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Message from the Editor
Raymond A. Cohlmia, DDS

Time flies when you’re having fun! A well-worn cliché but that’s exactly the case these last several years I’ve served as editor of the ODA Journal. And what’s made it fun are all the changes we’ve introduced to the Journal and the mostly positive responses we’ve received from you, our readers.

As I look back over my notes from an ADA Editors Conference I and the editorial staff attended five years ago I’m amazed at what we’ve accomplished since then. We knew we wanted to create a “fresh new look” and take our Journal to the next level but we had no idea what that next level was! From that two-day conference we gathered hundreds of creative ideas, not only from other dental journals, but also from totally unrelated popular publications. From this “idea pot” we began to zero in on what we wanted and how to go about getting it done. We presented our vision and goals to the ODA Board of Trustees and ultimately received a “go” from then-President Lee Beasley. After several false starts and stops, editorial meetings, brainstorming sessions, timeline modifications, etc., we created the format that shapes the Journal as you’ve been reading it for the last several years.

I have very fond memories of the ODA Journal of years past. But as with everything in life, things change -- sometimes for the better and sometimes for the worse. In the case of your Journal I hope you consider the changes to be for the better. It has always been the goal of the editorial staff that the ODA Journal represent the Oklahoma Dental Association with pride and honor. From the many editorial conferences I’ve attended, I can tell you that our publication has become the envy of many other state dental associations. As I write this, I am in the midst of preparing for another presentation to an upcoming ADA Editors Conference in Chicago. To be asked to speak before this group is indeed a singular honor.

Are we content to remain where we are? Absolutely not! We are constantly on the lookout for ways to make your Journal better each and every issue. And our primary source is you, our readers. As the editorial board has said many, many times -- we want your comments, good or bad. That’s how we improve! (Please E-mail comments to strougakos@okda.org.)

No editor can do his or her job without the assistance of others. I would be remiss if I failed to mention some very key people who have helped us get to where we are. Our Executive Director, Lynn Means, is a major source of new ideas and ways to “make things happen”. Her input, creativity, and sheer drive are invaluable. Our Director of Communications, Stephanie Trougakos, has been remarkable in converting our vision into black-and-white (and color!) reality. Her skills are so integral to how we “look”. And as associate editor and resident “proofreader” for many, many years, Dr. Frank Miranda has done yeoman’s service in keeping each issue as accurate and error-free as possible. As we’ve brought your Journal forward through the years, these individuals have been the major driving force; they deserve the lion’s share of the credit.

The ODA has reached great milestones in representing our profession in Oklahoma; the ODA building, our ongoing legislative work, our public educational programs, your Journal, and now the OkMOM project which was headed by President Rieger Wood. Many might say that the ODA has truly been blessed with good luck. However, I’m reminded of something a close relative used to say: “Luck is the fruit of the tree, but it grows from the seed of preparedness.” I prefer to believe that whatever “luck” the ODA has been blessed with has been leavened by our commitment to preparation. The editorial staff of the ODA Journal is pledged to always honor that commitment.
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Calendar of Events

April 2010

12th

13th
– OCDS Board Meeting: ODA, 6:00 PM

14th
– ADA Washington Leadership Conference: Washington D.C

21st
– ODF Woody Cohlmia Golf Tournament

22nd
– ODA Annual Meeting: Cox Convention Center
– ODA Board of Trustees Meeting: Cox Convention Center, 10:00 AM
– ODA House of Delegates Meeting: Cox Convention Center, 1:00 PM

23rd
– ODA Annual Meeting: Cox Convention Center

24th
– ODA Annual Meeting: Cox Convention Center

26th
– ODA Offices Closed

May 2010

13th
– ODA After Hours for New Dentist: ODA, 6:00 PM

17th
– Retired Dentists Lunch: ODA, 11:30 AM

31st
– ODA Offices Closed

In Memoriam

Dr. Joseph E. Furtado
January 2010

Dr. James Darrell Hart, Jr.
February 2010
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Oral Cancer

Oral cancer, a subtype of head and neck cancer, is any cancerous tissue growth located in the oral cavity. It may arise as a primary lesion originating in any of the oral tissues, by metastasis from a distant site of origin, or by extension from a neighboring anatomic structure, such as the nasal cavity or the maxillary sinus. By far the most common oral cancer is squamous cell carcinoma, which originates in the tissues that line the mouth and lips. Oral cancer most commonly involves the tissue of the lips or the tongue. It may also occur on the floor of the mouth, cheek lining, gingiva (gums), or palate (roof of the mouth). Most oral cancers look very similar under the microscope and are called squamous cell carcinoma. These are malignant and tend to spread rapidly.

You Should Know

• Oral cancer often starts as a tiny, unnoticed white or red spot or sore anywhere in the mouth.
• It can affect any area of the oral cavity including the lips, gum tissue, cheek lining, tongue, and the hard or soft palate.
• Other signs include:
  > A sore that bleeds easily or does not heal
  > A color change of the oral tissues
  > A lump, thickening, rough spot, crust, or small eroded area
  > Pain, tenderness, or numbness anywhere in the mouth or on the lips
  > Difficulty chewing, swallowing, speaking, or moving the jaw or tongue
  > A change in the way the teeth fit together
• Oral cancer most often occurs in those who use tobacco in any form.
• Alcohol use combined with smoking greatly increases risk.
• Prolonged exposure to the sun increases the risk of lip cancer.
• Oral cancers can occur in people who do not smoke and have no other known risk factors.
• Oral cancer is more likely to strike after age 40.
• Studies suggest that a diet high in fruits and vegetables may prevent the development of potentially cancerous lesions.

Prevention and Detection

• The best way to prevent oral cancer is to avoid tobacco and alcohol use.
• Regular dental check-ups, including an examination of the entire mouth, are essential in the early detection of cancerous and pre-cancerous conditions.
• Many types of abnormal cells can develop in the oral cavity in the form of red or white spots. Some are harmless and benign, some are cancerous and others are pre-cancerous, meaning they can develop into cancer if not detected early and removed.
• Oral cancer is often preceded by the presence of clinically identifiable premalignant lesions. These lesions may present as either white or red patches or spots. Identifying white and red spots that show dysplasia and removing them before they become cancerous is an effective method for reducing the incidence and mortality of cancer.

On average, only half of those diagnosed with oral cancer will survive more than five years.
March/April Legislative Update

SB 2051 – An Update (as of press time)

The ODA’s bill, SB 2051, that will prevent insurance companies from capping non-covered dental services, passed the Senate Retirement and Insurance Committee on February 18th and, at press time, is scheduled to be heard by the full Senate. The members of the Committee received many calls from member dentists and it made all the difference, but we cannot let up now!

If you haven’t already, please contact your state Senator and Representative and ask for their support of SB 2051! REMEMBER, WE WANT THEM TO VOTE YES ON THIS BILL. WE ARE ASKING THEM TO SUPPORT SB 2051 WITH A “YES” VOTE. It is especially important that you call YOUR lawmakers and tell them you live and/or practice in their district! Leave a message if they are unavailable and ask for a return call.

ASK THEM TO VOTE YES FOR SB 2051!

Grassroots will be the key to passing SB 2051. If we are successful in passing SB 2051 in the Senate, the bill will then be forwarded to the House of Representatives and we will need your help making contacts with your Representatives, as well. Please help the ODA help you by encouraging other dentists to get involved!

Here are a few, simple talking points to use when asking your lawmakers to vote YES on SB 2051:
• There are over 2,000 dentists in Oklahoma. The Federal Trade Commission considers us all competitors; as such, we are not allowed to talk to each other about our fees, insurance company contracts, etc. Insurance companies, on the other hand, enjoy the McCarran–Ferguson anti-trust exemption, and can share information on policies, costs, risks, and premiums. They can act collectively; we cannot. The only way dentists can act collectively on this issue is through legislation.
• In many Oklahoma communities, one insurance company dominates the market and can use this monopoly to pressure doctors into accepting one-sided contracts. If one company covers the majority of your patients, you cannot afford to turn those patients away by not joining that insurance company’s network.
• It is a matter of FAIRNESS. This difficult economy has hurt small-business dentists. Three of four dentists report their incomes were down in 2008 and 2009. Decreases of 30% are not unusual. Big Insurance is using these difficult times to pressure doctor providers, and the playing field is simply not level.
• The real reason why insurers are trying to dictate prices for uncovered services is to make their plans appear more attractive in the market. However, the artificial pricing set by insurers doesn’t save any money; it will instead result in a cost shifting from those covered under the particular insurance plan to everyone else – especially those who have no dental insurance and may be least able to pay. Hence, this plan is a money maker for insurers, not a cost savings for those who pay for and consume dental services. Moreover, decisions about a patient’s oral health care should not be beholden to insurers’ marketing strategies.

Call your state lawmakers today and ask him/her to vote YES on SB 2051!
Visit www.okda.org and click on the Advocate for Dentistry button and type in your zip code to find the phone number, fax number, and email address for your lawmakers.

The ODA will keep you updated every step of the way through email. If you are not receiving the ODA’s emails, please contact us and provide us a current email address at (405) 848-8873 or lmeans@okda.org.

This Issue in Other States

Twenty-two other states have filed bills that, if passed, will prevent dental plans from capping non-covered services: AK, AZ, CO, FL, HI, ID, IL, IN, IA, KS, MD, MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, OR, PA, SD, TN, VA, and WA. Some states are finding opposition from the insurance industry to be relatively minimal, while others are facing formidable push-back.
Do you sometimes wish state lawmakers would make changes that would help you, your practice, and your patients?

The Oklahoma Dental Political Action Committee (DENPAC) provides you, the Oklahoma dentist, an opportunity to contribute to a common fund that financially supports state legislators who support issues important to YOU. And pooling those resources makes it possible for you to have a significant impact on the political process in this state.

Through DENPAC, the bipartisan voice of hundreds of dentists who care deeply about their patients and their profession, you help elect candidates who understand the importance of dentistry and are committed to the state’s oral health. DENPAC is a critical component of organized dentistry’s advocacy strategy at the state Capitol.

DENPAC is important because now, more than ever, outside entities such as insurance companies are becoming more and more of an intrusive presence in your office. Practices such as capping fees on non-covered dental procedures are driving up the costs of providing care to your patients.

DENPAC is effective! During the latest elections, DENPAC contributions were given to winners in 100% of the state House and Senate races! And those elected officials listen to YOU, their constituent dentist! DENPAC can only be as successful as the number of ODA member dentists who join. Your support is directly responsible for the ODA’s success at the Capitol. Just think what we could accomplish if all ODA members joined DENPAC!

So, do you wish state lawmakers would make changes that would help you, your practice, and your patients? Join DENPAC today! DENPAC basic membership is only $165. $116 stays at the state level to help with state elections and $49 goes to the American Dental Political Action Committee (ADPAC) that contributes to members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives who support oral health issues at the federal level. Call Lynn Means at the ODA to pay your DENPC dues at 405-848-8873, or E-mail lmeans@okda.or

PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR VOTE SHOULD BE!
THE COUNCIL ON NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS NOMINATES THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS FOR VICE PRESIDENT, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, AND ADA DELEGATES. THESE NOMINEES WILL BE VOTED ON BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES ON APRIL 22, 2010. VICE PRESIDENT AND SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE ARE ONE-YEAR TERMS. ADA DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE DELEGATE ARE FOUR-YEAR TERMS.

VICE PRESIDENT
C. Todd Bridges, DDS
South Central District

Dr. Todd Bridges is a native Lawtonian and a 1987 graduate of Lawton High School. He attended Cameron University as a Presidential Leaders and University Scholar. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry in 1995, and followed with an Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency completed in 1996. He is a member of the American Dental Association, American Academy of General Dentistry, International College of Dentists, Oklahoma Dental Association, South Central District Dental Society, and Comanche County Dental Society. He will be inducted into the American College of Dentists at the ADA meeting in Orlando this year.

In 2002, Dr. Bridges was presented with the Oklahoma Dental Association’s distinguished Presidents Leadership Award for outstanding service and leadership to the Association. He is a past president of the South Central and Comanche County Dental Societies. Dr. Bridges continues to be a leader in the state dental association by chairing the Council on Budget and Finance for the past six years. He is especially proud of his affiliation with Dentists for the Disabled and Elderly in Need of Treatment (D-DENT).

Dr. Bridges is also very active in his local community of Lawton. He is a member of the Northwest Church of Christ, and member and past president of the Cameron University Foundation. He also loves coaching his kids’ basketball teams and his daughter’s softball team. He is a founding member and volunteer dentist for the Calvary Free Dental Clinic which provides free extractions to the indigent population of the Lawton area.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE AND ADA ALTERNATE DELEGATE
Krista M. Jones, DDS
Oklahoma County

Dr. Krista Jones graduated from the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry in 1981 and then opened a practice in Edmond. She has served as President, Secretary/Treasurer, National Children’s Dental Health Month Chair and Mediation Review Chair, and is the current Trustee for the Oklahoma County Dental Society. She is a past president of the Oklahoma Association of Women Dentists and the OU College of Dentistry Alumni Association, and is a Charter Fellow of the J. Dean Robertson Society. Dr. Jones was 2007-2008 President of the ODA, Chair of the ODA Sub-Council on Mediation Review, and served as Chair of the ad hoc committee to study reorganization. She currently serves as Chair of the Standing Committee on Endorsed Products and Services. Additionally, Dr. Jones is a Fellow of the American College of Dentists, the Academy of Dentistry International, the International College of Dentists, and the Pierre Fauchard Academy. She is a member of the Academy of General Dentistry and the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentists. Dr. Jones was president of the Oklahoma City unit of the National Association of Parliamentarians, and currently serves as Secretary of the American Institute of Parliamentarians, Oklahoma City Section. She represents the 12th District on the ADA Council on Communications.

Dr. Jones is married to Craig Stinson, a United Methodist minister. Jones and Stinson enjoy medical mission trips together and are active in their community, where she has served as Chair of Edmond’s Visual Arts Commission, on the Edmond Hospital Board, and in Edmond Rotary.

ADA DELEGATE
Raymond A. Cohlmia, DDS
Oklahoma County

Dr. Raymond Cohlmia is a member of the Oklahoma County Dental Society, Oklahoma Dental Association, and American Dental Association, and a Fellow of the International College of Dentists, American College of Dentists, and the Pierre Fauchard Academy. He chaired the ADA District XII Council on Membership in 2006 and the Committee on the New Dentist in 1999. In the 1990s, he served on various ADA councils and boards including the Council on Annual Sessions and International Programs, the Council on Dental Benefits Programs, the Strategic Planning Council, and the ADPAC Board. He was a seminar presenter at the 1998 and 2002 ADA Annual Sessions, and an ADA Future of Dentistry Panel Author from 2000-02.

Dr. Cohlmia was president of the ODA in 2001-2002, and Secretary/Treasurer in 1998. He has served on the Editorial Board since 2005, and is currently the Editor. He serves as the Chair of the Council on Technology and Electronic Communications. He is past Chair of the DENPAC Board of Directors, and currently serves as the Secretary/Treasurer. He was Chair of the ODA Annual Meeting Planning Committee in 1990, 1992, 1994, and 1995. Dr. Cohlmia is past president of the Oklahoma County Dental Society (1997-1998), and served as Secretary/Treasurer in 1994-1995 and 2002-2003. He was the Continuing Education Programs Chair in 1994-1995, and has served on the Board of Directors since 1990.

Dr. Cohlmia is part-time clinical faculty at the OU College of Dentistry and has served on the OUCOD Admissions Committee since 1987. He has also served on the J. Dean Robertson Society Board of Trustees since 2003. He was the OUCOD Alumni Association President from 1991-1996, and served on the Editorial Board for the OU dental alumni magazine. He received the ODA “Young Dentist of the Year” award in 1992, the ODA “Dentist of the Year” award in 2004, and the ODA “Benjamin Franklin Scroll” award in 2005. He was most recently awarded a Presidential Citation for Outstanding Service in 2007 for his work in the area of Membership for the ADA.

Dr. Cohlmia’s civic involvement includes: member of the St. Elijah Orthodox Church Board of Trustees, 1994-present; Treasurer of the St. Elijah Orthodox Church, 1999-present; Chair of the St. Elijah Food Festival and Bake Sale, 1990-1998, 2001-2004, and Co-Chair from 2005-2009; Scoutmaster, BSA Troop 114, 1998-2005. He also serves on the Baden Powell Eagle Scout Review Board. Dr. Cohlmia and his wife, Sherry, have been married for 24 years, and they have three children, Derek (20), Brandon (16), and Joshua (10).
COUNCIL NOMINATIONS


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Bylaws and Rules
Kyle Shannon (TC-2-13)

Dental Care
Somer Pfeifer (OC-1-13)
Charles Keithline (TC-2-13)

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Mark Revels (C-2-13)

Governmental Affairs
Douglas Auld (E-1-13)
Chris Bugg (N-1-13)
Mark Hanstein (OC-3-13)

Membership and Membership Services
Matt Heim (OC-2-13)
Carrie Sessom (TC-2-13)

Standing Committee on Insurance
Larson Keso (OC-2-13)
Steve Mayer (N-1-13)

Technology and Electronic Communications
Raymond Cohlmia (OC-3-13)
Justin Power (OC-1-13)

2010 PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES WILL CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS AT ITS NEXT REGULAR MEETING ON APRIL 22, 2010.

ARTICLE IV, SECTION 6D AND ARTICLE V, SECTION 3
Interim Executive Director
Resolved, to amend the Bylaws, Article IV, Section 6D by striking 7. “To assume the duties of the Executive Director in case of a vacancy in that position, until such time as a new Executive Director is appointed”, and

Be it further resolved, to amend the Bylaws, Article V, Section 3 by adding as 3. “The Immediate Past President of the Association shall assume the duties of the Executive Director in case of a vacancy in that position, until such time as a new Executive Director or Interim Executive Director is appointed.”

ARTICLE III, SECTION 6
Assessments
Resolved, to amend the Bylaws, Article III, Section 6 by striking “majority” and inserting “two-thirds” to read:
The House of Delegates by a majority, two-thirds affirmative vote may levy assessments on Active, Active Life, and Retired Members as recommended by the Board of Trustees for a specific purpose and for a specific period of time.

ARTICLE III, SECTION 4C
Privileges
Resolved, to amend the Bylaws, Article III, Section 4C by striking “shall receive a Certificate of Membership” to read:
Affiliate, Student and Honorary members may attend scientific sessions of this Association and shall receive a Certificate of Membership, publications or services as authorized by the House of Delegates.

ARTICLE III, SECTION 5E
Reinstatement
Resolved, to amend the Bylaws, Article III, Section 5E. by addition:
“Members in any category may be reinstated upon payment of appropriate dues and assessments by October 1 of that year. Members who have not reinstated by October 1 must complete a reinstatement application and will not be recorded as a continuous member.”
Yukon Dentists Give Big During Children’s Dental Health Month

Since its inception in 1949, Children’s Dental Health Month (CDHM) has been an event aimed at bringing the message of the importance of good oral health for children to the public.

An estimated 1,000+ children from local low-income families received free dental services ranging from screenings and cleanings, to fillings and crowns as part of Oklahoma’s efforts during CDHM. More than 40,000 dental teams nationwide participated in the program which is designed to provide care and raise awareness of the importance of access to dental care for underprivileged children.

On Tuesday, February 16, a team of Yukon dentists visited the first grade and special education classes in the Yukon school district. Through their efforts, 636 children were seen that day. The children were given instruction in proper dental hygiene, as well as visual screening exams.

Also, on Tuesday, February 19, eleven Yukon dentists (and one dental student) saw over 100 patients in their offices. Over $15,000 worth of free services were provided including exams, prophies, fluoride treatments, restorations, and extractions. The total does not include orthodontic cases being donated by local Yukon orthodontists as part of the year-round program to provide free care for needy children.

In addition, other ODA member dentists and their office teams visited elementary schools throughout the state, performing oral health screenings and making presentations about the importance and the how-to’s of good oral health.
Register Today!
Register now for the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) 2010 Annual Meeting & Exhibits, July 8 to 11, and the AGD House of Delegates, July 6 to 8, and prepare to savor the flavors of New Orleans! Visit www.agd.org/neworleans and click on “Register Now” to sign up today. The registration brochure is available for download exclusively on the AGD 2010 Annual Meeting & Exhibits Web site. This registration program is simply too hot to mail!

For your convenience, registration is available at www.agd.org/neworleans. Participants can register online on our Web site or by downloading the registration brochure and faxing the registration form with their credit card information to 312.440.0513 or by mail to Academy of General Dentistry, Annual Meeting, 38943 Eagle Way, Chicago, Illinois 60678-1389. On-site registration will be available as well. See you in New Orleans!

AGD 2010 Annual Meeting & Exhibits
July 6 to 8, 2010: AGD House of Delegates
July 8 to 11, 2010: AGD Annual Meeting & Exhibits

Visit the AGD Web site for more information at www.agd.org/neworleans.
Where did your path lead you after dental school?
I started a new practice immediately. In addition to running my practice, the first few years I worked part-time for more established dentists. This exposed me to new techniques and materials that greatly improved my dentistry.

What is your favorite aspect of dentistry?
The daily challenge of treating patients and running a small business. No two days (or two patients) are alike. I am honored to have our patients trust in treating their dental health and the opportunity to share a small part in their lives.

Favorite hobbies?
Traveling, reading, sports, movies. I really just enjoy goofing off with my wife and daughter!

Tell us a little bit about your family.
My wife, Kerri, and I have been married for five years. We spend most of our time chasing our energetic two-year-old daughter, Ashlyn, around the house. In late March, we are looking forward to welcoming our second daughter, Evalynne. Our labradoodle, Lucia, is still adjusting to all the new additions to the family.

As the ODA New Dentist Chair, what do you enjoy most about the position?
It is a great opportunity to exchange ideas and socialize, not only with old classmates, but also new dentists who are in similar stages of their careers.

What has been the biggest challenge as New Dentist Chair?
Getting the word out to new dentists about our events. Every new dentist will get an E-mail regarding upcoming events. It’s important for you to update your contact information. This allows the ODA to effectively communicate with its members. When I talk to other dentists, some are not aware of our events. We offer free evening CE (taught by local specialists), so make sure to check your E-mail, the ODA Web site, and the ODA Facebook page for upcoming events!

What advice do you have for today’s dental student?
The light at the end of the tunnel is an incoming train. Take advantage of your opportunities in school, because in the real world there isn’t a faculty dentist in the room for you to ask the difficult questions. But the great thing about the ODA’s New Dentist events is that they were created specifically to help ease the transition from student to professional!

Where do you see the ODA headed in the future?
The ODA will continue to be the unified voice for the dental profession at the State Capitol. With the recent health care debate, it’s important for the ODA to be our voice in the discussion. If you are not sitting at the table, then you are on the menu!

What is the most exciting thing going on with the ODA today?
The New Dentist events, of course! If you have been practicing ten years or less, these events are for you. The sessions provide an opportunity to get practical advice that can be incorporated into your practice immediately. They also create a place to meet specialists who can offer future support for your patients. The yearly New Dentist Seminar features CE from a national speaker at a greatly reduced cost! We also have created a New Dentist Happy Hour during the ODA Annual Meeting (Oklahoma City). This will be a great opportunity for new dentists to connect with old friends. For more information regarding upcoming events, log on to www.okda.org and click the New Dentists button under Membership.

On a more personal note, what is your favorite movie?
Empire Strikes Back, but I can never turn the channel if Shawshank Redemption is on.

Favorite book?
I don’t have a favorite. I usually read historical nonfiction, because truth is always stranger than fiction.

Favorite dessert?
Warm chocolate chip cookies with vanilla ice cream.

Boomer Sooner or Orange Power?
Orange is only for Halloween and prison. Boomer Sooner!
A&S notes on

Filling the Gap!

Come by our booth, pick up our notes on "Filling the Gap" and say hello as we help the ODA kick off the 2010 Annual Meeting, April 23rd and 24th.

We will be available to discuss your insurance and any "gaps" that may be putting you or your practice at risk.
Meet the Staff
A series of articles designed to help members put a face with a name of the ODA staff.

Kim Loving-Proby
Communications Assistant

Kim joined the ODA in April 2007.

Interesting Fact: Was a ballerina in her childhood.

What information/assistance does your position provide for the membership? As the Communication Assistant, I have the pleasure of providing a warm greeting when members stop by or call needing information. I also assist in various other areas including: the ODA Adopt-a-Dentist program, ODA Journal advertising, Retired Dentist luncheons, the ODA Annual Meeting, and the ODF. (And much, much more!)

As the Communications Assistant, what goals do you have for your area in the upcoming year? Simply to be the best I can be!

What has been the most interesting part of your job so far? Meeting so many caring dentists who work effortlessly to provide access to care for those who are simply unable to provide it for themselves. Also, it is amazing to watch the Annual Meeting come together, as well as our new program, the Oklahoma Mission of Mercy – what an event!!! The entire staff works with such drive and effort to pull off these events, it is truly amazing and I am so proud to be part of such a wonderful team!

What is one dental-related thing you’ve learned since working at the ODA? How important it is for dentists to keep up with the latest and greatest technology through CE.

Contact Kim at kloving@okda.org

What is your favorite movie? Imitation of Life

Favorite book? The Martian Chronicles

Favorite dessert? Anything chocolate.

Favorite sports team? I’m a California girl – the Lakers, of course!

Boomer Sooner or Orange Power? Neither

I was born and raised in Los Angeles, with my mom (a single parent), my brother, and my sister. I attended 6th through 12th grade in a multi-diverse area of L.A. known as the San Fernando Valley (yes, I was a valley girl!). I truly enjoyed this privilege for it taught me at an early age that good comes from individuals and not from ethnic groups.

While growing up, my godparents shared with me the beauty of ballet. This encouraged me to start taking ballet classes. I absolutely loved dancing, not to mention getting pretty and dressing up in new costumes for recitals!

I enjoy reading, dancing, and my theocratic meetings. I very much enjoy all of the seasons Oklahoma weather brings compared to those in L.A. But, after living in Oklahoma City for almost 15 years, I still can’t get used to the winter months! BRRR...

The two most meaningful events in my life were the birth of my daughter, Britney Christine (whom I miss terribly since she is currently attending college in Los Angeles and majoring in special education), and meeting my loyal and loving husband, Dwight. After many years together, we still manage to go on dates! We both became students of Jehovah God’s Divine Word which has provided us with what we believe to be an accurate knowledge of Bible truths. It has allowed us to understand more about life than we ever would have otherwise.

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—are you prepared for the road ahead?

Professional Practice Associates is the dental practice transition specialist who understands that buying or selling a dental practice is a life-changing experience...we have been down that road personally! If you want to partner with a company who you can trust to focus on your needs in a personal way and on a professional level, please call us today at (405) 359-8784 to schedule a free consultation or request a Dental Practice Transition Kit by visiting our website at www.ppa-brokers.com. We'll do everything we can to make the journey a great one.
The ODA Annual Meeting is by far the largest dental meeting in the state! Join over 1,500 dentists and other dental team members as they participate in continuing education, networking, and social events throughout the meeting! Over 68 hours of CE available for you and your staff!

REGISTER online today!

Hotel Reservation Information:
Renaissance OKC Hotel
(800) 468-3571 or (405) 228-8000

*Special ODA rate: $147/king $147/double

*The rate for blocked rooms will be honored until April 1, 2010. To receive the special rate, please indicate you are with the ODA when calling to make your reservation.

For more information visit www.okda.org!
Your registration must be postmarked on or before April 1, 2010, to qualify for the pre-registration prices.

ONLY ONE REGISTRANT PER REGISTRATION FORM – DO NOT REGISTER MORE THAN ONE PERSON ON THIS FORM.

Please make copies of this form as needed. REGISTER ONLINE at www.okda.org or mail completed form with payment to: Oklahoma Dental Association, 317 NE 13th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73104. Forms may also be faxed with completed credit card information to 405-848-8875.

The ODA will refund registration fees, less a $30 administration fee, if a written request is delivered to the Executive Director or postmarked no later than April 12, 2010. The ODA Annual Meeting schedule is subject to change and the ODA is not responsible for any changes to the schedule.

All persons who register for this meeting acknowledge reading and agreeing to this statement: “This function’s planners claim and assume no liability for the acts of meeting suppliers, nor for the safety of any attendee, or spouse, child or guest of an attendee, while in transit to or from this event. Attendees and participants in any event, including but not limited to those which may require or feature physical activity, assume all risk and liability associated with such activity.”

I. REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Last Name: _____________________________________________
First Name: ____________________________ Middle Initial: ________
Name for Badge: ___________________________________________
ADA Number (if applicable): _________________________________
ODA Members, please indicate District: _______________________
Address: _________________________________________________
City: ___________________________ State: _______ Zip: __________
Phone: ___________________________________________________
Fax: ______________________________________________________
Email Address: ______________________________________________

II. REGISTRATION FEES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>On/Before 4-1-10</th>
<th>On/After 4-2-10</th>
<th>Amount Due</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ODA/ADA Member Basic</td>
<td>230.00</td>
<td>255.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Includes free scientific sessions, Exhibit Hall admission, Opening Session &amp; lunch on Friday &amp; Saturday</td>
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<tr>
<td>ODA/ADA Member Inclusive</td>
<td>305.00</td>
<td>330.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Includes BASIC registration, one ticket to ODA Breakfast &amp; Learn, Lunch &amp; Learn and one ticket to President’s Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>ODA State Life Member</td>
<td>25.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Includes free scientific sessions, Exhibit Hall admission and Opening Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>ODA Retired Member</td>
<td>25.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Includes free scientific sessions, Exhibit Hall admission and Opening Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>ODA Retired State Life Member</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td>FREE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Includes free scientific sessions, Exhibit Hall admission and Opening Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-ODA/ADA Dentist</td>
<td>375.00</td>
<td>400.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Includes free scientific sessions, Exhibit Hall admission, Opening Session and lunch on Friday &amp; Saturday. Only available to non-members who did NOT attend the 2006, 2007, 2008, or 2009 ODA Annual Meetings.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-ODA/ADA Dentist</td>
<td>690.00</td>
<td>715.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Includes free scientific sessions, Exhibit Hall admission, Opening Session and lunch on Friday &amp; Saturday. This fee is for non-members who DID attend the 2006, 2007, 2008, or 2009 ODA Annual Meetings.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hygienist</td>
<td>72.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>ODA Associate Member</td>
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<td>100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-ODA Associate Member</td>
<td>90.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant</td>
<td>48.00</td>
<td>58.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>ODA/ODA Associate Member</td>
<td>48.00</td>
<td>58.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-ODA/ODA Associate Member</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>70.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dental Lab Technician</td>
<td>58.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dental Student Undergraduate</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td>FREE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Includes dental, hygiene, assistant &amp; lab tech students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>36.00</td>
<td>46.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spouse/Guest</td>
<td>40.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Office Staff</td>
<td>48.00</td>
<td>58.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ODA Associate Member</td>
<td>48.00</td>
<td>58.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-ODA Associate Member</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>70.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

You can also register online at www.okda.org
IV. PURCHASE / RESERVE EVENT TICKETS

Please check each event and CE scientific session you plan to attend.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday, April 23</th>
<th>On/Before 4-1-10</th>
<th>On/After 4-2-10</th>
<th>Amount Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CE COURSE TICKETS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Removable Prosthodontic Realities (Sharifi)</td>
<td>8:00-11:00 &amp; 2:00-5:00</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td>FREE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Adhesive Restoration (Burgess)</td>
<td>8:00-11:00 &amp; 2:00-5:00</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td>FREE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diet Wars: The Effects of Diets on Oral &amp; Systemic Health (Reynolds)</td>
<td>8:00-11:00</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ten Latest Trends in Practice Management (Sweeney)</td>
<td>8:00-11:00</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td>FREE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPR Course: Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers Limited to 30 Attendees</td>
<td>8:00-11:00</td>
<td>78.00</td>
<td>88.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Assistants: Roundtable Discussion</td>
<td>9:00-11:00</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ODA Lunch &amp; Learn: Ethics for the Dental Team (Cumby)</td>
<td>12:30-1:45</td>
<td>42.00</td>
<td>52.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microbes on Parade: The Amazing Roles they Play in Health &amp; Disease (Reynolds)</td>
<td>2:00-5:00</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td>FREE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teamwork Strategies: From Sabotage to Support (Sweeney)</td>
<td>2:00-5:00</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td>FREE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPR Course: Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers Limited to 30 Attendees</td>
<td>2:00-5:00</td>
<td>78.00</td>
<td>88.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Assistants: Nitrous Oxide (Miller)</td>
<td>2:00-5:00</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>25.00</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saturday, April 24</th>
<th>On/Before 4-1-10</th>
<th>On/After 4-2-10</th>
<th>Amount Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CE COURSE TICKETS</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ODA Breakfast &amp; Learn Casual, roundtable presentations on various dental advancements</td>
<td>7:30-9:00</td>
<td>42.00</td>
<td>52.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical Tips &amp; Solutions for the Dental Front Office</td>
<td>8:00-11:00</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosis &amp; Restoration of the Severely Worn Dentition (Cronin)</td>
<td>9:00-12:00 &amp; 2:00-5:00</td>
<td>FREE</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology &amp; Periodontal Therapy: Trays to Lasers (Low)</td>
<td>9:00-12:00</td>
<td>FREE</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentistry for the Patients with Special Needs (Perlman)</td>
<td>9:00-12:00</td>
<td>FREE</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>On/After 4-2-10</th>
<th>Amount Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPR Course: Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers Limited to 30 Attendees</td>
<td>9:00-12:00</td>
<td>78.00</td>
<td>88.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Assistants: Secrets of the Dental Community: Signs &amp; Symptoms of Children and Adult Abuse (Davenport) Includes Breakfast</td>
<td>9:00 - 12:00</td>
<td>35.00</td>
<td>45.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Life in the Real World” New Dentist Lunch</td>
<td>12:15 - 1:45</td>
<td>65.00</td>
<td>75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilizing Laser Technology in a Periodontal Environment (Low)</td>
<td>2:00-5:00</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What if I Don’t Wake Up Tomorrow? Panel CE on Practice Succession</td>
<td>2:00-5:00</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Event Tickets</td>
<td>ODA Alliance/Dental Spouse/Guest Luncheon - Renaissance Hotel Saturday: 11:30-1:30</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>60.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President’s Dinner</td>
<td>Saturday: 6:30 PM</td>
<td>65.00</td>
<td>75.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REGISTRATION FEE + TICKETS = TOTAL AMOUNT DUE $_______

V: PAYMENT INFORMATION

REGISTER ONLINE AT www.okda.org or mail completed form with payment to: Oklahoma Dental Association, 317 NE 13th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73104. Forms may also be faxed with completed credit card information to 405-848-8875.

REGISTRATION TOTAL: $_______

Card Number: ________________________
Expiration Date: ________________________

PRINT name as it appears on card: ________________________
Signature: ________________________

ODA Office Use Only
Date Received: Method: ___ CK ___VI ___MC ___DIS ___AX
Date Charged: CK #: Total Fees:
Name on CC or CK if different from reg: ________________________

Did a dental supply company representative ask you to register for the ODA Annual Meeting? Yes No
If yes, please provide the following information:
Representative Name: ________________________
Dental Supply Company: ________________________
Providing The Oklahoma Dental Practice with Software Training, Specialty Practice Referral Representation, Consulting and Temp Service.

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diligentdentalservices.com

bam@diligentdentalservices.com

405-596-0141/405-485-3015 fax

P.O. Box 1058
Blanchard, OK, 73010
OKLAHOMA CITY!

Located in the heart of the state, Oklahoma City’s western charm and lively atmosphere create the perfect backdrop for the ODA Annual Meeting! Oklahoma City’s hip, spirited environment blends with its deep western heritage, creating an exciting destination steeped in culture and adventure. With renowned festivals, national sporting events, treasure-filled museums and a variety of districts highlighting arts and entertainment, the possibilities in Oklahoma City are endless! Whether it is arts and culture that capture your heart, or cheering for the home team, you can experience it all and more in Oklahoma City.

Bring the whole family with you to the ODA Annual Meeting and come explore this oasis of fun!

HOTEL INFORMATION

RENAISSANCE OKC HOTEL

10 N. Broadway
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

(405) 228-8000
(800) 468-3571

King rooms are $147/night
Double rooms are $147/night

Check-in time is 3:00 pm - Check-out time is 11:00 am

The rate for blocked rooms will be honored until April 1, 2010.
To receive the special ODA rate please indicate you are with the ODA when calling to make your reservation.
This year’s Exhibit Hall will feature over 100 booths of various vendors exhibiting the latest goods and services related to the art of dentistry and the business of running a dental practice. The Exhibit Hall will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 23, and from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 24.

Attendees in the Exhibit Hall can participate in the ODA Bingo! game that will take place during both days in the Exhibit Hall. The ODA Bingo! game involves visiting participating booths in order to get stickers from select exhibitors, and then turning in the completed ODA Bingo! card to the ODA Booth to be entered in various drawings that take place throughout the day. And don’t forget to check out the DENPAC Silent Auction while you’re there!

Dr. Rieger Wood invites you to the President’s Dinner

“Diamonds & Denim”

Combine your fancy coat tails with your boots and Wranglers, because this year we’re going a little bit country and a little bit glitz! (The folks south of the red river call it a Texas Tuxedo)

You will enjoy a wonderful night dancing to top hits with the The Stars. This Oklahoma band is lighting up the dance scene from Tulsa to Bricktown!

Saturday, April 24, 2010
6:30 PM - Cox Convention Center
After handling thousands of transactions over the past two decades, PARAGON consultants know that no two clients and no two transactions are the same. A practice transition is a very personal event that requires very special attention. Nothing is taken for granted. We customize every single transaction to satisfy the needs and goals of our clients. We handle each transaction as if we are the client. This is just one of the many reasons why PARAGON is so unique.

Judge for yourself! Call us for a complimentary consultation. No obligation...just a very worthwhile education!

The Oklahoma Board of Dentistry now requires at least one dental ethics course during each CE reporting cycle. Satisfy this requirement during the ODA Annual Meeting when the ODA presents the Lunch & Learn, “Ethics for the Dental Team”, presented by Dr. Dunn Cumby. Dr. Cumby will explore past, present and future ethical dilemmas that dental professionals face in daily practice.

ODA Breakfast & Learn
One and a half (1.5) Hour of CE Available
Saturday, April 24, 2010
7:30 – 9:00 a.m.
Panel Format / Audience: The entire dental team!

The ODA Breakfast & Learn is an opportunity to enjoy breakfast while learning about advancements in the dental arts, office management, and technology in a casual, round-table setting. This year’s Eat & Learn will feature the following presentations:

Dr. Phil Archer: Dental Sleep Medicine – Snoring and Sleep Apnea
Dr. Brian Amy and Dr. Justin Power: Current Approaches to Interdisciplinary Care
Dr. Jeff Baggett: Phasing Comprehensive Treatment in Today’s Difficult Economic Times
Dr. Ryan Bracket: Anterior Restorations in the Pediatric Patient
Dr. Brent Burchard: Innovative Interior Implant Impression Techniques
Dr. Logan Coffee: Isolation and Retraction
Dr. Jacob Hager: Restoring Anterior Implants with Computer Designed Custom Abutments
Dr. Rita Hatti: Hard and Soft Tissue Grafting: Case Reports
Dr. Grady Lembke: Powerpoint Patient Consultations to Increase Treatment Acceptance
Dr. Jake Mendenhall: Treatment of Oral-Antral Communication
Dr. Robert Mongrain: CAD/CAM and Dentistry
Dr. Drew Wendelken: Review of Local Anesthesia

“What if I Don’t Wake Up Tomorrow” CE Panel on Practice Succession
Three (3) Hour of CE Available
Saturday, April 24, 2010
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Panel Format / Audience: The entire dental team!

Upon completion of this three-hour course, participants will be aware of the need for legal documents such as wills and trusts, recognize the various types of insurance needed to provide a safety net and to ensure practice continuity, understand the significance of a knowledgeable accountant in areas other than tax preparation, recognize factors used in appraising dental practices and the need for timely transition, and be aware of the political ramifications when a non-dentist becomes an owner of a dental practice.
Practical Tips, Techniques and Time-Honored Systems to Make Your Front Desk Excel
Three (3) Hours of CE Available
Saturday, April 24, 2010
8:00 am – 11:00 am

This course will cover handling patients from the moment they call until their treatment plan is completed, and bring you practical solutions to make your front desk run smoothly. You will learn about accepting insurance, how to do correct pre-determinations, billing, and collections. You will be given sample systems and formats for running an efficient front desk. Join us as we talk about treatment planning, the benefits and sales techniques it requires, and managing the schedule for maximum productivity. Are you new to the front desk or have you been working the front desk for years? This course will offer basics as well as advanced systems for many front desk challenges. You will be given an easy secure system for tracking dental income from production to depositing it in the bank.

“Life in the Real World” New Dentist Lunch
One and a Half (1.5) Hours of CE Available
Saturday, April 24, 2010
12:15 pm – 1:45 pm

The ODA “Life in the Real World” New Dentist Lunch will include table rotations representing different services and companies graduating dental students and new dentists will need, such as insurance, financing, practice management services, etc.

Are you starting to think about retirement and how to prepare for the next step? Are you looking for an associate or do you have a practice to sell? There will also be dental practice transition experts on hand to answer your questions and help prepare you for that road ahead.

FOR THE DENTAL ASSISTANT...

Dental Assistant Kaleidoscope
Two (2) Hours of CE Available
Friday, April 23, 2010
9:00 am – 11:00 am

Once again, we will have various presentations from different representatives of the dental field. DMI (Zenith America), Southern Dental Industries, Kavo, MicroFlex, and Coltene Whaledent are some of our presenters. This program is filled with information, product samples, and door prizes! We will be sharing ideas with other dental assistants, learning about new products and technology, and discovering ways to improve patient care. Please join us for two hours of continuing education.

Kathy Miller, RDH
Nitrous Oxide
Two (2) Hours of CE Available
Friday, April 23, 2010
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

This course will review the indications, contraindications, and advantages of nitrous oxide/oxygen sedation. In addition, patient preparation and monitoring, dosage, and recognition of ideal signs and symptoms of proper sedation will be reviewed. Equipment set-up, scavenging, and ambient air limits will be reviewed and updated in addition to a review of the administration of nitrous oxide. Also addressed, will be equipment maintenance and administration record keeping.

Velina Davenport
Secrets of the Dental Community: Signs and Symptoms of Children and Adult Abuse
Two (2) Hours of CE Available
Saturday, April 24, 2010
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Breakfast included

In the USA, an estimated 906,000 children are victims of abuse and neglect every year, making child abuse as common as it is shocking. Whether the abuse is physical, emotional, sexual, or neglect, the scars can be deep and long-lasting, often leading to future child abuse.

Every year, tens of thousands of elderly Americans are abused in their own homes, in relatives’ homes, and even in facilities responsible for their care. You may suspect that an elderly person you know is being harmed physically or emotionally by a neglectful or overwhelmed caregiver or being preyed upon financially.

By learning the signs and symptoms of child abuse and elder abuse, and how to act on behalf of these populations in our society, you’ll not only by helping someone else but strengthening your own defenses against these types of abuse in the future.

As health care providers, come share in this presentation to better equip you on how to prevent the ongoing abuse of children and adults in our community.
Don’t Miss the Oklahoma Dental Foundation’s Volunteer Appreciation Dinner!

Allied Organizations Volunteer and Supporter Appreciation Event
Friday, April 23, 2010 – 7:00-10:00 p.m.
Bricktown Brewery, 1 North Oklahoma Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK

CPR for Healthcare Providers
Is it time to renew your CPR certification?
Three (3) Hours of CE Available

For dentists and hygienists, proof of a CPR course completion is required at least once in each three-year reporting cycle.

The ODA is offering THREE CPR re-certification opportunities during the 2010 Annual Meeting:

Friday: 8:00 am – 11:00 am
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Saturday: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Each course is limited to 30 attendees and pre-registration is required. Please bring your current CPR card with you to class.

ODA Leadership Orientation and Training Session

Make plans now to attend the ODA Leadership Orientation and Training Session on Saturday, April 24, from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. This session is for all ODA members serving on an ODA Council, Committee, Task Force, or Board. We also welcome any ODA dentist who is considering serving in the future and would like to hear more about what’s expected. We’ll go over job descriptions, duties and responsibilities, and we’ll provide tips on leadership and running a successful council or committee meeting. It is a great opportunity to meet colleagues with whom you will be serving, and the perfect time to get answers for any questions that you may have.

ODA Blood Drive / Health Screening
Sponsored by the Oklahoma Blood Institute

Make plans now to participate in the ODA Blood Drive, located in the Exhibit Hall! Help replenish Oklahoma’s blood supply and have 14 tests run at the same time, including blood pressure, cholesterol levels, and a screening for the hepatitis B and hepatitis C viruses.

Hours of Operation:
Friday, April 24th
10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

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Allied Organizations Volunteer and Supporter Appreciation Event
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The Oklahoma Mission of Mercy, a free two-day dental clinic, was held Feb. 5-6 at the Tulsa Convention Center. The clinic, which was open to the public, resulted in the treatment of 1,805 patients and the completion of 6,997 procedures for a total of $864,463 in donated dental services. The event featured a fully-functional dental facility with 92 chairs and more than 1,500 volunteers, including dental professionals who provided their services for free.

A variety of services were offered at the clinic, including cleanings, fillings, extractions, and root canals. There were no eligibility or income requirements for those seeking treatment.

Over the past eight years, nearly 70,000 patients nationwide have received free dental care through the Mission of Mercy program, which equates to more than $34 million in contributions to those in need. The 2010 event in Tulsa was Oklahoma’s first Mission of Mercy event. Oklahoma is the 15th state to coordinate the annual event. The Mission of Mercy will be held in Oklahoma City in 2011 and McAlester in 2012.

Dr. Rieger Wood, president of the Oklahoma Dental Association and chairman of Oklahoma Mission of Mercy, said the timing of the event couldn’t have been better. According to Oklahoma Department of Health statistics, Oklahoma ranks 50th in the nation for adults who visited a dentist in the past year.

“People across the state are in pain or have urgent needs due to delayed oral healthcare and the need for an event like Mission of Mercy in Oklahoma is enormous,” Wood said. “Times are tough and many Oklahomans are struggling. They are prioritizing their needs and simply don’t have the funds to pay for proper dental care. This event allowed them to receive the care they need at no cost.”

The Oklahoma Mission of Mercy was presented by the Oklahoma Dental Association, the Delta Dental of Oklahoma Charitable Foundation, and the Oklahoma Dental Foundation.
February 5-6, 2010

“now he can smile...”
- Jesus (Tulsa)

“...thank you isn’t enough...”
- Jennifer (Pryor)

“I wish to thank the Lord for touching the hearts of the people who donated their time to help people like me.”
- Tonya (Stillwater)

View more photos from the 2010 OkMOM at www.okmom.org!!

OkMOM Fun Facts:

1,856 biscuits served for breakfast
247 volunteer dentists
27 Walkie-Talkies used
$864,463 in donated services
1,674 volunteers
23 Panos in ODF Van
$15,000 worth of pharmaceuticals
875 patients treated on Friday
538: most treatments performed in one hour
1,445 volunteer t-shirts
930 patients treated on Saturday
3:30 AM: time volunteers started arriving
6,997 treatments performed
100% dedicated volunteers
My name is Crystal Engles, and I attended the two-day, free dental clinic in Tulsa. I just wanted to share my story and give my thanks! God has always blessed me in life but about six months ago I had a knee surgery that unexpectedly turned into a nightmare which has caused me to lose my job, insurance, and ability to walk for long periods of time. Since I am on disability, it has been a struggle to keep my head above water and I can barely afford the roof over my head. I have not been to the dentist in over a year and a half and desperately needed a filling and teeth cleaning. Currently, going to the dentist has become a luxury and not a necessity to live. Personally, I feel that a beautiful smile makes a person more attractive, and not being able to afford a dentist to maintain a healthy and vibrant smile really did frustrate me.

Having felt this way, I really did appreciate being provided this service for free to boost my confidence and eliminate tooth sensitivity during a struggling time when I am unable to afford dental care. The entire experience lifted my spirits and I left with a huge smile! Something as simple as having your teeth cleaned for free makes anyone appreciate it that much more when they are truly unable to afford it. I waited in line for 28 hours and actually became friends with some of the nicest people who otherwise I would never have had the pleasure of meeting. Although it was a long time to wait (and we did not get a wink of sleep because it was so cold outside), the efforts of everyone who came together surpassed the negative. I know a lot of people came not prepared to stay so I called my uncle, Ronnie Engles, who has worked to receive many donations for American Airlines, to help us out. He got pizza donated from Papa Johns for the 50 people that were in line with me since 5:00 AM Friday morning waiting to be seen Saturday at 5:00 AM. He also brought bottles of water donated from Reasor’s in Jenks to hand out. Everyone showed their appreciation to me and my uncle and it felt good to have a hand in giving back to others since I knew I was about to receive so much.

We were also taken back by the generosity of the dentists from Oklahoma City (Drs. Raymond and Matt Cohlmia) and I believe the other man was the Director of this event when they also bought pizza for those who were in line! WOW! I was personally blown away that they took the initiative to take care of us when the organization was already doing so much for us from the get-go. I have to give praise to the dentist who filled my cavity, Dr. Rachel Standlee. Talk about someone who cares; this woman cares! My experience did not end when I left the Civic Center; she gave me her contact information to call just in case I experienced any problems with my new filling within the next week. Again, I was blown away by the generosity and her belief in truly wanting to help those in need. I had to hug her and shed a tear! I know this is long but I just want you to know that I felt blessed and all your hard work paid off because it was well-organized, effective, and everyone walked away with a smile!

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Chad Hoecker, DDS (General Dentist)
Bohn’s nodules, Epstein’s pearls, and gingival cysts of the newborn: A new etiology and classification

PROVIDED BY DAVID M. LEWIS DDS MS
OUCOD DEPARTMENT OF ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL PATHOLOGY

Introduction:
Alois Epstein (1849-1918), a Prague pediatrician first described the small nodules found in the oral cavity of infants in 1880. He cited the German pediatrician Heinrich Bohn (1832-1888), author of Die Mundkrankheiten der Kinder (Mouth Diseases of Children) for describing Bohn’s nodules (mucous-gland cysts).1 Gingival cysts of the newborn (dental lamina cysts) were theorized to have develop from remnants of the dental lamina.2 All three lesions have been described as having different etiologic origins, different histologic features, and different locations in the oral cavity.

Fromm,1 in his comprehensive review of 1,367 newborn infants, conducted one of the first and largest studies of these cysts since their discovery nearly a century earlier. He concluded that cysts were quite common (found in 79% of infants in his study) and that there were three distinct types both histologically and clinically. Epstein’s pearls are those found along the midpalatine raphe and derived from epithelial tissues trapped along the raphe as the fetus grows. Bohn’s nodules are those found along the buccal and lingual aspects of the dental ridges, and are derived from mucous gland tissues; they are histologically different from Epstein’s pearls. Gingival cysts of the newborn are those found on the crest of the maxillary and mandibular dental ridges, and are derived from remnants of the dental lamina.

The two terms, Bohn’s nodules and Epstein’s pearls, have been used interchangeably in the literature and have also been used to describe the gingival cyst of the newborn which is thought to be of odontogenic origin. Currently the preferred terminology is palatal cysts of the newborn (dental lamina cysts) were theorized to have develop from remnants of the dental lamina.2 All three lesions have been described as having different etiologic origins and names. Fromm,1 in his comprehensive review of 1,367 newborn infants, conducted one of the first and largest studies of these cysts since their discovery nearly a century earlier. He concluded that cysts were quite common (found in 79% of infants in his study) and that there were three distinct types both histologically and clinically. Epstein’s pearls are those found along the midpalatine raphe and derived from epithelial tissues trapped along the raphe as the fetus grows. Bohn’s nodules are those found along the buccal and lingual aspects of the dental ridges, and are derived from mucous gland tissues; they are histologically different from Epstein’s pearls. Gingival cysts of the newborn are those found on the crest of the maxillary and mandibular dental ridges, and are derived from remnants of the dental lamina.

The two terms, Bohn’s nodules and Epstein’s pearls, have been used interchangeably in the literature and have also been used to describe the gingival cyst of the newborn which is thought to be of odontogenic origin. Currently the preferred terminology is palatal cysts of the newborn for both Epstein’s pearls and Bohn’s nodules, and gingival cysts of the newborn for those of dental origin.3 It has also been noted that since these cysts are most common near the midline at the junction of the hard and soft palates, it is usually difficult to ascertain clinically whether they are arising from epithelium entrapped by fusion of the palate or from the developing salivary glands.

Discussion:
The similarities between these three lesions are remarkable: they all occur in the oral cavity (palate and dental alveolar arch), they all have identical histologic features (parakeratinized stratified squamous epithelial lining with a lumen containing keratinous debris), and they all behave in a similar manner (spontaneous resolution). However, they all have different etiologic origins and names. The concept of entrapment of epithelium during embryologic development (i.e. fissural cysts) has been questioned in recent years. The fusion of the globular portion of the median nasal process and the maxillary process is now considered to be an elimination of grooves and a merging of growth centers rather than fusion of processes. No epithelial entrapment occurs in this area. The classic fissural cysts (i.e. nasolabial cyst, globulomaxillary cyst, incisive canal cyst, and median palatal cyst) either no longer exist as entities or have different theories of origin for their epithelial component. Thus, the nasolabial cyst is now thought to arise from remnants of the lacrimal duct. The globulomaxillary cyst no longer exists as an entity and virtually all cysts in the area between the lateral incisor and the canine can be explained on an odontogenic basis as periapical cyst, lateral periodontal cyst, or odontogenic keratocyst. The incisive canal cyst is thought to arise from remnants of the nasopalatine duct. The median palatal cyst is the only remaining cyst in the area where the lateral palatal shelves fuse. Most median palatal cysts, however, may represent posteriorly positioned nasopalatine duct cysts. The nasopalatine duct courses posteriorly and superiority as it extends from the incisive canal to the nasal cavity and might be mistaken for a median palatal cyst. However, the reverse is also true. If a true median palatal cyst were to develop toward the anterior portion of the hard palate, it could be mistaken for a nasopalatine duct cyst.3 While the origin of the epithelium in these cysts remains controversial, the once common belief in fissural entrapment of epithelium and cyst development is far less likely than once thought.

Fig. 1. Palatal cysts of newborn

Palatal cysts of the newborn (Fig 1.) are found in 65-85% of neonates, suggesting they may be a normal anatomic structure. They are small (1-3 mm), white, or yellow papules most often along the midline or near the junction of the hard and soft palate. Occasionally, they may occur in a more anterior location along the raphe or on the posterior palate lateral to the midline. They are frequently clustered in groups of two to six cysts, although they can occur as an isolated lesion.3 Histologically, the cysts are lined by non-specific stratified squamous epithelium. Occasionally, the cysts can be seen in communication with the mucosal surface.3 Prognostically, the cysts are innocuous lesions and require no treatment. They are self-limiting and are rarely observable several weeks after birth. Presumably, the epithelium degenerates, or the cysts rupture onto the mucosal surface.3
There has also been considerable controversy in the origin of teeth. It is now thought that vertebrate dentition developed in the posterior pharynx of jawless fish more than half a billion years ago. As gnathostomes (jawed vertebrates) evolved, teeth developed on oral jaws and helped to establish the dominance of this lineage on land and in the sea.5 Previously the oral cavity of vertebrates was generally thought to arise as an ectodermal invagination.6 Oral teeth were proposed to arise exclusively from ectodermal epithelium contributing to tooth enamel and neural crest-derived mesenchyme contributing to the dentin and pulp. In many vertebrate groups, teeth are not restricted to the oral cavity but extend posteriorly as pharyngeal teeth. They could be derived either directly from the endodermal epithelium or from the ectodermal epithelium that reached this location through the mouth or through the pharyngeal slits. When the oropharyngeal membrane, which forms a sharp ecto/endodermal border, is broken, the fate of these cells is poorly understood.6 Regardless of the possible “outside-in” or “inside-out” influx of the epithelium this suggests a dominant role for the neural crest mesenchyme over epithelium in tooth initiation. From an evolutionary point of view, an essential factor in teeth evolution was the odontogenic capacity of neural crest cells.6 The paleontologic record shows that teeth were not restricted to the dental arches of the oral cavity but were found throughout the oral cavity and pharynx.

The theory of recapitulation, originally developed by Ernst Haeckel (1834-1919) in 1886 as “ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny” where ontogeny represents the growth of an organism and phylogeny represents the evolutionary past of the entire population, has been discredited since the beginning of the twentieth century. Experimental morphologists and biologists have shown that there is not a one-to-one correspondence between phylogeny and ontogeny. Although a strong form of recapitulation is not correct, phylogeny and ontogeny are intertwined. In modern terms, if a structure pre-dates another in evolutionary terms, then it also appeared earlier than the other in the embryo. Species, which have an evolutionary relationship, typically share the early stages of embryonic development and differ in later stages.

Conclusion:
With these thoughts in mind:
1. Entrapment of epithelial remnants during embryologic development is not likely to result in fissural cyst development.
2. Teeth have been found throughout the oral cavity and pharynx in the paleontologic record.
3. Neural crest mesenchyme may be more instrumental in tooth development than ectodermal or endodermal influence.
4. Structures can recapitulate in embryonic development.

Bohn’s nodules, Epstein’s pearls, and gingival cysts of the newborn are embryologic attempts at recapitulation of primitive tooth formation. They are all of odontogenic origin, consist of only the epithelial component without induction of the mesenchymal component, and no advanced tooth structures are formed or created. They form on the alveolar ridge and palate, which were all formerly tooth-bearing areas in the paleontologic record. The process is purely epithelial and is manifest as a small epithelial-lined cyst, which then involutes and disappears. They all have identical histologic features and biologic behavior. They should be considered to have a single odontogenic etiology.

References:
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