

BULLETIN

CALIFORNIA SOCIETY OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

SUMMER 2023 | Volume 51 – Number 1

6

2023 Annual
Meeting Photos

16

Graduating Residents



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Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center

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SUMMER 2023

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DR. CHANEL MCCREEDY - BULLETIN MANAGING EDITOR

Members are invited and encouraged to contribute to the CSPD *Bulletin*. Articles of general or specific interest, Letters to the Editor, and commentary on issues of public policy and matters of pediatric oral health are welcome. Items intended for publication may be submitted to Managing Editor Dr. Chanel McCreedy at chanel.mccreedy@gmail.com or to admin@cspd.org.

The mission of the *Bulletin* of the California Society of Pediatric Dentistry is to communicate with members on issues affecting the specialty of Pediatric Dentistry and the oral health of infants, children, and adolescents. The *Bulletin* will provide information on Society activities, initiatives, governance, and member services, as well as information and notice of the accomplishments and actions of its members.

The views and opinions expressed by individual members in articles and commentaries are those of the author and do not necessarily represent policy or viewpoint of the California Society of Pediatric Dentistry.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A HUGE THANK YOU!

— Dr. Don Schmitt - CSPD President



Wow, what a great weekend for the CSPD and pediatric dentistry! Over 600 of our friends and colleagues gathered in San Francisco at the beautiful Fairmont Hotel for our 48th Annual

Meeting. A huge **THANK YOU** to Ora Lowe, Mitch Poiset and the entire Annual Meeting Team for yet again putting on an amazing meeting filled with high quality Continuing Education from incredible speakers, informative updates from AAPD President Elect Dr Scott Cashion and CDA President John Blake, and fun social events allowing us to catch up with friends from across the state. Well done all!

Also, at the annual meeting, the membership approved several significant changes to our Bylaws which help advance my goal to make the CSPD a more sustainable organization. Though CSPD has now passed the 1000 mark for members (Yay!) we are highly dependent upon a small paid staff for the smooth operation of our Society. Thankfully, our incredibly talented and dedicated Executive Director, Dr. Paul Reggiardo, has signed on to lead us for (at least) 3 more years. And he is being capably assisted by Diane Skullr, our part time Administrative Operations Manager. Our only other paid staff is Teri Anticevich and her meeting planning team. All the other duties and responsibilities of running CSPD are handled by volunteers.

Over time, the CSPD's committee structure had ballooned to 19 standing or ad-hoc committees. Many of those committees had a narrow scope or overlapped the work of other committees. All told there were over 200 volunteer leadership positions that needed to be filled each year. Clearly, not a sustainable number. Under the new structure ratified in San Francisco, the CSPD now has a much more focused group of 12 committees ready to go to work. The membership also approved removing the geographic designation from 4 of the Directors of the Board as of the 2024-25 CSPD operations year. This will allow more flexibility to pick the best candidates regardless of their location within California while still maintaining at least 2 Directors each from the North and South. The other significant change was the elimination of the President-Elect position also as of 2024-25. This will simplify the organizational structure and reduce the number of years required to commit to the highest elective office.

All these changes combine to make the CSPD a more streamlined operation and reduce the administrative footprint. This will allow staff and volunteer leaders to focus on CSPD's core values of supporting our members, providing excellent Continuing Education, supporting our residency programs, and maintaining our strong tradition of advocacy.

Speaking of advocacy, CSPD shares members' concerns about SB501 and its deleterious effects on the ability to provide much needed treatment with oral sedation. This bill is likely to have a significant negative impact on access to care. There are no short-term fixes available to counteract this legislation, but CSPD is diligently investigating all options.

Together with the great team of leaders we have at the CSPD, we will strive every day to do the right thing for our profession, the children we serve and more importantly for you, our members. I look forward to a great year!

PS. I hope to see many of you at our joint CSPD/WSPD reception at the AAPD Annual Session in Orlando on Saturday May 27th!

BIENVENUE AND A WARM THANK YOU!

Dr. Oariona Lowe - CSPD Past President and Annual Meeting Chair

Dr. Mitchell Poiset - 2023 Annual Meeting Co-Chair - President-Elect

Dr. Mylinh Ngo - 2024 CSPD Vice President and Annual Meeting Co-Chair



Welcome and thank you for joining us at the CSPD “Back to the Bay” Annual Meeting. We had a wonderful venue at the luxurious Fairmont Hotel in the Nob Hill area of San Francisco. With over 289 Dental Team members attending the Biennial Dental Team Day event, our mission to include and show our gratitude to the Team for their ongoing support was accomplished. **I wish to personally acknowledge and thank the entire Annual Meeting Planning Committee who worked tirelessly throughout the year, taking time away from their families to plan the second successful “Back to the Bay” meeting.** Together, we launched another extraordinary event. Over 600 members and non-members were registered and in attendance. Post meeting survey responses gave positive ratings to the speaker presentations, poster presentations, sponsors, social events, and more.

Next year, the CSPD/WSPD 2024 Annual Meeting will be at the JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort and Spa in Palm Desert, CA. A preview of our speaker topics include “Current Guidelines on Pulp Therapy”, Parental acceptance of Fluoride, Caries prevention, Fluoride remineralization and Dental Traumatology.

Palm Desert is an ideal destination for those who want outdoor adventure and a great educational experience. The resort is a short drive from downtown Palm Springs, the Acrisure Arena, Coachella Valley Music Festival, and events in Indian Wells. The JW Marriott is a luxury hotel featuring family-friendly amenities. Upon arrival on the lush resort grounds, you will feel yourself relaxing and recharging. Enjoy the outdoor pools, test your swing on the golf courses or play a set of tennis. Enjoy magnificent mountain views while in the desert! Pamper yourself at the day spa and set sail on one of the resort’s electric gondolas. Be sure to keep an eye out for the many birds of Desert Springs like Chilean Flamingos, black and white swans, cockatoos and more!

Mark your calendars now and join us for some fun, relaxation and continuing education!

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PALM DESERT, CA**

MARCH 21-24 2024

WITH SUPPORT FROM THE WESTERN SOCIETY OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

CSPD ANNUAL MEETING IN SAN FRANCISCO









Special congratulations are in order to the winners of the Resident Poster Competition.

Research Reports: 1st place Vishnu Reddy UCLA, 2nd place Christina Shih USC, 3rd place Matthew Nguyen UCLA.

Case Reports: 1st place Urva Suryawala LLU, 2nd place Cindy Lee NYU Langone, and 3rd place Jenny Kye USC.





WELCOME NEW PPA

WELCOME AMBER AND THANK YOU NATALIE!

By Dr. Paul Reggiardo - Executive Director

CSPD welcomes **Dr. Amber Nierode** as newly appointed **Public Policy Advocate**, succeeding **Dr. Natalie Mansour**, who served in the position from mid-2018 through March of this year. Dr. Nierode served on the Board of CSPD as Director-North from 2021-2023 and before that was appointed to the Membership Services Committee. The Public Policy Advocate serves to promote CSPD policy and position on issues affecting the oral health issues of infants, children, adolescents and patients with special health care and developmental needs primarily, but not exclusively, at the state level. The Advocate interacts with the legislature and other elected bodies, regulatory agencies, licensing bureaus, professional health and child welfare organizations, foundations, institutions of dental education, publicly-funded safety net programs, and the private sector benefits industry, as well as the public, at all levels of policy making, in representing children's oral health issues. Dr. Nierode maintains a full-time clinical practice in Santa Rosa and may be reached at anierode@gmail.com.

A huge "THANK YOU!" from the CSPD Leadership and Membership to **Dr. Natalie Mansour** for her steadfast, dedicated, and tireless service as the **Public Policy Advocate** for CSPD.





BILLS OF INTEREST

Dr. Amber Nierode - Public Policy Advocate

ACR 10: (WEBER) CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Summary: By proclamation, this measure would recognize and declare the month of February 2023 as Children's Dental Health Month in California. The purpose of this recognition is to raise oral health awareness.

CSPD: SUPPORT

Comment: The purpose of the resolution is to inform and enlighten legislative members (particularly new members) of the importance of oral health, especially children's oral health, and the need for legislative involvement. Less than one-half of all children enrolled by Medi-Cal visited a dentist last year. This bill aims to promote preventative dental visits and care.

Support: CDA (Sponsor)

AB 481: (CARRILLO) DENTAL ASSISTANT LICENSURE, TRAINING, AND SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Summary: It is widely recognized that there is a dentistry workforce shortage in California. AB 481 intends to address this ongoing and very concerning shortage. AB 481 aims to create a new preceptorship pathway for assistants training on-the-job. This bill will increase educational components required for on-the-job licensure, while also reducing the timeline to licensure. Reducing the on-the-job hours, while maintaining educational structure through a preceptorship pathway, will ensure RDAs are receiving quality on-the-job training while also addressing California's RDA shortage. Ultimately, if RDAs obtain their license through this new preceptorship pathway, dentists will be able to provide more care to more children. AB 481 will also create a new pathway to recognize alternative education programs (i.e., apprenticeships, adult education, and ROP programs). Alternative education programs will open up additional options to becoming licensed. Another goal of the bill is to update and increase dental assistant, RDA and RDAEF scope of practice duties (such as placing clear aligner buttons), and clarify unlicensed dental assistant duties. Finally, AB 481 will streamline the licensure process for out-of-state dental assistants moving to California by recognizing the Dental Assistant Board (DANB) certification. This will breakdown the barrier for out of state RDAs who wish to be employed in California during our workforce shortage.

CSPD: SUPPORT (As Amended, by Ex Comm). A letter of support is drafted and will be submitted to the Business and Professions Committee Chair, Marc Berman ahead of the hearing date deadline, April 11, 2023.

Comment: The bill would provide two dental workforce solutions. It would provide additional and simpler pathways to RDA licensure and would increase the scope of practice for unlicensed dental assistants (DA), registered dental assistants (RDA), registered dental assistants in extended functions (RDAEF), and update duties under the orthodontic assistant permit (OA) and oral surgery assistant permit (OSA).

Support: CDA (Sponsor)

AB 952: (WOOD) DENTAL BENEFIT PLAN TRANSPARENCY DISCLOSURES

Summary: Would require dental insurance plans to disclose both to enrollees and providers whether a dental benefit plan is governed by and subject to state (California DMHC or CDI) or federal (ERISA) law and regulation.

CSPD: SUPPORT – a letter of support was composed and submitted to the Assembly Health Committee and Chair, Dr. Jim Wood, by CSPD through the Legislative Advocates Portal on March 15, 2023.

Comment: This legislation could have broad implications on dental benefit provisions and patient understanding of their dental insurance coverage. As a simple example, a dental insurance plan sold or marketed in California (whether to employers or employees), cannot deny general anesthesia benefits when dental treatment is being performed if general anesthesia benefits are otherwise normally available under the plan. This became California state law decades ago. However, not all plans are sold or marketed in California. Some plans are self-funded and are provided to employees or to members of a group such as a teacher's union. These self-funded plans are governed by Federal law, not State law. When governed by Federal law, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 or ERISA applies and state law does not. ERISA contains no such general anesthesia provision and plans may be written (and almost always are) to exclude general anesthesia coverage when dental services are provided.

Support: CDA (Sponsor), CSPD, CA Assn Orthodontists (CAO), CA Society of Periodontists (CSP), Union American Physicians & Dentists

Continued on Next Page...



AB 1048: (WICKS) DENTAL PLAN EXCLUSIONS AND RATE REVIEW

Summary: Would prohibit dental plans from imposing waiting periods or exclusions for specific services at initial enrollment and require that dental premium rates be reviewed by the appropriate supervisory agency (the Department of Managed Health Care or the Department of Insurance).

CSPD: WATCH – CSPD is currently looking for further clarification of specific details within AB1048 and has taken a watch position for this reason. CSPD is in full support of a rate review of dental plans, however, this bill involves much more than a rate review provision. We wish to further understand how eliminating waiting periods will affect our patients and want to consider the consequences our patients may face if waiting periods are eliminated. CSPD plans to meet with a CDA representative (the sponsor of this bill) in the near future to address our concerns.

Comment: Enrollment “waiting periods” before eligibility is established for specific services and exclusions for “pre-existing conditions” is a common feature of many dental plans. Separately, while state regulatory body review of medical insurance premiums to ensure that rates are reasonable and justified is required, dental plans are excluded from a comparable mandated review process.

Support: CDA (Sponsor)

SB 525: (DURAZO) MINIMUM WAGE: HEALTH CARE WORKERS

Summary: This bill would require a health care worker minimum wage of \$25 per hour for hours worked in covered health care employment, as defined, subject to adjustment, as prescribed. This bill would require, for covered health care employment where the employee is paid on a salary basis, that the employee earn a monthly salary equivalent to no less than 2 times the health care worker minimum wage for full-time employment in order to qualify as exempt from the payment of minimum wage and overtime.

CSPD: WATCH – at this time, SB525 does not mention dentistry, dental care, or dentists within its details. This bill appears to be targeting hospitals, large health care facilities, and multiple physician groups. We are watching this bill very closely, along with the California Dental Association. If additional details or amendments transpire to include dentistry or affect dentistry, our CSPD board will reconvene to discuss the board’s position on the bill.

CALIFORNIA SOCIETY OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY
California State Chapter American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry



March 15, 2023

The Honorable Jim Wood, DDS
Chair, California Assembly Committee on Health
1020 N Street, Room 390
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 952 (Wood) Dental Transparency Disclosures
As Introduced, February 14, 20123**

SUPPORT

Dear Health Committee Chair Dr. Wood:

The California Society of Pediatric Dentistry (CSPD), representing California's more than 950 pediatric dental providers, educators, and researchers, is in support of the passage of AB 952, which would require dental insurers to disclose to both enrollees and providers whether a dental benefit plan is governed by and subject to state (*California Department of Managed Health Care or California Department of Insurance*) or federal (*Employment Retirement Income Security Act of 1974*) law and regulation.

Dental benefit plans, commonly referred to as "dental insurance," may be either state-regulated or regulated by Federal law, depending on their structure and source of funding. This produces confusion on the part of consumers and providers alike when trying to understand or resolve claim and payment disputes.

Consumers and providers commonly assume that all "dental insurance" is regulated under the insurance laws of the state in which it is sold or marketed. This is not the case. State insurance law governs traditional insurance products sold by commercial or not-for-profit entities in which the insurer assumes the risk of the plan's solvency. The plan purchaser (which, usually in the dental marketplace, is an employer) pays a set amount or annual premium for this coverage.

Self-funded dental health plans are different. Usually offered by large and mid-sized employers, multi-state employers, labor unions, and state, city or county government and government entities (such as school districts or police and fire departments) these entities "self-fund" and assume the risk directly, rather than purchase a group product in the commercial market. Self-funded plans are regulated under the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) law and therefore exempt from state laws regulating health care coverage.

This can be extraordinarily confusing as it is not often apparent with which type of plan the consumer or provider is dealing. While some ERISA-governed plans are self-administered, usually those of labor unions or employee groups, most of those plans offered by large employers engage a commercial insurance carrier as the plan administrator to handle claims processing. These plans appear on their face as traditional commercial insurance products, but are, in reality, ERISA-governed entities. Over 40% of dental insurance coverage provided in California is exempt from state insurance law.

This is important because patients and providers cannot rely upon the protections of state law when care is provided under an ERISA plan. For instance, California state insurance law requires that general anesthesia benefits otherwise available under a medical reimbursement plan may not be denied when necessary dental services are provided to a child and to persons with disabilities or special healthcare needs that preclude traditional in-office care. This provision does not apply to ERISA plans. Knowing in advance of providing treatment if general anesthesia benefits are available to the patient will oftentimes determine the direction and course of care.

Executive Director: Paul Reggiardo, DDS E-mail: preggiardo@cspd.org Tel: (916) 231-2142 Fax: (916) 231-2142
California Society of Pediatric Dentistry PO Box 5081, La Quinta, CA 92248
www.CSPD.org

Dentists need to readily identify under which type of plan the patient is covered in order to communicate plan benefits and exclusions and to direct the patient to the appropriate regulatory authority to resolve any conflict or dispute regarding coverage limitations or benefit payments.

AB 952 informs and strengthens patient protection, preserves patient confidence in the dental delivery system, and supports a more transparent state healthcare environment.

For these reasons, the **California Society of Pediatric Dentistry supports AB 952 and respectfully urges passage by the Assembly Health Committee.** You may reach us for further information on the reasons for our position at admin@cspd.org or at preggiardo@cspd.org.

Thomas Tanbonliong, DDS, President
California Society of Pediatric Dentistry

Paul Reggiardo, DDS, Executive Director
California Society of Pediatric Dentistry

CSPD is the professional membership organization of California's over 950 pediatric dental providers, educators and researchers. Our members provide primary and specialty oral health care to infants, children and adolescents, with a mission of serving our members and the public by advocating for the optimal oral health of infants, children and adolescents. We are the state unit of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and have been active in state oral health advocacy since our founding in 1975. Our members provide nearly a third of all pediatric oral health services in the state and are even more highly involved in services to the very young and to patients with disabilities and special health care needs.

cc: Assembly Member Jim Wood, DDS
Members and Consultants, Assembly Health Committee
Officers and Directors, California Society of Pediatric Dentistry

CALIFORNIA SOCIETY OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

California State Chapter American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry



April 10, 2023

The Honorable Marc Berman
Chair, California Assembly Committee on Business and Professions
1020 N Street, Room 379
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 481 (Carrillo) Dentistry: Dental Assistants

SUPPORT

Dear Business and Professions Committee Chair Berman:

The California Society of Pediatric Dentistry (CSPD), representing more than 950 pediatric dental providers, educators, and researchers in California, is in support of the passage of AB 481, which would address an ongoing dental staffing workforce shortage.

Pediatric Dentists and general dentists who treat children prioritize in their practices the prevention of tooth decay as the important first step in creating a lifetime of good oral health. It is well understood the risk of needing to undergo extensive and costly dental treatment is greatly reduced by regular preventive care visits and services during childhood. The care provided by Registered Dental Assistants (RDAs) is an essential and necessary component of these preventative dental visits. An RDA's responsibilities include, but are not limited to, obtaining diagnostic radiographs, removal of dental bacterial plaque and stain from the exposed surface of the teeth using a rotary tool with a rubber cup or brush (coronal polishing), and the application of topical fluoride. Providing access to timely and regular preventative care for every child is important.

By the proper utilization of RDAs, access to care is increased. Recent data from the Dental Board of California estimates that half of the state's 58 counties are experiencing a shortage of dental assistants. This shortage severely limits a dental practitioner's ability to see and treat patients who need and want to be seen for care. Two pathways, formal RDA education programs and on-the-job training, exist to become a licensed Registered Dental Assistant. Each of these two pathways include unnecessary constraints contributing to the shortage of Registered Dental Assistants. The high cost of RDA educational programs is a notable barrier for many dental assistants wishing to advance along the dental assistant career ladder and a dental assistant who wishes to obtain an RDA license through on-the-job training must first complete 15 months job experience. AB 481 would create a new preceptorship pathway by increasing the educational components of on-the-job training while reducing the timeline to licensure.

AB 481 would also address the shortage of Registered Dental Assistants by recognizing certification by the Dental Assistant National Board (DANB) as a qualifying element for licensure of qualified out-of-state dental assistants relocating to California.

For these reasons, the **California Society of Pediatric Dentistry supports AB 481 and respectfully urges passage by the Business and Professions Committee**. You may reach us for further information on the reasons for our position at preggiardo@cspd.org.

Amber Nierode, DDS, Public Policy Advocate
California Society of Pediatric Dentistry

Paul Reggiardo, DDS, Executive Director
California Society of Pediatric Dentistry

STEVEN NIETHAMER AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Dr. Oariona Lowe - CSPD Past President and Annual Meeting Chair

Dr. Steven Niethamer is one of the strongest back bones of support to CSPD. Steve has given up his evenings, working countless nights and throughout the day for the success of the organization. He is the website editor, Annual meeting consultant, and has held other key positions within the organization. He is also the CSPD photographer. Many years ago, along with Roland Hansen and Lonnie Lovingier, they worked as a team to create our Bulletin and website. They were the dynamic IT team for CSPD. Steve's stamina, hard work, and his ongoing support of the organization are the reasons why CSPD is as great as it is today. He *is* Mr. CSPD. He has been a member of CSPD for over 40 years. His wife Buonthom has been by his side throughout the years, giving him the support he needed to persevere. They have one daughter who is currently living in the UK. She too has been very supportive and adores her dad.

Steve and I have worked together hand in hand for the past 13 years to plan and organize the annual meetings. He's been my go-to person. Every time I have an IT question or need an answer to an unsolved issue, especially when it relates to the



Annual Meeting (technical problems or website postings), I reach out to him. Steve is attentive and knowledgeable. He knows how things should run. And he *always has our back*.

There is not another person more deserving of this special award than Dr. Steven Niethamer. Congratulations, Steve!

STEVE GROSS GRANTED HONORARY MEMBER OF CSPD

Dr. Don Schmitt - CSPD President

At the Business Meeting in San Francisco, Steve Gross was voted in by the assembled membership as an Honorary member of the CSPD. The bylaws indicate an individual may be nominated for "unusual and outstanding contributions to the profession..." Steve Gross absolutely qualifies given his outstanding contributions. There is no greater friend to pediatric dentistry and the CSPD than Steve Gross. As the head of Space Maintainers Lab he was a loyal sponsor at the Annual Meeting, the CSPD/WSPD reception at the AAPD Annual Session and countless other CSPD events. Steve is also a long-time supporter of the CSPD Foundation. First as a donor, then board member and Foundation President. He continues to serve the Foundation as Past President and as an active donor. Personally, Steve is incredibly kind, and his warm smile is ever present. He is always more than willing to help with anything related to the CSPD or the Foundation. In his own words, he wants "to express my sincere gratitude for the California Society of Pediatric Dentistry decision electing me as an honorary life member of the California Society of Pediatric Dentistry at the recent CSPD Annual Meeting in San Francisco. I am truly humbled to have been chosen for this



award, and I want to take this opportunity to thank you from the bottom of my heart."

This is well earned recognition for a truly special man. The CSPD expresses a heartfelt THANK YOU, Steve, for your tireless dedication to our Society!



GRADUATING RESIDENTS

LOMA LINDA GRADUATING RESIDENTS



Dr. Temitayo Akinyemi is an ambitious, motivated, service-oriented healthcare provider. Dr. Akinyemi received their Bachelor's degree in public health from the University of California, Berkeley, and Doctorate of Dentistry from University of Detroit Mercy. They have always strived

to make the most out of every situation and their perseverance and compassion has served them well in treating and connecting with a wide variety of patients. Dr. Akinyemi enjoys an array of activities outside of the dental office including traveling near and far learning about other cultures, new languages (they are conversationally fluent in Spanish and Yoruba) and connecting with different people. Exercising (yoga & hiit currently), hiking, going to shows, as well as spending quality time with family and friends have been a pleasure and nice reprieve for Dr. Akinyemi. Dr. Akinyemi shares interests in public policy and advocacy and hopes to pursue ventures in policy later in their career. Other future interests of Dr. Akinyemi include involvement in mobile clinic services and prison systems.



Dr. Kaveh Ghods started his professional career as a mechanical engineer. However, he was fortunate enough to be exposed to dentistry through a family member and realized what he truly loved. Dr. Ghods started his dental school journey at the University of Southern California. He

found the challenge of communication and behavioral management of non-cooperative children fascinating; it trained him to become a better problem solver, make better decisions, raise his adaptability quotient, make a difference in children's' oral health, and eventually bring a smile to a crying child in clinical settings. Dr. Ghods finished his pediatric dentistry residency training at Loma Linda University, where he realized that he made the best decision of his life to become a pediatric dentist.



Dr. Chih Chieh Huang was born and raised in Taipei, Taiwan. She completed her DDS degree at the China Medical University in Taiwan in 2018. After her graduation, she was admitted into a 2-year GPR residency program. In 2021, she decided to move to the United States to chase her dream in pediatric

dentistry. She is passionate about mission trips, and has been to Nepal, Mexico, and multiple areas in Taiwan to provide dental services. She will graduate from Loma Linda University Pediatric Dentistry program in June 2023 and is planning on working around Texas, Washington, or Oregon. Her MS research project investigates the comparison between experienced and novice users of tele-dentistry. She enjoys baking, swimming, and working with all the kids every day!



Dr. Urva Suryawala graduated from Gujarat University, India in 2016. Following graduation, she moved to the United States and completed a two-year International Dentistry Program at Loma Linda University School of Dentistry, earning her DDS in 2021. She developed a passion for working

with children throughout dental school and decided to specialize in Pediatric Dentistry at Loma Linda, where she also served as a Chief Resident during her second year. Her MSD research project focused on evaluating bacterial colonization on 3D-printed, milled, and conventional acrylic dental materials. She enjoys spending time with her husband, traveling, and exploring new places in her spare time. After completing her residency, Dr. Suryawala plans on working locally in the Inland Empire.

NYU LANGONE GRADUATING RESIDENTS



Dr. So Yeun Christine Lee was born and spent her early years in South Korea. She moved to New Zealand for high school and then graduated from Wellesley College in Boston with a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry. Dr. Lee graduated from the UCLA School of Dentistry in 2018 with her DDS degree.

She completed a one year General Practice Residency program at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center in Downey, CA. She found it very rewarding to work with special health care needs patients, especially in the pediatric population, which inspired her to stay for an additional year as a chief resident through June 2020. After graduation, she served families in a private practice in the Silverlake area of Los Angeles until she started her pediatric dental residency in July 2021. After graduation, Dr. Lee would like to work in the Southern California area with hopes of returning as an attending faculty at the previous hospitals where she previously had the opportunity to train during her residency programs.



Dr. Aishleen Scully was born and raised in Frederick, Maryland. She completed her undergraduate degree at Towson University in Baltimore. She graduated from the University of Maryland School of Dentistry in May 2020, followed by a 1-year general practice residency at BronxCare Health

System in New York. During her GPR, she gained significant exposure to trauma management and solidified her passion for pediatric dentistry. She is very grateful for her time at the NYU Langone- San Diego site and has had a great experience treating patients with special health care needs. After graduation, she is moving back to Baltimore, Maryland to work as an associate in private practice. She hopes to continue working in hospital settings and contribute to cleft lip and palate as well as craniofacial teams in the future.



Dr. Carly Saxe was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada. She received her Bachelors of Science degree in Biological Sciences with a Concentration in Pre-Professional Biology at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 2017. She went on to receive her Doctor of Dental Medicine Degree at the University

of Nevada, Las Vegas, School of Dental Medicine in 2021. Dr. Saxe completed her pediatric dental residency at the NYU Langone- San Diego site. She is passionate about helping young people overcome their fears of dentistry and focusing on preventive care. Dr. Saxe comes from a family of dentists, as she is the fifth dentist in her family and the third one to pursue pediatric dentistry. After residency, she hopes to work in private practice as well as teach at a residency program.



Dr. Amanjot Bains was born and raised in India. After completing her dental school in India, she moved to the United States. She earned a Master of Advanced Studies in Clinical Research from University of California, San Diego and a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the University at Buffalo, New

York. She also completed a one-year General Practice Residency program from Community Medical Centers, California, which affirmed her decision to pursue further education in pediatric dentistry. After graduating from her pediatric dental residency at NYU Langone, San Diego site, she is planning to stay in Southern California.



Dr. Amanda Effat was born and raised in Toronto, Canada and lived in Cairo, Egypt as a child. She completed her undergraduate at McMaster University and her Biomedical Sciences Masters in Miami, Florida. She went on to receive her Doctor of Dental Surgery at the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry

of USC in 2019 and moved back to Toronto to work as a general practitioner. As her love for working with children and special needs patients continued to grow, she joined the pediatric residency at the NYU-Langone program in San Diego. She enjoyed every moment of her time at NYU, where she served as Chief resident and as a CSPD Warren Brandli Intern. Dr. Effat is excited to continue treating patients in private practice and hospital settings in sunny San Diego!



Dr. Abrar Ahmed is an Algerian American, born and raised in Boston, Massachusetts. She completed her bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of Massachusetts, Boston and received a Fulbright Fellowship Award to teach at a university in Turkey the following year. In 2021, she graduated from

Tufts University School of Dental Medicine and began her pediatric dental residency at the NYU Langone, San Diego site. Her interests lie in public and global health initiatives, with a focus on providing care to the medically complex and special health care needs populations. She hopes to continue serving the community through advocacy, and working at private dental clinics and academic institutions after the completion of her residency.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES GRADUATING RESIDENTS



Dr. Tarek Kassem is a SoCal native through and through. Born and raised in the western coastal city of Santa Monica, California, he attended Santa Monica City College after high school and then transferred to UCLA where he received his B.S in Biochemistry in 2016. During his undergraduate studies,

his family's experiences with oral health, along with his own shadowing and volunteering experiences motivated him to pursue dentistry. While taking a year off between undergrad and dental school, he spent time volunteering at a children's dental community clinic. It was here where his interest in children's oral health began. After his year off, he attended the UCLA School of Dentistry where he received his D.D.S in June of 2021. Throughout dental school, his volunteering, clinical and research experiences furthered his interest and passion for children's oral health. He is both incredibly appreciative and excited to begin his career as a pediatric dentist and be a part of the UCLA Pediatric Dental family! Outside of dentistry, Tarek enjoys exploring new cuisines, cooking, working out, playing tennis, spending time outdoors and being around family and friends.



Dr. Vishnu Reddy was born in Michigan and grew up in Hyderabad, India, where he spent a majority of his childhood. After high school, he moved to Salt Lake City, where he graduated with a Cum Laude in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Utah in 2015. He then moved to New York City, where

he received his Doctorate in Dental Surgery from NYU in 2019. In his final year, he was elected by his class to speak at their graduation ceremony in Madison Square Garden. After dental school, he trained at a General Practice Residency (GPR) at Woodhull Medical Center, a public hospital in Brooklyn, and then worked as a general dentist in Western Massachusetts. During these years, he realized his passion for working with children and began ruminating on the plethora of ways in which public health initiatives and policies can effectively bridge the gaps in dental care for children. To this end, he concurrently obtained his Master's in Public Health (M.P.H.) at UCLA along with his Pediatric Dentistry certificate. His research on "Association Between Pediatric Dental Restorative Procedures and Their Longitudinal Survival" won first place in the California Society of Pediatric Dentistry (CSPD) 2023 Annual Meeting poster competition. Vishnu is excited to find a job and continue working in California. In his free time, he enjoys hiking, good tea/coffee, watching movies, and road trips/traveling.



Dr. Wes Johnson grew up on a cattle ranch in rural North Dakota. His mother went back to dental school while he was young, and her passion started his interest in dentistry. He attended undergrad at the University of North Dakota where he met his future wife, Samantha. They moved to Minneapolis,

where Dr. Wes attended dental school at the University of Minnesota. After dental school, Dr. Wes started working for Indian Health Services (IHS). This eventually took him to Montana, where he and Sam were able to live their dreams skiing every weekend from November to March. It also allowed them more space for all of their animals. They currently have 2 dogs and 3 cats and regularly care for foster animals. This love of animals is shared by Sam, who started veterinary school in 2019 at Western University of Health Sciences. Dr. Wes had been moving further into administrative and leadership roles, but he was missing out on direct patient care. His mentor in IHS was a pediatric dentist who encouraged Dr. Wes to go into the same specialty. Pediatric dentistry allows him to have the same large impact as he did in leadership, while ensuring that he wouldn't have to miss out on time with his patients. Residency has provided an environment where he increased his understanding of pediatric patients and honed the clinical skills needed to have this large impact. Dr. Wes will be returning to IHS at the same hospital he helped run in Montana. He is excited to return back to the mountains and snow, but will miss his co-residents and the dental family he has created while attending UCLA.



Dr. Aida Shadrav was born in Iran and moved to Chicago, IL, when she was 12 years old. She graduated from Hamilton College with Magna Cum Laude in Chemistry and Hispanic Studies. Having been inspired by her mother, a periodontist, she decided to explore her passion for dentistry through community

service and volunteering at dental offices. She then went on to receive her Doctor in Dental Medicine at Harvard School of Dental Medicine, where she spent a full year in the medical school to learn about the integration of oral and systemic health. At Harvard, she was the co-founder of Bridge to Dental School, chapter President of the American Dental Education Association, and involved with multiple research projects. Her passion for caring for children's oral health was confirmed while working as a provider in pediatric clinics. Aside from loving to take excellent care of her patients, Dr. Aida loves to stay active by going on hikes, skiing, and enjoys discovering new restaurants. She is very excited to take the knowledge she has gained from UCLA Pediatric Dentistry to ensure that all children receive the resources they need to form life-long healthy habit.



Dr. Mark Abere was born and raised in Stockbridge, Georgia. He stayed in Georgia to complete his undergrad education at the University of Georgia, Athens campus. College was a great time for him because he was able to cultivate and pursue many passions (music, photography, theatre and travel) as he prepared himself to become a dentist. Immediately after college, he went to the University of Alabama School of Dentistry to attain his D.M.D degree. He knew from his interactions with kids in college and experiences serving the underserved in dental school that pediatric dentistry is where his heart lies. Residency has afforded him the opportunity to combine evidence based knowledge with improved clinical techniques, improving his ability to provide care to the pediatric population. Dr. Mark has secured a job in Atlanta, Georgia and will be moving back to the east coast after residency. Outside of the clinic you can find him playing his guitar, singing, spending time with his wife and daughter, and traveling.



Dr. Maurissa Lester is originally from Marietta, Georgia. She is currently a Pediatric Dentistry resident and Master of Public Health (MPH) student at UCLA. Before residency, Dr. Lester attended The University of North Carolina School of Dentistry at Chapel Hill (UNC), where she obtained her Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) Degree. In dental school, Dr. Lester partnered with Global Girl's Empowerment Foundation and created UNC School of Dentistry's first Inter-professional trip to Tanzania, Africa. During this time, she found her true love for public health and pediatric dentistry. Before dental school, Maurissa was a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) student-athlete at Limestone College in South Carolina, where she majored in Biology and played college basketball. At the end of her career, Maurissa was a finalist for the NCAA Woman of the Year Award, and she continued to bridge her passion for her community, the youth, and sports as a YMCA youth basketball coach and oral health advocate. Residency at UCLA has given Dr. Lester the opportunity to combine evidenced based knowledge and her love for children to provide amazing care. Upon completing residency and the Master of Public Health, she looks forward to utilizing her combined passions of public health and pediatric dentistry while working as a National Health Service Corps Scholar providing excellent care in an underrepresented area or Federally Qualified Health Center!



Dr. Matthew Nguyen was born and raised in Agoura Hills, CA. He graduated summa cum laude from UCLA with a B.S. in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology. While shadowing dentists, he saw how dentistry combined his passions for purposeful hand work, caring for others, and science.

The experience ultimately convinced him to pursue his dream as an oral healthcare professional by attending the UCLA School of Dentistry where he received his DDS, graduated cum laude, and was inducted as a member into the Omicron Kappa Upsilon national honor society. During his time at UCLA, he discovered his love for working with children and improving their oral health, and is grateful to continue his 10th year at UCLA (talk about being a true Bruin right?) by working with children at UCLA Pediatric Dentistry. Outside of clinic, he enjoys traveling, photography, exploring the great food scene in Los Angeles, and watching Korean dramas. During his time at UCLA Pediatrics, Matthew has cherished the relationships he has built with his patients--seeing them grow, overcoming their fear of the dentist, and becoming excited about their oral health. Additionally, Matthew has learned the importance of being flexible. Every child and cavity is unique, requiring creativity and empathy from the provider to adapt to any situation and help a child have a good dental experience. The past couple of years has been both challenging and rewarding for Matthew, and he is excited to continue his journey as an advocate for children's oral health as he hopes to work in private practice in southern California.

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO GRADUATING RESIDENTS



Dr. Rachel Forer grew up in Santa Monica, earned her undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences from UC Davis with an emphasis in Neurobiology, Physiology & Behavior and a minor in Psychology. While at UC Davis, she was the Education Chair for the Global Dental Brigades and organized

a service trip to Honduras to educate local children about proper oral hygiene.

Dr. Forer continued her community service work at the UCSF School of Dentistry, where she participated in various local and international programs. Her community work earned her the UCSF Osher Scholar Award and the Student Humanitarian Award from the International College of Dentists.

After dental school, Dr. Forer completed a General Practice Residency at the Portland Veterans Affairs Hospital and subsequently practiced as a general dentist for 2 years before matriculating into the UCSF 2 Year Pediatric Program. She is dedicated to creating a positive and empathetic environment for her pediatric patients.

In her free time, Dr. Forer enjoys traveling, watching movies, singing, and spending time with her husband and Samoyeds, Pearl and Onyx.



Dr. Alaleh Zadmehr was born and raised in Iran. After graduating high school, she moved to the United States to pursue higher education. She graduated from the University of California, Irvine, with a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences in 2004, and then from the University of California, San

Francisco School of Dentistry in 2008. After graduation, she practiced dentistry in the Bay Area, gaining experience in treating children in both community health centers and private practice. In 2010 and 2011, as part of Medical Missions for Children, Alaleh raised more than \$10,000 to open a dental clinic in Gitwe, a small village in Rwanda that previously had no access to dental care.

After working for 12 years, Alaleh returned to UCSF to pursue further formal training as a pediatric dentist, while also earning a Master of Science based on her research on the underserved immigrant Afghans in the Bay Area.

She looks forward to working in the Peninsula as a pediatric dentist after graduation. Alaleh lives with her husband and two children. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, baking with her kids, and hiking the beautiful trails of Woodside, where she lives.



Dr. Rahul Nagda was born and raised in Mumbai, India. He initially received his dental degree from Maharashtra University of Health Sciences in India. Dr. Nagda practiced as a general dentist for 2 years in Mumbai. To enhance his education goals, he moved to the U.S. to pursue his DDS at the University of

California, San Francisco. He was a part of multiple student organizations at UCSF and received the Outstanding Senior Award from the California Dental Association. After receiving his DDS degree, he completed specialty training in Pediatric Dentistry at UCSF. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with family and friends, and loves to cook food. Dr. Nagda also enjoys spending time with his wife who is a general dentist.



Dr. Kimi Abtahi was born in Fresno, CA and grew up in the East Bay. She received her Bachelor's degree in Communication Studies from UCLA, where she initially envisioned herself working in the entertainment industry. After some self-reflection and volunteer work at the Berkeley Free Clinic's dental

section, Kimi decided to pursue her passion for dentistry and received her DMD from Boston University in 2019. She then went on to complete her General Practice Residency at UCSF and was offered a full-time position as an assistant clinical professor for the GPR program. She served as the attending faculty for the UCSF Dental Oncology Clinic where she examined, treated, and cleared patients to undergo chemoradiation therapy for a variety of head and neck cancers.

During the last 2 years, Kimi truly enjoyed treating and interacting with her pediatric patients at La Clinica de La Raza at Children's Hospital of Oakland, Vallejo, and the Autism Clinic at UCSF's Parnassus campus. She is grateful for the incredible education and guidance from all her attending faculty and peers.

Apart from dentistry, Kimi loves to draw and paint in her spare time, teach her cat Sophie how to successfully play 'fetch', and spend time with her loved ones. She is eager to begin working in order to bring smiles, laughter, and optimal oral health to her community.



Dr. Alain Flores grew up in beautiful Seattle, where at a young age he discovered a passion for health care. In 2010 he graduated from the University of Washington with a bachelor's degree in environmental health. Go Huskies!

In 2011, he began his dental career at the University of California, San Francisco. While at UCSF, he participated in three dental mission trips to Jamaica and was involved with Give Kids a Smile. Upon graduation from UCSF in 2015, he completed an AEGD residency in Seattle, before beginning his career in private practice. After three years of private practice in Seattle, Dr. Flores began working in community health at a Federally Qualified Health Center, where he worked with underserved communities. It was during his time working in community health, along with his volunteering with the Special Olympics, that he discovered his love of pediatric dentistry. After deciding to pursue a specialty in pediatric dentistry, he matched with the University of California, San Francisco program.

While at UCSF, he completed his Masters of Oral and Craniofacial Sciences. His research focused on identifying barriers and enablers to finding a dental home for children with special healthcare needs. Upon graduation from UCSF, he will be moving back home to Seattle to work in private practice, while also working at an FQHC once a week.



Dr. Conrad Chou was born in Texas, raised in Taiwan, and cultured in Florida. He received his Bachelor's degree in economics from Duke University in 2012. Dr. Chou earned his dental degree from Columbia University in 2016, and then began his work as a dental officer in the U.S. Navy. From the High Desert

of California to overseas in Japan, he was privileged to ready warriors and care for heroes.

Being a kid at heart, Dr. Chou likes to share creativity with colleagues and children alike. He embraces scientific thinking as much as he enjoys dancing and origami. His favorite dental adventures include but are not limited to 3-D printing a TMJ disc, going on a dental mission in the Philippines, and teaching preschoolers to do the floss dance. He is grateful for the outstanding clinical and academic experiences at the UCSF Pediatric Dentistry residency program. Dr. Chou will reunite with his family in Texas after residency and looks forward to advancing the dental specialty that is very dear to his heart.



Dr. Rebecca Renelus was born and raised in Winter Haven, Florida. She graduated from the University of Florida (Go Gators) with a degree in Health Science. After college, Rebecca moved to the Big Apple, NYC, to attend dental school at New York University. There, Rebecca was a part of various

clubs and served as president of the Student National Dental Association as well as the Christian Medical and Dental Association. Rebecca also participated in various mission trips and volunteer opportunities, both local and abroad. During her time at NYU, Rebecca grew a passion for service and the desire to give back to lower income and underrepresented minority communities. Outside of dental school, Rebecca enjoyed eating her way through the city as well as trying new adventures with her friends. After surviving quarantine in NYC during the peak of the pandemic, Rebecca moved from the east coast all the way to the west coast where she started her pediatric dental residency at UCSF.

During her time at UCSF, Rebecca served as chief resident in her third year and has grown in her love for public and community health. Aside from working, Rebecca enjoys running, Facetimeing with her niece and nephew, and helping at her local church. Rebecca has fallen in love with California so much she decided to stay and work at the Petaluma Health Center in Rohnert Park, CA. Rebecca is very excited to live and work in the "West Coast Sunshine State".



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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GRADUATING RESIDENTS



Dr. Carla Alvarez was born in the Philippines, and raised in both Guam and Vallejo, CA. She received her BS degree in Biology from UC Irvine and dental degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine. Her areas of interest in pediatric dentistry include community oral health, preventive dentistry, special needs care and hospital-based dentistry. Dr. Alvarez's future plans include practicing in underserved communities.



Dr. Tiffany Chan was born in Hong Kong. She was raised in Hong Kong and the United Kingdom. She graduated from University of Hong Kong with a BDS and earned her dental degree at UCLA. She is interested in oral health education, dental trauma, and interceptive orthodontics. Upon completion of the residency program, Dr. Chan plans to promote oral health education through working in private practice and teaching.



Dr. Ami Ghadia was born in Hackensack, New Jersey and was raised in Paramus, New Jersey. She received a BS degree in Cell Biology & Neuroscience from Rutgers University, and her dental degree from University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine. Dr. Ghadia is interested in behavior management, medically complex and special needs patients, hospital dentistry and anticipatory guidance/prevention. After completing the residency program, she hopes to work as an associate, eventually own a private practice and become clinical faculty.



Dr. Jesslyn White was born and raised in Vancouver, British Columbia. She completed her pre-dental education at the University of British Columbia where she completed a BS & MS in Kinesiology. She received her dental degree from the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC. Her pediatric dental interests include behavior management, craniofacial anomalies and cleft lip/palate research. After graduation, Dr. White plans to work in private practice and academia.



Dr. Jenny Kye was born in Long Beach, CA and raised in Cerritos, CA. She received a BS in Human Biology from UC San Diego and a DDS from UC San Francisco. Dr. Kye is interested in the treatment of medically complex patients. After completing the program, she would like to split her time between private practice while teaching or being involved in academics to give back to her school and community.



Dr. Khoa Le was born in Vietnam and raised in Westminster, CA. He attended the University of New Mexico for his undergraduate degree in Biology, then moved on to UNLV where he received a DMD degree. He has an interest in early prevention in pediatric dentistry, oral conscious sedation, and interceptive orthodontics. Upon completion of the program, Dr. Le plans to work in private practice and possibly teach part-time.



Dr. Sonya Lin was born in San Francisco, California and raised in Moraga, California. She received a bachelor's degree in Biology from UC Berkeley, and her dental degree from UCLA. She is interested in behavior management and community dentistry. She plans to work in private practice and community clinics once graduating the residency program.



Dr. Christina Shih was born in Texas, raised in Bangkok, Thailand, Taipei, and then lastly Fremont, CA. She received her undergraduate degree in Molecular & Cellular Biology and Public Health from UC Berkeley. Later, she received her DDS degree from UC San Francisco. Dr. Shih is interested in community dentistry and caring for patients with special healthcare needs. After graduation, she would like to work part-time in private practice as well as in a hospital setting and possibly take on an academic or clinical role.



Dr. Stephanie Shimizu was born and raised in the Bay Area of Walnut Creek, CA. She earned a BS in Integrative Biology from University of California, Berkeley and graduated from University of California, San Francisco where she received her DDS degree. Dr. Shimizu has an interest in treating patients in community dentistry and managing dental phobias. Once completing the program, she is planning to work in both private practice and community clinics.



Dr. Annie Tsuchiyama, raised in Alamo CA, earned a BS in Biological Studies from University California, Irvine and a DDS degree from the University of California, Los Angeles. Dr. Tsuchiyama's interests include behavior management, working with special needs patients, community dentistry and private practice. After graduation, she plans on splitting her time between community dentistry and private practice.

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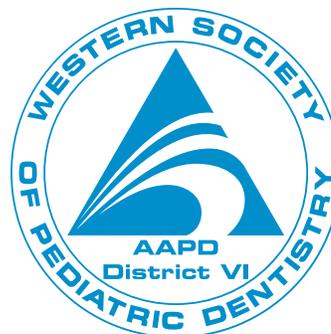
Dr. Brianne Butler - WSPD President



The Western Society of Pediatric Dentistry had a productive Spring Board Meeting and set some hefty goals for ourselves and our membership. We are beginning the process of strategic planning for our group to focus on and develop our priorities for the future. The Western District Leadership Institute (WDLI) is now in its fourth year, and the knowledge we have gained from our interns and

their projects has helped guide our WSPD goals for new dentists. Through collaboration with program directors and the other districts, we hope to make opportunities like the WDLI Program known throughout the country and to help connect future pediatric dentists to organized dentistry on all levels.

We are also excited to support the first joint state meeting between Alaska and Hawaii to take place in Hawaii January 26-28, 2024. While details of this joint CE meeting, the first for these states, have yet to be finalized, we hope it will be the first of many joint state meetings for our Western District. On a final note, in my last address to you as WSPD President, I want to thank each member for their involvement this year, however big or small. I was fortunate to meet many of you at the Pediatric Oral Health Conference in D.C. and at the CSPD Annual Meeting in San Francisco. But even to those I have not met, your membership alone indicates your commitment to our goals at the WSPD level, and they are ones I will continue to strive for, even as my presidency ends.



ON BEHALF OF A GRATEFUL CSPD

Dr. Jacob K. Lee - Western District Trustee



Spearheaded by Dr. Natalie Mansour, CSPD PPA, the California delegation of pediatric dental residents, and their mentors attended the AAPD Pediatric Oral Health Advocacy Conference in Washington DC, March 12-14th, 2023. They met with the legislators from California and advocated for the AAPD's vision of optimal oral health for all children.

(Back row, from left to right) Ju Yong Lee, Jim Crall, Adam Rodriguez, Francisco Ramos-Gomez, Tom Tanbonliong, Jacob Lee, Philip Yoong.

(Middle row, from left to right) Cheryl Bhatt, Yessica Escutia Ponce de Leon, Catherine Eshaghzadeh,, Amber Nierode, Ora Lowe, Minnah Sheikh, Angela Navas, Rand Khasawneh, Miranda Yip.

(Front row, from left to right) Carla Alvarez. Suzanne Kan, Amada Effat, Pardis Lipkin, Natalie Mansour, Lillian Dashiell, Rebecca Renulus, Stephanie Shimizu, Nisha Choski.

(Not pictured Jessica Vargas, Andrea Goodman)



CA mentors from left to right: Tom Tanbonliong, Francisco Ramos-Gomez, Jim Crall, Natalie Mansour, Jacob Lee

(not pictured: Ora Lowe, Amber Nierode)

CSPD FOUNDATION

Supporting Pediatric Dental Education

"HOW CAN I HELP?"

2023 CSPD FOUNDATION RECEPTION



New friends, old friends, and good times! Donors sipped on Bob Oliver Martinis and Fishman Black Manhattans. Inspired by a Sobelita Margarita, Leticia Mendoza-Sobel boldly challenged all Platinum Donors to step up and join her as a Diamond Donor. (Eddie So has already accepted the challenge!) And Ray Stewart, UCSF Division Chair, expressed gratitude for the Foundation's support of California's pediatric dental residency programs. See you in 2024!

DINING FOR A CAUSE

\$11,000 RAISED



From Left to Right: Back row: Drs. John DeLorme, Ray Ramos, Eric Dixon, Don Schmitt, Greg Rabitz, Natalie VanderKam, Dr. and Mrs. David and Gabby Okawachi, Neil Katsura; Front Row: Drs. Mitchell Poissett, Stephanie Dixon, Estella Sanchez, Santos Cortez, Suzy Tavana, Rita Daghlian, Mark Bayless, Rebecca Lee (Not shown: Ameneh Khosrovani)

Thank you to the 18 individuals who attended the Foundation's 1st Fundraising Dinner. \$11k was raised and everyone had a GOOD time.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: OARIONA LOWE



Who doesn't know Ora? Friend, organizer, mentor, shoulder to lean on, volunteer, colleague, inspiration, leader- Dr. Oariona Lowe is already well-known to the CSPD membership. As a member of the CSPD board since 2006, she has held nearly every leadership position in CSPD including the Presidency from 2012-2013. Presently, Dr. Lowe has been the Annual Meeting Chair since 2013 and a CSPD Foundation trustee since approximately 2017!

Dr. Lowe has also served on both CDA (trustee 2016-2022) and AAPD leadership. Her compassion extends overseas through international outreach, including mission trips and lecturing at dental schools abroad.

SUPPORTING RESIDENT RESEARCH

To All the Poster Presenters at the 2023 Annual Meeting: CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE!!



Among the presenters, Drs. Alach Zadmehr, Chih-Chieh Huang, and Mimansa Cholera received research grants from the Foundation.

California Society of Pediatric Dentistry Foundation

2022-2023 Annual Giving Campaign Donors (Oct 2022--> as of April 2023)

Presidents' Circle Donors

(* indicate **Emeritus Donors** who have completed their Life Pledges but continued to donate \$1000 this campaign year)

Diamond Life- \$25,000 Pledge

Ann Azama & Randy Lee	Roland & Lorraine Hansen	Oariona Lowe	Mel & Linda Rowan
Lisa Brennan & Albert Cosand	Scott & Marsha Jacks	Mike & Clarence McCartney	Eddie So
Scott & Grace Fishman*	Rebecca Lee	Bob & Judy Oliver*	Richard Sobel &
Steve & Ellen Gross*	Mark & Terri Lisagor*	Fariborz & Rita Rodef	Leticia Mendoza-Sobel *
Wayne & Zoe Grossman			Ken & Patty Szymanski*

Sapphire Life- \$20,000 Pledge

Gila C. Dorostkar	Larry & Barbara Luke	Scott Thompson	Paul & Cindy Reggiardo*
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Emerald Life- \$15,000 Pledge

Santos Cortez*	Steven & Bounthom Niethamer	Brian J. Saunders *	Ray Stewart*
Donald & Shirley Dal Porto	David & Judy Perry	Martin & Dea Steigner	

Platinum Life- \$10,000 Pledge

Leslie Aspis	David Good	Lynne & Tom Marian	Don & Paula Schmitt
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Patrick & Julia Davis	Martin & Shiela Lasky	Greg & Mary Rabitz*	Randall Wiley
John & Erica DeLorme*	Daniel Launspach	David Rothman & Peggy Barbieri	Phil & Donna Wolkstein
Howard Dixon	Jacob & Sophie Lee	Keith & Lucia Ryan	
John & Kathy Fowle	Lonnie & Jan Lovingier	Estella Sanchez*	

Gold Life- \$5,000 Pledge

Vernon Adams	Alan Hoffman	Dennis Paul Nutter	Salma Salimi
Stephen Blain	Jonathan Lee	Art & Gladie Rabitz	Jeffrey Sue
Matthew Hamilton			Cynthia Weiderman



Corporate Life Pledges

Sprig Oral Health Technologies- \$25,000 Life Pledge

Space Maintainers Laboratory- \$10,000 Life Pledge



<u>Patron \$500</u>	<u>Support \$100</u>	<u>Other</u>		
Tiffany Ham	Catherine Pham	Leslie Butler	Pardis Lipkin	Michael Suh
Dora Lee		Rita Daglian	Natalie Mansour	Natalie VanderKam
Mitchell Poissett		Eric and Stephanie Dixon	Mark Ortega	Evelyne Vu-Tien
Gary Sabbadini		Ameneh Khosrovani	Ray Raymos	

Thank you to Trisha Flores, Paul Reggiardo, and CSPD for donating to the Foundation in Memory of Roland Hansen.

LOOK AT ALL THIS SPACE! THERE IS ROOM ON THIS PAGE, IN YOUR BUDGET, AND IN YOUR HEART FOR YOUR NAME TO BE ADDED TO THIS LIST OF PEERS AND COLLEAGUES WHO ARE CHOOSING TO SUPPORT PEDIATRIC DENTAL EDUCATION. LET'S SHOW OUR GRATITUDE FOR THE OPPORTUNITIES WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN AND SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF OUR PROFESSION. THE QUESTION IS NOT, "WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?" BUT ..."HOW CAN I HELP?"



FEATURED ARTICLE

CALIFORNIA DENTAL ASSOCIATION: MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

Drs. Michael Suh and Lindsey Robinson

“Everybody can be great because everybody can serve. Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’ - Martin Luther King Jr.

Throughout my life, I’ve been called to serve in various fashions, from playing the piano at church, coaching a middle school basketball team, or traveling internationally to provide dental care. Service has always been important to me, and it’s allowed me to cultivate relationships with like-minded colleagues. As a practitioner, I’ve experienced the isolation that can come from working in private practice without camaraderie. I decided to join my local dental society and coincidentally heard that other practice owners also do not feel supported and are burnt out from patient overload. I began to wonder what support systems exist for the roughly 1,000 pediatric dentists in California, and that’s when I looked into the California Dental Association (CDA). There’s a vast array of activities occurring behind the scenes which we fail to see. The organization exists to serve its members, as well as the children of California. Many of us are unaware of the amount of time and energy CDA puts into providing quality continuing education courses, supporting philanthropic efforts, and advocating for relevant issues experienced in everyday practice.

The organization’s premier, biannual conference, CDA Presents, offers members free access to lectures from leading speakers. Course topics range from practice management, sedation, and restorative dentistry to health and wellness, which all can be applicable for pediatric dentists. Board members undergo a great deal of effort traveling and scouting for premier speakers. I joined the board’s planning team during 2022 which opened my eyes to the world of dental speakers, and through this experience I learned how to communicate better, both as a board meeting participant and negotiator for speakers, which has ultimately impacted my effectiveness as a practitioner and academician. In addition to the conference, the CDA Foundation piloted the “Treating Young Kids Every Day” program which provides online continuing education for dentists incorporating pediatric care in their practices. The Foundation plays a pivotal role in supporting pediatric dentists and children through community wellness and service.



Pictured from left to right: Paul Reggiardo, Ora Lowe, and Michael Suh.

The CDA Foundation serves as the organization’s philanthropic branch, and its annual flagship program, CDA Cares, has given dentists the opportunity to treat underserved individuals. The clinics have served about 1,500 children and with the support of the State Dental Director, Jay Kumar, the Foundation is redesigning CDA Cares by creating permanent dental homes for underserved patients, including children living in areas with reduced Medi-Cal dental benefits. Aside from CDA Cares, the Foundation sponsors student loan repayment grants which have been administered to pediatric dentists and those dentists working with pediatric Denti-Cal patients, demonstrating the focus on helping the children of California. Finally, the CDA Foundation’s Wellness Program supports dentists who are battling mental ailments, including anxiety, depression and substance dependence. I believe we are all aware that pediatric dentistry can easily take a toll on mental health, as we experience the stresses of managing anxious children and overbearing parents. Aside from philanthropy, the CDA heavily supports our specialty and patients by playing a crucial role in advocacy.

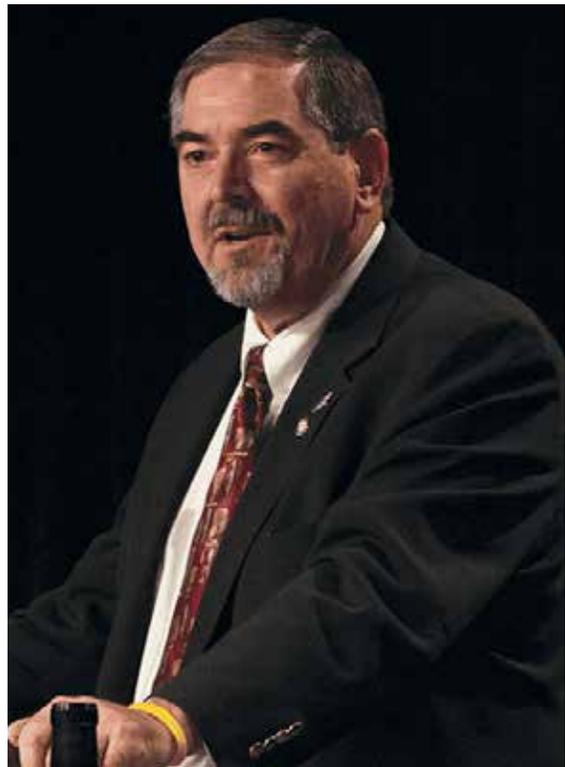
In 2013, past CSPD and CDA President Lindsey Robinson, along with a dedicated team of other volunteers and staff, spearheaded the legal action taken against the insurance giant, Delta Dental of California, on behalf of contracted premier providers to prevent the reduction of fees paid for services and to create greater transparency in the way fees are set and communicated to providers. As a result, more than \$65 million was settled to Premier Providers. Just this year in January, CDA once again demonstrated its support for California dentists by taking legal action against Delta Dental's adjustments to Premier and PPO provider agreements. Based on survey feedback, CDA became aware that pediatric dentists were affected by Delta fee reductions in addition to other specialties and made sure all impacted groups were adequately represented in the complaint.

In addition, we are all aware that dentistry faces a workforce shortage of dental support staff, a problem complicated by the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to decreased practice revenue and increased pressure on existing employees. According to the ADA Health Policy Institute, a majority of pediatric dentists reported the challenge of hiring dental assistants and hygienists. The CDA supports the massive undertakings aimed at rebuilding the state dental workforce, which includes shortening the training pathway for Registered Dental Assistants (RDAs) to gain licensure, streamlining the process for out of state dental assistants, and updating the scope of practices for dental assistants (DAs) and RDAs.

Furthermore, regarding anesthesia safety, many of us are aware of legislation SB501, in which CDA successfully advocated for efficient permitting structures. This ensures the appropriate level of provider proficiency when treating children under sedation, highlighting the organization's commitment to protecting our patients. Finally, considering vulnerable populations, the CDA demonstrated its support for patients with special health care needs by advocating for the investment of specialty dental clinics and expanding the capacity of existing settings to serve these individuals. These projects exemplify the CDA's partnership with pediatric dentists and commitment to serve the children of California.

I wonder if we are truly seeing the value of organized dentistry. As dentists, it's easy for us to gain tunnel vision and forget that there are larger issues occurring outside our practices that affect us and our colleagues. I am positive that at least one of the issues brought up in this article has affected you in some way. I want to encourage you to serve one of these causes, either to share your skills or grow as a leader. Both the CDA and California Society of Pediatric Dentistry need like-minded individuals who have a desire to elevate our specialty in different ways. Pioneers including Erin Shah, Lindsey Robinson, Oariona Lowe, Sharine Thenard, Andrew Soderstrom, Dennis Nutter, Paul Reggiardo, and Santos Cortez are all examples of California pediatric dentists who have served the CDA. The CDA needs leaders who embody our specialty. Have you reflected on your purpose? Beginning your journey as a volunteer for your local component is a great way of gaining experience and building a leadership resume. There's an immense benefit from joining a greater good by providing for others and positively impacting our communities. We need to step out of our comfort zones and make an impact because our specialty needs it.

Applications open for CDA volunteer leadership positions from June 1st to July 15th. For questions, contact volunteer@cda.org.



In Loving Memory: Andrew Soderstrom, DDS, former CSPD Executive Director, CDA past president, and co-founder of CDA Cares.

BOARD MEETING – MARCH 23, 2023

MOTION 2023.03.23.01 (NGO): Move to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors January 21, 2023, as presented. **MOTION CARRIED**

MOTION 2023.03.23.02 (SCHMITT): Move to approve the Report Consent Agenda as presented. **MOTION CARRIED**

MOTION 2023.03.23.03 (MO): Move to approve the Online Continuing Education Committee structured plan for recording, editing, uploading, and posting the recording of Annual Meeting continuing education courses and other content to the OCE platform. **MOTION CARRIED**

MOTION 2023.03.23.04 (POISET): Move to accept the Hyatt Mission Bay in San Diego for the 2026 Annual Meeting March 11-15, 2026. **MOTION CARRIED**

MOTION 2023.03.23.05 (NIERODE): Move to take a WATCH position on AB 1048. **MOTION CARRIED**

MOTION 2023.03.23.06 (SCHMITT): Move to affirm SUPPORT position on AB 952. **MOTION CARRIED**

MOTION 2023.03.23.07 (POISET): Move to adopt a SUPPORT position on AB 481. **MOTION CARRIED**

MOTION 2023.03.23.08 (SCHMITT): Move CSPD take a WATCH position on SB 525. **MOTION CARRIED**

MOTION 2023.03.23.09 (SABBADINI): Move that the substance of the Non-Dues Revenue Subcommittee description for the CSPD Administrative Policy & Procedure Manual be adopted if the CSPD Membership approves the Bylaws revision to make the Non-Due Revenue Committee a subcommittee of the Finance Committee. **MOTION CARRIED**

MOTION 2023.03.23.10 (PHAM): Approve a budget of \$12,000 for the CSPD/WSPD reception at the AAPD Annual Meeting in Orlando in May 2023, contingent on the agreement of the WSPD to reimburse CSPD 50% of the event cost. **MOTION CARRIED**

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING –MARCH 24, 2023

MOTION 03.24.2023:01: D SCHMITT/G DOROSTKAR: Move to approve the Minutes of the Membership Business Meeting April 4, 2022. **MOTION CARRIED**

MOTION 03.24.2023:02: D SCHMITT/R NICHOLS: Move that CSPD adopt the five Bylaws revisions as proposed:

I. Recognizing life membership in AAPD as qualifying for (and granting members in California) life membership in CSPD.

II. Bylaws amendment by which acceptance of membership in CSPD is granted by administrative procedure.

III. Standing Committee restructuring.

IV. Elimination of the President Elect position effective with the 2024-2025 CSPD operational year.

V. Replacement of four geographically designated Directors with four Directors-at-Large effective with the 2024-2025 CSPD operational year

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION 03.24.2023:03: JACOB LEE/D OKAWACHI: Move that CSPD elect the 2023-2024 slate of Officers and Directors as proposed by the Nominating Committee.

President-Elect

Dr. Mitch Poissett

Vice-President

Dr. MyLinh Ngo

Secretary

Dr. Natalie Vander Kam

Director- North 2023 - 2025

Dr. Evan Chang

Director- North 2023 - 2025

Dr. Helen Mo

Director- South 2023 - 2025

Dr. Leslie Butler

Director- South 2023 -2025

Dr. Catherine Pham

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION 03.24.2023:04: M NGO/S CORTEZ: Move Honorary Membership in CSPD be conferred on Mr. Steve Gross for outstanding contribution to the Society and the children we serve. **MOTION CARRIED**

BOARD MEETING – APRIL 17, 2023

MOTION 2023.04.17.01 (POISET): Move to approve the appointment of Dr. Shan Girn to fill the unexpired term of 2022-2024 Director North.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION 2023.04.17.02 (SABBADINI): Move approval of the selection of the following Appointed Officers of the Board:

Web Editor – Steven Niethamer

Bulletin Managing Editor – Chanel McCreedy

Public Policy Advocate – Amber Nierode

and, approval of the Standing Committee members and chairs as proposed by the President. **MOTION CARRIED**

ELECTED AND APPOINTED LEADERSHIP

Full list of committee members is located at www.cspd.org.

OFFICERS

President: Dr. Donald Schmitt
President-Elect: Dr. Mitchell Poiset
Vice President: Dr. MyLinh Ngo
Secretary: Dr. Natalie Vander Kam
Treasurer: Dr. Gary Sabbadini
Immediate Past President: Dr. Thomas Tanbonliong

DIRECTORS

North (2022-24): Dr. Shan Girn
North (2022-24): Dr. Michael Suh
North (2023-25): Dr. Evan Chang
North (2023-25): Dr. Helen Mo
South (2022-24): Dr. John Guijon
South (2022-24): Dr. Dora Lee
South (2023-25): Dr. Leslie Butler
South (2023-25): Dr. Catherine Pham

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Managing Editor: Dr. Chanel McCreedy
Website Editor: Dr. Steven Niethamer
Public Policy Advocate: Dr. Amber Nierode

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Paul Reggiardo

WARREN BRANDLI LEADERSHIP

INTERNS

Dr. Marivic De Leon (UCSF)
Dr. Angela Navas (USC)

SANTOS CORTEZ GRADUATE STUDENT LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY INTERNS

Dr. Nisha Choksi (UCLA)
Dr. Rand Khasawneh (UCSF)
Dr. Shelly Wu (UCSF)

CONTACTS & LIAISONS

AAPD Western District Trustee: Dr. Jacob Lee
AAPD Liaison: Dr. Catherine Pham
WSPD Liaison: Dr. Catherine Pham
Annual Meeting Sponsor Relations Liaison: Dr. Leslie Butler
California Dental Society of Anesthesiology Liaison: Dr. Dave Rothman
CSPD Foundation President: Dr. Rebecca Lee
CSPD Foundation Liaison: Dr. Thomas Tanbonliong
Consultant – Legislative Affairs: Dr. Santos Cortez
Consultant – Dental Board California: Dr. Paul Reggiardo

CSPD VOTING MEMBERS TO THE WSPD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr. Donald Schmitt
Dr. Mitch Poiset
Dr. MyLinh Ngo
Dr. Catherine Pham

STAFF

Diane Skullr, Administrative Operations Manager

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Executive Committee: Dr. Donald Schmitt
Governance: Dr. Thomas Tanbonliong
Membership Services and Credentials: Dr. Natalie Vander Kam
Nominations: Dr. Donald Schmitt
Annual Meeting: Dr. Oariona Lowe
Budget and Finance: Dr. Gary Sabbadini
Non-Dues Revenue Subcommittee: Dr. Michael Suh
Leadership Development: Dr. Ella Saeed
Communications and Publications: Dr. Catherine Pham
Academic Programs Advisory: Dr. Wai-Yin Chan
Continuing Education: Dr. Jean Calvo
Public Policy and Advocacy: Dr. Letitia Edwards

UPCOMING EVENTS



May 27, 2023

CSPD/WSPD Reception

*Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center
Kissimmee, FL*



March 21-24, 2024

2024 CSPD Annual Meeting

*JW Marriott Desert Springs
Palm Desert, CA*

CSPD PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Have you been thinking about hiring an associate, but just aren't sure where to look? Or are you finishing your residency soon, and aren't sure where you'd like to live and practice?

The answer is right on the CSPD website. To look at these opportunities and others, go to www.cspd.org.

- Opportunities Wanted
- Opportunities Available
- Faculty Positions Available
- Practices for Sale



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