

QCDS Executive Director Gehani Elected to World Dental Federation Leadership Council

Places QCDS On the World Stage

By Marc Katz



Queens County Dental Society Executive Director Dr. Chad Gehani has been elected to the prestigious international FDI World Dental Federation Leadership Council, the first QCDS member to hold the post. The organization is the principal representative body for more than one million dentists

worldwide and has as its vision "to lead the world to optimal oral health."

"This is a major honor for QCDS," Dr. Gehani said. "One of our own is being recognized internationally for the common goals we all share and this gives me an opportunity to work towards those goals."

Dr. Gehani has just completed a term as president of the American Dental Association. He had previously served as president of the New York State Dental Association and the Queens County Dental Society. He has also served as the pres-

ident of the New York State Chapter of the International College of Dentists, which represents 12,000 dental professionals from 122 countries. Following his ADA term, he returned to QCDS as its executive director.

Dr. Cesar R. Sabates, the current ADA president, said: "I am happy that Dr. Gehani...has been elected as councillor to the FDI World Dental Federation. In this way, Dr. Gehani will continue his service to our profession on an international level and I am confident he will continue to elevate our profession to new heights."

The Council term is for three years, renewable for an additional three years. The World Dental Federation is one of the oldest organizations in the field of dentistry and its membership comprises some 200 national dental associations and specialist groups in more than 130 countries.

It is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland and works with United Nations agencies including the World Health Organization, with whom it has official relations, as well as the International Atomic Energy Agency and other non-governmental organizations, international partners, governments, and corporate partners to improve the oral health of all people.

FDI leads global advocacy efforts to increase oral health lit-

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St. John's Program Interests Students in Dentistry

By Marc Katz

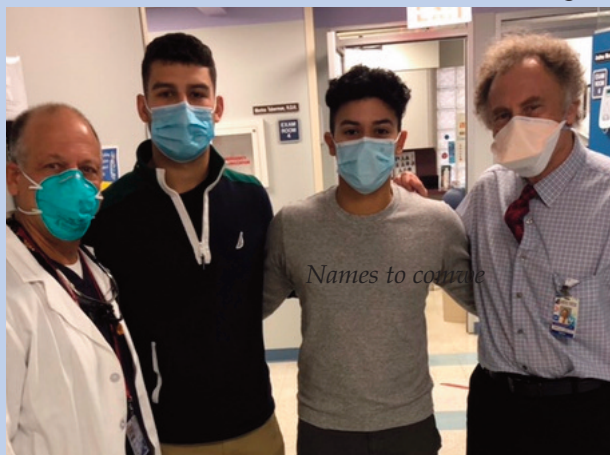
With the objective of mentoring prospective dental students, Queens County Dental Society member Dr. Stuart Kesner helped establish the Dental Preceptorship Program at St. John's University in 2000. Since then, hundreds of the school's students have gotten a taste of the dental profession and went on to make dentistry their life's career.

"The program develops an interest and love for dentistry among students," Dr. Kesner explains. "The students get to see what it is like to become a

dentist before they invest a lot of time and money studying dentistry. This program helps students learn what it is like to become a dentist."

St. John's pre-dental students earn one credit in the pass/fail program by "shadowing" Queens dentists for 12-16 hours per semester. Then they must write a two-page report on their experiences. They are told to cover what they liked and didn't like while following dental professionals, what they learned of value, if the experiences changed

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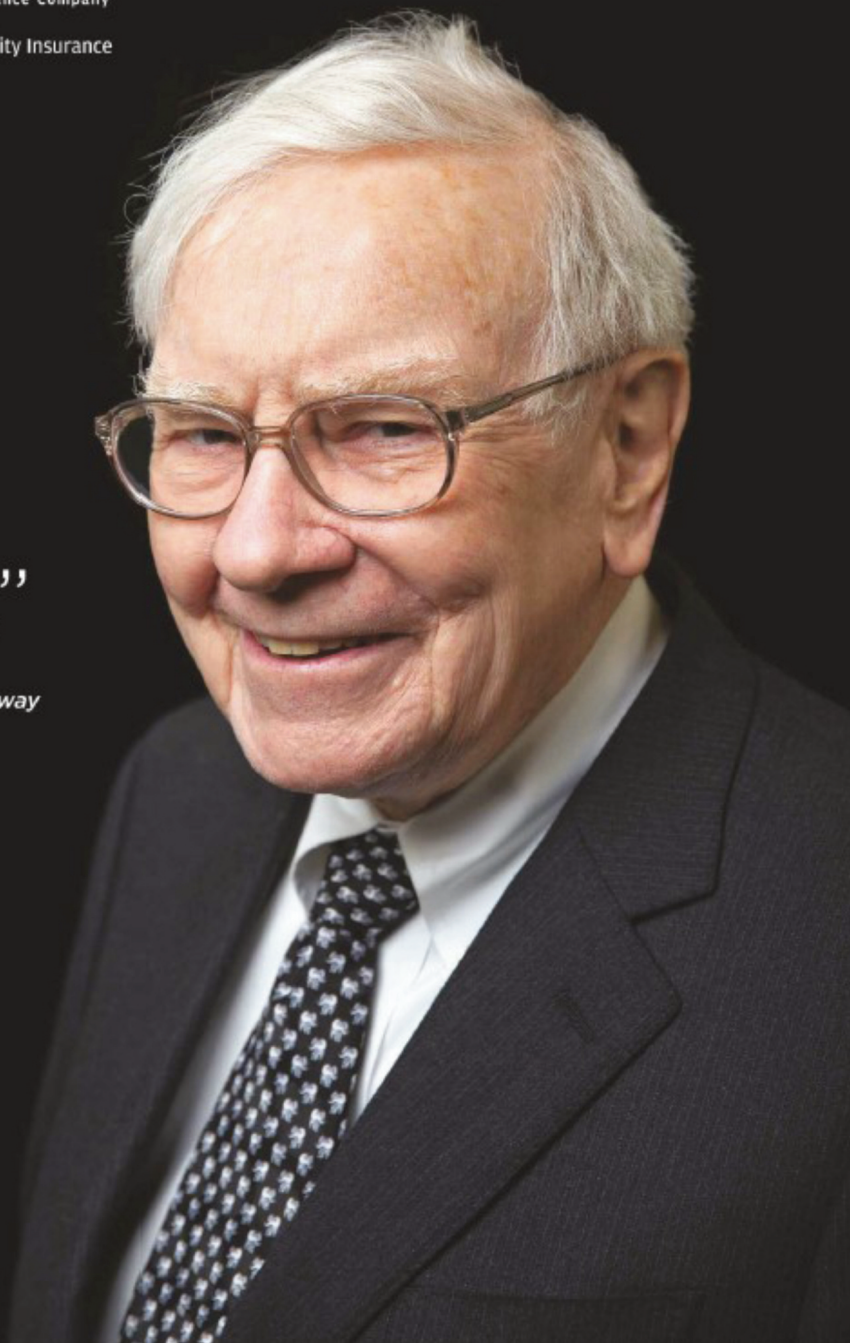
QCDS member Dr. Stuart Kesner, left, discusses the St. John's Dental Preceptorship Program with students Andres Salazar and Urosh Dimitrijevi, center, and Dr. Ben Solomowitz, director of the Jamaica Hospital Dental Residency Program.



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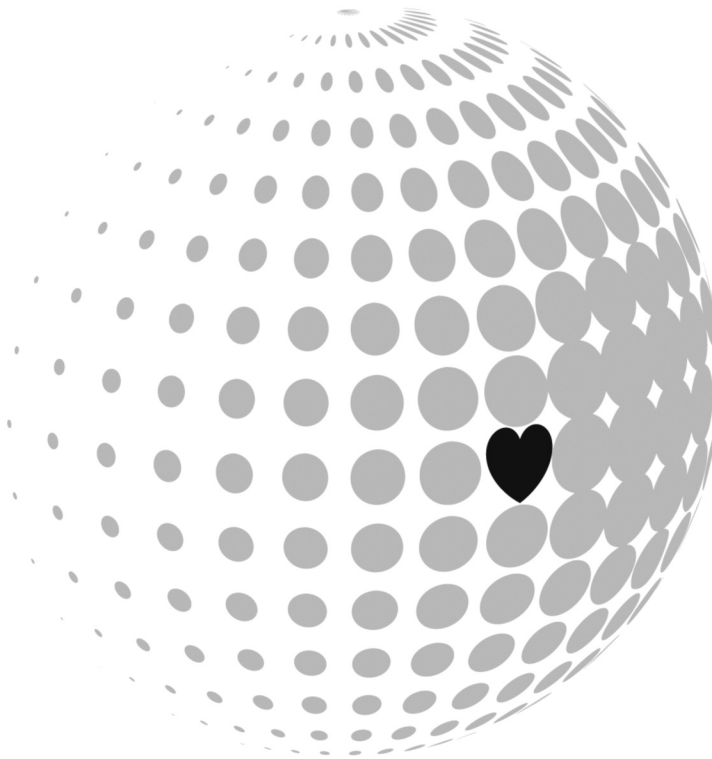
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Deadlines for manuscripts is six weeks prior to the date of publication. For example, the deadline for March/April issue is January 10th. All Submissions must be typed as a word document and emailed to QCDSBulletin@gmail.com.

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Preparing for the ADA HOD Meeting

By Paul R. Leary, D.M.D., Second District ADA Trustee

As we gear up for our first in-person ADA House of Delegates meeting since the start of the pandemic, I would like to take a moment to thank you for continuing to lead. Members count on you for answers and direction in your leadership role in organized dentistry. Please know, as we prepare for the upcoming meeting, that many health considerations are being instituted to keep attendees safe; and as health care providers, attention to these considerations will be the responsibility of us all. We look to each of you to lead by example so that the safety of all those gathered will witness how our united efforts can move our profession forward through these challenging times.

At our most recent ADA Board meeting we spent a great deal of time considering Board comments for many of the resolutions you will deliberate during our meeting in Las Vegas. There was a short group of resolutions that we received at the very last minute because of the process of rewriting and legal review that is involved in all of them. It was determined by our Board that because of the recorded vote that is a requirement of our duty, it was appropriate to pass these few resolutions on without comment only because a cursory glance at the contained information would have been careless. Opinions of Board members and their constituent Districts will be heard at the Reference Committee hearings if necessary, and a few of those very resolutions have actually been withdrawn to date.

Other issues to bring to your attention was time spent dealing with many of the subsidiary groups we are responsible for:

- ADA Business Enterprises, Inc.: ADABEI is addressing both member value and creation of non-dues revenue for the ADA dual purposes. Approximately 140,000 members utilize products and are engaged with ADABEI. Five new products were launched in 2021 with one additional in the works this year. We are focusing on added value for members from each product, which may not be necessarily reflected in dollar value.
- ADA Science and Research Institute: Three new members of their Board will be moved at this year's HOD. They are: Dr. Teresa Dolan, Dr. Martha Somerman, and Ophir Klein, MD, PhD.

The ADA Foundation is focusing on clarifying its mission with existing philanthropic monies that were previously donated to the Foundation, with specific goals in mind and that cannot be repurposed for any other reasons. Charitable assistance grants are one example with very

limited and specific needs that are in dire situations with extremely limited or no financial resources. This remains a tenuous undertaking and the further existence and viability of a foundation is being very judiciously examined.

The Board held a panel discussion with Mike Graham, Dave Preble, Krishna Aravamudhan and Karin Wittich of AAOMS about the current status of Medicare. This is a very liquid and profound development in the congressional discussions over the dental benefit in Medicare. Our

very own Dr. Steven Snyder, presented many of the appropriate concerns and realities at our NYSDA HOD with his point/counterpoint discussion, held with Dr. Craig Ratner. This is a hot topic and I will offer a brief summary to inform our Board about possibilities and directions which are changing by the hour.

On ADA Connect, in the topical areas, there is a Medicare folder that offers a number of talking points that I would refer you to in order to help answer member questions.

I welcome your questions and have greatly appreciated your support over the past three years as your trustee to the ADA.

I wish to extend congratulations to Dr. Brendan Dowd for his election to replace me on the Board of Trustees at the ADA. He prevailed in an election that was proof again how amazing the talent is within our dedicated leaders in the Second Trustee District. president-elect will be one of the last orders of business at our HOD in Las Vegas and I ask your indulgence to keep information about the campaign to a minimum until it is announced. It is appropriate to answer, if asked, that you are aware of my candidacy, but open campaigning is not appropriate before the election of this year's candidates. I have high but realistic hopes for our success, yet take nothing for granted in what I believe will be a great run to get the word out as to why we should have yet another Second District trustee president-elect. Your support in all forms is greatly appreciated and your criticism and open communication with my campaign team and me remains second to none!

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A NYSDA Year in Review

By Dr. Viren Jhaveri, NYSDA trustee

As we all know, the past year brought on unprecedented and trying times. Such events often bring out the best in us—showing us the power of unity and resilience. I hope we are truly at the tail end of this pandemic. At NYSDA, our volunteers and staff have done their due diligence. Here are the highlights:

In February, we heard from ADA leadership that they plan to go full force in Las Vegas for SmileCon 2021. They fulfilled their promise. The unprecedented news of repealing the McCarran Fergusson Act soon followed.

Additionally, the NYSDA and ADA COVID-19 resource pages were published, and NYSDA also managed to get the ADA SPA grant twice in two years. We used it most appropriately on funding the Baker PR firm. Considering the COVID-19 crisis, NYSDA also established Crisis Management and Lessons Learned Committees. A new and revised “Back to Work” tool kit was made available on NYSDA’s website along with a COVID safety questionnaire for dental offices per CDC guidelines.

In March 2021, the New York State Department of Health requested NYSDA’s support on allowing unlicensed caregivers to apply fluoride varnish under remote supervision of the dentist. Around this time, NYSDA also signed a group purchasing contract with TDSC to support member benefits, increase non-dues revenue and grow our membership. NYSDA also had a significant victory when Governor Cuomo signed into law Bill A10034. This new law increases account-

ability for care vendors like Smile Direct Club and others, mandating that they be held responsible as dentists and mandating X-rays before providing treatment.

This past April we had a “Virtual Lobby Day” that kicked-off and had over 500 participants, including the then Lieutenant Governor Hochul. In conjunction with MLMIC, we also hosted a free Risk Management Course for New York State residents. Over 800 residents statewide were invited. The program was a big success. In July of this year the NYSDA Board met in-person for the first time since the pandemic began and discussed many issues pertaining to COVID and the endosseous implant registry by the ADA. The council on chemical dependency now had a new name, the “Council on Substance Abuse and Well Being.”

The NYSDA board established a policy stating both employer and employee should be members to reap the benefits of Peer Review. Dates for an in-person NYSDA House of Delegates meeting were established and announced.

This year the house meeting combined two to three years of efforts and revised or rescinded policies that are either outdated or no longer necessary. Over 120 resolutions were recommended for changes or to be rescinded. There was discussion on Governor Cuomo’s proposal of a Single Payer System, and Governor Cuomo’s reduction in Medicaid fees did not pass. The board considered a resolution from NCDS, and in response established a task force to determine how we can, every year, appropriately highlight the achievements of our diversity/black members during Black History Month (February). CDBP reported that Medicaid director Dr. Griguts encouraged providers to submit complains about specific situations to the DOH.

The NYSDA board also decided that all of the 2021 council meetings for the rest of the year will be virtual, and this issue will be revisited in January of 2022. SED decided to accept all approved CE virtually, to be valid until July of 2022.

NYSDA populated a task force to revive the Diversity Forum that did not happen last year. Governor Hochul addressed the NYSDA Board on a routine introductory invitation, and she reinforced her commitment to working with NYSDA to better the profession and the public.

New beginnings, a new dental hygiene program, is coming up in the Fifth District. Mohawk Valley Community College is establishing one under the SUNY banner. The first batch of 24 students start in 2023 and graduates in 2025.

...the past year brought on unprecedented and trying times. Such events often bring out the best in us—showing us the power of unity and resilience.

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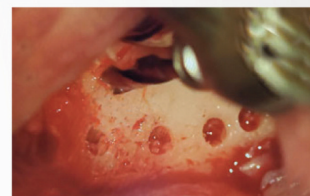
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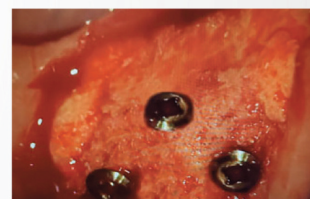
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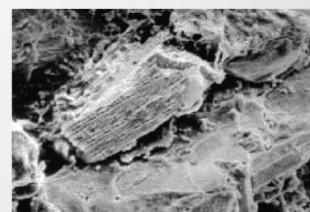
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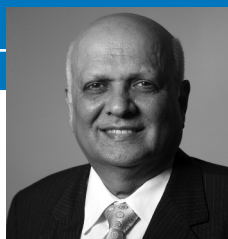


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From the Executive Director

The ADA Two Years Later

By Dr. Chad Gehani

Editor's Note: QCDS Executive Director Dr. Chad Gehani, the immediate past president of the ADA, spoke to the House of Delegates last month. This column contains excerpts from his remarks.

When I was installed as the ADA's 156th president in 2019, I opened my address with a simple question: Are we ready for transformation?

I stood at the podium, expectant and hopeful for what was ahead of us. Two years later, I can say that we—as the ADA, as a profession and as dentists—are different now.

Indeed, we have been transformed, both by adversity and by our response to it. We have not allowed ourselves to be overtaken by the tidal wave of COVID-19. We have survived and made our way to higher ground.

And, we did it because of you. You showed passion and compassion for each other and the patients we serve.

Two years ago I imagined an ADA that would speak with one united voice for our entire profession. And today, through unexpected and unprecedented circumstances, we have succeeded.

Our success is not because of any one person. It is because of our members and volunteer leaders like you, our House of Delegates. The ADA has worked together to create its current reality, one in which we have weathered a storm and are more aware of our strengths.

You've heard me say this before: The key to our character and our value to the world, above all else, is not how we respond to good fortune and happiness, but how we respond to adversity.

The ADA has demonstrated its character and value. As we continue to run the race, we must let our character shine through. In many ways, we already have a head start.

For example, next month the ADA will unveil its new digital member experience. You may remember when I pulled out my own cell phone to emphasize my belief that one day the ADA should be at the fingertips of all members. And now this is a reality. Our ADA resources and support will be more accessible to our community. The DMX will improve the ADA member's journey and will enhance our online content, services, and member interactions. In this time when technology touches so many aspects of our lives, digital transformation is a must. I am proud to see it come to life.

Another arena where the ADA shines is in its advocacy, specifically in our willingness to stand firm on the issue of insurance reform. After many years, the Competitive Health In-

surance Reform Act is now law. The legislation, which partially repeals McCarran Ferguson, is a starting point and the ADA wants to ensure that its real-world impact creates a level playing field for patients, practitioners and insurance companies.

The end goal is fairness and transparency.

These principles have also been at the center of the ADA's pending litigation with Delta Dental. In the first month of my term as president, the ADA filed a class-action lawsuit against Delta Dental. When the news broke, I personally received calls from members who wanted to thank the ADA for stepping in to help them.

Frustrations with insurance companies are among the biggest concerns that dentists face. The lawsuit is one of many steps the ADA has taken to keep the insurance industry honest with patients and practitioners.

The litigation is proceeding and we await a resolution. In the meantime, ADA moves forward with programs like FIIST and state-based advocacy.

The dysfunctional third-party payer system has done a disservice to countless Americans. The ADA has intervened.

For the sake of our members and patients, we will not slow down.

Finally, let's talk about diversity, equity and inclusion. As a proud American who was made in India and the first internationally born and educated dentist to serve in the role, I thank you, the House of Delegates, for electing me to the ADA presidency in 2018.

By electing me, you demonstrated that the ADA is open to all. I was the first, and now with Dr. Cesar Sabates' upcoming installation as the ADA's first Cuban-American president, I am thankful that I will not be the last.

I hope, that all dentists—no matter their race or ethnicity, whether they are Americans by chance or by choice—recognize that there is a place for them in their association—not only as members, but within the highest ranks of our leadership.

When I meet younger dentists and dental students, I always encourage them to get involved. I want to reach those who may feel unseen, unheard and undervalued. The work we do is on their behalf. We empower them to improve the health of their communities. And no matter who they are, the ADA exists to have our members' back.

We are all one. We are all dentists. We are the American Dental Association.

I extend my gratitude to everyone who supported me in my campaign to get elected on the Council of FDI World Dental Federation. Because of you, I will be carrying the torch of the

—Continued on page 10

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From the Executive Director: The ADA Two Years Later

—Continued from Page 9

ADA and United States dentistry on the international stage as one of 10 councilors representing global dentistry. It is among one of the great privileges of my career, and I thank you for your trust. I will continue to work as a servant-leader, upholding the highest ideals of the dental profession.

I offer one more special thanks to a fellow ADA leader, my business partner and my partner in life—my wife and only love, Dr. Rekha Gehani. She was once the first lady of the ADA, but she has been and will always be my first lady. Thank you, Rekha.

And to the ADA, may we continue to serve, continue to succeed and continue to shine.

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Report of the QCDS Nominating Committee

In accordance with QCDS Bylaws, the Committee met and considered all nominations that were received. The following Committee recommendations are made for 2022:

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QCDS Executive Director Chad Gehani Elected to FDI World Dental Federation Leadership Council

Continued from Page 1

eracy and achieve political commitment and action on oral health in all countries. The organization pushes for oral diseases, which threaten human health and well-being, to be recognized and addressed as serious global health concerns.

The World Dental Federation is governed by a Council consisting of a president, president-elect, treasurer, and ten councillors. They currently come from Columbia, Egypt, France, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, Turkey, and the United States. The current president is Professor Ihsane Ben Yahya of Morocco and the president-elect is Dr. Greg Chadwick of the United States. There are two other representatives from the United States.

The Council meets four times each year, including a meeting held last month. Due to the pandemic, meetings are being held on Zoom.

"Being a member of the World Federation of Dentists gives me the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people in many different countries," Dr. Gehani said. "It gives me the opportunity to emphasize worldwide that oral health is an integral part of the overall health of an individual."

He said: "There must be equal dental treatment for all citizens of the globe. Every citizen of the world is entitled to the same quality of dental care regardless of their geographic location. This can be achieved by mutual cooperation and the sharing of knowledge from the most developed countries to

those that are the least developed.

"Our goal must be not just proper dental care, but leadership training, dealing with governmental regulatory issues, and how to improve the dental education system in many countries, as well as the sharing of knowledge."

Dr. Gehani decided to study dentistry when he was 18-years old because until that age he and those in his small community in his native India didn't have access to dental care.

"I wanted to be a dentist to serve the underprivileged, to make a difference in society," he recalled.

The path he decided to take led him to migrate to the United States in 1975, study dentistry, set-up an endodontics practice in Queens, become an active member and then president of the QCDS, NYSDA and the ADA.

"It has been a long journey," he said, reflecting on his career. "But, I knew what I was getting into and I love doing it. I have no regrets."

As ADA president, he set as his goal "to give our association a unity of purpose. I want us to speak with one united voice. This is easy to achieve," he explained, "because regardless of differences of opinion all dentists believe in putting their patients first, in improving the health of their patients. We have a lot more commonality than differences."

He said this next step in his career—with dentistry on a worldwide stage—"is a gift to my home. You see," Dr. Gehani said, "QCDS is my home."

St. John's Program Interests Students Field of Dentistry

Continued from Page 1

their view of dentistry, and what dental specialists they found most attractive.

"The idea here is that students should try to shadow dentists in different subfields of dentistry," Dr. Kesner said. "This will give them some insight as to whether they like that area of dentistry."

Dentists participating in the program include Drs. Michael Baron, Maria Doumas, Robert Eickelberg, Harry Einbender, Mitchell Greenberg, Warren Kaggen, Thomas Kent, Prabha Krishnan, Howard Ochs, Ira Schwartz, Robert Shpuntoff, Stacy Wolf, and the Jamaica Hospital Dental Department, as well as Dr. Kesner, who did his residency at Jamaica Hospital and has been the attending dentist there ever since.

The course was founded by Dr. Irvin Hirschfeld, the former chairman of the St. John's Biology Department, Dr. Robert Eickelberg, a Nassau County oral surgeon, and Dr. Kesner, a general cosmetic dentist with an office in Kew Gardens Hills. The current chair of the St. John's Biology Department is Dr. Dianella Howarth.

"The program was designed to give students who have an interest in the profession of dentistry an opportunity to actually work with dentists, shadow them, as well as present them with a lecture about dentistry," Dr. Kesner said. "The 45-minute lectures discuss different aspects of dentistry

in today's world and how to prepare for the profession." Dr. Kesner has become the program lecturer, replacing Dr. Eickelberg, who participated in the program for 19-years.

This year, 12 students are participating in the program. Many participants in the program have gone on to dental schools. One recently wrote to Dr. Kesner, thanking him for interesting him in the field of dentistry. Another was recently hired by QCDS member Dr. Robert Shpuntoff as a dental assistant.



St. John's pre-dental students Andres Salazar and Urosh Dimitrijevic, left to right, meet with dental resident Dr. Matthew Lee and QCDS member Dr. Stuart Kesner, right, a founder of the program.

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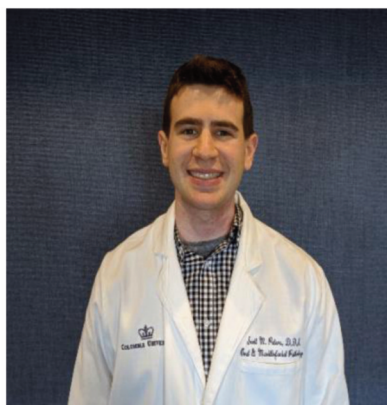
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DR. TOM PAUMIER

Antibiotics in Dental Practice.

Are you confused about when it is necessary to use antibiotic prophylaxis for patients with prosthetic joints, cardiac valve replacements, kidney dialysis, AV shunts, transplant patients and other medical conditions? Understand oral bacteremia and the association with distant site infections. Understand how antibiotic prophylaxis affects oral bacteremia and distant site infections. Understand the biology and physiology of prosthetic joint infections and infective endocarditis. Understand the current Clinical Practice Guidelines for antibiotic prophylaxis. Understand the risks and benefits of antibiotic prophylaxis Antibiotic Stewardship and Appropriate Antibiotic Use for Odontogenic Infections Antibiotics have improved health outcomes since the discovery of penicillin and its widespread use during WW II. However, their overuse and misuse has now threatened their effectiveness and led to superbug infections that are untreatable. This course will provide antibiotic stewardship guidance and cover the risks of inappropriate antibiotic use, including antibiotic resistance. It will also review the latest ADA Clinical Practice Guidelines related to when antibiotics are appropriate for patients with odontogenic infections. Prescribing recommendations as well as when and why antibiotics are indicated or not indicated will be covered.



DR. SCOTT PETERS

Diagnosis and Management of Common Oral Lesions.

The course description/objectives are:

- Review commonly encountered oral mucosal and radiographic lesions, including oral candidiasis, geographic tongue, hairy tongue, lichen planus, aphthous ulcerations, herpetic ulcerations, leukoplakia, erythroplakia, idiopathic osteosclerosis, condensing osteitis, and Stafne bone defect, among others
- Describe how these lesions are diagnosed, including the role of tissue culture and/or biopsy, where applicable
- Discuss how these lesions are treated with regard to medicinal therapies and short and long-term management protocols
- Define the role that dental provider may have in the diagnosis and management of oral manifestations of systemic diseases



DR. KYLE STANLEY

AI in Practice: artificial intelligence, real dentistry

As AI brings its paradigm-shifting force to bear in dental care, however, few dentists have been given an honest accounting of how AI will impact their work—and fewer still have any first-hand experience of AI in their practices. This course aims to dispel the myths and mystery around AI's current utility to dental offices with a boots-on-the-ground look at AI's real-world impact on the clinical and business operations of practices currently employing the technology. *Learning objectives:*

- Understand the fundamental strengths and weaknesses of AI systems
- Discover what kinds of AI tools are currently available
- Level-set on the nature and scope of impact that these tools have on clinical care and practice management
- Understand and learn to avoid certain risks associated with AI tools
- Learn best practices for leveraging AI tools day-to-day to maximize patient health and practice revenue.

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