

IMPLANT TRIBUNE

AAID ANNUAL MEETING OCT. 3-6

American Academy of Implant Dentistry members will be in Washington, D.C.

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ENDO TRIBUNE

AAE APPOINTS NEW LEADERS

New American Association of Endodontists officers include president.

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HYGIENE TRIBUNE

A HYGIENIST GOES TO HOLLYWOOD

Possible Tinseltown close-up presents perfect excuse for pursuing perfect smile.

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Costs, as much as location, impede dental-care access

Diverse testimony precedes proposed legislation

By Robert Selleck, Managing Editor

On June 7, Sen. Bernard Sanders, I-Vt., and Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., introduced the Comprehensive Dental Reform Act of 2012 in the Senate and House. The proposed legislation is titled "A bill to improve access to oral health care for vulnerable and underserved populations."

In February, the Senate Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging heard nearly 100 minutes of testimony at its hearing, "Dental Crisis in America: The Need to Expand Access." The hearing focused on how to serve the reported one-third of the U.S. population that is not receiving adequate dental care. Extensive and diverse written testimony was submitted as well.

Several witnesses at the hearing spoke in favor of creating a new licensing concept for midlevel care providers, such as the dental therapists practicing in Alaska and Minnesota, which to date are the only states to have passed laws creating such licensing. The Dental Reform Act proposes a similar concept.

The governor of Kansas last month signed a bill that expands treatment ca-

pabilities for dental hygienists, enabling them to pull loose primary teeth, manually scrape decay from teeth and place temporary fillings. The Kansas law was created in response to a dentist shortage in parts of the state and to improve dental care for other vulnerable and underserved populations. The law also includes a provision enabling retired dentists to treat low-income patients or patients living in underserved areas of the state.

The subcommittee's investigation into access-to-care issues wasn't limited to potential expansion of midlevel-practitioner licensing, a concept that has been opposed by both the American Dental Association and the Academy of General Dentistry. Those organizations' advocacy components contend that opening certain treatment capabilities to midlevel practitioners with less training than dentists is not the best strategy from a patient-care standpoint to address access-to-care challenges.

Regarding other aspects of the proposed legislation, ADA President William

► See ACCESS page A2



'Life, liberty and the pursuit of learning' is the theme inspired by the Philadelphia location of the AGD's 60th annual meeting. More than 70 education sessions — and even 15 hours of free C.E. credit on the exhibit hall floor — are beckoning dental professionals to the City of Brotherly Love this month.

Photo/By B. Krist provided by GPTMC

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← ACCESS, page A1

R. Calnon, DDS, said in a news release, "We hope that our few areas of disagreement do not obscure our welcoming Sen. Sanders to this fight. His bill aims high, and that has long been needed. We fully support his intent, to help extend good oral health to all Americans."

The proposed legislation addresses much of what the subcommittee heard from witnesses in February. That testimony frequently focused on the costs of dentistry and dentistry education — and the impact such costs have on where dentists practice and the types of patients they most typically serve (those with dental insurance or other means of paying for care).

At the hearing's 90-minute mark Subcommittee Chairman Sanders said, "Generally speaking, dentists make a pretty good income. Why is it that we have a dental shortage in this country? Why do we not have enough dentists?"

In response, Shelly Gehshan, MPP, director of the Pew Children's Dental Campaign, Pew Center on the States, based in Washington, D.C., said the supply of dentists ebbs and flows with the economy, with the 1970s and 1980s producing a large contingent of dental school graduates before recessions forced closure of a number of dental schools. As a result, today's large number of dentists retiring every year exceeds the annual number of dental school graduates.

Grant Whitmer, MSM, executive director at Community Health Centers of the Rutland Region, Rutland, Vt., said his organization just hired two recent dental school graduates, each of whom had more than \$350,000 in debt from financing their educations. He said it was only because of the National Health Services Corps and loan repayment assistance that the two were able



Sen. Bernard Sanders, I-Vt., chairman of the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging, leads the hearing on "Dental Crisis in America: The Need to Expand Access." Photo/Provided by U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

See page D2 for the American Dental Hygienists' Association stance on the access-to-care proposals

to take the positions, which focus on delivering care to underserved populations.

Burton Edelstein, DDS, MPH, professor of dentistry and health policy and management at Columbia University, New York, N.Y., said that dental training requires universities to fully fund their own operatories and high-end equipment purchases, unlike medical schools, which can rely on non-university hospitals for clinical training. Dentists opening their own private practices face similar expenses. The result: Providing dental services and/or training is a highly expensive proposition.

Gregory Folse, DDS, president of Outreach Dentistry in Lafayette, La., which is primarily a mobile concept serving the poor, disabled and elderly, praised the federal income tax system's "incurred medical expense allowance," which he said enables him to earn enough to focus his practice on underserved populations. But he acknowledged that his income places him in the lower 10 to 15 percent of the profession in earnings. He spoke in support of the Special Care Dentistry Act, which he said enables development of a stronger infrastructure for delivering treatment to underserved populations.

Subcommittee members repeatedly referred to the access-to-care issue as a crisis.

Sanders said more than 130 million people in the United States lack dental insurance, and for those who have it, benefits typically are capped at \$1,000 to \$2,000 per year, which covers only basic services. He said 47 million people live in areas where it is a challenge to find dental care. "This is an issue of enormous importance, and does not get the attention it deserves," Sanders said.

The proposed legislation references the need for nearly 9,500 additional dental providers to meet the nation's current oral health needs. Various witnesses and subcommittee members spoke of the growing body of research linking oral health to overall health. Also acknowledged were the financial impacts on hospitals that have seen increasing numbers of patients using emergency rooms as their only option for dental care, which typically means just immediate symptoms are being addressed, not underlying causes and prevention.

The proposed legislation takes a multi-pronged approach with a variety of programs that would make it more financially viable for dental professionals to provide care to people falling outside of current care-delivery models. "We're going to shine a spotlight on an issue that is not much talked about and we are going to do our best to solve this problem," Sanders said.

Letter to the editor in chief

Questions on American Heart Association's stance on periodontal disease and heart health

Dear Dr. Hoexter,

The recent article in the American Heart Association's journal *Circulation*, [titled] "Periodontal Disease and Atherosclerotic Vascular Disease: Does the Evidence Support an Independent Association? A Scientific Statement From the American Heart Association" (published online 4/18/2012), combined with the American Heart Association's press release of the same day, was discouraging in and of itself, and made more so by the prototypical way *The New York Times* reported on the story the next day.

Although I suspect that *Circulation* is not responsible for the AHA's press releases, the statement in the announcement that researchers who showed a "stronger relationship between" chronic periodontitis (PD) and ASVD "didn't account for the risk factors common to both diseases," is incorrect and inconsistent with the manuscript.

Unfortunately, the *Circulation* article is similarly afflicted; insofar as its authors appear to have had an agenda that went beyond the scientific publications they reviewed.

Although I agree with the authors

that an unquantifiable number of ill-informed or unscrupulous practitioners engage in hucksterism with regard to the several putative periodontal-systemic disease links, the statement in the article's abstract that "Patients and providers are increasingly presented with claims that PD treatment strategies offer ASVD protection; these claims are often endorsed by professional and industrial stakeholders" is not supported by the data presented in the review.

Also revealing of the authors' apparent bias is the final sentence of the article, which reads: "...statements that imply a causative association between PD and specific ASVD events or claim that therapeutic interventions may be useful on the basis of that assumption are unwarranted."

Hence, it appears as if the AHA's recommendation to dentists, dental hygienists and others may be accurately paraphrased: "Although we at AHA acknowledge that there are unexplained links between the incidence of PD and ASVD, because we can find no clear causal links, it is unwarranted for dental professionals to inform patients that bet-

ter oral health is associated with better cardiovascular health in any way if used to encourage better periodontal health and improved home oral hygiene."

Do the *Circulation* authors, editors and the AHA really believe that this is a sound message, especially in light of the reality that an overwhelming majority of the "interventions" decried in the final sentence of the manuscript consist of encouraging improved (and inexpensive) dental hygiene self-care at home?

Regards,

Michael P. Rethman, DDS, MS

- Diplomate, American Board of Periodontology
- Vice President (Scientific Research), American Dental Association Foundation
- Clinical Associate Professor (Adjunct), University of Maryland School of Dentistry
- Clinical Assistant Professor (Adjunct), College of Dentistry, The Ohio State University
- Former Chair, Council on Scientific Affairs, American Dental Association
- Past President, American Academy of Periodontology
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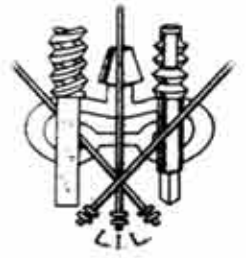
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60th Annual AGD Meeting offers historic perspective, future insight

World's second largest dental association anticipates more than 2,000 in Philadelphia

Drawing inspiration from the event's host city, the theme of the Academy of General Dentistry 2012 Annual Meeting and Exhibits, June 21 to 24, is "Life, liberty and the pursuit of learning." The academy's 60th annual meeting packs an entire year's worth of continuing education into the Philadelphia Convention Center, right in the heart of some of the most famous historical sites in the nation.

The world's second largest dental association, the AGD is the only organization exclusively focused on serving the needs of general dental practices. And today, that covers a lot of territory. The meeting offers a diverse selection of educational opportunities of interest to dentists, hygienist, dental assistants, office staff, lab technicians and students.

Among the many top speakers and presenters delivering courses, lectures and hand-on training are Alan M. Atlas, DMD; Harold L. Crossley, DDS, PhD; Howard S. Glazer, DDS, FAGD; Karl R. Koerner, DDS, MS; Louis Malcmacher, DDS, MAGD; Joseph J. Massad, DDS; and Carl E. Mish, BS, DDS, MDS, PhD.

And, of course, there's an exhibit hall with the latest products and services from the most innovative names in dentistry. The exhibit hall also includes the opportunity to earn up to 15 hours of free C.E. credit (in addition to the C.E. opportunities found throughout the meeting).

More than 2,000 dental professionals from across the United States and Canada are expected at the meeting, ready to soak up everything they can on the latest technologies and clinical practices in general dentistry. There will be more than 70 conference sessions presented by a global faculty of dental experts and hundreds of exhibitors showcasing the industry's latest advancements in clinical applications and management practices.

Exhibit hall hours are 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 21, with an all-attendee welcome reception from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The next day, Friday, June 22, the exhibit hall opens at 10 a.m. and closes at 6:30



An evening sky view of Philadelphia highlights the contrast of new and old standing side by side. In the photo's center is the bronze statue of the city's founder, William Penn, sitting on top of the 511-foot-tall City Hall Tower with its lighted clock. The newest addition to the skyline, the Comcast Center on the right, is the tallest building between New York and Chicago. Photo/By B. Krist provided by GPTMC

p.m., with a new all-attendee networking session from 5 to 6 p.m. On the final day, Saturday, June 23, exhibit hall hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The exhibit hall welcome reception features foods that reflect Philadelphia culture during an event that offers attendees and guests a first look at the industry's newest technologies and products. Friday's networking reception features a complimentary beer and/or wine (full-registered attendees receive a drink ticket in their registration packet).

Among the meeting's many other highlights is a "Social Media for Dentists" session on Thursday, June 21, from 8 to 8:30 a.m., featuring Jason Lipscomb, DDS, author of the book of the same title. Lipscomb provides perspective and advice on how to grow your practice with a

few simple social media strategies.

On Friday, June 22, from 8 to 8:30 a.m., you can catch "Generation Talk" with international speaker Kathy Metaxas, who offers tips on how to better communicate with customers, staff, colleagues and others of any generation with whom you may not be in sync.

The annual AGD Foundation Silent Auction Fundraiser helps fund outreach and grant programs that make dental care available to underserved populations, children, the elderly, and those with physical and intellectual disabilities. Auction items consist of continuing education courses, new dental equipment and instruments, dental publications, jewelry, artwork, sporting event tickets, rare books, luxury gift baskets, cash, gift certificates, vacation getaways,

"behind-the-scenes" tours and much more. Individuals, constituents, regions, and exhibitors are welcome and encouraged to donate and bid on items.

At the AGD Convocation, 4:30 p.m., Saturday, June 23, everyone is invited to help honor the accomplishments of the AGD 2012 class of Fellows, Masters, and Lifelong Learning and Service Recognition recipients.

The President's Dinner honors AGD award recipients on Saturday, June 23, at 7 p.m. The venue is the Grand Hall of the Pennsylvania Convention Center, which is the original elevated train shed at Reading Terminal. This is a seated dinner with cash bars.

Get meeting details at www.agd.org.

(Source: Academy of General Dentistry)

Philadelphia museum features 20,000 medical anomalies

Philadelphia, America's birthplace, has no end of historical sites worthy of repeat visits, whether the Liberty Bell Center, Independence Hall, Franklin Square, National Constitution Center or any number of others. But for medical-type folks, the can't-miss destination is the Mütter Museum of the Philadelphia College of Physicians. It boasts one of the world's most unusual collections, featuring more than 20,000 medical anomalies and curiosities, historic medical instruments and anatomical pathologies.



Known as the 'wall of skulls,' this collection of 139 skulls is found in one of the most unusual museums anywhere — the Mütter Museum of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. The museum features specimens of anatomy and pathology and historic medical instruments, including a few dental and oral-surgery items. For details, call (215) 563-3737 or visit the website, www.collphyphil.org.

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Get hands-on implant training



Participants at the AAIP/ADIS implant seminar in Kingston, Jamaica, perform implant treatment under the supervision of Dr. Mike Shulman. Photos/Provided by AAIP

The American Academy of Implant Prosthodontics and Linkow Implant Institute offer five-day course

The American Academy of Implant Prosthodontics (AAIP) will join with its affiliates, Atlantic Dental Implant Seminars (ADIS) and the Linkow Implant Institute, to present a five-day comprehensive implant training course in Kingston, Jamaica, July 3-7.

The course will include lectures, hands-on participation, surgical and prosthodontic demonstrations, diagnosis and treatment planning of implant cases, the construction of surgi-

cal templates, diagnostic wax-ups, the insertion of two to six implants, and sinus lifts under supervision of the course faculty.

Upon completion of the one-week comprehensive implant training program, the clinician will be able to accomplish the following tasks: identify cases suitable for dental implants; diagnose and treatment plan for preservation and restoration of edentulous and partially edentulous arches; demonstrate competency in the placement of single-tooth implants, soft tissue management and bone augmentation; obtain an ideal implant occlusion; work as part of an implant team with other professionals; and incorporate implant treatment into private practice with quality results, cost effectiveness, and profitability.

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A dental degree is required for participants. Patients will be provided, and malpractice insurance will not be necessary. The course is tax deductible, and 35 hours of dental continuing education credits will be awarded upon course completion. Patient treatment is provided in a Jamaican dental school with personalized training in small-group settings. The course is a cooperative effort of the Jamaican Ministry of Health; the University of Technology, School of Dental Sciences, Jamaica; and the American Academy of Implant Prosthodontics.

Dr. Mike Shulman is course coordinator. Dr. Leonard I. Linkow is course director. And Dr. Sheldon Winkler is course advisor. Course faculty, in addition to Drs. Shulman, Linkow, and Winkler, include Drs. Robert Braun, Ira L. Eisenstein, E. Richard Hughes, Charles S. Mandell, Harold F. Morris, Peter A. Neff, Robert Russo, and Robert E. Weiner. Drs. Linkow, Winkler, and Shulman are scheduled to teach the July seminar.

Implants and components for AAIP/ADIS implant seminars are provided by HIOSSEN Dental Implants. Dental laboratory support is provided by DCA Laboratory, Inc., Citrus Heights, Calif., Dani Dental Studio, Tempe, Ariz., and Dutton Dental Concepts, Inc., Bolivar, Ohio.

About the AAIP

Founded by Dr. Maurice J. Fagan, Jr., in 1982 at the School of Dentistry, Medical College of Georgia, the objective of the Academy of Implant Prosthodontics is to support and foster the practice of implant prosthodontics as an integral component of dentistry.

The academy supports component and affiliate implant associations around the world, including organizations in Egypt, France, Italy, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Paraguay and Thailand.

The academy has published two

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textbooks, "The Dental Implant" in 1985, and "Implant Prosthodontics" in 1990. The Journal of Oral Implantology is the official publication of the academy. The academy also publishes a newsletter.

Annual AAIP meeting Nov. 3

The academy holds an annual convention and international meetings in cooperation with its affiliate and component societies. It offers continuing education courses, and sponsors a network of study clubs in the United States.

The AAIP will hold its 30th annual meeting on Nov. 3, in Carefree, Ariz., at the Carefree Resort and Conference Center, in association with the Dental Implant Clinical Research Group and Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine.

'Implant Update — 2012'

The theme of the meeting is "Implant Update — 2012" and will feature highly regarded dental clinicians. Podium speakers will be Drs. Robert J. Braun, Edward M. Feinberg, Jack Hahn, Leonard I. Linkow, Paul M. Mullasseril, William D. Nordquist, Robert Weiner and Mr. Christopher Torregrossa. Dr. M. Joe Mehranfar is general chairperson of the meeting and Dr. Mahmoud F. Nasr will serve as moderator.

American Academy of Implant Prosthodontics is designated as an Approved PACE Program Provider by the Academy of General Dentistry. The formal continuing education programs are accepted by AGD for fellowship, mastership and membership maintenance credit. The current term of approval extends from Jan. 1, 2010 to Dec. 31, 2013.

Complete information on the AAIP/ADIS Jamaica implant continuing education programs, including tuition, faculty lectures, transportation and hotel accommodations can be obtained online from the course website, www.adiseminars.com, or by calling (551) 655-1909.

AAIP membership information can be obtained from the AAIP headquarters at 8672 East Eagle Claw Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85266-1058; telephone (480) 588-8062; fax (480) 588-8296; e-mail swinkdent@cox.net. The AAIP website is www.aaipusa.com.

(Source: The American Academy of Implant Prosthodontics)



The AAIP/ADIS course is tax deductible and worth 35 hours of dental continuing education credits.



Participants at the AAIP/ADIS implant seminar, Kingston, Jamaica, March 12–16.

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