

QCDS Volunteer Program Screens 700 Schoolchildren in One Week

Almost 700 schoolchildren were screened by Queens County Dental Society volunteers at two events during one week in mid-May.

The first screening, co-sponsored by the QCDS and Colgate, was held at P.S. 21 in North Flushing on May 12 and 13, where 626 children were examined.

Shifts of volunteers from QCDS examined the children over the two-day event in Colgate's Bright Smiles Dental Van, a mobile dental office with two operatories that was parked in front of the school.

"The Queens County Dental Society is committed to helping today's kids preserve their teeth for tomorrow's smiles," said Dr. Alan N. Queen, QCDS past president and the screening chairman, who attended P.S. 21 as a child 40 years ago. "Between the bad economy, with people losing their jobs and health coverage, and the closing of the City's public dental clinics, we fear that kids with dental problems may be going undiagnosed. This program is an effort to try to help in at least a small way."

City Councilman John C. Liu (D-Flushing) stopped by P.S. 21 to observe the event. Liu indicated he was impressed with the dedication of QCDS



Dr. Ira Schwartz scrutinizes a patient during the screening, above, and Dr. Beatriz Vallejo examines a patient assisted by Dr. Doron Kalman.

Students at P.S. 21 line up for their screenings outside the Colgate dental van, parked in front of the school. Over 600 of the 900 students in the school returned consent forms from their parents and were screened during the event.

volunteers, who were giving up time in their private offices to screen the children, and stressed the importance of good oral health to kids he spoke with.

Two QCDS volunteers, QCDS Past President Karen H. Lewkowitz and Dr. Monte Miller, gave presentations on oral health to the six second-grade classes at P.S. 21 as part of the event.

"We found a range of problems, ranging from severely decayed primary

teeth to over-retained primary teeth with permanent teeth erupting ectopically, to kids who just needed to brush better," Dr. Queen said. "The kids, administration and staff at P.S. 21 were very receptive to our message of improving oral health."

Reports of the results of the examinations were given to the children to take home to their parents. A letter from

—Continued on page 12

QCDS Celebrates National Children's Dental Health Month with a State Winner!

We have a state winner! Amy Yang, an eighth grader from the St. Anastasia School in Douglaston won first place in our local and state contest.

She and her family joined the QCDS celebration on Tuesday evening, May 19. Also at the celebration were all other local winners.

The contest was broken into various age groups. First place winners, in addition to Amy Yang, were Brandon

Szeto of P.S. 26, and Christina Loretz and Monica Ramdeen of P.S. 43. Second place winners were Mary Seo of P.S. 26b Queens, and Jhansen Mugar, Nelson Sanchez and Brandon Soto of P.S. 43. Third place winners were Michael T from P.S. 58, Jahneal Francis of P.S. 43, Laura Santa Cruz of the St. Anastasia School and Jahara Lee of P.S. 43.

Dr. Karen Lewkowitz, chair of

—Continued on page 18



Dr. Robert Schpuntoff and Dr. Karen Lewkowitz educating children and parents on effective tooth brushing technique.

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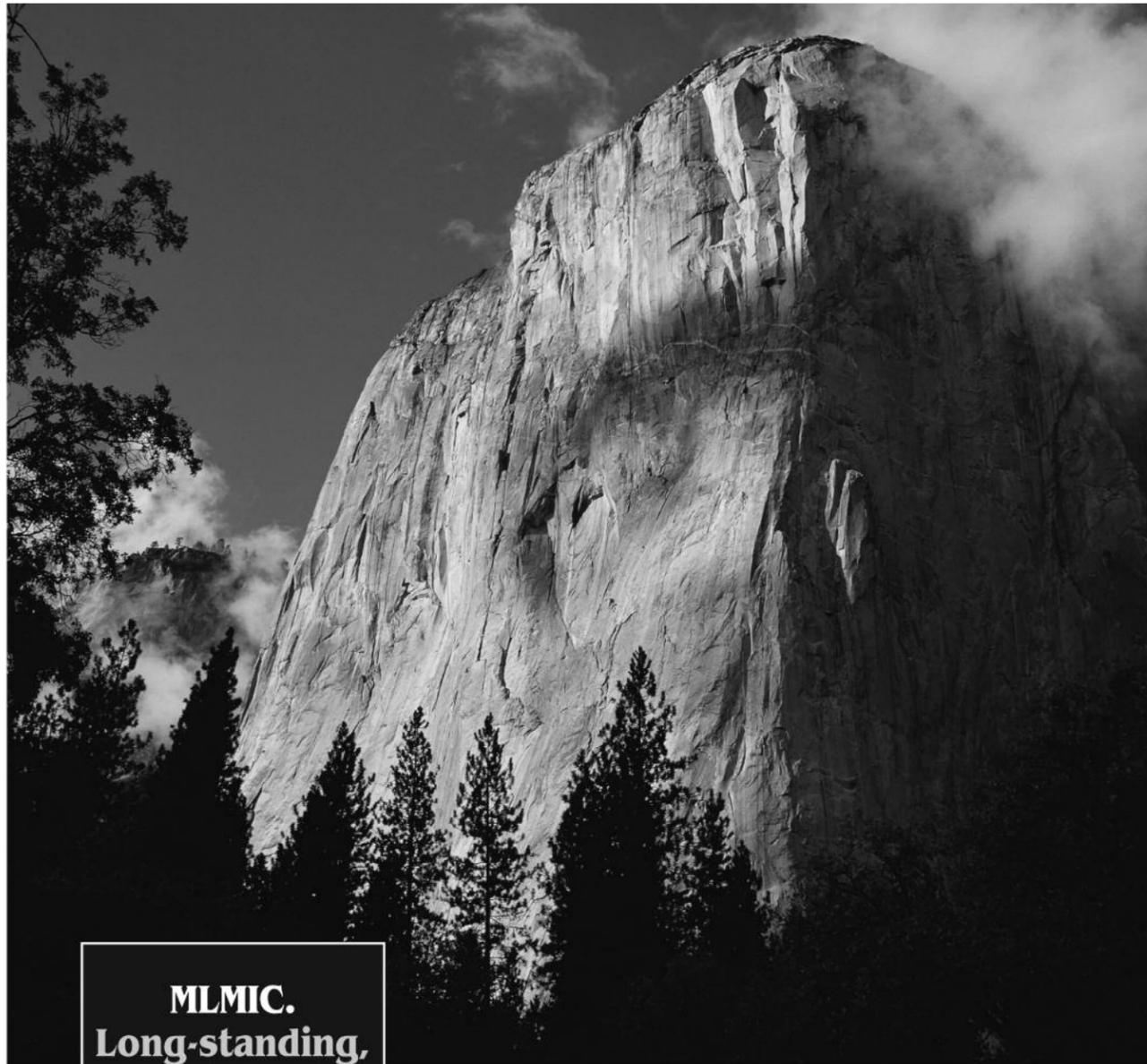
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Observations On A Silver Anniversary

By Mitchell Greenberg, DDS

This May marks 25 years since my dental school graduation, but it also marks another milestone for me. May 2009, represents 25 years of practicing Endodontics. I would like to share some of my observations over the years that might be useful to you in your practice.

Most endodontic practices have their fair share of nonsurgical and surgical cases, including a large number of endodontic retreatment cases. Within the category of nonsurgical endodontics, many of these cases are referred after the general dentist had initiated treatment and had encountered difficulty with the case. A great deal of the time, the endodontist is like the relief pitcher in baseball, called in to save the game. I will attempt to pass along obstacles to avoid or proactive measures to take to increase your clinical success.

Proper case selection is the key to case success. As in poker, know when to hold and know when to fold. Obviously, if you only treated vital carious exposures on young adults your success rate would be much higher than on retreatments through crowns of calcified canals on elderly patients. While you cannot hand pick your cases, concentrate on cases where the degree of difficulty won't be overwhelming. Cases that are candidates for referral will decrease practitioner stress, decrease endodontic failures and will not undermine your patients' confidence in you.

Proper armamentarium before beginning treatment allows for things to proceed smoothly. I am often amazed when I see dentists using gnarled spreaders, dull endo explorers, random sized gutta percha, and bizarre sized rubber dam clamps. Looking for an instrument in the middle of a case will drive you nuts.

Speaking of rubber dam isolation, there is no excuse for not using a rubber dam. Leaving the medical-legal argument aside, visibility is greatly enhanced with isolation and chemomechanical cleaning of canals is recontaminated by saliva. All you need is a frame, punch, forceps and three clamps, number 14 for molars, number 2A premolars, number 9 for anteriors.

Make a proper diagnosis at the start of treatment. If this goes awry, knowing whether a tooth was vital or nonvital will be crucial to choosing an antibiotic, analgesic and anti-inflammatory drug.

There is a difference between conservative access and proper access preparations. You must have straight-line access to all canals and be able to visualize all canal orifices. Rotary instruments must have a passive straight-line glide path and the amount of apical pressure is equivalent to what you would place on a mechanical pencil. Contrary to manufacturers' claims, broken nickel titanium files are nearly impossible to remove once they have engaged a root curvature.

Remember sealer is the weakest link in obturation. Gutta percha must be properly condensed with minimal use of sealer. A proper coronal seal is crucial, since most leakage is coronal rather than apical. Since studies have shown recontamination within three weeks of completion of treatment, cavities must be removed and the access sealed as soon as possible.

For those of you who might feel that I have only pointed out the obvious, remember that there is no substitute for basic principles. There have been tremendous technological advances in endodontic therapy, but they have been built upon the solid foundation laid down by our teachers.

“...there is no substitute for basic principles.”

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How Can I Help?

By Prabha Krishnan, DDS

President John F. Kennedy once said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." We are in a land of opportunity, and we should grab this saying to capture the true meaning of synergism. It is imperative that each and every one of us take a leadership role, which means to be a team player, get involved in organized dentistry. A frequently asked question is "How can I help make a difference?"

Service can be on a personal level, for an organization or society in general. Any group is successful only through the efforts of its members. They say that a whole is the sum of its parts, that any group can function only through the efforts of its members. Great things can happen through each individual's accomplishments. You may wonder if this is true. Get involved! It is a most gratifying feeling. To know that our actions can influence others gives us confidence, reassurance and validity. Our lives can really be measured only by what we do for others. In the end, we are remembered by our acts.

Practicing dentistry is not only our livelihood, but an opportunity for us to make a difference in the lives of our patients and communities. Our dental society is the place where we can improve the practice of dentistry for ourselves and our patients. Through small actions and ideas, we can all make a difference in the lives of all who we touch.

Let us give back something to the profession that gives us so much by volunteering to promote, protect and preserve our living. Tom Wilson said, "many of us are more capable than some of us, but none of us is as capable as all us." We have to continue to find ways to make use of our abilities and apply them to make an impact. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who volunteered at the oral screenings at the various public schools this past May. This certainly was an excellent way to reach out to the community and inform them that we care and are there for them.

All of us have a common role: to continue to provide the best dental care this world has ever known. Our patients also have their goals. They want high quality care and they believe in freedom of choice. People who share a common direction can get where they are going quicker and easier because of the strength they get from one another. QCDS is working hard to help us achieve our goals. As president, I cannot do it by myself. The success of any team is as much a product of coordination and equal participation as it is of strength or skill. If everyone participates or volunteers in various activities, the outcome is always positive.

I encourage you all to volunteer. Together we can make a difference for our profession that will benefit not just dentists, but our patients as well. The optimists among us look at the glass as half full rather than half empty. Sometimes the road is bumpy, with twists and turns along the way, but ultimately the ADA triumphs because we are an organization of members and volunteers who are brimming with energy, passion, commitment and dedication.

Remember, QCDS is a member driven, staff supported organization. With issues ranging from changes to the dental malpractice statute of limitations, to compelling government dollars allocated for dental care to actually be spent on dental services and not on administrative items, to the scope of practice of dentists—it is vital that our asso-

ciation maintain its unity. The help of all our members and affiliated entities is necessary to keep us strong in the legislative and regulatory arenas. Now, more than ever, the need for a strong, united membership is critical for all health care professional organizations. So, come on over, join the QCDS family. Please feel free to invite your colleagues to one of our meetings and explain the benefits of organized dentistry.

“ I encourage you all to volunteer. Together we can make a difference. ”

TAX TIPS FOR DENTISTS

The IRS has suspended the mandatory withdrawal rules from pension plans and IRAs for 2009. You will not have to add the skipped payment to your 2010 withdrawal. Your 2010 withdrawal will be based on your age and December 31, 2009 balance. Inherited IRAs and pensions get the same break. If you turn 70.5 years of age in 2009, you needn't take any pension withdrawal.

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From The Executive Director

Confusion Reigns

By William Bayer

The Federal Trade Commission's "Red Flags" Rule seems to change daily, so it is quite possible changes may have occurred again after this article was written. Initially, the effective date of these rules was to be May 1 and in an effort to alert all members, we devoted a full page in the May Bulletin (page 9) to this issue. The well-intentioned rules were an attempt to protect consumers against identity theft. However, the implementation of the rules, especially as applied to professional practices such as dental offices proved to be a bureaucratic nightmare, which imposed burdensome procedures on dental offices. The effective date for implementation was then extended until August 1.

As often will happen upon further reflection, programs are adjusted and, in this case, that is good news for dentists. The FTC has identified dentists as "low-risk," therefore enabling you to comply with the "Red Flags" rule in a streamlined manner. The original procedures mandated no longer apply to dental offices and a template has been designed by the FTC which is essentially a fill in the blanks form which will allow you to develop the written identity theft prevention protocol in compliance with the Red Flags Rule.

With any luck, ADA efforts to have further modifications will be successful and make compliance even easier. You can access this on the FTC web site www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/redflagsrule where the forms can be printed. You can avoid the services of a costly consultant or attorney, as the web site is fairly easy to navigate. Hopefully, this information will still be accurate as of your reading. You can check the ADA, NYSDA or QCDS web sites for the latest developments regarding this issue, as there very well may be additional revisions made. Remember the August 1 date for compliance.

Giving Back

On a brighter note, our QCDS volunteer dentists have been very busy providing informational presentations as well as dental screenings throughout the Queens community. Drs. Kesner, Mota-Martinez and Queen have spearheaded various events that are written up elsewhere in this publication. However, all our volunteers are to be commended for giving back to our community. In these uncertain financial times where parents may be struggling financially, "access to care" is much more than a catch phrase and we have demonstrated our commitment to the community by actions, not words. Volunteers are crucial to our effort in continuing to offer programs to the community and we welcome any time you can spare in volunteering to assist us in offering these programs. Please feel free to call me directly if you would like to note your possible availability or if you would like further information.

Congrats!

Congratulations to Amy Yang, a Queens statewide winner, in the Children's Dental Health Month contest. Dr. Karen Lewkowitz hosted a party for all the participants in CDHM on May 19, which was thoroughly enjoyed by the students and their families.

The Web

In what seems like a never ending process, our website continues to develop with additional features such as the photo gallery and archived Bulletins now posted and updated regularly. Our next goal is to complete the "members only" section as well as to provide for online registration for our CE programs. Once again, I encourage you to view the website (www.qcds.org) for the latest information.

Read All About It

Our Bulletin occasionally arrives after the first of the publication month. However, we will be posting the Bulletin online when the final proof is sent to the publisher. You should be able to view and print the latest Bulletin at least seven to ten days before you will receive it in the mail.

"Main Entrance"

I attended the recent CE program conducted at QCDS in partnership with Alpha Omega, which was planned by Dr. Charlene Berkman. The practice development course was well received and the presenter, Mr. Anderson, held the interest of the crowd throughout the entire day. He offered many excellent ideas and it got me to thinking about a story I had heard on creative marketing when things get tough.

A well-established dentist in strip mall had another dentist open a new office adjacent to his and had large signs offering the best prices in town. Another dentist opened a new practice adjacent to his on his other side with large signs offering the best dentistry in town. Faced with the prospect of losing patients to both competitors, the dentist thought long and hard before placing a large sign over his door reading "Main Entrance." Simple solutions are sometimes the best!

The summer months offer us an opportunity to catch up on things at headquarters as well as beginning our planning for next year. Please call me if you have any ideas for CE programs, topics, speakers or anything that happens to be on your mind.

Enjoy the summer!

Tax Efficiency — The Flip Side of Investing

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- ▶ **Your net worth:** You may be able to take advantage of investment vehicles that can potentially offset your capital gains tax bill — such as Individually Managed Accounts.
- ▶ **Your practice:** Depending on the legal structure of your practice, life insurance and other tax-favored business owner options may be helpful.
- ▶ **Your family:** Gifting to children or lower-tax-bracket family members can help reduce your own current income taxes as well as future inheritance taxes for beneficiaries.
- ▶ **Your financial plan:** In addition to providing asset allocation strategies, financial plans can also provide tax-efficient planning strategies.
- ▶ **Your charitable contributions:** Charitable-giving strategies that include life insurance gifts can potentially reduce your taxes while providing a larger benefit to the organization than cash alone.



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Don't Forget to Say 'Thank You'

By Alan N. Queen, DDS

On May 12 and 13, the Queens County Dental Society provided free dental screenings to well over 600 children at P.S. 21 in North Flushing. Serving as the leader of the team of volunteer dentists who provided the screenings was a special experience for me, as I graduated from P.S. 21 almost 40 years ago.

When I parked my car across the street from the school, alongside Memorial Field, I paused and remembered the time that my friends and I launched model rockets we had built in fifth grade under the guidance of the P.S. 21 science teacher at the time, Mr. Schulman, who had nurtured my interest in science. We were so thrilled when our rockets actually flew!

I met with the school's current principal, Ms. Buszko, and remembered when I had last been in the principal's office, in June 1972, giving a weather report over the school's public address system. We had a weather station we had built on the roof of the school. Our squad of "science monitors" took readings daily before class, and prepared a weather forecast that we broadcast to the school every morning. We judged the air quality by how clearly we could see the tops of the World Trade Center towers that were then under construction in lower Manhattan. Mr. Siegel, the principal at the time, actively encouraged our group of science students.



Dr. Alan N. Queen, at age 11 in 1972, broadcasts a weather forecast as P.S. 21. Queens Principal Jack Siegel looks on.

As I walked down the hall to where two of my colleagues were lecturing to second graders about good dental hygiene, I passed classrooms where I had sat 40 years ago, learning to read and write, do math, and learning so many other things that have made me the man I am today. I also thought of my teachers, some of whom have since passed away, and was very grateful for their efforts on my behalf, as well as so many other students (including my little brother and sister) who attended P.S. 21 over the years.

Although part of my motivation for volunteering for this screening program was a chance to return to P.S. 21, it was also an opportunity to do a public service for the children of Queens County.

With the economy in such bad shape, I have seen patients in my practice who have lost their jobs, or been in fear of losing them imminently. As a result, I have seen people postpone recalls, do patchwork to forestall bigger expenses, and extract teeth that could have been salvaged to save the cost of root canals, posts and crowns.

The free screenings we performed could detect dental problems and warn parents that their kids were in need of treatment. While parents might not want to go to the expense

of bringing their kids to the dentist for a recall examination and cleaning, we thought once they knew there was an actual problem, they would be more likely to get their kids the treatment they needed.

We prepared a letter for the kids to bring to their parents explaining that while the screening was not a substitute for a complete exam in a dental office, it was useful to identify problems, and we urged those in need of treatment to get follow-up care as soon as possible. We provided parents with the dental society's telephone number, so they could get referrals to member dentists, as well as the contact information for two local hospitals with dental clinics.

While it is too soon to tell how many parents will be motivated to bring their kids in for care as a result of our screening program, the Queens County Dental Society will continue these outreach efforts to try to help the community we serve.

We all know that being a dentist is more than a matter of just "drilling, filling and billing." It should also include taking the time to say "thank you" to the community that we serve. It's simply the right thing to do.

Dr. Queen, a Flushing general practitioner, is a past-president of the Queens County Dental Society.

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60-Year Member Is a Link Between Past and Future of the Queens County Dental Society

EDITOR'S NOTE: QCDS' biggest treasure is its membership. So that QCDS members are appropriately recognized, The Bulletin is now featuring a member spotlight, highlighting the outstanding members of the QCDS.

By Jay A. Ledner, DDS

Imagine going to dental society meetings for more than 60 years, and although you hear many of the same issues debated again and again, you still participate and try to make things better. Gus Lasoff doesn't have to imagine it; he's done it!

Gustave Lasoff, a retired orthodontist who practiced in Flushing, has been a member of the ADA since 1944. He is currently an active member of the QCDS Board of Trustees, and has either chaired or served on numerous committees on both the State and National levels.

Dr. Lasoff's credentials are long and impressive, and include: commander, USNR, 1954-1956; QCDS president 1966-1967; editor of the QCDS Bulletin; chairman of the Greater Long Island Dental Meeting, 1965; and Clinical Professor of Orthodontics at both Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery and NYU College of Dentistry. He has been honored with fellowships in both the International College and the American College of Dentists, and was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the QCDS in 1981.

When asked how the practice of dentistry has changed over the last 50 years, he said that in many ways it has become more liberal. Advertising is pervasive in newspapers, multimedia and directories. When he first started his practice "Dentists could not even put a small light on a tiny sign in the window." Dr. Lasoff said that if the information is honest and ethical, then this change is good for the general public. He added that another important change was that the practice of dentistry is more "transparent." Patients have more access to information about the dentist from a variety of sources. These sources might be judgments made against dentists, or testimonials made by patients found on the Internet. In either case, according to Dr. Lasoff, the practitioner has to be more concerned about the impact this information can have on their practice.

Dr. Lasoff said advances in technology have also made many changes in dentistry. The incorporation of new dental materials, the latest equipment and modern techniques, along with education, has paved the way for expanding the scope of dental practice. There are more recognized

specialties in the dental profession than ever before.

In his early days, Dr. Lasoff observed, there were "exodontists." Now, there are oral and maxillofacial surgeons. "These surgeons just don't extract teeth, they skillfully rehabilitate peoples' faces."

Dr. Lasoff has directly observed how Orthodontists now incorporate osseo-integrated implants into their treatment plans. In addition, during his long dental career, the specialty of endodontics was created and with it the use of microscopy, rotary instrumentation and thermo-filling materials.

The result is a very high success rate on root canal therapy and the preservation of teeth.

Periodontics no longer involves only periodontal health, but also peri-implant health. In addition, general dentists now consider themselves restorative and cosmetic dentists. "Significant advances in ceramics and bonding materials allow the dentist to create beautiful smiles with confidence and predictability." To Dr. Lasoff, these changes improve the quality of life for our patients and can only enhance our sense of satisfaction in the dental profession.

When asked what area of dentistry he feels needs to be improved the most, without any hesitation Dr. Lasoff answered "education."

"I have been involved with education for 29 years at Columbia and for 23 years at NYU, and have witnessed a trend of fewer dentists availing themselves to work in academia." There is now a serious shortage of faculty, he said, "and it is vital to the profession that dentists get involved and give back to the profession."

According to Dr. Lasoff, the benefits of teaching students are manifold and include learning from other faculty, attending continuing education classes free of charge, observing new advances in techniques and getting a special rate on ordering dental supplies. "Most importantly, as a teacher you get the satisfaction of helping a student learn and improve their skills."

Dr. Lasoff spoke fondly of his love of the Queens County Dental Society and reminisced about the fun he and his late wife had in the early days of the Eleventh District Dental Society (the former name of the QCDS), where the Ladies' Auxiliary was active in organizing social events. The dentists were not only colleagues, but also dear friends.

Dr. Lasoff is seen as not only a respected member of the dental society Board, but also a link between the past and the future.

QCDS Volunteer Program Screens 700 Schoolchildren in One Week

—Continued from page 1

the dental society was also sent home with the children, explaining the limited nature of the screening examinations, and urging follow-up care by the family's dentist. For those without a dentist, the phone number of the QCDS referral service was included, so they could get referrals to QCDS member dentists. Contact information for two area hospitals with dental clinics was also included.

"Good oral health should begin in early childhood for teeth to last a lifetime. We believe outreach efforts like this and regular dental check-ups are an important way to teach kids good oral health habits as well as to detect dental dis-

ease early," said QCDS President Dr. Prabha Krishnan, who served as a volunteer screener at P.S. 21.

According to State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky (D-Flushing), who represents the district where P.S. 21 is located, "Regular dental check-ups and cleaning are an important part of a child's health care, because little problems caught and fixed early on can prevent a lifetime of follow-up treatment." Stavisky also noted that, "Poor care of the teeth and gums doesn't just lead to cavities. Left untreated, it has been linked to heart disease. The Queens County Dental Society and Colgate Dental Van are providing a vital service for P.S. 21Q's students."

Stavisky added "I thank the Queens County Dental Society for teaching children about the importance of good dental health."

State Assemblywoman Grace Meng (D-Flushing) agreed. "I want to thank the Queens County Dental Society and Colgate for partnering to keep our children healthy. Dental care is so important and often overlooked. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy smile!" she said.

The second dental screening occurred on May 16 at P.S. 223 in Jamaica, where another team of QCDS volunteers headed by QCDS Vice President Mercedes Mota-Martinez and QCDS Secretary Beatriz Vallejo examined more than 50 children, as-

sisted by QCDS Past President Viren Jhaveri. This event was a part of a health fair conducted by the school.

Findings at this screening included some cases of moderate to severe caries. The children and their parents were advised of the importance of oral health, oral hygiene instructions were given, and free samples of toothpaste and floss were provided to all who were screened.

The dental society conducts screening programs across Queens County year-round. Member dentists wishing to volunteer for a screening, or who would be willing to answer requests from community groups for a dental speaker can call the QCDS office at (718) 454-8344 for further information.



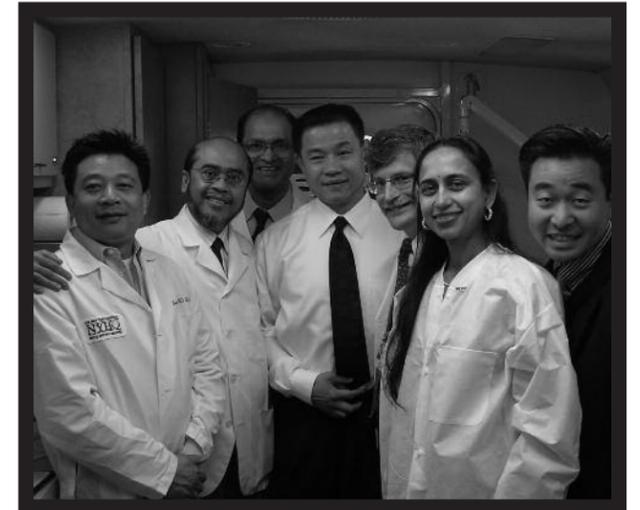
Flushing dentist Dr. Alan N. Queen chaired a screening effort that examined 626 kids at PS 21 Queens in the Colgate/Queens County Dental Society outreach program May 12 & 13. Dr. Queen attended the school as a child 40 years ago.



Over 600 students received free dental screenings by Queens County Dental Society volunteer dentists at PS 21 Queens May 12 & 13 in Colgate's Bright Smiles Dental Van, which was parked outside the school for the two-day event.



QCDS Past President Alan N. Queen, Dr. Stuart Kesner, PS 21 Principal Debra Buszko, and Assistant Principal Jill Leakey-Eisenberg with student being screened in the QCDS/Colgate Dental Screening event.



Pictured in the Colgate Bright Smiles Dental Van are (L to R) Drs. Eric Huang, Mohammad Bhuyan, and Sudhakar Shetty, City Councilman John Liu, Drs. Alan N. Queen and Prabha Krishnan, as well as Liu's Chief-of-Staff John Choe.



Staffing the Colgate Bright Smiles van on the first day of the screening were (from left, front) Dr. Alan N. Queen, Dr. Risa Samuels, Colgate's Carla Johnson, Dr. Karen Lewkowitz, Edwin the dental van driver, Dr. Monte Miller and QCDS President Dr. Prabha Krishnan.



QCDS volunteers Karen H. Lewkowitz and Monte Miller lectured to the second grade classes at PS 21 as part of the two-day event.



The screening crew from the end of the second day of the event included (from left, front row) Dr. Beatriz Vallejo, Dr. Ira Schwartz and his assistant Jessica Bonilla, Dr. Alan N. Queen, Hygienist Harriet Goldenberg, her son Jeremy Golenberg and husband Dr. Barry Goldenberg, Dr. Jay A. Ledner, Dr. Doron Kalman, and Dr. Ledner's daughter, Emily Ledner.

CE Courses Spring 2009

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

Dietary Concerns

Please note that QCDS wishes to accommodate the dietary needs of attendees at our meetings and programs. It is requested that anyone requiring kosher or other specialized foods notify the QCDS office at the time of your registration so that proper plans can be made.

Sunday, July 12 9 a.m.

CPR Certification & Recertification 4 C.E. Credits

Topic: Basic Cardiac Life Support

Certification/Recertification will cover 1 and 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 priceless commodity. Life or death may some day become a reality to someone you know or care for. Be prepared to help save a life.

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

Instructor: Robin Zalewski, BLS Instructor

Tuition: ADA member: \$105 ADA member staff: \$105
Non-ADA member: \$250

Friday, August 14 9:00 a.m.

Infection Control 4 C.E. Credits

Instructor: Harold Edelman DDS

In the past this course has had an overwhelmingly positive response from those clinicians and their staff who earnestly want to stay informed of the latest infection control recommendations out there and do so through the eyes and thoughts of a speaker/clinician who well understands the nature and demand of everyday dental practice. There's more...bring your entire staff and satisfy OSHA's annual staff training requirements. COURSE QUALIFIES FOR RELICENSURE.

ADA member: \$85 ADA Staff: \$ 70
Non-ADA member: \$ 260

Friday, September 11 9:00 a.m.

Risk Management 4 C.E. Credits

Speaker: Dr. Kenneth Treitler

Do you know how long you are obligated to store patient records? What information needs to be included in a medical history? How do you legally terminate a professional relationship with a patient? Answers to these and many other legal questions are provided in Risk Management. COURSE QUALIFIES FOR MALPRACTICE POLICY DISCOUNT.

ADA member: \$135 Non-ADA member: \$ 260

Sunday, September 20 9:00 a.m.

CPR Certification & Recertification 4 C.E. Credits

Topic: Basic Cardiac Life Support

Certification/Recertification will cover 1 and 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 priceless commodity. Life or death may some day become a reality to someone you know or care for. Be prepared to help save a life.

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

Instructor: Robin Zalewski, BLS Instructor

Tuition: ADA member: \$105 ADA member staff: \$105
Non-ADA member: \$250

Study Clubs July/August 2009

Steinway Study Club

CONTACT DR. KIRSCHNER (718) 634-2123

July 21 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Speaker: Lois Richstein, professional relations for the Kuraray Company

Topic: Bonding with the Best

Location: Mezzo Mezzo Restaurant,
31-29 Ditmars Blvd., Astoria

Dr. Fialkoff Study Club

CONTACT DR. FIALKOFF (718) 229-3838

July 15 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Speaker: Len Marotta

Topic: Understanding/Utilizing/Fabricating Radiographic and Surgical Stents

Location: Laterna Restaurant
47-10 Bell Blvd. Bayside

August 5 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Steve Collins, DDS

Topic: How to Avoid Dental Malpractice Stress
- What is the Standard of Care for 2009

Location: Laterna Restaurant
47-10 Bell Blvd. Bayside

Queensboro Study Club

CONTACT/REGISTRATION (718) 263-7400

August 5 noon-2:00 p.m.

Speaker: Michael J. Graffeo, DDS/Howard A. Ochs, DMD

Topic: Stem Cells in Dentistry

Location: Queensboro Study Club
70-15 164 St., Flushing

New State Dental Association Program Assists Chemically Dependent Dentists

Beginning in 2009, the New York State Dental Foundation [NYSDF] is administering a new program, the Dr. Thomas Sullivan Chemical Dependency Grant Program. The Sullivan Grant Program provides financial assistance to chemically dependent dentists who require in-patient medical treatment. These grants are designed to assist in the payment of initial treatment costs associated with in-patient treatment services.

The New York State Dental Association [NYSDA] has contracted with the Dental Foundation, as its charitable subsidiary, to administer the grant program. NYSDA donated \$15,000 to establish the program. Applications for this program will be screened by the NYSDA Council on Chemical Dependency.

NYSDA, through its Council on Chemical Dependency, has aided hundreds of dentists whose professional careers, families and very lives are threatened by this insidious disease. The incidence of alcoholism and drug abuse among health care professionals is statistically higher than for the general population. Estimates suggest that addictive illness affects between 10-20 percent of all dentists. Because 80 percent of licensed dentists practice as solo practitioners, most are isolated from contact with other professionals, making it difficult to identify problems, particularly in the early stages, and to effectively intervene or monitor recovery.

Dr. Robert Herzog, NYSDA's peer assistance coordinator and council chair, explains the importance of the Sullivan Grant program: "The effects of alcoholism and substance abuse result in immeasurable costs to the doctors, their patients and families. The safety of their patients is directly affected.

"But we know from experience that intervention and support can be the lifeline these individuals need to recover and continue to lead productive lives. Treatment facilities require proof of insurance or a down payment before they can accept a dentist for in-patient treatment. Too often, when the need for treatment is urgent, the dentist involved no longer has any financial resources or health benefits from which to draw."

Contributions to the Dr. Thomas Sullivan Chemical Dependency Grant Program are tax-deductible and can be sent in care of the New York State Dental Foundation, 20 Corporate Woods Boulevard, Suite 602, Albany, NY 12211. While checks should be written to "The NYS Dental Foundation," please note "Dr. Sullivan Grant" on the memo line. All monies contributed to this account will be used solely for the purpose of assisting impaired dentists.

Chemical Dependency Intervention

*Dr. Sudhakar Shetty, DDS, Chair
QCDS Council on Chemical Dependency*

It has been a worthwhile experience for me to work with the council on chemical dependency at NYSDA, a group of voluntary dentists and the dedicated NYSDA staff, who work tirelessly to better the lives of fellow dentists who become victims of the disease.

Abuse of and dependence on various substances is an illness which can be cured. Like any other illness, early detection, intervention and timely treatment has better prognosis and prolonged cure.

The council has been working very hard to expand the resources available for dentists who are struggling to overcome this addictive illness. I want to take this opportunity to update you on some of those efforts.

Following are ten questions for professionals and a message from NYSDA regarding the Dr. Thomas Sullivan Grant program, which provides financial assistance to chemically dependant dentists. We sincerely hope that you will consider supporting this important and much needed resource.

QUESTIONS FOR PROFESSIONALS

- Have you been late for morning appointments because of a hangover?
- Are you drinking or using drugs in the office?
- Do you frequently blame your staff unjustly for things that go wrong?
- Do you regularly drink at lunchtime, and is your ability to perform diminished in the afternoon?
- Is your relationship with your patients, staff and friends deteriorating?
- Have you gotten into financial difficulties because of your drinking or drug use?
- Do you lose time from the office due to drinking or drugs?
- Has your ability to perform effectively in the office decreased due to drinking or drugs?
- Do you prefer to associate with colleagues who drink?
- Do you wish people would mind their own business about your drinking or drug use and stop telling you what to do?

IF YOU ANSWER "YES" TO EVEN ONE OF THE ABOVE- SEEK HELP! Call 1-800-255-2100.



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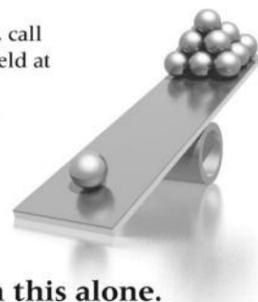
- Before filing a claim
- When benefit payments are wrongfully delayed
- If dangerous medical examinations are demanded
- When claims are denied outright
- When payments are cut off

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QCDS Reaches Out to Spanish Speaking Dentists

“Oral Surgery, Pediatrics and Periodontics,” was the topic of a special event for Spanish speaking dentists held at QCDS headquarters recently. In an effort to reach out to Spanish speaking dentists, QCDS offered a full day program to both member and non-member practitioners.

The well-received program attended by approximately 50 dentists from the metropolitan area featured Dr. Juan Carlos DeFex, an oral surgeon, Dr. Lauro Medrano, a pediatric dentist, and Dr. Bernard Fialkoff, a periodontist, as speakers. The varied program included presentations on dental emergencies, prosthetics and implant dentistry, cosmetic dentistry, as well as pediatric dentistry.

On hand to greet program participants were NYSDA Vice President Dr. Chad Gehani and QCDS officers including President Dr. Prabha Krishnan, Vice President Dr. Mercedes Mota-Martinez and Secretary Dr. Beatriz Vallejo, who also holds the distinction of having been the president of the Scientific Committee of the Spanish American Medical and Dental Society of New York from 1995-1997 as well as the first female dentist to be president of SAMDSNY, in 2000.

“This event is an example of the efforts QCDS continues to make in reaching out to the various ethnic dental associations in working cooperatively to present programs of interest and benefit to all dentists, not just members of organized dentistry,” said Dr. Krishnan. “We are encouraged by the positive response of the attendees and hope to schedule a similar event next year.”

For further information about QCDS CE courses, see listings in this newsletter, call 718-454-8344 or visit www.qcnds.org.



Dr. Bernard Fialkoff and Dr. Mota Martinez



Dr. Lauro Medrano



Left to Right Drs. Defex, Vallejo, Mota Martinez, Krishnan and Chad Gehani



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Paul Lundin – Cert. # 03428
Arthur Flaucher – Cert. # 07298



QCDS Thanks Dental Screening Volunteers!

The Queens County Dental Society thanks the following volunteers at the dental screening at Public School 21 Queens:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Alan N. Queen, DDS | Ira M. Schwartz, DDS | Harriet Goldenberg, RDH |
| Prabha Krishnan, DDS | Jessica Bonilla | Jeremy Goldenberg |
| Risa Samuels, DDS | Mani Matta, DDS | Jay A. Ledner, DDS |
| Karen H. Lewkowitz, DDS | Mohammad W. Bhuyan, DDS | Emily Ledner |
| Monte Miller, DDS | Eric Huang, DDS | Beatriz Vallejo, DDS |
| Stuart Kesner, DDS | Sudhakar Shetty, DDS | Doron Kalman, DDS |
| | Barry Goldenberg, DDS | |

QCDS Celebrates National Children's Dental Health Month with a State Winner!

—Continued from page 1

NCDHM and Dr. Stuart Kesner and Dr. Shpuntoff entertained the children. Dr. Lewkowitz squirted them with water from her famous puppets. Dr. Kesner squirted the children with silly string so that he could teach them how to brush off the silly string.

Many members of the committee and Board were present. The members of the committee, headed by Dr. Lewkowitz, were Drs. Barry Goldenberg, Craig Tischler, Bijan Anvar, Robert Shpuntoff and Harriet Goldenberg, RDH. President Dr. Krishnan spoke to the children and congratulated them. Monetary awards in the form of U.S. Savings Bonds or cash, were given out by Dr. Lewkowitz.

"It was certainly a lovely night to be remembered by all," said Dr. Lewkowitz. "We can all feel good inside as a dental society because we made a difference in the lives of these children!"

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A Guide to Professional Practice Dissolution And Insuring An Orderly Transition

By Gregory R. Tapfar, Esq.,
Danziger & Markhoff LLP

Dissolution of a partnership can be a trying process, fraught with emotional, financial and practical concerns. Prior planning, however, will ease the transition. A well-crafted partnership agreement, which adequately covers dissolution issues, will decrease the time, possible ill will and cost that often accompany dissolution.

Although each practice dissolution has its own specific issues, each partnership agreement should address the following:

- Voting requirements for dissolution
- Retention of office premises
- Distribution of furniture, fixtures and equipment
- Ownership of telephone number(s)
- Patient records
- Software programs and licenses
- Life insurance policies
- Protection of senior partner
- Continued payments to retired partner or estate of deceased partner

The first step in the dissolution process is the vote on whether the practice will be dissolved. While seemingly obvious, the voting requirements for dissolution are often missing from the partnership agreement. Depending on the size of the partnership, voting requirements could be as simple as one partner in a small two-person partnership or it could be a super majority in a large practice.

The issue of who remains in the office once there has been a decision to dissolve should also be addressed in the partnership agreement. The senior partner should have the option to have the lease assigned to him or her upon dissolution. Such option should also include the right to purchase the furniture, fixtures and equipment in the office as well as retain the office telephone numbers. The partnership agreement typically makes this option available to the next most senior partner in the event that the most senior partner does not elect such option.

Alternatively, each partner would have the right (to the extent it is feasible) to occupy the office premises as tenants-in-common and pay an equal share of the rent and related expenses. Each such partner would be entitled to an equal share of the furniture, fixtures and equipment. The telephone number could continue to be shared or an intercept telephone line could be installed.

—Continued on page 20

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Professional Practice Dissolution and Orderly Transition

—Continued from page 19

Direction for the distribution of patient records must also be included in the agreement. The agreement should provide that the primary treating practitioner retains such records. Any dispute as to the primary treating practitioner would be resolved by the patient, who would receive a notice from the partnership and he/she should select where his/her patient records should be sent.

The partnership agreement should include mechanisms to permit each partner to obtain the life insurance on his/her life that is owned by the partnership. Each partner should have the option to purchase his/her life insurance for an amount equal to the cash surrender value plus the prepaid but unearned portion of the premium. Likewise, each partner should have access to the computer software programs maintained by the partnership, and, subject to the software license, should have the right to duplicate or be an assignee of such software.

The partnership agreement needs to protect the senior partner, a retired partner and the estate of a deceased partner from the consequences of dissolution. In the case of the senior partner, he/she should have the option to require the other partner(s) to withdraw from the partnership in lieu of dissolution and he or she should have a "put option" which gives him/her the ability to

accelerate his retirement in lieu of such dissolution and require the other partner(s) to comply with their obligations under the agreement.

Dissolution could have a devastating impact on a retired partner or the estate of a deceased partner who is relying on the income stream due under the partnership agreement. If, upon dissolution, none of the remaining practitioners will continue to practice, any remaining proceeds upon dissolution and sale of the practice should be paid to the estate or retired partner on a priority basis. If the partners continue to practice after the dissolution, they should be required to satisfy the dissolved partnership's obligations to the estate or retired partner since they are enjoying the benefits of the goodwill he/she left behind.

Partners should review their existing agreements to ensure that dissolution issues are adequately addressed and reflect the current intentions of the parties. In the event of dissolution, prior planning will make a potentially difficult process much more manageable.

Gregory R. Tapfar, Esq. is a partner at the White Plains, New York law firm of Danziger & Markhoff LLP. This firm is a business and tax-oriented law firm that has been representing dentists in the New York metropolitan area for over 45 years. Mr. Tapfar can be reached at (914) 948-1556 or by email at gtapfar@dmlawyers.com.

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QCDS Volunteers Work In the Community

By William Bayer

As the school year neared completion, QCDS dental volunteers stepped forward providing informational presentations as well as dental screening programs at various schools throughout Queens. Although we offered these services throughout the year, May seemed especially busy.

On May 1, Dr. Stuart Kesner led a group of volunteers including Dr. and Mrs. Barry Gold- enberg, Drs. Mark Molinsky, Neal Cohen, Jeremy Nehleber and Aarti Tayal in screening 100 GED students at the Jamaica Learning Center.

The students ranged in age from 16-21 and for some of these students, it was their first dental visit. A large number of those screened were in need of dental services and with the assistance of Robin Rosenzweig, the Queens GED Health Coordinator, referrals and Medicaid enrollments were processed. Colgate provided toothpaste and toothbrushes for the students and the importance of maintaining good oral health habits was stressed. Mark Soberman and Marti Reale from Henry Schein provided support by providing event supplies. Ms. Denise Santiago from Jamaica Hospital's GED dental assisting program provided program participants to teach proper home care techniques to their fellow GED students at the Learning Center. At the conclusion

of the screenings, all volunteers felt they provided essential information to the students which will clearly have a positive impact on their dental health.

Dr. Kesner continued to keep himself busy by responding to a request from IS 237 to provide an oral health program to a group of special needs students, which was appreciated by the teachers at that school.

On May 12 and 13, Dr. Alan Queen spearheaded a large screening program in partnership with Colgate, which screened more than 600 children at P.S. 21. This event is detailed elsewhere in this Bulletin.

On May 16, Dr. Mercedes Mota-Martinez and her assistant, Kaila Castillo, with the help of Dr. Beatriz Vallejo, participated in a health fair and screening program at P.S. 223, where more than 50 students and parents availed themselves of a QCDS screening program. The school coordinator, Ms. Angela Stazzone, provided support at the event, which was quite a success.

Volunteers are essential to the success of these programs and QCDS thanks all those who gave of their time. If you can help in the coming school year, call QCDS headquarters and speak to the staff so that QCDS can contact you as requests are received for such programs.



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