

Promoting Kids' Dental Health

By Ira M. Schwartz, DDS

Dozens of schoolchildren, their parents and teachers joined QCDS members to celebrate National Children's Dental Health Month at an event at QCDS Headquarters in May.

Each February, the American Dental Association in conjunction with the NYSDA, sponsors National Children's Dental Health Month (NCDHM) to raise awareness about the importance of oral health. "Developing good habits at an early age and scheduling regular dental visits helps children get a good start on a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums," says the ADA website.

As part of the promotion, a "Keeping Smiles Brighter" creative contest was devised for participation by the children. This year, two options were available for entries. The first option, open from the Pre-K level to the 12th grade was to design a placemat with a dental health message. The second option,

see QCDS Promotes Kids'... page 10

Chad Gehani Nominated for NYSDA VP

By Viren Jhaveri, DDS

The Board of Trustees of the Queens County Dental Society has unanimously nominated Dr. Chad Gehani for Vice President of the New York State Dental Association. If elected, he will be in line to serve as NYSDA President in 2011.



Gehani told the *Bulletin* that he was honored to be nominated, and hopes to bring his experience of over 30 years practicing dentistry and 28 years teach-

see Chad Gehani Nominated... page 9

The Dental World of Tomorrow On View at QCDS Symposium



Future dental technology prompted spirited discussion at Queens County Dental Society seminar.

By Mitchell S. Greenberg, DMD
and Viren Jhaveri, DDS

More than 225 dentists attended "Tomorrow's Dental Office... Today," co-hosted by Henry Schein, Inc., and the Queens County Dental Society (QCDS) on June 1st.

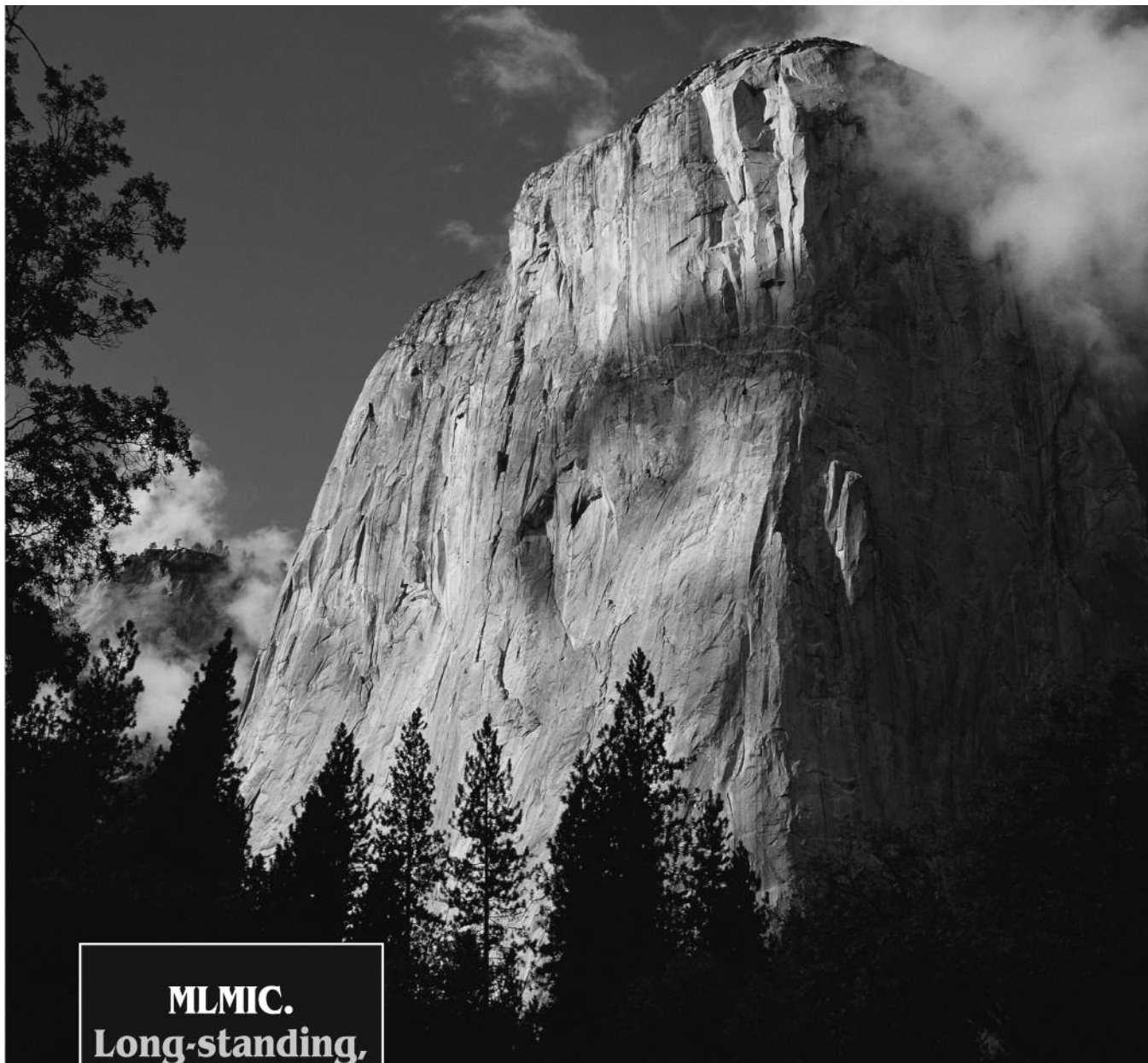
The day's program began with a diversity leadership breakfast hosted by Henry Schein Cares, which is the firm's corporate social responsibility program. During the breakfast, Steve Kess, Vice President of Global Professional Relations for Henry Schein, spoke of the need to continue to develop promising practices and how to optimize the potential of each practice. He discussed his experience working with various diverse dental associations, and highlighted methods to strengthen professional associations' participation in organized dentistry, with the help of the New York State Dental Association (NYSDA) and the American Dental Association (ADA).

The presidents of nine dental soci-

eties and associations were in attendance, including leadership from the Indian Dental Society, Arab American Dental Association, Spanish American Medical and Dental Society, Dominican Dental Society, Metropolitan Dental Society, Puerto Rican Dental Society, Chinese American Dental Society, Korean Dental Society, and Bangladesh Dental Society. In addition, NYSDA President Stephen Gold, Michelle Bressler of the ADA, and the leadership of the QCDS were in attendance.

After the Henry Schein Cares-sponsored leadership breakfast, the day's program, organized by Mark Soberman, Regional Sales Manager for Henry Schein Dental, continued to focus on the future of dentistry and the impact of technology on patients, operatories, and the success of dental practices. Attendees, who received seven CE credits for the all-day program, learned about the latest innova-

see Dental World of Tomorrow... page 9



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A Question of Accessing Proper Care

By Alan N. Queen, DDS

One of the greatest problems in dentistry today is patients' access to care. Here in New York City, it really isn't a matter of a scarcity of dentists, as it is in remote rural areas of Upstate New York or out on the Alaskan tundra. Here it's more a question of people with no dental insurance having the financial means of accessing care.

Especially with the economy in a serious downturn, many people feel they simply cannot afford the "luxury" of dental care, when the costs of food, clothing, shelter, gasoline, and needed prescription drugs consume much of their budget. Recent news reports indicate that even some people with insurance coverage are putting off medical and dental care due to higher deductibles and co-payments that they can't afford.

The *New York Times* recently ran an article espousing the use of "dental therapists" (individuals with two years of training after high school) as a solu-

'The trend in dental education... has been to require more training'

tion to the access to care problem in rural areas, such as in Alaska. Hygienists in New York are pushing for a similar solution here, where they want to be able to perform an expanded range of procedures on patients, ultimately including fillings and other "irreversible" procedures without supervision by a dentist.

While this may seem absurd to us dentists, the article in the *Times* was framed to make "dental therapists" seem the ideal solution to providing care in remote areas of Alaska, where the nearest dentist could be hundreds of miles away from the tiny villages described.

The problem is that oversimplifying a serious issue (access to care) in an attempt to justify having untrained or under-trained people doing irreversible dental procedures without supervision is not just ill-advised, it is both immoral and unethical as well as an invitation to serious problems down the road. It also runs counter to many years of increasing requirements for licensure.

The trend in dental education over the last 20 years has been to require more training for a dental license, not less. New York State, after much deliberation, now requires four years of dental school and a one year residency for licensure as a dentist. A dentist with over 20 years of uneventful practice in New York or other states can't even get a license to practice in the state of Florida without taking both a written and practical examination. In addition, general dentists performing extractions, for example, are held to the same standard of care as that provided by an oral surgeon (who has four years of dental school and four years of residency training). This is done, ostensibly, not to make things hard on the dentists, but to protect the public and insure a minimum quality of care.

Furthermore, hospitals are required by New York State law to have attending physicians and dentists supervise their residents, new doctors who have completed four years of medical or dental school, and also limits the number of hours they may work per day. (This essential law was precipitated by the tragic death of Libby Zion, the daughter of a *New York Times* columnist in a hospital two decades ago.) Why isn't such supervision considered an essential requirement by those who espouse hygienists and dental therapists in unsupervised practice, including the *New York Times*?

How do those who promote unsupervised practice of dentistry by hygienists or dental therapists justify

see Guest Editorial... page 14

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For more information about advertising, contact the Business Manager at 86-90 188th Street Jamaica NY 11423 or call (718) 454-8344. Inclusion of an advertisement does not imply endorsement of any firm, goods, or services unless such endorsement is specifically stated.

Subscription is included in the annual membership dues of the Queens County Dental Society. The Subscription rate for non-members is \$30 per year, or \$5 per issue.

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From the President's Desk

The 4th Molar

"What gets us into trouble is not what we don't know; it's what we know for sure that just ain't so." –MARK TWAIN

By Viren Jhaveri, DDS

So True! Learning is a life-long endeavor, especially in a world that is changing as quickly as ours. Those who have been in dentistry for many years can attest to the need for staying current.

Information explosion, changing nature of knowledge, increasing organizational complexities, remaining competitive, public demand for better services and accountability, relicensure requirements, advancement in technologies and changes in governmental regulations are some of the reasons I believe continuing education is no longer a stage of human development but has become a life-long activity. I look at professionals as consumers of continuing education, their life-long learning status is very important for the society and our profession.

Continuing education is healthy for you. Don't be concerned that it has been a long time since you were in school. You have better focus than when you were younger. We mature folks can remember more thru memorization than the average high school crowd. Another advantage is that when you have been around the block a few times, you can recognize and associate information with what you already know.

One of our missions at the Queens County Dental Society is to meet or exceed your needs as a dental professional who is committed to life-long learning. Our continuing education coordinators recognize their responsibilities to provide you, the dental professional, with high-quality continuing dental education covering the most current information available on a wide variety of topics from new technologies and materials to innovative practice management solutions.

In 2008, we started a pilot project of Sunday morning CE programs and the response was overwhelming. One of our Sunday seminars made history as to the largest number of attendees which was quite gratifying. Since then, we have planned an entire year of Sunday CE programs. Our recent Hi Tech Sunday at the LaGuardia Marriott was very well attended and well received. Another course is being planned regarding "New Materials in Dentistry" to help in placing your practice on the cutting edge. Of course, all your suggestions are welcome. As I have always said, our efforts are the result of teamwork, and I would like to express my gratitude to all involved.

Continuing educators are eager to share their experiences with you. Take advantage your brain cells will thank you and you will experience self-gratification and educational bliss!

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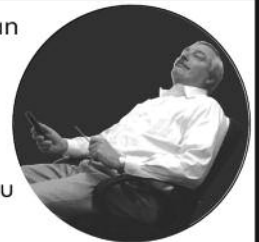
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Executive Director's Report

A Little of This, Little of That

By William Bayer

MEMBERSHIP

For the 98 members who have not renewed their membership yet this year, this will be the final issue of the *Bulletin* that you will be receiving. By not renewing your membership, you will have terminated your membership in the ADA, NYSDA and QCDS tripartite and are therefore ineligible for continued membership benefits. We hope that you will reconsider renewing, and I am certainly willing to discuss this matter with you. Organized Dentistry is only as strong as its membership, and we need YOU to keep our advocacy efforts on behalf of dentistry as effective as possible. For the vast majority of you who did renew your memberships, we thank you and pledge we will do all we can to ensure that you receive value for your dues dollars. We welcome any suggestions to improve our efforts.

Any volunteers who are willing and able to assist us in reaching out to our non-renewals may call me and assist us in our membership retention efforts.

As a membership initiative, we recently hosted both the Korean-American Dental Association as well as the Spanish-

American Dental Association in providing our headquarters building to them for their meetings. Many of these practitioners had never been to our building and were quite impressed.

As of July 1st, I will be contacting all Queens-based hospital residency programs with the aim of recruiting all incoming residents for tripartite dental society membership. I invite all our members who might know a non-member to encourage that dentist to join with us. ask the non-member to call me at (718) 454-8344, x 306.

SPONSORS

Please keep QCDS in mind in dealings with your vendors and suppliers as potential supporters of QCDS events. If any sales rep expresses interest, please have them call me to discuss possible sponsorship opportunities. Our *Bulletin* advertising rates are quite reasonable and provide a means of effective communication with our membership.

I also would point out that our meeting sponsors and *Bulletin* advertisers provide much needed non-dues income to QCDS, and I ask you to strongly consider SUPPORTING THOSE WHO SUPPORT US. It is the generosity of these sponsors that make many of our CE offerings and presentations possible and your support of these sponsors affirms that their money has been well spent.



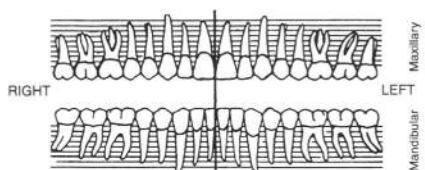
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COMMUNICATION

Well, it's been a long time coming, but our website has been reformatted and updated. We invite you to visit www.QCDS.org and view the upcoming calendar of events with all our CE offerings noted in a monthly calendar format which will be updated regularly. In addition, you will find other useful information. Our "photo" page and "sponsor" page should be completed shortly, which will complete this project. As usual, we welcome any suggestions.

Project #2 involved establishing an effective means of TIMELY communication with our members. We have established a group email system, commonly called EBLAST, which will allow us to email you notices of upcoming meetings or courses, reminders, law/regulatory changes, and other items of interest or importance. Unfortunately, many of you have not provided email addresses to us. In order for you to participate, it is imperative you provide us with an email address. This is not only an improvement in providing you information quickly and effectively but also a cost savings in terms of postage. It also allows our office staff to handle tasks besides mass mailings and envelope stuffing. PLEASE TAKE THE FEW SECONDS NEEDED TO EMAIL YOUR NAME WITH EMAIL ADDRESS TO US AT QCDS1@aol.com and we will add you to our ever expanding list.

You will also notice some changes in our *Bulletin* as our new editors initiate improvements. Your feedback is welcomed. As with any change, there are some minor glitches which we needed to work out and we appreciate your patience.

Our staff goal is to answer your calls immediately or to return your call within one business day. I can be reached at EXECDIRQCDS@aol.com should you need to communicate with me if I cannot be reached by phone.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

As you know, the increased mandated triennial CE requirement became effective July 1st and your license renewal date controls the number of prorated hours you will need during this first renewal period. A State Education website has a useful easy-to-use calculator that will give you the number of CE credits needed. Go to www.op.nysed.gov/dentcechap183.html to confirm your required CE credits. The new 60-credit requirement becomes fully effective after your next triennial registration. Courses on practice management, accounting, finance, statistics and internet use may be interesting and useful but do not qualify towards the mandated state CE requirement.

Our next GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING will be September 2nd as there are no meetings in July or August. We have scheduled FLUID THINK for a presentation on computer technology in dental applications with the remainder of the program still to be determined.

Although our next VIDEO STUDY CLUB is not scheduled until October 10th, our office has a large collection of VCR tapes and DVDs covering a wide range of clinical topics and members are welcome to borrow these by contacting headquarters.

We welcome your suggestions relative to topics or speakers you might enjoy at future presentations so feel free to call with items of interest.

NATIONAL PROVIDER IDENTIFIER AND MEDICAID

The May 15th deadline to register your NPI with the Medicaid office has passed. As you may have already experienced, the failure to register may further delay Medicaid payment of your claims. Apparently, if you do not register in advance of the NYS Medicaid NPI implementation planned for September 1st, you risk TERMINATION from the Medicaid program.

You can register your NPI on the web at www.eMedNY.org by clicking on the "Register NPI" button located in the green box on the right side of the screen. Questions with NPI registration can be directed to the eMedNY call center at (800) 343-9000.

While on the topic of Medicaid, you should be aware the office of their Inspector General recently announced enhanced enforcement efforts including possible reviews and audits of providers. It appears most providers will need to implement Compliance Programs.



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The Dental World of Tomorrow On View at QCDS Symposium

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tions in dentistry, and how to best integrate technology into the dental practice for consistent growth and increased productivity.

Dr. Chad Gehani, Associate Professor of Endodontics at NYU College of Dentistry and QCDS Past-President, moderated the program and was joined by Dr. Tonia Howlett, a practicing dentist from Nashville, Tennessee, Dr. Gary Severance, Vice President of Marketing and Clinical Affairs for D4D Technologies, which manufactures and supports E4D Dentist™, and Dr. Bruce Lieberthal, Vice President of Product Management and Development for Henry Schein Practice Solutions.

Presentations were given by Drs. Howlett, Severance, and Lieberthal on the latest developments in CAD/CAM technology, Digital Diagnostics/Cone Beam imaging, Digital Impressions, and Laser dentistry.

“Working together with our partners at Henry Schein is a great way to bring informative, exciting programs like ‘Tomorrow’s Dental Office...Today’ to our dental community,” said Gehani. “Both diversity in dentistry and technology in dentistry are central topics in the field today, and it is important to learn and embrace both for optimal patient care.”



Gehani Nominated for NYSDA VP

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ing dentistry to the position. Gehani is an endodontist, practicing in Jackson Heights, and teaches endodontics at NYU College of Dentistry and Flushing Hospital Medical Center. “I feel I am qualified to represent the dentists of New York,” he said, since “I am aware of both challenges to practicing dentists and what’s going on in the schools.”

Gehani has already served NYSDA in many capacities including his present positions as a member of the Board of Governors, a member of the NYSDA Executive Committee as well as an EDPAC Director. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the New York State Dental Foundation. He served as Chairman of the NYSDA Council on Membership and Communications from 2002 to 2004.

Gehani is a former QCDS President, a member of our Board of Trustees since 1995, a former member of the Board of Directors of the Greater Long Island Dental Meeting, and has served on many other QCDS committees.

Well known as a strong proponent of promoting diversity in the profession, he has organized programs bringing together the many ethnic dental associations in New York to discuss areas of

mutual concern and cooperation.

“There is no reason why all dentists are not members of organized dentistry,” Gehani said, explaining that “we need unity in our profession.”

He feels that dentists must work together to promote an agenda of patient education, to prevent tragedies such as the death of a boy from an untreated dental infection that made headlines last year. Gehani has also been part of the fight in recent years to maintain Medicaid funding for dentistry in New York State.

On the national and international levels, Gehani has served as something of a dental ambassador for the ADA, having been a member of the ADA’s Committee on International Programs and Development. The International College of Dentists (ICD) has twice recognized his efforts, once with the ICD award for service to the international dental community in different countries, and once by ICD’s branch in India with the Best Teacher Award. The President of the Dominican Republic has honored him for his services to the Dominican dental community.

In addition to his service to organized dentistry, Gehani has received the

New York State Dental Foundation Award of Excellence in Community Service, is a member of the Pierre Fauchard Academy, International College of Dentists and is also a Fellow of American College of Dentists.

He has been a faculty member at both Columbia University and at New York University College of Dentistry, where he has been on staff for over 23 years. He is Chairman of the Department of Endodontics at Flushing Hospital Medical Center and has a private practice limited to endodontics in Jackson Heights.

QCDS Executive Director Bill Bayer stated, “It is hard to envision someone with a more varied involvement in the tripartite system or to envision a more qualified and deserving candidate. Leaders such as Dr. Gehani have exhibited the will, experience and capability to lead the profession in the coming years and to ensure a promising future for dentistry.”

The Gehani family is well-known in the dental community. His wife, Dr. Rekha Gehani, has been a member of the NY State Board of Dentistry since 1998. His son, Dr. Daniel Gehani and daughter Dr. Kiren Gehani are both dentists and members of the ADA. His youngest son, Dr. Neal Gehani is a physician.

QCDS Promotes Kids' Dental Health



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available from 7th to 12th grades was to design a website home page discussing dental health. This year QCDS had a record of over 100 entries and selected eight winners, one of whom went on to win on the state level. Prizes were awarded on the basis of creativity and artistic value.

On Tuesday, May 20th, 2008, the winners from Queens schools were invited to QCDS for an evening with their families and teachers to receive their awards. The society headquarters was decked out in a theme of beach balls and those in attendance were treated to an Italian feast and a dessert

buffet which included chocolate cake and ice cream. "Magic Mike" the magician was present to entertain the youngsters, several of whom expressed interest

in becoming dentists. Colgate provided goody bags; the prize checks were provided from funds from the state level as well as from QCDS.

Included among the group was P. S. 43 Queens kindergartener Sierra Robinson, age 5, from Far Rockaway, who won in her category in the NYSDA contest, which included top entries from districts statewide. Her teacher, Mrs. Deutch, was also present and was recognized at the QCDS event.



Other winners included: Second place for pre-schoolers was Marion Yacob. In the 1-2nd grades, our first place was Cielin Balberan, 2nd place was Issac Taveres and 3rd place was Feleicia Disla. In the 3-4th grade group our 1st place was Monica Ramdeen, 2nd place was Issac Tavares and 3rd place was Shakira Boxté. In the 5-6th grade level, our 1st place was David Velez, 2nd place tie was Cheenie Balberan and Kayra Chubot and 3rd place tie Abby-Gayle Williams and Miguel Jinenez. In the 8th grade level. Our 1st place winner was Francheska Surita.

Karen Lewkowitz, chairperson of NCDHM for QCDS, said that "it was an absolute pleasure to be able to run this event. It brings children from all walks of life together and the sense of pride and accomplishment was seen on their faces as well as their parents and teachers." In addition, "perhaps this positive experience

will bring new future Dentists to our profession," she added.

Lewkowitz organized and ran the event with help from Dr. Robert Shpuntoff, Dr. Ramen and Dr. Charlene Berkman, as well as Dr. Alan Queen, who filled in as photographer. Other QCDS members were in attendance to add to the festive air.

Although the weather was inclement the turnout was good. "Yes, it was raining outside, but as you came through the door of our society headquarters, the smiles were shining," said Lewkowitz.





QUEENS DISTRICT DATC DENTAL AUXILIARY TRAINING PROGRAM *

The Queens County Dental Society, in conjunction with the Dental Auxiliary Training Center, is pleased to announce the 23rd year of continuation of the comprehensive dental assisting training course offered for the auxiliary staff of the Queens County membership.

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- * already employed dental assistants who have limited or no formal training.
- * those who are interested in preparing to take the DANB Exam.

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COURSE NAME Fundamentals of Chairside Assisting, #QC101-5
DENTIST EMPLOYER _____ WORK PH (____) _____
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*This program has been approved as an entry level skills program by the NYSED, BPSS. Eligible students who wish to challenge the National Certification Exam given by DANB will find this course to be helpful. This program alone, is not presently recognized by the NYSED, as a license qualifying course under the NY State Licensed "certified dental assisting" law. DATC has developed a pathway along with this program for assistant's to become Licensed. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BECOMMING LICENSED, please call Lisa Lyle at 1(888) 595-3282.

** Student will receive written confirmation of seat reservation.

CE Courses Summer/Fall 2008

Pre-registration is required for all continuing education courses

Sunday, July 27th	9:00am
Mr. Thomas Pousson Course	
Sunday, August 10th	9:00am
Infection Control	
Sunday, August 17th	9:00am
Risk Management	
Sunday, August 24th	9:00am
CPR & Basic Cardiac Life Support	
Sunday, September 7th	9:00am
Dr. Barry Musikant Course	
Sunday, September 21st	8:30am
Dr. Richard Barnes Course	
Friday, October 10th	9:00am
Video Study Club	
Friday, October 17th	9:00am
Infection Control	

Sunday, August 24th	9:00am
Sunday October 26th	9:00am
Friday December 5th	9:00am

CPR- Certification & Recertification

Basic Cardiac Life Support

Certification/Recertification will cover 1 & 2 rescuer CPR, Heimlich Maneuver, child CPR and AED.

The ability to recognize the signals of a heart attack and provide stabilization of the victim at the scene of a cardiac arrest is a price-less commodity. Life over death may some day become a reality to someone you know or care for. Be Prepare to help save a life.

NOTE: This course fulfills the new CPR requirement for relicensure in New York State.

If your CPR certification is 2 years old or less and you want to recertify, you must submit a copy of your BLS card, or you will need to take the complete certification course again.

Instructor: Robin Zalewski,
CPR/AED Instructor

Tuition: ADA member\$95
ADA member staff\$95
Non ADA member\$250

Study Clubs July/August 2008

Dr. Fialkoff Study Club Group

CONTACT DR. FIALKOFF (718) 229-3838

July 9 7:00PM CE: 2

Topic: "Complications in Orthodontics and Implant Dentistry - How to Avoid the Pitfalls"

Location: Chester's Restaurant
38-05 Bell Blvd.
Bayside, N.Y.

Presentation of orthodontic treatment complications and outcomes and their effects on the delivery of successful implant dentistry. Discussion of treatment timing/sequencing, implant placement and esthetics involved in interdisciplinary care.

Bernard Fialkoff, DDS: SUNY-Stony Brook Dental School 1980; Memphis Veterans Administration/University of Tennessee Dental School Periodontal and Implant Surgery Degrees 1982; Certified in Laser Surgery by ALD 2003; Past Clinical Instructor of Periodontics SUNY at Stony Brook Dental School 1986-1992; Past Attending, Flushing Hospital Dental Division 1982-84; Director of Implant Certainty Training Program 1994-2007; Private Practice Limited to Periodontal, Implant and Laser Surgery in Bayside, NY.

Ji Yeon Yoo, DDS: Columbia Dental School 2004; Columbia Post-Graduate Periodontal and Implant Surgery Degree 2007.

Asha Gulati, DDS:SUNY-Stony Brook Dental School
DDS Degree 2003; Manhattan VA Hospital Post-Graduate
Periodontal and Implant Surgery Degree 2007.

Dr. Fialkoff Study Club Group

CONTACT DR. FIALKOFF (718) 229-3838

August 6 7:00PM CE: 2

Topic: "Effects of Tobacco and Chemical Effects on Oral Pre-Malignant Lesions/Oral Cancer"

Location: Chester's Restaurant
38-05 Bell Blvd.
Bayside, N.Y.

Presentation of clinical pathologic changes of the oral cavity; their recognition and treatment; the effects of tobacco and other potentially carcinogenic agents on the oral tissues. This presentation will satisfy the Tobacco and Oral Cancer licensing requirement.

Paul Freedman, DDS: Diplomate American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology; NYU Dental School 1971; Residency in Oral Pathology Catholic Medical Center of Brooklyn and Queens 1975; Director of Oral Pathology NY Hospital Medical Center of Queens; Senior Chief of NY Presbyterian Hospital Cornell Medical Center 1996- Present; Director of Oral Pathology Laboratory 1988 - Present.

A Question of Accessing *Proper* Care

from pg 4

having two standards of care: that provided for those with the financial and geographic access to dental care by a dentist and that provided for those without?

Hygienists' argument that they could provide less expensive care is a spurious one since, the last time we checked, the overhead of running a "hygiene office" will be little different than that of running a dental office except they won't have to pay a hygienist. If the cost of providing the care is the same, are they willing to be paid substantially less than a dentist for providing allegedly the same services? Somehow we doubt that would last very long.

The *Times* quoted a 2006 study by the Baylor College of Dentistry which "looked at 600 procedures in more than 400 patients and found that the quality of the procedures performed by therapists was no different from that provided by dentists."

Basing their recommendations on a small study (with no details of what procedures were involved), whereas numerous studies over decades have shown the need for both more initial training as well as continuing education, makes one wonder what agenda the *Times* is really promoting. It would be interesting to follow those 400 patients for a few years to see what really happens to them.

So what's the solution?

As far as the hygienists who wish to practice dentistry: they should go to dental school. It's more time in school, but assuming they fulfill the requirements and pass the exams, they can practice as much dentistry as they wish, even out on the tundra.

As for those remote, rural areas with no dentists: one wonders what these people do if they need emergency surgery. Do they have nurses or physicians' assistants do the surgery without even a physician on the phone advising them? Some means of getting patients and appropriately trained health care providers in the same room at the same time in an appropriate setting needs to be found. Even having a dentist available via a remote video-conferencing link, using intra-oral cameras and digital x-rays would be preferable to no supervision at all.

The real problem is the cost of getting care to remote areas, both in professional and support personnel as well as the very

high overhead of establishing and running a suitable clinic in a remote, sparsely populated area. These costs cannot be borne by the private sector alone.

In an era when the federal and state governments have decreased aid to dental education and have repeatedly tried to limit or cut Medicaid funds spent on dentistry (to the point where the cost of providing treatment can exceed the Medicaid reimbursement for the procedure), it seems the real reason for this is to try to create a cheap, "quick fix" for a serious problem rather than spending the money that is needed to really improve access to care.

When new dentists are graduating owing \$200,000 and more on their educational loans, and overhead in dental offices is soaring, it is impossible for anyone to expect a private dentist to be able to afford to provide quality care for Medicaid fees that have not kept pace with inflation let alone the rising costs of providing that care. Trying to fix the problem by replacing dentists with less-trained personnel will not alter the fact that more funds need to be dedicated to the problem of access to care.

It's absurd that the government cannot make appropriately trained personnel available, perhaps through the US Public Health Service or the military, to reach remote areas in Alaska and elsewhere. Alternatively, just as the government pays out millions of dollars in farm subsidies each year, perhaps programs could be developed to subsidize or build dental and medical clinics in remote areas, increase Medicaid fees paid for treatment of patients in remote areas, and create a program of educational loan forgiveness for specified periods of service in these underserved areas.

If the government feels this is a priority issue, which it should be, then financial and personnel resources need to be dedicated to addressing the problem rather than creating a superficial, ill-conceived solution that really isn't a solution at all. When you do something on the cheap, you usually get what you pay for in terms of the results.

The answer to access to care problems is not to deny our fellow Americans the proper medical and dental care they need and deserve, or to offer only substandard care, but rather to figure out how to get them the best treatment possible.

QCDS Continuing Education Event

Speaker: Dr. Dick Barnes

Save The Date: September 21, 2008 From 8:30-3:30 P.M.

■ At QCDS

■ Pre-Registration Is Required

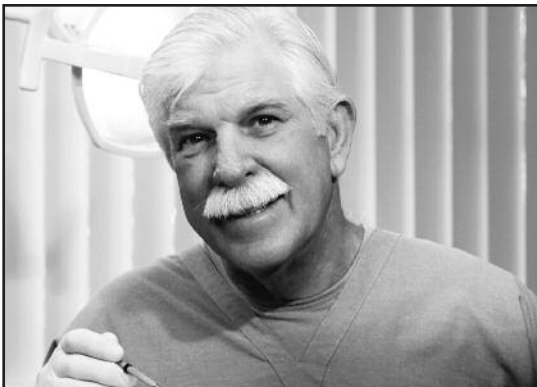
Member Fee: \$100 Nonmember Fee: \$250

6 C.E. Credits

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Dr. Dick Barnes is the world leader in practice development for today's practice. A graduate of Brigham Young University & Marquette School of Dentistry, he began his general dentistry practice in Rialto, California. He was practicing dentistry ahead of his time by developing a family practice into a cosmetic crown-and-bridge practice. As his practice, skills and reputation grew, he became known as one of the world leaders in dentistry. Dr. Barnes has taught at Loma Linda and the University of Southern California schools of dentistry and is one of the founding members of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry.



Dr. Frank Boyar, a Fortress Dentist.

I live

in Delray Beach, Florida. I like the laid-back style. I've been here for 30 years, bought my practice from my mother's dentist in 1975.

I practice

general and geriatric dentistry. Many patients, I've seen three generations in the family. I've always volunteered in the community, and I'm a past president of Project Dentist Care.

I recharge

by fly fishing, especially in salt water flats. It's the most technically demanding type of fishing, a lot like hunting. It's all catch and release, and generally we target bonefish, permit, or tarpon.

I love

my wife, my family, and peace of mind.

I hate

waverunners! I'll be fishing the most tranquil flat, and next thing you know ...

I plan

to find a dentist interested in taking over my practice. I'd like a smooth, long transition.

I hope

to enjoy my family for years to come. I'm trying to balance things now, spend more time with my grandchildren, fish more ...

I admire

Monroe Farber, the "Dean of Dentistry" in Palm Beach County. He's a founder of the Pankey Institute, a model citizen and mentor.

I recommend

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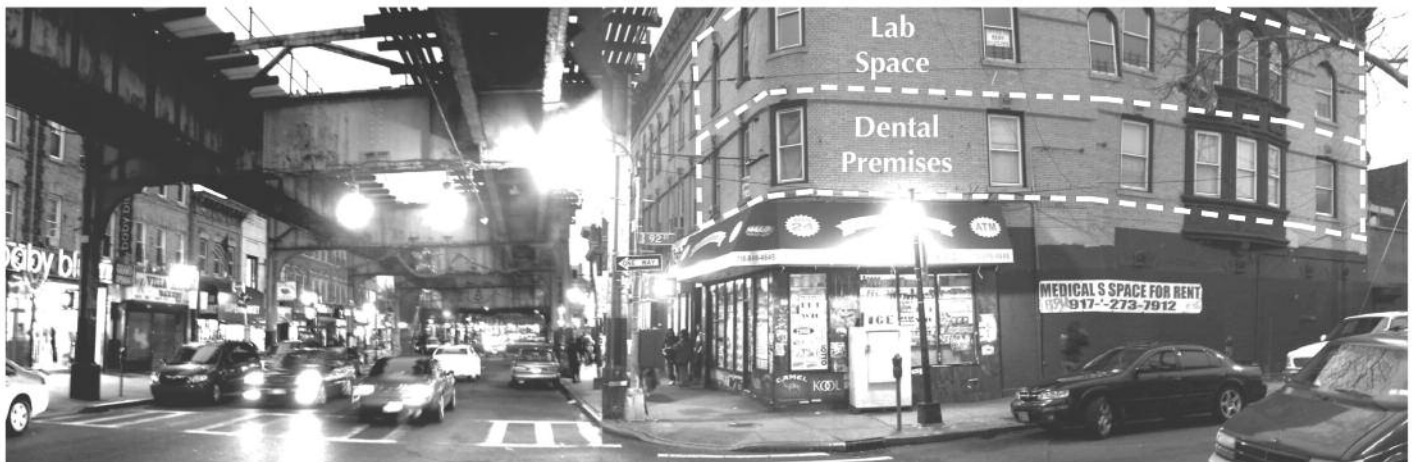
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Shea Stadium Health Fair Set for September 9th

By Alan N. Queen, DDS

The Queens County Dental Society will be offering free oral cancer screenings on September 9th, 2008, before and during the Mets game against the Washington Nationals at 7:10pm.

Volunteers are needed to staff the multiple examination areas during the event. Examination stations are to be set up on all four levels of the stadium, so a number of volunteers are needed to conduct the screenings.

Please call the QCDS Office at (718) 454-8344 for further information or to volunteer.

In addition, the QCDS had obtained a block of tickets to the game at \$5 each, which are available to members at cost. Please call the QCDS office to purchase your tickets to be part of this exciting event.

This event is the latest in a continuing series of efforts to reach out to



the Queens community to promote good oral health, said QCDS Executive Director Bill Bayer. The support

of our members is essential in this effort, he said, as we provide a valuable service to the public.

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FREE ESTIMATES

Tennis Anyone?

By Viren Jhaveri, DDS

Continuing the tradition of QCDS' athletic endeavors, a tennis outing has been scheduled for Friday, September 12th, at 9AM, to be held at the COLD SPRING VALLEY RACQUET CLUB located at 82 East Gate Drive, in Huntington.

The day includes breakfast at the Club to fortify the participants, as well as lunch with beer and wine to commiserate over those unforced errors that changed the match. All ability levels are welcome.

Total cost for the day is only \$60. per person and includes tennis, breakfast, lunch and even a can of new balls! As tennis buffs may know, Bjorn Borg noted that the Club is one of the finest in the United States, so come out and give it a try!

Please call the QCDS office at (718) 454-8344 to reserve your spot for this special event.

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TAX TIPS FOR DENTISTS

Stuart A. Sinclair CPA

1120 Old Country Road
Plainview, N.Y. 11803
USA

Phone 516 935-2086 Fax 516 935-1787

One tax move you can do after April 15 is to open up a SEP (Simplified Employee Pension) up to the extended due date of your tax return which is October 15. This would enable you to shelter 20% of your business profit up to \$45,000 for tax year 2007. A U.S. citizen living abroad has until June 15 rather than April 15 to file form 1040. He can then extend his return to October 15 if he wishes.

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