



WEST COAST
DISTRICT DENTAL ASSOCIATION

A COMPONENT OF THE
AMERICAN & FLORIDA DENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

CHECKUP

West Coast District Dental Association News • Spring 2025

Summer Meeting

Morning Lectures & Sun-Soaked Afternoons
Socialize & Relax in Ocean Breezes
Join WCDDA in Naples this August 22-24, 2025!

SERVICE

COMMITMENT

INTEGRITY

EXCELLENCE

IN THIS ISSUE: PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE • FLUORIDE • REPORTS FROM EVENTS • FINGERPRINTING



A Great Year of Fun, Learning and Advocacy for the West Coast District Dental Association

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT: Kristie Johnson, DMD

Hello all! Spring is here and we are looking forward to a wonderful line up of events coming up!

First, I'd like to congratulate Dr. Billy Truax and Dr. Lance Karp on being elected to the West Coast Officer Executive Committee. Dr. Truax will be joining us as the next WCDDA Secretary and Dr. Lance Karp has been elected as our designated FDA Trustee. Drs. Truax and Karp have been instrumental leaders for the WCDDA over the years and we are thrilled for you take on an even greater role. Looking forward to many great things. Thank you for your continued service and dedication.

Thank you to all those who attended the Disney Cruise. It was truly a magical adventure. There is nothing like having high quality and engaging CE delivered with a coffee and fantastic seaside view! The small group discussion forum allowed for excellent discussion and group learning. I'd like to personally thank our wonderful speakers Dr. Jessica Stilley-Mallah and Dr. John Metz for the time and effort they put into these presentations. Such a success!

Of course, there was certainly plenty of fun aboard the beautiful Disney Wish. Family friendly group dinners, trivia, water slides, infinity pool, sandcastles, bingo, world class shows, kids club, all presented with the first-class experience Disney is known and loved for. The most important and enriching part was sharing time with colleagues and their families.

Having FOMO after Disney? Don't make the same mistake with the BVI trip!! This trip is coming up FAST! It can be a little intimidating to try and book this trip, but no worries...we have it all laid out for you. No need to know anything about sailing, you just need to put a crew together. May 31-June 7 for a week-long sailing from island to island in the iconic British Virgin Islands. Need inspiration? Check out the Soggy Dollar live webcam on YouTube. Or listen to any Kenney Chesney song. "No shoes, no shirt...



WCDDA members and families gathered for a group photo aboard the Disney Wish cruise, one of two President's Trips planned by Dr. Kristie Johnson. These excursions combine destination travel and CE, so dentists can learn and form better relationship with colleagues.

no problem". Please reach out to me directly at kristie.johnson@gmail.com. I can talk you through the process and get you all set up. This will be a once in a lifetime type of experience! We'd love for you to join us.

Now that we have talked about the fun stuff it's time to get serious. We are fighting battles on multiple fronts. It should come as no surprise that water fluoridation is being challenged across the county. The ADA strongly supports water fluoridation of 0.07pmm. Even with strong scientific backing that water fluoridation is one of the greatest public health benefits in the 20th century, fluoride is being pulled from a water supply near you. What can you do? Advocate! We need our voice and our position to be known for the betterment of the public we serve. Educate! Now more than ever we need to have conversations with your patients about proper oral hygiene and factual information about water fluoridation.

Fluoride is not the only big issue on the 2025 Legislative calendar. Dental therapists legislation is back, and FDA is opposing the dental therapy legislation that attempts to create a new licensed dental provider in Florida. I would highly encourage all of you to read FDA Capital Reports as they arrive in your inbox. If you have any advocacy questions pertaining to fluoride or need additional information, contact FDA Lobbyist

Brandon Edmonston at bedmonston@floridadental.org.

Florida Mission of Mercy. This is one of the most rewarding events of the year and is the largest charitable dental clinic in Florida! This year's event was hosted in Daytona Beach, details about the impact are included on pg. 10. For the 2026 event, the WCDDA will match member donations up to \$5,000, doubling the impact with a goal of reaching \$10,000! Join us in supporting this meaningful cause and help us hit this milestone together.

Registration is open for the Florida Dental Convention—June 19-21, 2025. Dr. Becky Warnken and the FDC program committee have put together an amazing agenda and I hope to see many of my West Coast colleagues there!

Finally, the West Coast Summer meeting in Naples! The feather in our cap. My favorite meeting of the year. Registration is open and I don't have to remind you...get your rooms now!! This year will be extra special as I will hand the reigns over and officially induct Dr. Robin Nguyen to the presidency. Dr. Nguyen has already begun working tirelessly and devotedly to ensuring a successful and amazing next year! Get ready folks...It's going to be a great one!!

A COMPONENT OF THE AMERICAN & FLORIDA DENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

Save the Date!

WCDDA PRESIDENT'S TRIP

Travel Agent: Sara Toerner
Assistant: Macy Fleming
Use to QR code to begin booking!

February 13th - 16th, 2026
Utopia of the Seas

BEST. WEEKEND. EVER.

- Collaborate and have fun with Colleagues, Peers, and Family. Bring your entire office!
- Attend CE sessions designed for dental professionals on one of the newest ships at sea!
- Bigger flavors. Bolder play. Better chill days than you've ever imagined.
- Show-stopping spectacles and over 40 ways to dine and drink.
- Conquer 17 adrenaline pumping slides and pool hop till you drop with endless ways to make a splash.

LOCK IN YOUR RESERVATION WITH US TODAY, BEFORE DISCOUNTED CABINS SELL OUT!

All reservations are made through our Group Cruise Planning Agency, shown below.

- Suite from \$1487 per person
- Balcony from \$1087 per person
- Oceanview from \$823 per person
- Interior from \$623 per person



ROYAL RAILWAY DINING CAR



Crown Loft Suite



Ultimate Family Suite



Sara Toerner

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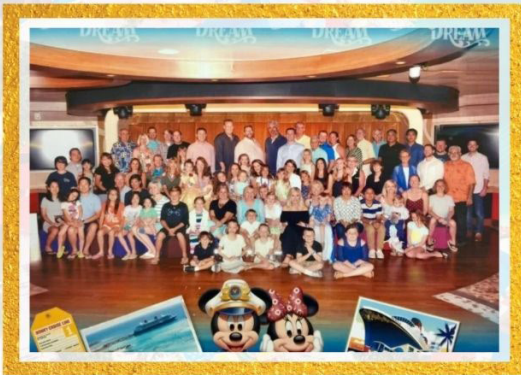
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Background Screening & Fingerprinting Now Required for License Renewal

Important update for all licensed health care practitioners, including dentists and dental hygienists:

Legislation passed during the 2024 Florida Legislative Session now requires background screening and electronic fingerprinting for all health care professions regulated by the Florida Department of Health's Division of Medical Quality Assurance.

To help make this process easy, the **WCDDA will be offering on-site fingerprinting appointments during the Summer Meeting**

at The Ritz-Carlton, Naples on August 23 from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm. Fee is \$110, and information will be submitted to the Department of Health on your behalf. You do not need to register for the Summer Meeting to schedule your appointment. Take advantage of this convenient opportunity! Scan the QR code to secure your spot. Don't wait—get it done early and stress-free!



SCAN TO SCHEDULE
AT WCDDA
SUMMER MEETING

Membership Milestones

This year, 2025, marks their milestone anniversary in organized dentistry.

25 years

Dr. Madeline Berk
Dr. Rahim Bhanji
Dr. Leslie Celestina
Dr. Dennis Demirjian
Dr. James DiMarino
Dr. Stephen Durrett
Dr. Ivette Fernandez
Dr. Junee Gardy
Dr. Bryan Griffith
Dr. Stephen Hopwood
Dr. Jerry Hynton
Dr. Michael Jergins
Dr. Glen Jones
Dr. Richard Kernagis
Dr. Shelly King
Dr. Mark Makram
Dr. Seth McDuffie
Dr. Deborah McElfatrick
Dr. Leigh McIlwain
Dr. Michelle Moenning
Dr. Ahmed Mostafa
Dr. Denise Oakes-Lottridge
Dr. Jamie Odom
Dr. Christopher Ross
Dr. Marilyn Sandor
Dr. Steven Schroeter
Dr. Susan Sheahan
Dr. Michael Sip
Dr. Timothy Talbott
Dr. Walfred Torrens
Dr. Ela Torres-Moore
Dr. Erika Tugendhat
Dr. Paul Zaritsky

30 years

Dr. Patrick Abbey
Dr. Scott Arnold
Dr. John Bindeman
Dr. Peter Bliss
Dr. David Burch
Dr. Edson Bustamante
Dr. Richard Chumbler
Dr. Augusto Conte
Dr. Amy Creech-Gionis
Dr. Freshte Esfahanian
Dr. Robert Fischer
Dr. Edgard Francisco
Dr. Patrick Johnson
Dr. Carol Kirkwood
Dr. Todd McCabe
Dr. David O'Sullivan
Dr. Robert Prisbe
Dr. David Rice
Dr. Juan Rodriguez
Dr. Michael Sardzinski
Dr. Monica Scheurer
Dr. Paul Stein

40 Years

Dr. David Alfano
Dr. Rodney Anthony
Dr. L. Ruth Berry
Dr. Dewey Bracy
Dr. George Butz III
Dr. Joseph Carbone
Dr. Anna Carlow
Dr. Louis Cerillo
Dr. John Cherry
Dr. Jack Corn
Dr. James Crandall
Dr. Leo Cullinan
Dr. Robert Davis II
Dr. Robin Ellis

Dr. Robert Evans

Dr. John Ferullo
Dr. Robert Fili
Dr. Tama Franko
Dr. Gregory Gauthier
Dr. James Gibney
Dr. Paul Guidi
Dr. Sharon Gunsett
Dr. Warren Hoffman
Dr. Barry Hothersall
Dr. Steven Jakubaitis
Dr. Oivind Jensen
Dr. Nicholas Kavouklis
Dr. Kevin Kiley
Dr. Gerard Krueger
Dr. Gregory Langston
Dr. Rudy Liddell
Dr. Chander Malik
Dr. Luis Martinez
Dr. Silas McAninch
Dr. Carole Medvesky
Dr. Lillian Mitchell
Dr. Howell Morrison
Dr. Timothy Palmer
Dr. Dwight Pate
Dr. James Pitts

Dr. Guillermo Porro
Dr. Susan Puhr
Dr. Alan Rembos
Dr. Paul Rodeghero
Dr. Kenneth Rogers
Dr. Kenneth Schweizer
Dr. Albert Smiley
Dr. Carol Stevens
Dr. Mark Streater
Dr. Mark Szarejko
Dr. Jeffrey Thompson
Dr. Angella Tomlinson
Dr. John Totera

50 Years

Dr. Phillip Apple
Dr. Richard Blake
Dr. Harry Bopp
Dr. David Bruck
Dr. William Campbell
Dr. Joseph Craig
Dr. Gregory Dickinson
Dr. Stephen Eingorn
Dr. Jonathan Feltham
Dr. Frank Giunta
Dr. Jules Goldstein
Dr. David Gordon
Dr. Bruce Jowers
Dr. Craig Mayer
Dr. Stephen Morris
Dr. Stephen Peirce
Dr. Ronald Pross
Dr. David Raass
Dr. Thomas Roth
Dr. Harvey Satz
Dr. Mitchell Strumpf

60 Years

Dr. Ralph L Baker
Dr. Melvin Cohen
Dr. Ernest Collins
Dr. Lester Craig
Dr. Luca Fusco
Dr. Wm Hutchinson
Dr. Robert Moffett
Dr. Gordon Norton
Dr. Stephen Schwartz
Dr. Jerry Stoneking
Dr. David Winkler
Dr. Carl Wirth

Longest Membership

Dr. Ralph L. Baker – 74 years

In Memoriam

We are deeply saddened
by the loss of our
beloved colleagues.

Paul T. Rodeghero, DDS
of Clearwater, passed away
on April 9, 2025

Robert Bousquet, DDS
of Tampa, passed away on
January 1, 2021

Anthony R. Cheslock Jr., DDS
of Clearwater, passed away on
February 25, 2025

Dennis Lucas, DMD
of Naples, passed away on
December 20, 2024

Frank Pettinato Sr., DDS
of Palmetto, FL, passed away
on October 4, 2024

Julia Belen Pizarro, DMD
of Venice, FL, passed away
on September 1, 2024

Jeffrey V. Schroeder, DDS
of Tampa, FL, passed away
on January 17, 2025

Fluoride is Essential for Public Health — Please Help Advocate

Key points to use when speaking with legislators, county, and city commissions to ensure that sound science—not fear—guides public health policy.

FROM THE EDITOR:

Dr. James G. Wilson

As dental professionals, we have a duty to advocate for public health and ensure our communities have access to essential preventive care. Unfortunately, we are witnessing a growing wave of misinformation influencing local governments to remove fluoride from public water supplies—despite decades of research proving its safety and effectiveness in preventing tooth decay. In addition to these local battles, there is now proposed state legislation that would strip local governments of the ability to decide on water fluoridation. This bill, while not explicitly mentioning fluoride, would prohibit adding any substances to public water systems that are not classified as water quality additives—effectively eliminating the ability to fluoridate water supplies.

Across the state, anti-fluoride activists continue to spread misleading claims that put our communities at risk, particularly children and underserved populations who benefit most from fluoridated water. It is crucial that we, as trusted healthcare professionals, step up and counter this misinformation with science, facts, and advocacy. If we remain silent, we risk allowing these decisions to be made without the necessary expertise—leading to preventable increases in dental disease.

Below, you'll find key points that I shared with my local county commission when they considered removing fluoride from the drinking water. I also discussed these points with legislators during my recent visit to Tallahassee for Dentists' Day on the Hill. Our collective voice is powerful and respected. I urge you to reach out to your legislators, county, and city commissions. Together, we can ensure that sound science—not fear—guides public health policy.

“Fluoridation of community water supplies remains one of the most effective and evidence-based public health measures for preventing tooth decay. Numerous studies



have shown that fluoridated communities experience significantly lower rates of dental caries (cavities) compared to non-fluoridated communities. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), fluoridation reduces cavities by about 25% in children and adults, helping to prevent pain, infection, and costly dental treatments. This preventive measure is especially crucial for low-income populations who may have limited access to dental care. Furthermore, dental problems are a major contributor to emergency room visits, with over 2 million ER visits annually in the U.S. related to dental conditions. Preventing these issues through fluoridation reduces the burden on emergency healthcare services and lowers the risk of severe complications, including life-threatening infections. In rare cases, untreated dental infections can lead to fatal conditions such as sepsis. Keeping fluoride at optimal levels in water supplies is a cost-effective and life-saving measure that benefits entire communities.

Some opponents of fluoridation argue that fluoride exposure may negatively impact cognitive development, citing studies that suggest a correlation between fluoride and reduced IQ. However, the majority of these studies are based on populations exposed to excessive levels of fluoride—often well beyond the optimal 0.7 parts per million (ppm)

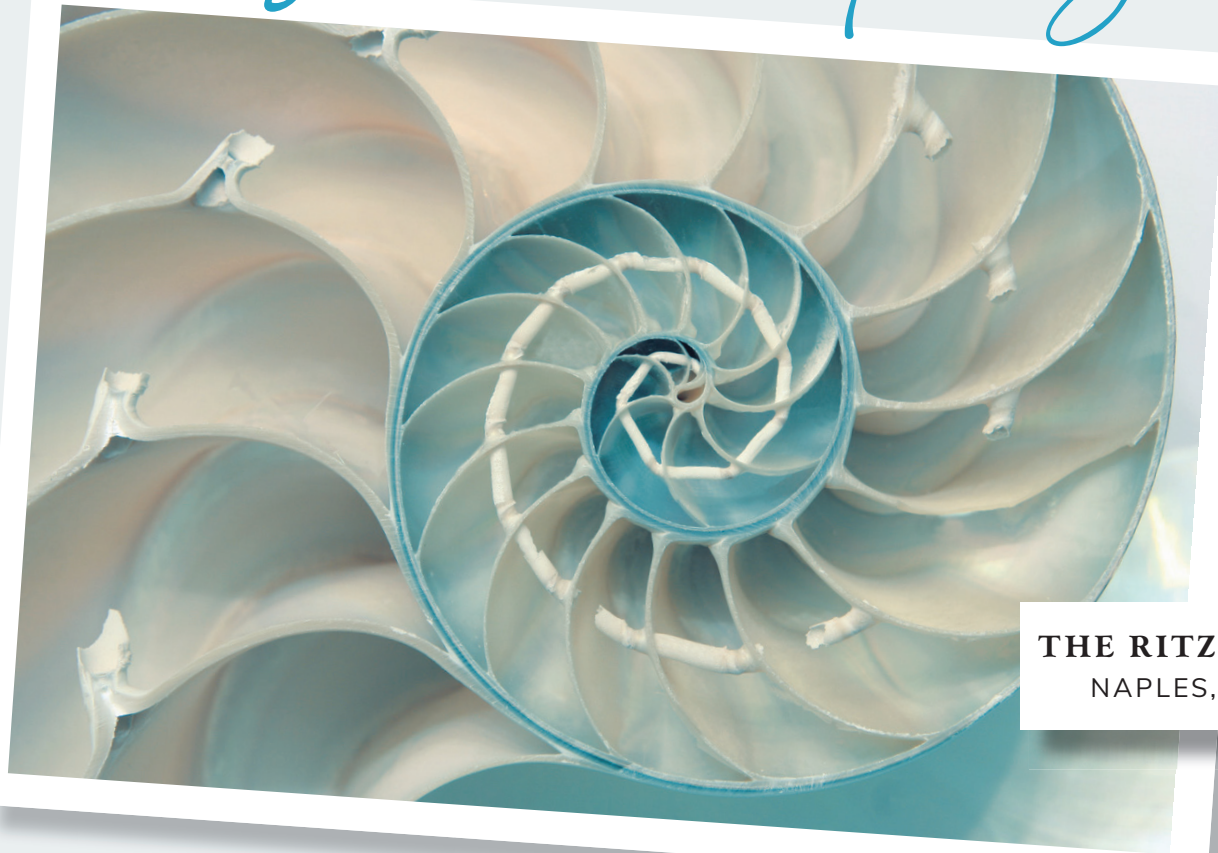
recommended for water fluoridation in the U.S. These studies, largely conducted in regions with naturally high fluoride levels, do not reflect the controlled, low levels used in community water systems. Comprehensive reviews by health organizations, including the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, have found no reliable evidence that fluoridated water at recommended levels poses a risk to cognitive development. The benefits of cavity prevention, improved oral health, and reduced healthcare costs far outweigh concerns based on questionable or misinterpreted data.

Ultimately, maintaining fluoridation at optimal levels is a scientifically supported, cost-effective intervention that protects public health. It prevents unnecessary suffering from tooth decay, reduces strain on emergency healthcare systems, and ensures equitable access to cavity prevention across all socioeconomic groups. Given the overwhelming evidence of its benefits and the lack of credible risks at regulated levels, fluoridation should remain a cornerstone of modern public health policy.”

If you learn fluoride is being challenged in your area, please reach out to WCDDA office or Brandon Edmonston bedmonston@floridadental.org at the FDA office.

West Coast District Dental Association

Summer Meeting



THE RITZ-CARLTON
NAPLES, FLORIDA

August 22-24, 2025 NAPLES, FLORIDA

The WCDDA Annual Meeting offers a great balance of learning and fun, with interesting lectures, an exhibit hall, and plenty of time to network with colleagues and their families at the luxurious properties of The Ritz-Carlton.

NEW THIS YEAR: A mid-day Sip & Mingle event on Friday after lectures. Grab a drink and catch up with dental colleagues and exhibitor partners.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY: Hands-on guided surgery course — practice guided implant placement techniques on simulated models.

FINGERPRINTING: A new requirement for licensure, you can schedule this during the meeting. See page 3.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

Registration & Exhibits: 7:30 am – 12:00 pm

Golf at Tiburón: 9:00 am

Lectures: 8:00 am – 9:30 am & 10:00 am – 11:30 am

Sip & Mingle: A Midday Mixer 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Affiliate Round Table Meeting: 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

Registration & Exhibits: 7:30 am – 12:00 pm

Lecture: 8:00 am – 10:30 am

Hands-on Guided Surgery: 1:00 am – 12:00 pm

Executive Cabinet Meeting: 12:30 pm

WCDDA Officer Installation: 5:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Beer, Wine & Cheese Reception: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

Registration & Exhibits: 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Lectures: 8:30 am – 10:00 am & 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

SUMMER MEETING INFORMATION

Meeting Date: August 22-24, 2025

Location: The Ritz-Carlton, Naples is located at 280 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Naples, FL 34108. The room block is sold out at the beach property, but there are still rooms in the room block at the golf property, located at 2600 Tiburon Drive, Naples, Florida, USA, 34109.

Registration Fees:

WCDDA, FDA or ADA Member	\$285
Non-Member	\$425
Dental Student/Resident	FREE
Retired Member	\$70
Dental Team Member	\$85
Guest (no CE)	FREE
Hands-on Course	Additional \$50
Golf	\$195

Register before August 8 to save: CE fees increase by \$20.00 per registration category on August 8. Preregistered dentists receive a WCDDA amenity.

Refund and Cancellation Policy:

All requests for refunds or cancellations must be made in writing to the WCDDA prior to the preregistration deadline of August 8. A cancellation/processing fee of 15% will be charged. No refunds will be given if cancellation is received after the preregistration deadline. No refunds will be given on site.

Questions? Questions or requests concerning room reservations should be addressed with The Ritz-Carlton, Naples (239) 598-3300. Questions concerning meeting registration should be addressed with the WCDDA office (813) 654-2500.



**WEST COAST
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REGISTER TODAY



Scan the QR code or visit us
online at wcdental.org.



The Ritz-Carlton Tiburón golf property still has availability for our meeting at the WCDDA discount rate. Complimentary shuttles take guests between the beach and golf resorts. The Tiburon property features a winding river and water slides!

HOTEL RATES AND INFORMATION

The Ritz-Carlton, Naples (beach property)

Coastal View \$239

Gulf Front \$304

Parking per day \$15, Resort fee \$5

The Ritz-Carlton, Tiburón Golf Resort

Resort View \$229

Parking per day \$15, Resort fee \$10

The hotel reservation link will be provided once you have registered for the Summer Meeting. Limit 2 rooms per registrant. Individuals not registered for the meeting will be charged the hotel rack rate instead of the group rate upon checkout.

Summer Meeting

LECTURES & EVENTS

Visit us online at wcdental.org for bios of this year's five remarkable speakers

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22



8:00 am – 9:30 am, 1.5 CEUs

Unboxing AI for Dentistry: Today and Beyond

Dr. Mina Ghorbanifarajzadeh

Discover how artificial intelligence is revolutionizing dentistry through practical applications in diagnostics, treatment planning, and patient care. This course explores the benefits of AI, including enhanced efficiency and accuracy, while addressing its limitations and the importance of human oversight. Gain valuable insights to stay ahead in the evolving dental landscape and elevate your practice with the right balance of innovation and expertise.



10:00 am – 11:30 am, 1.5 CEUs

Optimizing Digital Workflows in Implant & Restorative Dentistry

Mr. Rick Sonntag

The world of digital dentistry is rapidly changing. With new techniques and workflows being introduced at a never-before-seen pace, it is critical to understand what works and what does not. During this presentation you will learn how to optimize your digital workflow using CT scans, digital photography, and intra-oral scanning to ensure predictable results from case planning through to final delivery.

By the end of this presentation, you will know:

- The optimal digital records for predictable treatment planning on the “digital patient”.
- How to avoid costly errors and remakes in the scanning process.
- Tips and techniques for successful implant scanning.
- How to optimize virtual planning and surgical guides for predictable screw-retained restorations.
- Novel approaches to full-arch implant data capture using IOS.



To register for the meeting, scan the QR code or visit us online at wcdental.org.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23



8:30 am – 10:30 am, 2 CEUs

Guided Implant Placement and Ridge Preservation Techniques: Advancing Precision and Predictability in Implant Dentistry

Dr. Thomas Yoon

This comprehensive course is designed for dental professionals looking to enhance their skills in the precise placement of dental implants and the crucial techniques for ridge preservation. Focusing on both the surgical and restorative aspects of implant dentistry, participants will gain in-depth knowledge of how to effectively utilize guided implant placement technologies to optimize treatment outcomes.

Attendees will explore the latest advancements in guided surgery, including the use of 3D imaging and surgical templates to achieve optimal implant positioning with minimal invasiveness. Emphasis will be placed on understanding and addressing anatomical challenges, ensuring implant success, and minimizing complications. Additionally, the course will cover ridge preservation strategies, addressing the biological principles of bone remodeling and the role of grafting materials to maintain bone volume following tooth extraction. Practical insights on material selection, grafting techniques, and post-operative care will provide attendees with the tools necessary for long-term success in both immediate and delayed implant placements.

Key learning outcomes include:

- Mastery of guided implant placement techniques using cutting-edge technology.
- Understanding the critical relationship between implant placement and ridge preservation.
- Strategies for managing complex cases and anatomical limitations.
- Enhanced confidence in planning and executing predictable implant treatments.

HIGHLIGHT: Hands-On Surgery Course



11:00 am – 12:00 pm, 1 CEU

Hands-on Guided Surgery

Dr. Thomas Yoon

Limited to 50 participants with an additional charge of \$50.00

A key feature of this course is the hands-on implant placement session where participants will have the opportunity to practice guided implant placement techniques on simulated models. Attendees will learn to assess and prepare the site, properly place implants, and utilize advanced ridge preservation strategies to optimize bone structure for future implant success. The session includes step-by-step guidance on surgical protocols, use of biomaterials, and managing complications, ensuring participants gain valuable skills for real-world application. *This session is limited to 50 people for an additional fee of \$50. Sponsored in part by Hiossen Inc.*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24



8:30 am – 10:00am, 1.5 CEUs

Technological Advances in Endodontics:

From Imaging to Irrigation

Dr. Mark Limosani

Participants will explore the transformative impact of cutting-edge technologies on endodontic practices. The session will focus on the implementation and benefits of Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT) and advanced irrigation systems like the Gentle Wave Procedure. These innovations have significantly enhanced our ability to achieve thorough cleaning of the root canal system with greater precision and conservation of tooth structure. Join us to gain insights into how these technologies can improve clinical outcomes and streamline endodontic procedures. Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the Role of CBCT in Endodontics:
 - Explain the principles of Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT) and its application in endodontics.
 - Identify the advantages of CBCT over traditional imaging techniques in diagnosing and planning endodontic treatments.
2. Evaluate the Benefits of Advanced Irrigation Systems:
 - Describe the Gentle Wave Procedure and its mechanism of action in cleaning the root canal system.
 - Compare the efficacy of the Gentle Wave Procedure with traditional irrigation methods in terms of cleaning efficiency and tooth structure preservation.
3. Clinical Application and Case Studies:
 - Review case studies showcasing the use of CBCT and the Gentle Wave Procedure in endodontic treatments.
 - Discuss the clinical outcomes and potential challenges associated with integrating these technologies into routine practice.
4. Enhancing Predictability and Outcomes in Endodontic Treatments:
 - Assess how the integration of CBCT and advanced irrigation systems contributes to more predictable endodontic treatments.
 - Explore strategies for incorporating these technologies into practice to improve patient outcomes and procedural success rates.



10:30am – 12:00pm, 1.5 CEUs

The Ultimate Restorative Practice

Dr. Mario Romero

This course is intended to help the general practitioner better understand the capabilities of direct composite as a long-term restorative biomaterial. From choosing the right composite system to improving the bond strength when the correct steps are taken. All this aimed to obtain a better outcome. Anterior and posterior composites will be discussed including bonding protocols. In addition, participants will gain insight into the management of large Class IV's, composite veneers, large Class II's that require cusp build-up, margin elevation and advanced matrix systems techniques. Objectives:

- Following completion of the course, the participant should be able to:
- Recognize the key determinants of biological considerations that are essential in restorative dentistry.
- Select an isolation technique compatible with bonding procedures.

- Select the appropriate resin composite system based on the functional needs of the case.
- Select the bonding material and protocol for the restoration depending on the clinical demands.
- Recognize the benefits of the centripetal, successive cusp build-up, and stress reducing direct composite restoration (SRDC) techniques for ideal esthetics and function to maximize the longevity of the restoration.
- Differentiate when to use one shade, two shades or multiple shades for anterior restorations
- Create natural line angles on all your anterior composite restorations
- Re-create natural texture on your restorations

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

Registration and Exhibits

Friday 7:30 am – 12:00 pm

Saturday and Sunday 8 am – 11:30 am

Golf at Tiburón

Friday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Exciting times await as we prepare for a fantastic golf session at Tiburón. More details will be revealed soon, promising a memorable experience. Stay tuned for updates on the schedule, activities, and special features of this event. Prepare your clubs for a day of enjoyable golfing!

NEW THIS YEAR: Sip & Mingle

Sip & Mingle: A Midday Mixer

Friday, 1:30 am – 12:30 pm

Join us for a refreshing midday break in the exhibition hall! Enjoy a selection of beer, champagne, or a light cocktail as you connect with exhibitors and fellow attendees. This relaxed social hour is the perfect opportunity to engage with industry experts, discover new innovations, and build valuable connections—all while enjoying a little midday indulgence. Stay an extra hour, sip a little, and make the most of your conference experience at this exclusive mixer event. Don't miss it!

WCDDA Officer Installation

Friday, 5:00 pm – 5:30 pm

The Officer Installation Ceremony is a special event open to all attendees, celebrating the induction of the association's new leadership. Join us in honoring the incoming officers and their commitment to advancing the organization's mission.

Beer, Wine & Cheese Reception

Friday, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Join officer, colleagues, family and friends for the Officer Installation immediately followed by the Beer, Wine & Cheese Reception!

Life comes with challenges. The FDA's Member Assistance Program is here to help.

Starting Jan. 1, 2025, FDA members have free, confidential access to AllOne Health's counseling and work/life services.

The Florida Dental Association's (FDA) Member Assistance Program (MAP) can help you reduce stress, improve mental health and make life easier by connecting you to the right information, resources and referrals.

All services are confidential and available to you and your household as an FDA member benefit. This includes access to short-term counseling and the wide range of services listed below:

Mental Health Sessions

Manage stress, anxiety and depression; resolve conflict, improve relationships and address personal issues. Choose from in-person sessions, video counseling or phone counseling.

Life Coaching

Reach personal and professional goals, manage life transitions, overcome obstacles, strengthen relationships and achieve greater balance.

Financial Consultation

Build financial wellness related to budgeting, buying a home, paying off debt, resolving general tax questions, preventing identity theft and saving for retirement or tuition.

Legal Referrals

Receive referrals for personal legal matters including estate planning, wills, real estate, bankruptcy, divorce, custody and more.

Work-Life Resources and Referrals

Obtain information and referrals when seeking childcare, adoption, special needs support, eldercare, housing, transportation, education and pet care.

Personal Assistant

Save time with referrals for travel and entertainment, professional services, cleaning services, home food delivery and managing everyday tasks.

Medical Advocacy

Get help navigating insurance, obtaining doctor referrals, securing medical equipment and planning for transitional care and discharge.

Member Portal

Access your benefits 24/7/365 through the member portal with online requests and chat options. Explore thousands of self-help tools and resources including articles, assessments, podcasts and resource locators.



No matter what the concern might be ... connect with AllOne Health. It is a great starting point to find appropriate resources, referrals, information and support. Simply pick up the phone and call: 800.788.8630 or login to www.encompass.us.com to access your services.

Contact AllOne Health

800.788.8630

www.encompass.us.com

Code: fdamap



floridadental.org/healthy

Call for Award Nominations — Help Us Celebrate Excellence!

DEADLINE FOR WCDDA AWARDS: JUNE 30

Do you know someone who goes above and beyond for the dental profession or our association?

Now is the time to recognize those individuals who help make the West Coast District Dental Association the Best Coast! We are currently accepting nominations for our Annual WCDDA Awards and we need your help identifying the outstanding members of our community.

Distinguished Service Award

Honoring a tenured dentist who has demonstrated exceptional service to both the profession and the WCDDA. Their enduring commitment makes a lasting impact.

Dan Bertoch Leadership Award

Celebrating a young dentist (within 10 years of graduation) who has taken initiative in leadership roles, shown dedication to service, and is passionate about shaping the future of the WCDDA.

Kintsugi Award

Named after the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery with gold, this award recognizes a member who exemplifies professional volunteerism and service in dentistry—bringing strength, beauty, and purpose to the profession through service.

Affiliate of the Year

Presented to the affiliate that has contributed the most to advancing the mission of the WCDDA through member engagement, volunteerism, and support of WCDDA initiatives and events.

Help us honor those who elevate our profession and make a meaningful difference. Nominate someone today by scanning the QR code below!

**Scan to nominate
by June 30**



2025 FLA-MOM: Making a Lasting Impact

The FDA Foundation 2025 Florida Mission of Mercy (FLA-MOM) was another powerful reminder of what our profession can achieve when we come together to serve. Held in Daytona Beach, this year's event delivered free dental care to thousands of patients in need, with life-changing results.

BY THE NUMBERS:

- 1,511 patients treated
- \$1.92 million in donated dental services
- 2,070 volunteers, including dentists, hygienists, assistants, lab techs, and general volunteers
- Countless smiles, stories, and renewed hope.



SAVE THE DATE:

Plan to attend next year's event on
May 15-16, 2026, in Jacksonville!

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West Coast's New Secretary:

"Dentistry Is the Best Profession in the World"

Meet Dr. Bill Truax

"For as long as I can remember, I wanted to be a dentist. As a child, I thought you just did what your dad did." So says West Coast's newly elected Secretary, Dr. Bill Truax of Fort Myers, whose father also practiced dentistry. In fact, Dr. Truax could also say that he thought you just did what your grandfather did, as Dr. Truax is a third-generation dentist.

Dentistry isn't just a profession in the Truax family—it's a legacy. His father, a three-time elected president of the Lee County Dental Society, and his grandfather, a lifelong ADA member, both actively contributed to organized dentistry. Given this deep-rooted history, it's no surprise that Dr. Truax is passionate about professional advocacy.

When asked why it's important for dentists to take part in organized dentistry, his response is as enthusiastic and unequivocal as you might expect. "Oh my," he says, "that's like asking why it's important to breathe! Organized dentistry is one of the main reasons our profession is one of the best. By getting together...we can continue to self-govern and not be controlled by special interest groups and large corporations." Plus, he says, "Peer review is worth the cost of admission alone, along with all the political action that the FDA does on our behalf is outstanding."

Dr. Truax believes the main challenge in growing organized dentistry "is finding and talking to the new dentists, especially the ones working for large corporations, and showing them they are welcome and how they will benefit from membership." He wants these young dentists to realize the power of networking via organized dentistry. "You can get to know doctors that are in your same shoes and ask for advice from others who have been where you are."

As Dr. Truax joins the West Coast leadership team, his focus is clear—unity and strong representation for all West Coast members. "I want all of our dentists to feel like we have their backs," he says. And while unity has always been at the core of organized dentistry, Dr. Truax acknowledges that many aspects of dentistry have changed. "When my dad told



my grandpa about this great new concept of a hygienist and the prevention of disease, my grandpa laughed at him. And when I talk to my dad about digital designs, scanning, printing, injection molding with flowable, his head spins."

Dr. Truax is committed to ensuring that organized dentistry thrives, not only for today's dentists but also for future dentists. In fact, he might see his own family's dental legacy continue into the next generation. "My daughter is saying she wants to be a dentist. I've had her in the office a lot to experience the whole profession, top to bottom. She even attended a House of Delegates meeting last year as a visitor and really enjoyed it." She couldn't have a better mentor or a stronger dental advocate. "I feel like dentistry is the best profession in the world. I love what I do," he says.

We thank Dr. Truax for his dedication to the profession and appreciate his commitment to serving the members of the West Coast District Dental Association as he begins his term on July 1, 2025.

TRUAX TIDBITS

- Majored in Biomedical Sciences and minored in Biomedical Physics at USF
- Received the Oral Surgery Award and the Implant Award at the University of Florida School of Dentistry
- Married his high school sweetheart—who he says is a "great chef"—and has a teenage son and teenage daughter
- His family says he is so social he could "talk to a wall"
- Earned an apprenticeship as an electrician in high school and worked in the electrical field during college vacations
- Can't stress enough the importance of finding dental mentors and appreciates those who have mentored him

THANK YOU, RICK D'ANGELO!

The Florida Dental Association (FDA) would like to thank the FDA Services' (FDAS) Board of Directors, employees and clients for supporting organized dentistry. In the last 10 years, the sales of superior insurance products to dental practices have raised more than \$16 million in non-dues revenues, all while keeping malpractice insurance premiums lower than they were when FDAS started in 1989. The FDA encourages all West Coast members to use Rick D'Angelo for their practice insurance needs and continue to support organized dentistry.



Celebrating Contributions of \$16 Million in 10 Years

CONTACT RICK D'ANGELO - WEST COAST

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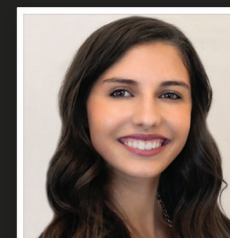
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An Essential Show of Force:

First-time attendees share the importance of attending Dentists’ Day on the Hill and express appreciation for their dental colleagues who led the way during the event.

SHARED BY DR. ALLISON O’BRIEN:

As a first-time attendee, I was able to learn some of the complexities of our State government. The Florida Dental Association did a great job organizing this event and briefing the attendees on pressing issues. I was working alongside Dr. Steve Tinsworth and learning how to locate our representatives and contacts that may have influence on key committees. The legislature was in session, so it was rare to get an appointment other than with an aide. The highlight was having a chance, brief meeting with Representative Will Robinson. Hopefully, our conversation will prove fruitful in advancing the legislation supported by the FDA.



Above Left: Dr. Steve Tinsworth was a great mentor to Dentists’ Day on the Hill first-time attendee Dr. Alison O’Brien. Above Right: Dr. Nicholas Britten arrives at the state capitol building for his first Dentist Day on the Hill. Both Dr. O’Brien and Dr. Britten received grants to attend through the WCDDA’s Dr. Dan Bertoch Memorial Advocacy Fund.

SHARED BY DR. NICHOLAS BRITTEN:

On March 25th I had the pleasure of experiencing my first Dentist’s Day on the Hill up in Tallahassee. As a lifelong native Floridian and Florida Gator fan, one often forgets that Tallahassee is home to more than just a lower tier state university..... I kid, I kid. It is, in fact, our state’s capital and home to the Governor, the House of Representatives, and the Senate. I was fortunate enough to carpool with Dr. Jimmy Wilson and we had a very pleasant ride up

U.S. 19. It was actually a beautiful and scenic drive that allowed Jimmy and I to get to know each other a little bit better as friends and colleagues and of course, catch up on Gator football. I thought carpooling up 19 was a nice option for any dentist on the West Coast looking to attend DDOH for the first time but isn’t sure how they might get there.

We arrived Monday evening and checked into the Hotel Duval downtown which was conveniently within walking distance of the Capitol building. Immediately we headed upstairs to the top floor of the hotel where the FDA conducted a legislative briefing, preparing all of us for our meetings with the legislators the following morning. I was



Dr. Nicholas Britten shared these photos from his Dentists’ Day on the Hill experience, and expressed appreciation to Dr. James Wilson for the time spent both on the drive to Tallahassee and the event. They are pictured together at right, at the FDA’s Legislative Briefing on March 24, 2025.



Dentists’ Day on the Hill, continued

honestly very impressed by everyone in the Governmental Affairs Office at the FDA. They provided all of us with tidy information packets that included helpful handouts to pass out to the legislators or their aides in support of our talking points. For example, everyone who has attended DDOH knows what the “Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down” brochure is. It’s a nice summary of the bills that the FDA supports and those we oppose, and even has a slot for your business card so that legislators can get in touch with you if they have questions. I thought to myself “Wow, the FDA has thought of everything. They are like a well-oiled machine!” (Side note for rookies like me: bring some business cards with you!) The briefing ended with a lovely buffet-style dinner. Again, as a first time attendee you really have absolutely no idea what to expect, so this was a nice bonus for me.

Tuesday morning we all got up and walked over to the FDA office, which incidentally is located right next to the Capitol. There we discussed who had what meetings that day and how we would be teaming up together. Since this was my first experience

I had not pre-scheduled any meetings with representatives myself, but was lucky enough to tag along with Dr. Wilson and several other dentists for theirs - the ol’ “power in numbers” approach. As we advanced toward the Capitol I was reminded of the Earp brothers and Doc Holiday heading for the “Showdown at the OK Corral.” When we got there one thing that immediately struck me was how crowded it was! We were FAR from the only group lobbying that day, or indeed any day that congress is in session. It gives you a new appreciation for the jam-packed and hectic schedules that legislators have to endure on a daily basis for months on end.

In total we were able to get in five meetings with representatives or their aides, which I thought was a solid number on the day. We spoke our opinion and not only did they listen, but they truly appreciated our input. As a dental professional you often forget how relatively little the general population knows about the dental world, and by all accounts these are very smart people inside the Capitol, but no one can know everything about everything. For example, I heard on

Save the date:
2026 DDOH
January 27, 2026


more than one occasion “Isn’t fluoride an acid?”And NOBODY had ever heard of The Florida Mission of Mercy for which the appropriations committees would soon be deciding how much money to allocate to this year. They all had some knowledge about Dental Therapists but CERTAINLY did not have all the facts. A few of them clearly already had their minds made up on that particular issue but most of them did not. These, my friends, are the real reasons why it is ESSENTIAL that we show out in force for this one day per year opportunity to educate our law-makers. It is our one and only chance to speak our minds in defense of the things we care about. And believe me, If I can do it, you can do it. Any intimidation you may have felt at the beginning is completely gone by the end of the day. I will surely be returning next year and I hope to see you there.

Dr. Dan Bertoch Memorial Advocacy Fund

Support the Future of Dental Advocacy in Florida

Dr. Dan Bertoch dedicated his career to advocating for the dental profession. His passion for organized dentistry and legislative involvement earned him respect from members of the Florida State Legislature and even in the halls of Congress. Whether at the ADA’s Washington Leadership Conference or the FDA’s Dentists’ Day on the Hill (DDOH), Dan’s presence and voice were always welcomed and impactful.

In honor of Dr. Bertoch’s legacy, the WCDDA Dr. Dan Bertoch Dentists’ Day on the Hill Memorial Advocacy Scholarship was established to provide a grant for a first-time attendee of DDOH in Tallahassee. This grant will support a dentist who is passionate about advocacy and eager to engage with legislators on issues affecting dentistry and the profession. To date, 15 scholarships



Scan to donate.

have been awarded. With your support, we can continue to invest in the future of dental advocacy. Please consider donating \$100 or any amount that is meaningful to you.

Scan the QR code to donate. Thank you for helping continue Dr. Bertoch’s legacy and supporting the next generation of dental advocates.

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About Background Screenings

Effective July 1, 2025, all* health care practitioners must comply with new background screening requirements when applying for initial licensure or renewing their licenses. Staying compliant with the new law is mandatory to maintain licensure.

How It Works

If applying for initial licensure, complete a background screening as part of your license application. If renewing your license, be prepared to complete the screening requirements before your license expires. Waiting too long will result in licensing delays or expiration.

- 1 Understand Your Timeline
- 2 Schedule Your Screening
- 3 Submit Required Documentation

For FAQs and guidance on checking the status of your screening with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, visit <https://FLHealthSource.gov/Background-Screening/>.

*Emergency medical technicians, paramedics, pharmacy interns, registered pharmacy technicians, and radiologic technicians are exempt unless applying through the military active-duty spouse licensure pathway. Fingerprint retention requirements do not apply to these professions.

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