

President's Goal: Helping Dentists Succeed

Dr. Shetty Pledges to Make QCDS More Relevant

By Marc Katz

Dr. Sudhakar Shetty, the new president of the Queens County Dental Society, says he is passionate about "bringing dentists into the fold." It is



Sudhakar Shetty
President

one of the primary goals he plans to implement following his installation as QCDS president for the coming year, held at the Chateau Briand in Carle Place in January.

"One way in which we can achieve this," the 34-year member of the Dental Society said, "is to actively consider ways in which QCDS can become more relevant to the practicing dentist in today's Queens. I would like to be open to feedback from dentists about the type of programming and support that they would find most beneficial. I also wish to create a culture at QCDS that is welcoming to members as well as to the leadership.

"I want to hold strong to our goal of helping members dentists succeed, and also to help protect the general public through public health outreach and education. I would like to recruit, retain, and maintain more members, especially new dental graduates. We will seek to increase active involvement in our association of early career dentists."

Dr. Shetty completed his dental education at the University of Bombay, India, with a Bachelors of Dental Surgery degree in 1975. After completing his clinical training, the young dentist worked as a registrar in the Department of Oral Diagnosis and Radiology. He then immigrated to the United States,

where he was able to continue his training at New York University, where he earned a D.D.S. degree. He established his first private practice in Woodhaven, where he has remained for 34 years.

"My patients come from varied ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds, truly representative of Queens County," he said. "I work with patients of all ages, from pediatric to geriatric, and welcome the challenge of selective cosmetic cases."

The busy dentist has been dedicated to remaining current with clinical knowledge. As a strong believer in continuing education, he has amassed more than 1,000 hours of CE credits. He decided to pursue further training in oral implantology by completing the max-course at Brookdale/NYU in 2005. Dr. Shetty is a fellow of the International Congress of Oral Implantology and has continued to participate in many courses in orthodontics, cosmetic and

prosthodontic dentistry. He said he was "humbled" to be selected as a fellow of the Pierre Fauchard Academy, an honorary organization recognizing outstanding dentists and celebrating their achievements.

As soon as he entered the dental profession in 1980, Dr. Shetty became a member of QCDS. In 2005 he became a member of the Board of Trustees and has served on various committees, including Nominating, Membership, Ethics, and Peer Review. He served as president of the Institute of Continuing Dental Education in 2010. "I have had the satisfaction of serving and representing QCDS as chair of the Chemical Dependency Program at NYSDA," he said. He has also represented QCDS as an alternate delegate at NYSDA House of Delegates meetings.

"As president, I hope to successfully implement each of the programs that

—Continued on page 15

QCDS at ADA Annual Meeting



Representing QCDS at the recent ADA House of Delegates meeting in San Antonio were, left to right, Drs. Rekha Gehani, Chad Gehani, Stephen Quarcoo, Viren Jhaveri and Executive Director Oleg Rabinovich. Also attending but not pictured was Dr. Prabha Krishnan

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From the President

drshettydds@gmail.com

The Road Ahead

By Sudhakar Shetty, D.D.S.

Members of the Queens County Dental Society, friends, and colleagues: it is a great honor to serve as your president. I arrive at this position with the knowledge that I could not reach this milestone without the love and support of many along the way. To my wonderful wife, Vinitha, and my two children, Nitasha and Varun, I am so grateful to you all. To my mentor and friend Dr. Chad Gehani, thank you for helping me, and many others to become leaders in this great profession. Dr. Rekha Gehani and Dr. Prabha Krishnan, I thank you for your endless support and assistance. And to my fellow QCDS officers, Ronald Garrett (president-elect), Eric Huang (vice president), Richard Yang (secretary), Craig Tischler (treasurer), Prabhakar Koppikar (historian), your hard work and dedication are admirable, and I am so happy to have such a great team surrounding me. Our annual installation dinner is a fitting tribute to the excellent leadership, past and present, that our society enjoys, and the strong member support and sense of community that we rely on.

The profession of dentistry has given me so much: a noble career path, a sense of challenge and fulfillment, a means to provide for my family, and a community of bright, kind, and generous colleagues. Fifteen years ago I decided that I wanted to find a way to give back, and these past years have only deepened my appreciation for this profession.

I embark on this new journey now with a keen understanding of our past, and the realization that there are many challenges that lie ahead. Utilization and payments for dental services have been shrinking over the past

decade, the cost of dental education has skyrocketed, and there remains looming uncertainty surrounding the future impact of the Affordable Care Act. Tiered health care systems threaten to encroach on our services and limit options for our patients.

However, I also know and believe strongly in the immense potential of our present. With the talent, fortitude, and camaraderie that we have within our community, there is no challenge that we cannot face together. During my term in office, I will work hard toward the goal of increased access to dental care for the underserved populations of Queens. I will focus special attention on access to improved oral hygiene for seniors by organizing educational panels at nursing homes and senior centers. I will also continue to promote our ongoing mission to help member dentists succeed. This year, we plan to usher in new efforts to recruit members after program graduation, and encourage active member involvement through

early career mentorship programs. While we will be sure to improve the tangible benefits that members see, our greatest strength comes from our dental community. Together, we are a rich tapestry of professionals serving the most ethnically diverse urban area in the world. Our challenges are unique, and our solutions will come from you, the members who reflect this wonderful diversity.

I look forward to working with you in the days ahead and continuing the great tradition that precedes me. My door is always open to your ideas and suggestions. Let's continue to move forward together!

“
...it is a great
honor to serve
as your
president.”

From Outgoing President Bijan Anvar

Dear QCDS Members,

As you read this, my year will have come to an end. I want to thank you for your encouragement and support throughout my tenure. We have accomplished so many things this year, with our greatest being the tremendous success of our Worlds Fair of Dentistry. However, I could not have done it alone. I had so much help. Camaraderie at QCDS has never been stronger. As I step down, I am proud to have Dr. Shetty ascend as our next president. I can only hope that every year gives our next president even more support. It was a pleasure working with him

and all of the line officers last year. They are eager to serve, and I look forward to another amazing year at QCDS.

I would also like to congratulate our executive director for hitting the ground running and working so hard to fill a pretty large pair of shoes. He has adopted QCDS as his baby and has shown an incredible sense of responsibility for us.

I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday.

Best Regards,
Bijan

RISK MANAGEMENT ALERT



DENTAL MALPRACTICE INSURANCE UPDATE

Topic: Negligent Treatment Plan Claims

Recent Court Decisions

The execution of a properly prepared written informed consent is widely understood to be necessary in the context of surgical procedures, but is often overlooked when treatment plans are being formulated. A review of case law and jury verdicts, however, makes clear that practitioners cannot rely on a simple written treatment plan to establish informed consent, and that it is necessary to secure proper informed consent before initiating any planned restoration.

In *Harvin v. Roth, et. al.*, a patient was provided two options for treatment of loose front teeth and receding gums. The patient signed the written treatment plan, agreeing to the treatment option recommended by the dentist. Following placement of gold/porcelain inlays, the patient required root canal and sued the dentist alleging lack of informed consent for “unnecessary restorative treatment” and a failure to advise of the risks and complications inherent in the treatment. Assessing the dentist’s proof of informed consent, the court determined that there were issues of fact for the jury to decide.

Case law also demonstrates that pointing to a patient’s signature on a consent form which lists the risks and benefits of the procedure is not, by itself, enough to defeat claims for lack of informed consent where the consent form does not address alternative treatment options, and the patient testifies that alternative treatments were never discussed. See, e.g., *Giambrone v. Farha, et. al.*; *Rojo v. Young, et. al.*

The American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry predicts increases in the demand for veneer procedures and crown and bridge work. To protect against a corresponding increase in lack of informed consent claims, practitioners should take care to manage patient expectations for treatment outcomes and thoroughly communicate and document discussions regarding the necessity of treatment, the risks, benefits and cost of all treatment options, as well as the prognosis of proposed treatment and any refusal of preferred treatment.

Practice Points

Focus: Obtain proper written informed consent for all restorative treatment plans

✓ Provide patients with a **WRITTEN TREATMENT PLAN** identifying the necessity of proposed restorations, all known and foreseeable risks and benefits of the recommended treatment, and all treatment alternatives that are generally accepted among dentists in your community, inclusive of referrals to specialists.

✓ Obtain the **PATIENT’S SIGNATURE** to demonstrate their selected treatment option.

✓ **IF RECOMMENDED TREATMENT IS REFUSED**, determine whether it is appropriate to dismiss the patient. If it is acceptable to proceed, have the patient sign a statement that they are electing non-preferred treatment and document the reason (ex. inability to pay cost of preferred treatment).

✓ **DOCUMENT YOUR CONVERSATION IN THE PATIENT’S CHART** and reiterate the necessity of treatment, the risks and benefits of the options, and – where preferred treatment options have been refused – the short term goals and likely prognosis.

✓ Secure a properly executed **INFORMED CONSENT FORM** that is tailored to the elected procedure.

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From The Executive Director

ed@qcds.org

E-Prescribing, Membership and Joining US

By Oleg Rabinovich

For the last few months our phones have been ringing multiple times a day with calls from our members desperate to get some good information about the E-Prescribing requirement. The March 2015 deadline is looming and I know this has caused quite a bit of anxiety for our members. Thus, in cooperation with NYSDA and our 2014 president, Bijan Anvar, we were able to offer two classes on this topic, on December 8, 2014 and January 23, 2015.

I was incredibly pleased to see such an amazing turnout for the E-Prescribing Continuing Education course we ran in December. We had more than 75 people in attendance and we had a full house for our January E-Prescribing lecture, as well. I was so happy that we were able to offer this program free of charge for our members. I will continue to work hard to insure that our members see a value for their membership. We will continue to offer many CE courses free of charge to our members. In fact, if a member attends all of the free CE courses they will be fully covered for the 60 CE credit requirement. Our 2015 plans are in full swing. We have more Continuing Education events planned this year than ever before. Be sure to check out our website, qcds.org, to see all of them.

I know that most of you have already renewed your membership, but if you have not already done so, please renew at your earliest convenience. We truly value you as members and hope you realize how valued you are. The lobbying and advocacy efforts of the tri-partite (ADA, NYSDA, QCDS) may

not always get your attention, but without their work to protect the interests of patients and dentists, the profession would be in a much worse position today. The lobbying efforts were recently instrumental in getting CIGNA to drop their proposed ratings system of dentists based purely on fees charged. The tri-partite leadership is constantly reviewing and analyzing

**“
Strength in
numbers is key
to making sure
that our voices
are being heard.
”**

issues on access to care, Medicaid reimbursement matters and many other important concerns facing your profession. They do this so that your interests and more importantly, the interests of your patients, are made known to regulators and legislators. Without a large unified voice that speaks for most dentists, the interests of our patients and our members would be ignored. Strength in numbers is key to making sure that our voices are being heard.

I beseech you to keep your membership and to explain to your non-tripartite colleagues why it is so important for them to join with us.

If you are having temporary financial issues, do not let this be a reason to drop your membership. Please do not hesitate to reach out to

me to discuss options that will allow you to keep your membership in the tri-partite.

Finally I am very pleased to let you know that we have moved on from our old AOL e-mail addresses. You can always reach me at ed@qcds.org. For general questions you can also send an e-mail to info@qcds.org.

I hope to see you many of you at our first General Membership Meeting of the year on February 3 at 6:15 p.m.

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(as of December 9th)

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- * those who are interested in preparing to take the DANB Exam.

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Jamaica Learning Center Oral Health Screening

Dr. Stuart Kesner and a team from the Jamaica hospital dental department went to the Jamaica Learning Center, an alternative high school, for a day of oral health education. Dr. Kesner was accompanied by dental residents Dr. Karanjit Kamboy, Dr. Jessica Kenemuth and Dr. Pavel Zeylikman as well as Renee Julian and her high school dental assisting students. Screening was done for 120 students for oral cancer and the general condition of their oral health was surveyed.

About half of the students had never seen a dentist before! The residents were surprised at how many students had missing molars. One student even thought it was normal for his mouth to swell once a month. In reality, he had multiple curious infected teeth. After each student was screened by one of the residents they were given a toothbrush toothpaste and floss and educated on proper home care by one of their high school dental assisting peers.

"Overall the day was a phenomenal success," Dr. Kesner said. He told those participating: "The work you all do impacts not only our students, but also their families. Our students will go home and tell family members about the screening and information they received today. Students who have children will bring their children to the dentist. Your community service sets a great example for the Residents, the Interns, and all receiving the services."





Congratulates The Newly Elected 2015 Officers and Board

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Getting to Know Your 2015 QCDS Officers



Sudhakar Shetty
President

Dr. Sudhakar Shetty is the incoming Queens County Dental Society president. He initially completed his dental training at the University of Bombay, India, and then went on to complete his advanced dental training at the New York University College of Dentistry. Dr. Shetty has been in private practice in Woodhaven, Queens, since 1980. Dr. Shetty has been very

active in organized dentistry and is the immediate past-president of the Indian Dental Association and the past president of ICDE. Additionally, he has served on numerous committees including past chairman of the Chemical Dependency program at QCDS, Nominating Committee, Ethics Committee, and the Membership Committee. He continues to serve on the board of trustees of the QCDS.



Ronald Garrett
President-Elect

Dr. Ronald Garrett is the president-elect of the Queens County Dental Society. He graduated from Howard University College of Dentistry in 1988. Prior to studying at dental school, he attended Queens College and has been practicing for over 20 years. Dr. Garrett completed a residency at Harlem Hospital and remained on staff for six years. He is currently on staff at

Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx. His private practice has been located in Springfield Gardens, Queens, since 2001. Dr. Garrett is a faculty member at Albert Einstein Medical College, where he is involved with HIV/AIDS research in children. Dr. Garrett is married to his wife, Claire, and the couple has three children, Bryan, Brandon and Blair.



Eric Huang
Vice President

Dr. Eric Huang, is the new vice president of the Queens County Dental Society and obtained his D.D.S. degree from the NYU College of Dentistry in 1993. He has been a QCDS Board member since 2005 and has served on the Peer Review Committee for the past few years. Dr. Huang is a member of the Board of Directors of the Chinese Dental Association, a member of the

Academy of General Dentistry, and the International Association of Orthodontics. Currently, Dr. Huang is also an attending doctor at the New York Hospital, Queens.



Richard Yang
Secretary

Dr. Richard Yang, the new QCDS secretary, graduated from Columbia University, School of Dental and Oral Surgery. Dr. Yang was later trained as an oral surgery fellow in Bronx Veterans Hospital and Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York. Dr. Yang started his private practice in 1997 and has managed two private dental clinics

ever since. He served as the president of Chinese American Dental Society, New York Chapter, from 2006 to 2008 and has been an active member of QCDS since 2004.



Craig Tischler
Treasurer

Dr. Craig Tischler, the new QCDS treasurer, has been a member of the Queens County Dental Society since 1986. Dr. Tischler was selected as a member of the Pierre Fauchard Academy. Dr. Tischler, born and raised in Flushing, completed his dental training at the SUNY Buffalo School of Dental Medicine. He completed an

advanced training fellowship in oral pathology and oncology, and has maintained his private practice in Rego Park for the past 27 years. In addition to his private practice, Dr. Tischler enjoys teaching and has been involved in training new dentists at Maimonides Medical Center and at Flushing Hospital, where he currently holds an attending position. Outside of the office, Dr. Tischler enjoys spending time with his wife, Lori, and their two children, Michael and Amanda.



Prabhakar Koppikar
Historian

Dr. Prabhakar Koppikar is the new QCDS. He is a 1979 graduate of Bombay University Dental and is also a 1996 graduate of the New York University College of Dentistry. Dr. Koppikar has been involved with residency teaching programs since 1998. He is currently in private practice in Flushing.

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Social Philosophy and Your IRA Planning

By Harris Markhoff, Esq., and Michael Markhoff, Esq.

We have been encountering estate planning situations where a dental practice owner has more than sufficient net worth to adequately support a surviving spouse and also has children who are self supporting. That dental practice owner should consider allocating a portion of his or her IRA to either grandchildren or a charitable foundation.

IRA For Grandchildren

The use of an IRA to benefit grandchildren is an interesting technique.

There is some concern among grandparents that grandchildren in today's economic and social environment will not have the same educational and vocational options and opportunities as were available to their grandparents and parents.

There is no question that competition to get into college is more intense. There is frequently no assurance or even an interest on the part of grandchildren to become professionals, corporate executives or entrepreneurs. The grandchildren may choose career paths with meaningful social purposes, but without significant financial rewards.

Grandparents may want to consider leaving a portion of an IRA to a grandchild to

supplement the grandchild's income.

If, as a hypothetical, a \$500,000 portion of an IRA is left to a 10 year old grandchild (or to a trust on behalf of the grandchild), and if that IRA can earn 5 percent during the grandchild's lifetime, that \$500,000 IRA will disburse \$5,100,000 to the grandchild during the grandchild's life expectancy (age 10 to age 82).

IRA Payable to Charity

If the dental practice owner has significant charitable interests, it makes sense to have a portion of the IRA payable to a family foundation. The family foundation can receive the IRA and pay no income tax because it qualifies as a charity and charities do not pay income tax on receipt of an IRA distribution.

The family foundation is required by law to disburse 5 percent of its net worth annually to public charities.

A number of dental practice owners have adult children who live in different parts of the country. One anxiety, which some parents have, is that the children will lose touch with each other after both parents are deceased. The private foundation offers a unique opportunity to perpetuate the family's charitable interests and to require children to communicate at least on an annual basis as to how to disburse the funds from the private foundation.

The use of an IRA for charities and grandchildren is a technique that parents and grandchildren should consider in addition to the traditional techniques which we use in estate planning, such as Irrevocable Life Insurance Trusts, Credit Shelter Trusts, QTIPs, QPRTs, Sales to Defective Grantor Trusts, GRATs and all the other techniques that form part of the estate planning basket of tools.

Harris Markhoff, Esq. and Michael Markhoff, Esq. are partners in the White Plains law firm of Danziger & Markhoff LLP. This firm is a business and tax-oriented law firm that has been representing dental practice owners in the New York metropolitan area for 50 years. They can be reached at 914-948-1556 or at hmarkhoff@dmlawyers.com or mmarkhoff@dmlawyers.com.

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Be sure to check the QCDS website
for the latest Society events and news:
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CE Courses

Pre-registration is required for all continuing education courses, except General Membership Meetings

Friday, February 13

10:00 a.m.

Video Study Club - Oral Surgery in General Practice

2 C.E. Credits

You and your patients will benefit from this practical video! Almost every dentist does some oral surgery, but very few have had significant education in surgical procedures. Karl and Gordon have made a practical, easily understood, step-by-step live video showing necessary concepts, techniques and instruments needed for oral surgery in your practice. Frequently needed techniques are emphasized, including use of luxators, inter-radicular bone removal, mesial and distal troughing, sectioning roots, and buccal bone removal. Receive many tips on how to make routine surgery faster, easier, and more enjoyable.

Instructor: Dr. Al A. Gulum

Tuition: QCDS member: FREE Non-QCDS members: (one time) \$100 Non-QCDS members (VSC annual pass): \$350 A \$15 late fee will be added for same day registration or payment. Pre-registration is required. Call 718-454-8344 to register. A light breakfast is included.

Tuesday, March 3

7:00 p.m.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

2 C.E. Credits

7:00 P.M. Immediate Implant Placement in General Practice

The course will cover predictability of immediate placement, case selection and treatment planning, and techniques and restorations.

Speaker: Dr. Al Panjali

Free admission to all members; Dinner included.

**8:00 P.M. Don't Live in Fear of Lawsuits:
Lawsuits Prevention and Tax Reduction**

Tuesday, March 10

6:00 p.m.

Infection Control

4 C.E. Credits

In the past this course has had an overwhelmingly positive response from those clinicians and their staffs who earnestly want to stay informed about the latest infection control recommendations, and does so through the eyes and thoughts of a speaker/clinician who understands the nature and demand of the everyday dental practice. Bring your entire staff and satisfy OSHA's annual staff training requirements. Learn what's new in infection control techniques and what is needed to comply with appropriate infection control guidelines.

Course qualifies for relicensure. A \$15 late fee will be added for same day registration or payment. Breakfast included. Pre-registration is required. Call 718-454-8344 to register. Class begins promptly at 9:00 a.m.

Instructor: Safety Compliance Services

Tuition: ADA member/staff: \$90 Non-ADA member: \$260

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TAX TIPS FOR DENTISTS

The IRS respects taxpayer rights so it is pretty easy to tell when a supposed IRS caller is a fake. Here are 5 things scammers do that IRS does not do:

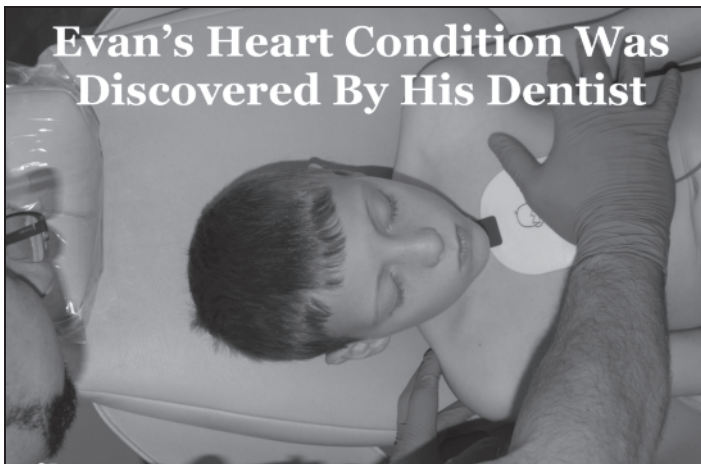
1. Call you to demand immediate payment.
2. Demand payment without giving you a chance to question the amount.
3. Require you to use a certain payment method.
4. Ask for credit card numbers or debit card numbers over the phone.
5. Threaten to bring in law-enforcement to arrest you for not paying.

above taken from irs.gov website

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New President Shetty's Goal: Helping Dentists Succeed, Make QCDS More Relevant

—Continued from page 1

QCDS undertakes each year, with an emphasis on bringing quality CE programs to our members. I want to hold strong to our goal of helping member dentists succeed." Advocacy for pediatric dental care as well as improved access for the elderly population will also be important goals, he said.

"I would like to create opportunities for our volunteer members to address the issue of proper oral care for seniors at nursing homes and at senior centers. I plan to enlist the rest of my team in order to engage members in providing much needed access to care for the underserved areas of Western Queens."

From his earliest career days, Dr. Shetty was involved with community service groups. As a student, he was active with Lion's Club International and several local organizations in India. "During my tenure as president of the Indian Dental Association," Dr. Shetty said, "I, along with my IDA committee members, organized a booth at the annual Diwali Festival at the South Street Seaport to provide oral screenings to more than 300 patients." He has also participated in the annual QCDS oral screenings at Citifield, as well as the QCDS "Give Kids a Smile" program. In addition, he provided screenings for children at New York City public schools, in partnership with QCDS and Colgate. He is one of the founding members of the Hindu Organization of Long Island, which is dedicated to interfaith harmony and community outreach.

Dr. Shetty's wife, Vinitha, served as an Americorps member during the past year at the Jacob Riis Settlement House in Queens. She says she plans to continue working in the non-profit sector. According to Dr. Shetty, "my wife has been crucial in helping me organize my practice and also supports me in achieving my goals in organized dentistry."

Their children are both in the health care field. Daughter Nitasha is a psychiatry attending at Yale University and Nitasha's husband, Amar, is training in gastroenterology at Albert Einstein/Montefiore Hospital. The Shetty's son, Varun, is a resident at Rush Presbyterian Hospital in Chicago, training in internal medicine and pediatrics.

The family is close with Dr. Shetty's brother, Bhaskar, and his wife, Sarah, who live on Long Island, and his brother-in-law, Balu, and his family, who live in Pittsburgh.

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Wishing our new Executive Director, Mr. Oleg Rabinovich and incoming President, Dr. Sudhakar Shetty all the best in their new appointments at QCDS. Congratulations to Dr. Bijan Anvar for his great service this past year. We are all fortunate and grateful to have them all represent and lead our Queens County Dental Society.

Dr. Daniel G. Pompa

ADA Seminar Series Speaker, Consultant and On-line Author



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EDPAC Campaigning

It was a very busy "pre-election season" this past fall. While EDPAC works throughout the year, and the two-year election terms, the time immediately preceding election day is always hectic. EDPAC officers, consultant, component chairpersons, and member dentists attend, and even host, fundraisers. The legislative successes that protect the patients, the practice of dentistry, and dentists are enhanced by EDPAC and NYSDA working together.



EDPAC Treasurer Dr. Joseph R. Caruso and incoming Queens County EDPAC Chairman Dr. Viren Jhaveri attended a fundraiser for New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli. Joining Drs. Caruso and Jhaveri, at right, were, Comptroller DiNapoli, left, New York City Mayor Bill DeBlasio

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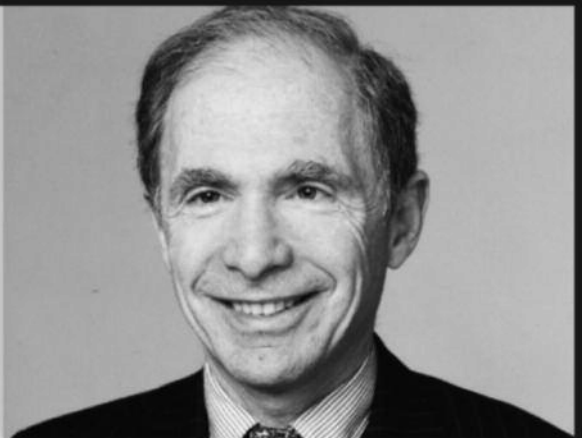
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