it is appropriate to release patient records, especially when patients specifically ask for them.

Most dentists can likely relate to instances when a patient demands their records or asks for them to be released to a third party, such as when a patient is transferring to a new dentist, applying for dental insurance, or involved in a legal dispute. Releasing critical patient information can be a slippery slope if not done properly or if healthcare professionals remain in the dark on the proper protocols. Here, we'll dive into the rules and regulations surrounding the release of dental records so that dental professionals can be well equipped to handle these requests.

**"If a patient requests records for personal use, we must provide them."**

First, it's important to be reminded that dental records are not just a collection of papers but are part of the building blocks that establish patient trust in us. Well-kept records are a testament to a patient's health journey, showing those that we care for that we are listening, paying attention, and providing them with the best possible care. Since these personal records may include diagnostic images, treatment plans, progress notes, and other information, they are considered highly confidential. Therefore, another element of developing sound patient trust is keeping these documents secure. So, when is it appropriate to share these records? The answer lies in patient consent, specifying what information can be released and to whom. Once a patient's consent is acquired, documentation can be sent to another healthcare provider or to comply with court orders, such as in response to a subpoena.

Patients, on the other hand, always have the right to their records and dental professionals cannot withhold their personal information under any circumstances. If a patient requests records for personal use, we must provide them. (A patient is entitled to a copy of their billing records, clinical chart, radiographs, and if requested, study models.) Though healthcare settings can be busy and hectic at times, providing this information in a timely manner can prevent issues with dentist-patient relationships and can avoid speed bumps down the road when it comes to collaborating on treatment plans with other providers.

All dental professionals must act in accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). HIPAA regulates the secure release of confidential patient information, which includes dental records, under federal law. Note that each state has its own set of rules and regulations governing the release of dental records. It is our duty as dental professionals to be aware of our state's rules and to uphold these standards to protect our patients.

Here are some simple steps to help you navigate the dental record release process:

- Obtain written patient consent
- Make sure the consent form specifies what information can be released and to whom
- Verify the requestor's identity (ask for ID or verify the requestor's credentials)
- Keep a record of the release (include date and time of release and to whom)

The release of dental records should be done with great care. Though at times it can seem like a painstaking process, it doesn't need to be when properly informed of your state's rules and regulations. Remember that sending records when needed is part of what it means to build trust with your patients as sharing personal information can make critical differences in high quality treatment and care.

For additional information read:

[FAQs About Dental Records: A Legal Perspective from MLMIC | MLMIC Insurance Company](#)

## Upcoming Continuing Education Courses

Henry Spenadel Continuing Education Program

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Plan ahead and make room on your calendar for these future fall courses before the ADA transitions to a new system at the end of the summer! Registration is open for each course with an active link. Registration for the remaining courses will be open soon.

### SUMMER 2024

Social marketologist: Master Social Media & Video \*

Minal Sampat

### FALL 2024

9/11 9:30 AM-12:30 PM

Lecture 1: Diagnosis & Increased Treatment Acceptance

Dr. Steven Katz

9/11 1:30 PM-4:30 PM

Lecture 2: They Didn't Teach Us That In Dental School

Dr. Steven Katz

9/18 9:30 AM-4:30 PM

Innovations in Aesthetic Dentistry

Dr. Michael Ghalili, DMD, MSD

9/25 6:30 PM-9:30 PM

[Mandatory Prescriber DEA Education Renewal](#) \*

Dr. Gottlieb, DDS

10/9 9:00 AM-1:00PM

[Infection Control for the Dental Practice](#)

Dr. Peter A. Mychajliw, DDS

10/16 9:30 PM-1:30 PM

[Basic Life Support/CPR Certification Course](#)

Marc Reilly, Rescue Resuscitation Inc.

10/18 9:30 AM-12:30 PM

Lecture 1: Workflows for Conservative Cosmetic Dentistry

Dr. Priya Tirumalasetty, DDS

10/18 1:30 PM-4:30 PM

Lecture 2: Smile Design Simplified

Dr. Priya Tirumalasetty, DDS

10/23 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

[OSHA-Mandated Update for Dentists and Staff](#) \*

Dr. Peter A. Mychajliw

### WINTER 2024

12/11 9:30 PM-1:30 PM

[Basic Life Support/CPR Certification Course](#)

Marc Reilly, Rescue Resuscitation Inc.

\* = virtual course

New courses are added regularly so be sure to visit [www.nycdentalsociety.org](http://www.nycdentalsociety.org) for the latest course schedule.

## Follow Us On Social Media

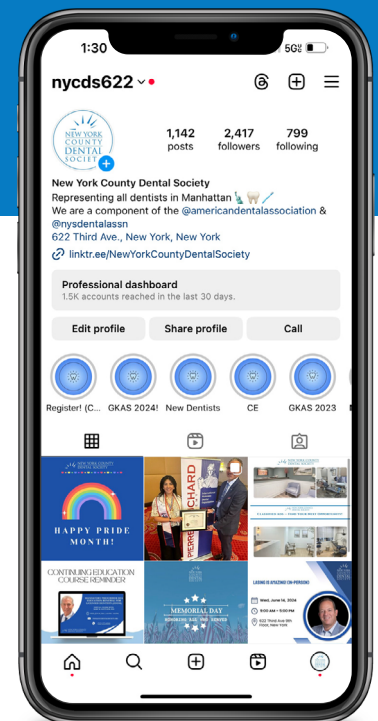


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New York County  
Dental Society





## New Members

**Isaac Bar, DMD**  
University of Pennsylvania 2011  
General Practice

## Residents & Graduate Students

**Angela Du, DDS**  
New York University 2024  
Pediatric Dentistry

**Huan-Yu, DDS**  
New York University 2022  
General Practice

## Transferred to NYCDS

**Joseph Bradley, DDS**  
New York University 2022  
General Practice  
Transferred from Second District  
Dental Society

**Ignacio De La Cruz, DMD**  
Tufts University 2017  
General Practice  
Transferred from Boston District  
Dental Society

**Fariha Haque, DDS**  
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill  
2022  
General Practice  
Transferred from Second District  
Dental Society

**Kenny Kuo, DDS**  
University of the Pacific 2022  
General Practice  
Transferred from Second District  
Dental Society

**Letian Li, DDS**  
New York University 2022  
General Practice  
Transferred from Second District  
Dental Society

**Emma Loh, DMD**  
University of Pennsylvania 2022  
General Practice  
Transferred from Second District  
Dental Society

**Morgan Marin, DDS**  
University at Buffalo 2022  
General Practice  
Transferred from Second District  
Dental Society

**Moar Samouha, DDS**  
New York University 2022  
General Practice  
Transferred from Bronx County  
Dental Society

**Isaac Shuster, DDS**  
New York University 2022  
General Practice  
Transferred from Queens County  
Dental Society

**Dominique Tricario, DDS**  
New York University 2021  
General Practice  
Transferred from Bronx County  
Dental Society

**Kant Wu, DMD**  
University of Pennsylvania 2022  
General Practice  
Transferred from Bronx County  
Dental Society

**Marina Zoghbi, DMD**  
University of Connecticut 2021  
General Practice  
Transferred from Essex County  
Dental Society

**Arsen Murdakhayev, DDS**  
New York University 2017  
General Practice  
Transferred from Queens County  
Dental Society

## Reinstated

**Johnathan Goldenthal, DMD**  
University of Pennsylvania 1984  
General Practice

**Yin-Yin Shang, DDS**  
Columbia University 1990  
General Practice

**Tony Voong, DDS**  
University of Minnesota 2018  
General Practice

### In Memoriam Dr. Elliott Moskowitz



Dr. Elliott Moskowitz passed on March 25, 2024. Among his many roles, Dr. Moskowitz was a past president of the New York County Dental Society (1999) and a former member of the Greater New York Dental Meeting Committee. We send our condolences to his family and colleagues.