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GP NEWS

The Publication for the General Practitioner

Volume 36, Number 3

October, 2012

SB-694: "R.I.P."

Dr. Guy Acheson takes us through what happened from the start to the finish with this bill. This article is a celebration of the death of SB-694 and a recognition of most of the people and efforts involved in the battle.

It is DEAD! SB-694 (Padilla) was the bill proposing the creation of a California Office of Oral Health with a State Dental Director to oversee public health dentistry and to complete a workforce study on dental assistants and dental hygienists performing tooth preparations for and placement of amalgam and composite restorations, preparation of teeth for and placement of stainless steel crowns, pulpotomies on deciduous and permanent teeth, and extraction of deciduous teeth in children up to the age of 21.



DR. GUY ACHESON
Fair Oaks

Incredibly, not only were these procedures being promoted to be done by non-dentists, but under a variety of levels of supervision including remote supervision, where there would not be a dentist physically present where the procedures were being done. The bill had sailed through the California Senate and was racing its way through the Assembly until it hit the Assembly Appropriations Committee. The bill was not released from the Appropriations Committee which killed it on August 16th.

For a year, the CAGD has been working to defeat this bill. We have been shouting out the true intentions of this legislation at virtually every dental society

meeting and have been at the microphone at the 2011 CDA House of Delegates and the Special House of Delegates on SB-694 in March of this year. We have been very troubled with how the CDA leadership and their media messages have downplayed the significance of this legislation and worked to make it seem to be a very low-keyed topic.

This article is a celebration of the death of SB-694 and a recognition of most of the people and efforts involved in this battle. The CAGD was resolute in its opposition to the concept of non-dentists performing surgical and irreversible dental procedures on children and held firm to our position in the face of strong pressure from the California Dental Association. We were repeatedly confronted with the question: "How can the Academy of General Dentistry, an organization committed to education and evidence-based dentistry, oppose a study? It is JUST a study. It is NOT a workforce project." Well, our answer was that this study was to be a political theater whose outcome would be easily controlled from the onset and, as we predicted, IT DID BECOME A WORKFORCE PROJECT!

The bill started in the senate in January and was to pass through three committee hearings before going to the floor of the senate for a vote. The first hearing was the Senate Business and Professions committee where Dr. Eric Wong spoke against SB-694 on behalf of the CAGD. The bill then moved to the Senate Health Committee where Dr. Bill Langstaff and Dr. Steve Skurow flew up from southern California to testify.

(continued on page 4...see ACHESON)



The G.P. NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF GENERAL DENTISTRY

The GP News or the CAGD will publish signed articles related to all phases of dentistry, but assumes no responsibility for the opinions or results expressed by the contributors. The views expressed are those of the author as an individual, and do not necessarily reflect the positions or endorsement of the CAGD. Acceptance of advertising in no way constitutes professional approval or endorsement. The CAGD does not assume liability for contents of advertisements.

The GP News is published three times annually by the California Academy of General Dentistry. Inquiries should be made by contacting Lynn Peterson, CAE, at 2063 Main Street, PMB 418, Oakley, California 94561-3302. Phone 877-408-0738 or fax to 925-625-0857.

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Proud supporter of the California Academy of General Dentistry

The California Academy of General Dentistry to hold its Annual Meeting in San Francisco at The Palace Hotel on Saturday and Sunday, January 26th and 27th, 2013, located at 2 New Montgomery Street, San Francisco, California 94105

A special guest room rate of \$199 a night has been arranged. Call 916-932-2245 before Friday, January 4, 2013. Three courses will be available for all attendees. They are as listed below:

Saturday, January 26

FASTER, EASIER, MORE PREDICTABLE

Atraumatic Oral Surgery for the General Dentist

Karl R. Koerner, DDS, MS 8 lecture CE units, 8:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. AGD members: \$199, non-members \$249

This oral surgery presentation gives ideas and recommendations that will simplify procedures and broaden the range of operations performed in your office. The emphasis is on "surgical" extractions without extensive bone removal. Dr. Koerner also covers bone grafting for single sockets, multiple extractions, including alveoplasty, and biopsy procedures. Dr. Koerner also discusses suturing techniques, effective one-drug oral sedation and mini implants for full and partial denture stabilization. He covers how to prevent and/or treat common complications - such as bleeding problems, sinus perforations, paresthesia, and edema. In summary, Dr. Koerner clarifies current standards of care for surgery procedures common to general practice and will add new procedures to your surgery comfort zone.

Saturday, January 26 and Sunday, January 27

Participation Course with Hard and Soft Tissue Lasers

NOTE: THIS IS A CONTINUATION OF THE OCTOBER 27, 2012 LASER COURSE

Robert Convissar, DDS 4 hands-on CE Units, 8:00 a.m. till noon or 1:00 p.m. till 5:00 p.m. AGD members: \$195, non-members \$249

Candidates who successfully complete this course will receive a Certificate of Standard Proficiency in Dental Lasers recognized by the Academy of Laser Dentistry, an international organization with more than 1000 members in over twenty-five countries. Enrollment in this course is limited to those dentists who have completed the California AGD Lasers in Periodontics and Restorative Dentistry Course on Saturday, October 27, 2012.

Sunday, January 27

Comprehensive Treatment Planning, Surgery and Restoration of Implant-Supported Overdentures

Arthur Acker, DDS 8 hands-on CE Units, 8:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. AGD members: \$325, non-members \$375

Selection of bar type and position and determination of correct implant location. Treatment planning, surgery, and restoration of 2, 3, 4 and 5 implant supported cases. *Hands-On:* Pick up of two Zest Locators into an existing denture base. Impression of a four implant bar overdenture.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURSES OR TO REGISTER EITHER ONLINE OR VIA MAIL, GO TO WWW.CAAGD.ORG

These courses are sponsored by:



All courses are approved for State of California licensure renewal and PACE-approved for Fellowship and Mastership credit in the AGD.

Welcome To Our New Members

Dr. David Altman
Orland

Dr. Narissa Ambata
Montclair

Dr. David Blende
San Francisco

Dr. Regina Capulong
Torrance

Dr. Mirabel Cayco
Santa Rosa

Dr. Carlton Chan
San Leandro

Dr. Esther Chen
Cerritos

Dr. Kyung Choi
El Monte

Dr. Andrew Day
Sunnyvale

Dr. Gautam Dogra
Rancho Cordova

Dr. Oscar Esparza
Ontario

Dr. David Fraser
Stockton

Dr. Louie Al-Faraje
San Diego

Dr. Camille Corvera-Galang
Daly City

Dr. Raemund Galang
Daly City

Dr. Justin Ghiam
Woodland Hills

Dr. Joshua Golden
Los Angeles

Dr. Daniele Green
Irvine

Dr. Natalie Heavilin
San Francisco

Dr. Savita Hemrajani
Hayward

Dr. Min-Kwei Hsieh
Manhattan Beach

Dr. Karin Irani
Woodland Hills

Dr. Manmadha Cherishma Jami
San Diego

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Dr. Jason Lee
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Dr. Narges Menalagha
Encino

Dr. Ahmad Aghakhan-Moheb
Coto de Caza

Dr. Anthony Nguyen
Ontario

Dr. Tim Nordloff
Monterey

Dr. Sanaz Parsi
Los Angeles

Dr. Francisca Rosales
Salinas

Dr. Sanaz Rouhani
San Francisco

Dr. Jay Shah
Los Angeles

Dr. Aashima Sharma
Saratoga

Dr. Alice Sun
Huntington Beach

Dr. Clint Taura
San Francisco

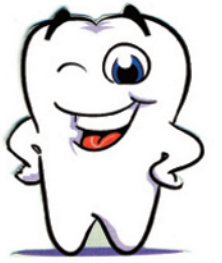
Dr. Chirag Vaid
Stockton

Dr. Marisa Watanabe
Tustin

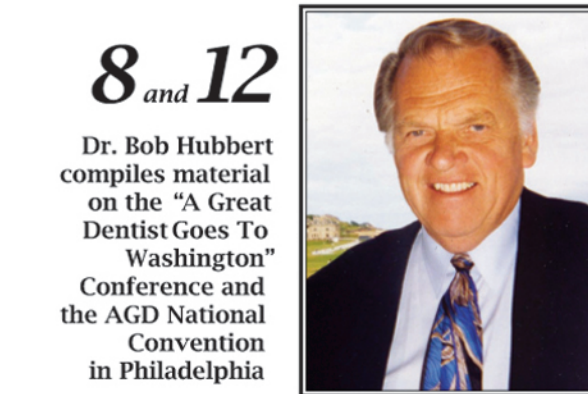
Dr. Namrita Yadav
Cupertino

Dr. Joseph Yoon
Los Angeles

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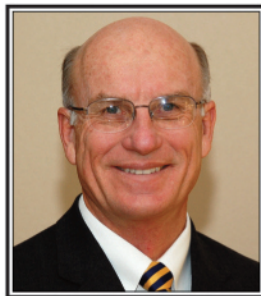
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Dr. Guy Acheson Awarded **Second** LLSR in Philadelphia



DR. GUY ACHESON
Fair Oaks

Lifelong Learning and Service Recognition (LLSR) was created to recognize the achievements of those AGD Masters who recognize the professional obligation to remain current in their profession and to create an example for others. LLSR applicants are required to gain knowledge in at least eight of these thirteen designated dental subject categories: Basic Science, Endodontics, MPD/Occlusion, Operative Dentistry, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Orthodontics, Pediatric Dentistry, Periodontics, Fixed Prosthodontics, Removable Prosthodontics, Implants, Oral Medicine/Oral Diagnosis, and Special Patient Care.

Lifelong Learning and Service Recognition candidates must also complete at least 100 hours of AGD-approved dental-related community/volunteer service and/or service to organized dentistry. Hours must have been performed since the date of Mastership was received or since a previous LLSR was received. □



If you are a Master and are interested in more information about the requirements for this recognition, contact the: Academy of General Dentistry, Department of Dental Education
211 East Chicago Avenue, Suite 900, Chicago, Illinois 60611-1999
Phone: 888-243-3368

ACHESON *(continued from page 1)*

The last senate hearing was in Senate Appropriations. The CAGD was not able to have a member testify, although Dr. Steve Leighty, a Roseville oral surgeon, spoke in opposition to SB-694. He spoke as a representative of the California Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons who had taken a position in opposition to non-dentists performing surgical dental procedures. Interestingly, the California Nurses Association also spoke against SB-694 at all the hearings because of non-dentists performing surgical procedures. By January 26th, the bill was unanimously approved in all senate committees and went on to the senate floor where it passed 34-2 with four abstention/no votes.

The CAGD is very concerned about the oral health of all Californians, especially our children. We fully support the concept of a Dental Director in California. Drs. Langstaff and Acheson met with Senator Padilla's legislative staff two times in an effort to promote alternatives to creating a new dental provider in the effort to address dental decay in children. We used the AGD Whitepaper to argue for ways to improve access to care by using dental residencies, student loan forgiveness, improved reimbursements, and expanded federally qualified facilities to facilitate existing dentists providing care in underserved areas.

Before the bill was heard in the Assembly there were two stakeholder meetings with Senator Padilla. Drs. Acheson and Langstaff, representing CAGD, and Dr. Harriet Seldin, representing the San Diego County Dental Society, spoke against the workforce study and for various methods of utilizing existing dental-providers to address the dental care needs of children. Although we had the minority opinions in the

room, Senator Padilla invited us to the meeting both times to hear our suggestions.

In June, the craziness began all over again as the bill passed through Assembly Committees. Dr. Acheson testified at the Assembly Health Committee. In July, American Student Dental Association leaders Marquis and Hellickson joined Dr. Sireesha Penumetcha in testifying against SB-694 at the Assembly Business and Professions Committee. The California Nurses Association continued testifying against SB-694 at both meetings. Finally, in August, the bill went to the Assembly Appropriations Committee and was placed on the suspense file and kept in suspense so that it would not reach the Assembly floor for a vote.

In the craziness that exists in the mirrored halls of the legislature, SB-694 was defeated in the Assembly Appropriations Committee by being held in Suspense with no public testimony and no public votes.

We really don't know what issues or arguments killed SB-694. The unfairness of a two-tiered dental system? The degradation of patient safety by allowing non-dentists to perform surgical procedures on children under remote supervision? The reality that there are more dentists per capita in California than any other place in America and that dentists are leaving the state because of lack of business? The several studies that demonstrate that non-dentists don't make economic sense? Or, was it the concern that creating the Office of Oral Health would obligate California to pay for the office and staff when private funds ran out that killed the bill? We really don't know. What I do know is: DEAD IS DEAD!

WARNING: This issue will be back. *Be ready...!*

We encourage you to visit the
CAGD website at:

HTTP://CAGD.COM

THE CALIFORNIA AGD SUPPORTS SENATE BILL 1186

Helping Victimized Dentists

Anita Rathee, DDS, MPH CAGD Dental Care Chairperson, West Hills



DR. ANITA RATHEE
West Hills

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) passed by the U.S. Congress in 1991 requires building and business owners to retrofit existing buildings and remove "architectural barriers to persons with disabilities" that were created prior to the law. Close to 8000 ADA-related lawsuits have been filed in the past eight years in California alone.

Dentists have recently become victims of such lawsuits. A number of dental offices throughout California have been threatened with lawsuits claiming that their office building was not in compliance with the ADA (Americans with Disability Act) regulations. These cases are often filed in batches by geographic location. The threat comes in the form of a demand letter, stating that the stakeholder pay money otherwise a lawsuit will be filed. Most dentists are unaware that they are in violation of existing state laws. Many chose to settle, as the costs of attorney's fees, a possible court battle and imposed fines could be far greater than settling out of court.

SB-1186, originally introduced by Senator Dutton (R) in February of 2012 and taken over by Senator Steinberg (D) in April, addresses this issue. After undergoing several revisions and amendments, it passed the Assembly Appropriations Committee unanimously in August.

There are three major provisions to this bill:

1. Prior to filing a lawsuit, no attorneys or other parties may serve a letter that demands monetary settlement or implies that

business and building owners may be liable for damages and attorney fees because of alleged ADA violations.

2. Attorneys who intend to file an ADA claim must serve a notice to the intended defendants at least thirty days prior to the filing.
3. Commercial property landlords need to disclose to prospective tenants in the lease agreements whether the premises have been inspected by a Certified Access Specialist (CASp) or not. A CASp inspection indicates that the landlord has obtained, or is in the process of obtaining, compliance.

The original bill provided a "90 day cure period" for businesses to correct the violation. This provision has been taken out as "a cure period is inconsistent with other protected categories in California's Unruh Civil Rights Act." Past bills with provisions to include a cure period have consistently been defeated. After removal of the cure period provision, SB-1186 is the only accessibility bill in this session that has been seriously considered.

Your CAGD has been following and supporting this bill through the legislature. Although diluted from the original version, SB-1186 still provides protection for California dentists from becoming victims of frivolous lawsuits. While no bill can eliminate ADA lawsuits entirely, SB-1186 does effectively curtail the scare tactic of demand letter settlements and offer some information to dentist tenants. □

Dr. Rathee is past president of the CAGD, currently serves on the AGD Dental Practice Council, and is the Editor for the San Fernando Valley Dental Society.

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF GENERAL DENTISTRY

Slate of Officers for 2013

The election of officers will take place at the CAGD Annual Meeting on **Saturday, January 26, 2013** at the **Palace Hotel** located at 2 New Montgomery Street, San Francisco 94105 at noon. Nominations may be made from the floor.

President
DR. GUY ACHESON

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Immediate Past President
DR. SUN COSTIGAN

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Exec. Director (NON-VOTING)
LYNN PETERSON, CAE



San Diego AGD Update

Rosemarie Rohatgi, DMD, President, San Diego AGD



DR. ROHATGI
San Diego

The SDAGD is having another exciting year with an outstanding group of Board members. We are continually seeking new AGD members and Board member participation. We would like more volunteers to become a part of our Board. We welcome all general dentists and any level of participation involvement you can give is appreciated.

One Board member, Dr. Kevin Anderson, swim-trained around Manhattan Island (28.5 miles) in preparation for his English Channel swim, his second attempt. This should fall somewhere between August 24th and the 30th. Kevin's first attempt was in August of 2008. He was pulled out just three miles from the French coast with hypothermia. He said: "We do learn more from our failures than our successes, but that's another story." This issue had to go to press prior to Kevin's swim (photos and more text in the January issue of the *GP News*).

The SDAGD has, from year to year, given its James Vernetti "Dentist of the Year" award. Only past recipients choose the winner. The selection this year is Dr. Harriett Seldin for her fight against Senate Bill 694. Thank you, Dr. Seldin! We are proud to have you as a SDAGD Board member!

Our 2013 slate of officers for 2013 is as follows:

President-Elect: Kirk M. Hobock, DDS, MAGD Secretary: Thanh T. Tran, DDS
(Vice-President, Treasurer and Region 17 Representative are all open for nominations)

The SDAGD congratulates two members who received awards at the AGD Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. We applaud their continued commitment, dedication and hard work towards achieving excellence in their services to their patients, to our community and to our organization. They are:

Mastership: Daniel B. Coles, DDS, MAGD Fellowship: Michele M. Yamada, DDS, FAGD

We are committed to providing excellence in all of our continuing education courses and look forward to hosting the two major events listed below:

1. **Perio and Soft Tissue Application Using Diode Lasers**—Peter Pang, DDS
—Friday, October 26th, 9-5 p.m.

This participation course is offered to dentists and auxiliaries at Patterson Dental Supply, San Diego branch. Participants will have the opportunity to use lasers on pig jaws. The capacity is at forty dentists and forty auxiliaries, so reserve your seat today! See the registration form below.

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2. **Restorative Course**
—on a Friday in February of 2013 (details to follow)



We look forward to seeing you at our meetings and social events!

CAGD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When I was a dental student, I joined the American Dental Assn., the California Dental Assn., and the Academy of General Dentistry. It wasn't totally clear to me [then] why I should join these organizations. Joining was encouraged through the dental school. I became involved with my local dental society and the Northern California AGD. As things progressed, I realized the advantages of belonging to dental organizations. I believe that all dentists should be involved in organized dentistry. The answer likely varies with each individual, to some extent. There is value for all and the need for a forum to tackle various short- and long-term issues.

For many years, I worked with California AGD students because I enjoyed helping young, bright and hard-working future dentists. They are the future of our profession and I am very proud to work with them. Unfortunately, in a worsening economy, many new graduates are having a hard time finding full-time jobs in California. Many new graduates are moving out of the state to find employment.



DR. SUN COSTIGAN
Novato

As the new Affordable Health Care Act demands coverage of three to four million additional children in California, the lawmakers are scrambling to find ways to solve this crisis. California Senate Bill SB-694 was introduced to increase access to care for children who do not have dental coverage. This bill calls for the "Midlevel Provider" to reduce costs of providing care for underserved children. SB-694 asks for studying non-dentists performing surgical and irreversible procedures. The California AGD strongly opposes this approach.

California AGD Advocacy Committee members have spent countless hours working with law makers, voicing our concerns with [midlevel providers] treating children. They followed up with the processes of the policy-making. We also collaborated with many other organizations to increase our voice on these kinds of issues.

Meanwhile, the policy makers and several special interest groups are spending large sums money to convince law makers to push the midlevel provider issue. California AGD's position is that creating a new position, such as the midlevel provider, to provide care for the underserved communities is not effective and endangers young children. CAGD suggested many positive solutions, including hiring newly graduated dentists who cannot find a job, would be safe and cost effective. Also recommends educating the parents in prevention and good care to reduce caries. Thanks to our advocacy team, combined with many general members efforts, California AGD's opinion is well-respected and was instrumental in preventing Senate Bill 694 from becoming law. The CAGD will continue to be proactive and vocal in protecting our patients.

During the many years that I have served our members, I learned that by growing our membership we will remain a leading dental organization with an even stronger voice. With the proposed changes in dentistry, we must intensify our efforts to increase membership.

Dental school faculty are always welcome to become mentors to guide the students in the path of lifelong learning and membership in organized dentistry. The CAGD provides many different courses for our membership. In addition, we hold "Lunch and Learn" programs for student members in the dental schools across our state. As a result, last year 50% of all dental students in California joined the AGD. I ask each reader to encourage one non-member dentist to join the AGD. If we accomplish this goal, we double our membership! It is very easy to sign up for new membership online on the AGD website.

There are many factors affecting the changes in dentistry. Our members are the leaders in patient care, but there are other factors that guide how dentistry will evolve and be practiced. The economy, policy makers, special interest groups and money will affect much of how we can treat patients in the future. Growing our membership gives us a stronger voice. This is the most effective way to accommodate the changing environment. It allows us to better serve our patients as well as the interests of our members. If we are not proactive, others will decide our future.

During the recent House of Delegates meeting in Philadelphia, delegate members asked appropriate committees to study the international membership categories. As the world has become a global community, the AGD needs to embrace new ideas to increase membership. The AGD has international affiliates and further expansion will be a valuable resource to increase membership and become a global organization. Many foreign dentists seek training though AGD courses so they can achieve Fellowship and Mastership status. Doing so gives them strong credentials. The AGD conducts joint council meetings and is studying how this expansion can best be realized and how it will affect the AGD's primary goals.

We must think long-term and plan for the future of our profession. □

"If we are not proactive, others will decide our future."

REGISTRATION FORM or contact thanhucsf@gmail.com for more registration details.

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SCAGD President's Report

Roger Garrett, DDS, MAGD, President, SCAGD, Calabasas

As many of you know, for the past several years, the SCAGD has focused its activities on providing continuing education for general dentists in the southern California area. However, we have managed to hold one social/business event for the SCAGD board in January for the past two years. During this time SCAGD has added several new enthusiastic younger dentists to its board and has recently passed a motion to allow the more senior "advisor-trustee" members to vote on board resolutions.

Our focus on corporate-sponsored continuing education programs, strictly following AGD PACE guidelines for such activities, has resulted in our successful accumulation of a substantial financial reserve account. This reserve will enable us to conduct future activities and with nationally recognized speakers in 2012, 2013 and 2014.

In February of this year, under the CAGD FellowTrack program, we held an implant workshop attended by thirty USC and two UCLA senior dental students at the Implant Direct Sybron facility in Calabasas Hills, California. All of the student attendees had high praise for this event. Our March CE meeting, co-sponsored

with the Western Society of Periodontology, was attended by 200 dentists, dental hygienists and some office staff. In June, we had a "sellout" implant workshop with superlative accolades. In September, a High-tech imaging and CAD-CAM restorative program, sponsored by Sirona, and featured Dr. Neal Patel, a nationally recognized expert and outstanding speaker in this field. If you did not attend this, you missed a good one.

Our continuing education program schedule for the remainder of 2012 is as follows:

October 14, 2012

How To Use Botox Therapy in Your Dental Practice
(see bottom half of this page for details and registration).

December 2, 2012

Endodontic Workshop will be sponsored by Brasseler, USA. Instructor: Nader Vafaie, DMD. Limited to fifty attendees. This is also our annual SCAGD business meeting.

If you would like to recommend a CE course, speaker or subject for the SCAGD, please contact our President-Elect, Artin Manoukian, DDS, at am1074@gmail.com □

THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF GENERAL DENTISTRY PRESENTS

How To Use Botox Therapy in Your Dental Practice

Instructor: Andrew Blumenfeld, MD

Botox therapy has many uses in restorative dentistry. Your California dental license already permits you to treat various dental related conditions by injecting Botox. This course will cover the uses of botulinum toxins, their history, dosage preparation and injection techniques for a variety of dental procedures including TMJ, bruxation therapy, lips and masseter muscle contour, treatment of migraines, myogenic and trigeminal nerve modulation. Informed consent and risks, benefits and alternatives (RBA) will also be included. Follow-up comments by John S. Bettinger, DDS, Immediate Past-president of The Dental Board of California.

Course A: Sunday, **October 14, 2012** (8 a.m. till 5 p.m. with registration at 7 a.m.) 8 CE Units.
Embassy Suites Hotel, 11767 Harbor Blvd., Garden Grove, California 92840

Course B: Sunday, **December 16, 2012** (8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with registration at 7 a.m.) 8 CE Units (this is a repeat of Botox Course A). Embassy Suites Hotel, 800 North Central Avenue, Glendale, California 91203 (just north of the 134 Fwy)

Continental breakfast and a fabulous lunch buffet included. Free parking. We expect large audiences for these courses, so register early.

REGISTRATION FORM (please encircle the course you are registering for): **A** or **B**

Dental License No. _____ 6-digit AGD number, if you are a currently paid member: _____ DR / RDH / RDA / DA (circle)

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Visa/MC/Amex/Disc No : _____ Expiration: _____ Total \$ _____ Security Code: _____

Credit Card Billing Address and Zip: _____

_____ CANCELLATION POLICY: MUST BE WITHIN TEN (10) DAYS OF THE MEETING FOR A 90% REFUND _____

| | Tuition Due by October 6, 2012 | After October 6, 2012 | At-the-Door | For credit card payment, fax this completed form to 310-472-6729 |
|------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|--|
| Botox A | | | At-the Door | |
| Botox B | | | At-the Door | |
| AGD Member | \$195 | \$250 | \$400 | Your credit card information is secure. |
| Non-AGD Member | \$275 | \$325 | \$400 | |
| Dental Auxiliary | \$125 | \$175 | \$250 | |

Make checks payable to: SCAGD, 2720 Aqua Verde Circle, Los Angeles, California 90077-1502

Phone: 310-471-4916

E-mail: Drrbertgarfield@aol.com

FellowTrack North * Leadership Conference
 University of California at San Francisco

Sisiley Bao, Student President, UCSF, California AGD



SISILEY BAO

The CAGD FellowTrack Program and the Northern California AGD hosted full-day workshops on both UCSF and UOP campuses this year. Dental students, as well as local practicing dentists, were in attendance for these successful and informative workshops.

The **Lasers in Periodontics and Restorative Dentistry** course was held at the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry. Lecturer, Dr. Robert A. Convisar, shared his knowledge about the clinical application of lasers as well as the use of lasers in periodontics, fixed prosthetics, implantology, cosmetics and operative dentistry. Students were exposed to the fundamentals in clinical laser dentistry and showed enthusiasm in pursuing further hands-on training.

An **Aesthetic Dentistry and the Latest Materials** seminar with Dr. Harry Albers was held at the University of California, San Francisco campus. The changing world of cosmetic dentistry was introduced, along with other educational topics on esthetic treatment planning and sequence, the fabrication of veneer preparation and temporary and the latest cementation materials and techniques.



Haden Werhan, CRA/PFA, JoAnne Tanner, MBA, and a series of lecturers, presented a practice management course, **Financial Keys To Your Practice Success**, at the University of California, San Francisco, School of Dentistry. A variety of intriguing topics were covered, such as starting or purchasing a practice, key overhead indicators, basic tax planning and budgeting for success. Dental students benefited greatly from these courses, which gave them the opportunity to learn about important management skills which are not usually taught in school. These valuable opportunities offered them different perspectives on not only how to be better dental students, but also how to become better general dental practitioners.

Attend the AGD orientation session in the Fall quarter to learn of upcoming events. □

Ava Chung, Sisiley Bao, Bharani Kumar Bhattu, Daya Srinivasan, Garima Gupta, Minti Agarwal, Krunal Sherathiya and Todor Stavrev



Dr. Ralph Hoffman and Brian Hathcoat

Krunal Sherathiya, Bharani Kumar Bhattu, Dr. Sun Costigan, Haden Werhan, Joanne Tanner



Thomas V. Doll tax seminar



DR. JAY THOMPSON
 Trustee, Region 13, CAGD
 (San Diego practitioner)

Update from CAGD's Trustee

There have been some big changes at the AGD headquarters in Chicago. In August the AGD closed escrow on a new building. This will become the new headquarters location for the AGD. The new address is 560 West Lake Street, Chicago. The previous owner was the United Way. It is a beautiful building in downtown Chicago and should serve the needs of the AGD for the foreseeable future. This is a large step for our organization and will provide us with a more stable financial position. Currently, the AGD has its headquarters in the ADA Building at 211 East Chicago Avenue in Chicago.

Our Executive Director, Mr. Charles Macfarlane, has resigned. The expectation is that, over the next few months, the Executive Committee will be conducting interviews and we should have a new Executive Director within six months.

With all this change come great challenges to our organization. At the same time we will have great opportunity to improve and strengthen the AGD. We are now held in great esteem throughout the dental community, and we have had great success over the past few years extending our influence. An example of this is our Immediate Past President, Dr. Howard Gamble, was asked by FOX NEWS to give the general dentist's position on the dangers of acidic beverages.

We are also working with other dental organizations and the Ad Council to promote better home care for children. This was an opportunity to ensure that the message to the country was to brush your teeth for two minutes, two times a day and to see your dentist regularly.

We have also approved a companion document to go with our white paper on increasing access to, and utilization of, oral health care services. It is entitled: **BARRIERS AND SOLUTIONS TO ACCESSING CARE**. This document is available on our website and addresses many of the concerns about dentists not being able to meet the oral health care needs of our patients.

"Only a fully-trained and licensed dentist has the training to provide irreversible surgical treatment for the public, and the general dentist is the healthcare professional responsible..."

The ADA and the Academy of General Dentistry are in complete agreement on this issue.

The complete wording of the position of the Academy of General Dentistry is stated as follows:

ONLY A FULLY-TRAINED AND LICENSED DENTIST HAS THE TRAINING TO PROVIDE IRREVERSIBLE SURGICAL TREATMENT FOR THE PUBLIC, AND THE GENERAL DENTIST IS THE HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT OF THAT CARE.



I want you to know that the AGD will not waiver on this issue...! □

ADVOCACY...the AGD Difference



A Great Dentist Goes To Washington

Sixty-seven dentists and eight dental students converged on Washington, D.C. in April to participate in the Academy of General Dentistry's Sixth Annual Government Relations Conference. Participants were able to speak with legislators on topics important to general dentistry. Two representatives who are also dentists were present: Dr. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho) and Dr. Paul Gosar (R-Arizona). The attendees were encouraged by these leaders to share their advocacy skills with other dentists and to get involved in the issues important to them.

California's own Dr. Myron "Mike" Bromberg, *Reseda (CAGD Legislative Chair and Legislative and Governmental Affairs Chair for the National AGD)* was the chairman of this meeting. Also attending from California were Dr. Jay Thompson, *San Diego (CAGD Trustee)*, Dr. Harriet Seldin, *San Diego (CAGD's Public Information Officer)*, Dr. Steven Skurow, *West Covina (Past President of the CAGD)*, and Dr. Steve Lockwood, *San Diego (Past President of the CAGD)*.

Attendees also heard from the legislative director for Rep. Michael Burgess (R-Texas), J.P. Paluskiewicz. His remarks focused on the future of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and how upcoming changes to the act may affect dentists, particularly the proposed 2.3 percent tax on medical devices. Further, those in attendance heard from the editor of the *National Review*, syndicated columnist and Fox News commentator, Richard Lowry. He spoke on recent developments and the future of American politics.

Conference attendees conducted nearly 140 visits with legislators on Capitol Hill, discussing issues important to our profession.

Our National AGD President, Dr. Howard R. Gamble and Dr. Bromberg met with Dr. Lynn Mouden, Chief Dental Officer, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and spoke about issues impacting dentistry today, including administrative barriers, cancelled patient appointments and provider enrollment concerns. Drs. Gamble and Bromberg also met with Rep. Paul Gosar thanking him for recently introducing an amendment to repeal the McCarran-Ferguson Act.

AGD President Elect, Dr. Jeffrey M. Cole. Dr. Daniel Martel and dental student, Gordon Isbell, *University of Alabama, Birmingham, Alabama*, spoke with Capt. J. Willis-Marsh, director of the National Health Service Corps, regarding scholarships and loan repayment programs. Specifically, reducing student debt through the use of loans that would allow students to deduct the cost of interest paid on loans. Further, they discussed programs that would forgive student loan debt in exchange for service in underserved areas, as well as programs that would eliminate graduate in-school interest subsidy.



AGD National President, Dr. Howard Gamble, informed the students about the AGD's advocacy efforts and encouraged them to remain active and involved, adding that this commitment will bring them professional growth and personal satisfaction.

The Academy of General Dentistry makes sure that general dentists can speak up when it matters the most. That means monitoring the issues and relaying the facts so our members can unite their voices on legislative and regulatory activities that affect their practices.

Additional issues of concern among dentists across the USA are, to name a few:

- Underserved oral health
- Prescription drug monitoring
- TMJ health insurance policies
- Charitable dental services
- Federal tax credit resolution
- Medicaid payments
- Fee capping
- Medical assistance
- Insurance notices
- Out-of-state licensure

AGD members interested in learning how to properly advocate on behalf of general dentistry are welcome to attend the AGD 2013 Government Relations Conference which is scheduled for April 15-16, 2013. □

Contact your constituent leader today or send an e-mail to: advocacy@cagd.org



L to R: Chuck Macfarlane, Ex-AGD Executive Director; Dr. Jeff Cole, AGD President; Dr. Linda Edgar, AGD President-Elect; Dr. Howard Gamble, Immediate Past President; Dr. Mike Bromberg, Chair of Legislative and Governmental Affairs Council; Dan Buksa, AGD Director, Advocacy

Photos by Daniel C. Buchell, Office of Congressional Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Chairman Darrell Issa (CA-49).

FellowTrack South * Lunch and Learn

HERMAN OSTROW SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

University of Southern California

Bethany Kum, CAGD Student President, Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC



BETHANY KUM

We are proud to say that, over this past year, the AGD has become an official club of the University of Southern California. Currently, we have over thirty registered members enrolled in the FellowTrack program and nearly double that who regularly attend our monthly meetings. The programs help students take a step closer to achieving a Fellowship in their future dental careers. With each meeting the number of registered members continues to grow.

Our goal as a club is to provide students with the tools to become motivated, successful new dentists upon graduation. We provide lunch-and-learn events numerous times throughout the semester, with a March Madness event in which we held three in the same month. We allow students to determine presenters and topics for the specific

areas of the dentistry in which they hope to gain more knowledge.

We have had many wonderful practitioners present on topics including types of dental insurances, private and mobile dental practice start-ups, practice management, and oral surgery for the general dentist. We are always eager to listen to these professionals because we know they are knowledgeable. They bring with them their years of experience as well as their words or wisdom. They show us what to look forward to regarding the future of dentistry, what they have done and what they would have done differently after graduation. We are grateful for their time and efforts.

Being a fairly new club, we still have much to improve. We hope to grow and expand our student group because we feel it is important to be a part of organized dentistry and to continuously keep the idea of lifelong learning as a theme in our careers. □



Academy of General Dentistry's

FellowTrack

"LUNCH AND LEARN"

at the

Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry

of the

University of Southern California



The AGD is a strong voice for the general practitioner

36-inch pizzas for our meeting with the CAGD



Lasers in Periodontics and Restorative Dentistry

* Robert Convissar, DDS * Saturday, October 27, 2012 (8 a.m. till 5 p.m.)

SPONSORED IN PART BY

* South San Francisco Conference Center
255 South Airport Boulevard, South San Francisco, California 94080

* 8 CE Lecture Credits



HROSSEN

AND

DELTA DENTAL

Dentists have a variety of wavelengths to choose from when deciding which laser is most appropriate for his or her practice. Some wavelengths are perfectly suited for periodontal therapy, while other wavelengths may be more appropriate for a prosthetics-driven practice. The use of lasers for specific procedures found in everyday fixed, removable and implant prosthetic cases will be highlighted. Since the basis of a successful prosthetic reconstruction is a healthy periodontal foundation, the use of lasers for non-surgical, surgical and regenerative periodontics will also be discussed.

REGISTRATION FORM (submit a separate form for each attendee). You can **register online** (credit cards only) at www.caagd.org

First name _____ Last name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail (needed for confirmation of reservation) _____

Fees: \$95 for AGD and Delta Dental members . . . \$215 for non-members

Delta member

Payment Method: Payment enclosed: Total amount \$ _____ AGD member # _____ Non-member

MasterCard

Visa

Amex

Check # _____ (payable to **CAGD**)

Card number _____ Name of cardholder _____

Expiration date _____ Security code (3 or 4 digit number on the back of your card) _____

Card billing address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____ Date _____ Questions? Call 916-932-2245 Fax to: 916-932-2209

Mail this registration to: **CAGD**, 950 Glenn Drive, Suite 150, Folsom, California 95630 Cancellations can only be honored prior to **October 15, 2012**

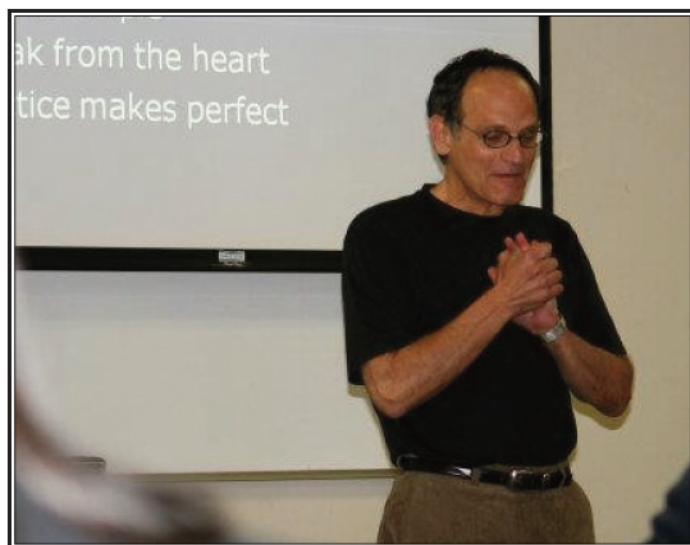
NCAGD (continued from the previous page)

on practice management, team building, time management and organizational skills.

The best part about the course is that Dr. Verceles records all of the attendees as they present an extemporaneous speech to the rest of the group. It is a very fun way to learn how to improve your communication and leadership skills, and how to lead your team to professional excellence. This is the second year that he has conducted the workshop and it has been very well-received.

We are on Facebook. Do look us up. Upcoming events, courses, photos, and so forth are updated regularly.

Do "Like" us on Facebook. The NCAGD is working on presenting some real exciting courses. Watch for our future hands-on and lecture classes. □



Dr. Ralph Hoffman, Treasurer for the NCAGD, presenting his speech

AGD Working on Behalf of the General Dentist

ISSUES AFFECTING PATIENT CARE



Arizona dentist, Congressman Paul Gosar, spoke to the AGD about his legislation to remove the McCarran-Ferguson Anti-Trust Exemption for Health Insurance Companies



California's own, Dr. Myron (Mike) Bromberg, addresses the attendees at the sixth annual Academy of General Dentistry's Government Relations Conference



Minnesota dentist, Dr. Paul Tollinger Council on Legislative and Governmental Affairs member



Photos taken by Kaveh Sardari

The Political Process at Work...Nationally, Regionally and Locally



SACRAMENTO
Dr. Harriet Seldin, CAGD PIO, with San Diego business and community leaders, meeting with Governor Brown in the Governor's office, during San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce visit to Sacramento in May.

Photo taken by Dr. Stephen Lockwood, Immediate Past President of the CAGD



WASHINGTON, D.C.
CONGRESSIONAL VISIT ON AGD BUSINESS (2012)



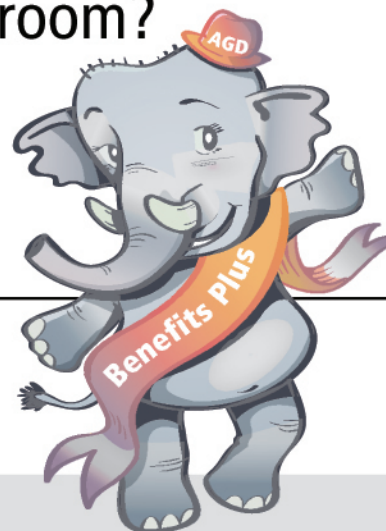
During the AGD's Congressional visits, Dr. Harriet Seldin was invited to join several Congressional staffers on the roof of the Rayburn House Office Building to witness the Space Shuttle's last flight over the Capitol on the morning of April 17th.

Photos directly above are by Daniel C. Bucheli, Office of the Congressional Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Chairman Darrell Issa (CA-49).

Ready to talk about the elephant in the room?

Meet Ellie.

She'd like to help you pay peanuts for the products and services you need most.



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Through AGD Benefits Plus, various organizations provide exclusive offers or member discounts on a variety of high-quality products and services. For more information about the AGD Benefits Plus programs, visit the Membership section at www.agd.org, or contact our Member Services Center at 888.243.3368.

Be sure to identify yourself as an AGD member when you contact these Benefits Plus Providers to take advantage of these exclusive offers or member discounts.

AGD Benefits Plus programs are subject to change without notice.

Northern California AGD Update

Chitra Shikaram, DDS, Editor, NCAAGD, Campbell

The Northern California Academy of General Dentistry focuses on offering continuing education courses that best suit the needs of general dentists. We take pride in providing quality continuing education courses that are presented by experienced professionals who are well-known in their respective fields of expertise.

The NCAAGD and the CAGD FellowTrack program presented "Key To Your Practice Success" a seven-unit lecture in April at the University of California at San Francisco. The three speakers were JoAnne Tanner, MBA; Jennifer Ellis, attorney; and Haden Werhan, CPA.



Dr. Sun Costigan, Dr. Mina Levi, JoAnne Tanner, Practice Consultant, Dr. Craig Crispin and Dr. Ralph Hoffman at the Practice Management meeting held at UCSF in April.

JoAnne Tanner has worked with hundreds of dental professionals across North America to make a difference in their dental practice today, produce results for years to come.

Jennifer Ellis is a senior associate at the Goldman Law Firm. The Goldman Law Firm has over thirty years of experience representing dentists in malpractice, business, and employment matters.

Haden Werhan is a CPA/PFS at Thomas, Wirig, Doll and Company, a dental-specific tax, transition, accounting and wealth management firm in the Bay Area.

Participants learned about creating a team that is ready for success, about marketing strategies to improve the effectiveness and the productivity of the team, about budgeting and saving for the future, about tax-related matters, and about associateship versus ownership . . . to name just a few. The course was well-attended and received great reviews.

The NCAAGD's aim is to recognize, mentor and create leaders. Keeping that in mind, the NCAAGD presented "Great By Choice," a practice management workshop in July in San Jose. The California AGD's Vice President, Dr. Tim Verceles, lectured

(continued on the following page)



An attendee presenting her public speaking skills at the "Great by Choice" course.



Dr. Tim Verceles, CAGD's Vice President, records each participant's speech.



Participants at the NCAAGD "Great by Choice," a practice management course conducted by Dr. Tim Verceles in July at the Sobrato Center in San Jose.

Sacramento-Sierra AGD News

Howard Chi, DMD, MA., MAGD, *President, SSAGD, Stockton*



DR. HOWARD CHI

The "City of Brotherly Love" was the site for the 2012 AGD Annual Meeting and House of Delegates. This was also my old stomping grounds as a dental student back in the day. And, **no**, I did not attend Penn. I went to Temple. *Go Owls!* Such is the tradition of cross-town rivals like Pacific and UCSF. As soon as we landed and checked in, I "dragged" Dr. Guy Acheson on a whirl-wind eating tour of the city on the first night. It was a gastronomic feast of epidemic portions that was worthy of the show: Man vs. Food! In one night, we visited four, yes, four places for the most iconic food of Philly, the cheesesteak. First, it was to the original home of the cheesesteak, Pat's, and then across the street to Geno's. A semi-short ride from there was Tony Luke's and finally to South Street for Jim's Steaks. All of the cheesesteaks were ordered the traditional way, with "wiz and wit." For those not in the know, this meant with cheese whiz and grilled onions. Remember, we are not in California. We ate and compared and did our own [food wars] and determined the overall winner to be Jim's Steaks!

With our bellies full and a bottle of Pepto Bismol, some Tums for good measure, and Zocor, we were assured our tummies and hearts were going to be okay, that our blood was not clotting in our arteries. It was time to hit the hay for an early start at the House of Delegates.

The House sessions went fast and furious. Many resolu-

tions later with good discussions about these changes, we were assured that the future of the AGD was moving in the right direction. Along with all the work in the House, there was even time to attend several CE courses and more chowing down. We went to the well-known foodie hang-out, the Redding Terminal, especially for DiNic's roast pork sandwich. Sharp provolone and broccoli rabe, yum. A few pounds heavier, an airline charge of \$25 for baggage (*the extra weight*), it was time to again leave a place I once called home. It was great to be back in "Philly" and have an opportunity to get to know my fellow delegates better. Good times, indeed. *Now, where is that salad with no dressing?*

On a somber note, long-time SSAGD member, Dr. Edward Ishii, passed away recently. Dr. Ishii was a Fellow of the AGD and, even in his eighties, he was actively participating in the SSAGD continuing education courses on a regular basis. *Talk about a commitment to life-long learning.* He was known for his leadership and led by example. Dr. Ishii had a jovial personality and always had a smile. He was an iconic man that exemplified all the good traits of our organization. The SSAGD extends our condolences to the Ishii Family. □

SSAGD Slate of Nominated Officers for 2013:

President: Dr. Erin Carson
Treasurer: Dr. Smita Khandwala
Secretary: Dr. Maryam Saleh

Immed. Past President: Dr. Howard Chi
Executive Secretary: Terri Wong

Our Annual Induction Meeting for the new officers is scheduled for December 6, 2012. LOCATION TBA.

Gastronomic Choices...Willing Participants!



Dr. Guy Acheson

Dr. Howard Chi



Philly Cheesesteak at Pat's



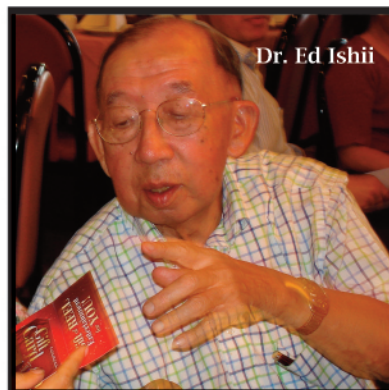
DiNic's Roast Pork Sandwich



Dr. Ben Franklin

Dr. Tim Verceles

Dr. Howard Chi



Dr. Ed Ishii

We Congratulate California's New Masters

ACHIEVING MASTERSHIP STATUS



SIREESHA PENUMETCHA, DDS, MAGD
 Elk Grove

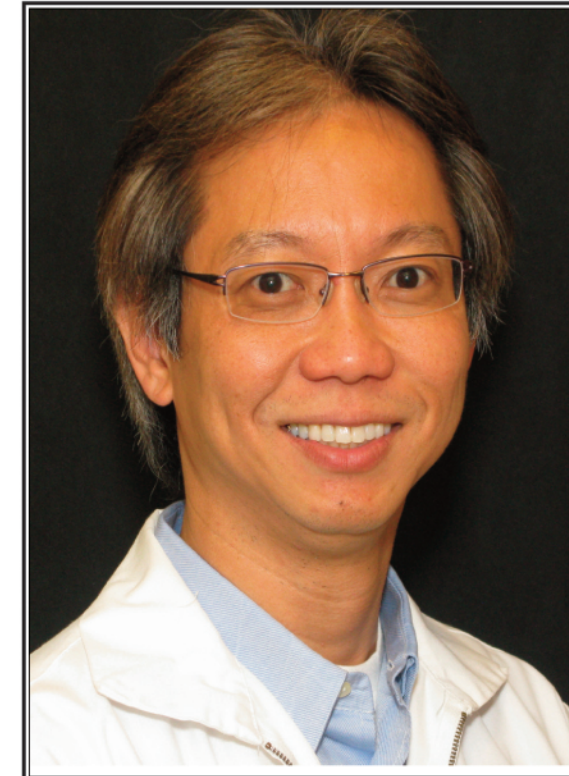
The California practitioners pictured below qualified to receive the Academy of General Dentistry's prestigious Mastership Award in Philadelphia at the AGD's Annual Meeting in July. They successfully completed a rigorous curriculum outlined by our national Academy.

Mastership is the highest honor available in the AGD and one of the most respected and recognizable designations in the dental profession. Less than one percent of the general practitioner population have ever achieved this lofty goal. California currently has 174 Masters out of over 20,000 general dentists. Mastership status is achieved by less than one percent of all dentists world-wide.

To achieve Mastership status, a dentist must complete a minimum of 1,100 hours of approved continuing dental education. Dentists who reach this level have achieved many more hours than the minimum number. At least 400 hours must be accrued in participation (*hands-on*) courses, those courses that involve actual participation and the presentation of a technique or skill under the supervision of highly qualified experts.



CHRIS M. CHUI, DDS, MAGD
 Fremont



JOHN K.S. TONG, DDS, MAGD
 Cupertino

Dr. Daniel B. Coles of San Diego also achieved Mastership status. His photo was not made available to us to be included for publication.

Those of you who have achieved Fellowship status and are interested in taking the next step to Mastership, more information is available thru Lynn Peterson at 877-408-0738. □



CAGD in Philadelphia on Your Behalf



CALIFORNIA REGION 13 DELEGATION (left to right, back row): Michael Lew, DDS, MAGD; Tim Verceles, DDS, MAGD; Mike Bromberg, DDS; Steve Lockwood, DMD, MAGD; Guy Acheson, DDS, MAGD; Craig Crispin, DDS; Chethan Chetty, DDS; Steve Skurow, DDS, FAGD; Sun Costigan, DDS, MAGD; Lynn Peterson, CAE; (front row, left to right): Sireesha Penumetcha, DDS, MAGD; Anita Rathee, DDS; Rosemarie Rohatgi, DDS; Harriet Seldin, DMD; Howard Chi, DMD, MAGD



Dr. Harriett Seldin and Dr. Brian Danielsson enjoy the California 2012 Masters and Fellows Reception at the AGD's Annual Meeting in Philadelphia

The AGD... a Strong Voice for the General Practitioner



More on the bottom half of the next page →



Between meetings: Dr. Sun Costigan (Novato), Dr. Sireesha Penumetcha (Elk Grove), and Dr. Rosemarie Rohatgi (San Diego) take a break in the breezeway

Congratulations To New Fellows!

ACHIEVING FELLOWSHIP STATUS

Candidates for Fellowship in the Academy must have been members for at least three years prior to becoming a Fellow. They are required to complete 500 hours of continuing education courses (not to exceed a ten-year time frame). They must pass a comprehensive 400-question examination. The twelve colleagues listed below did just that:

MAHMOUD AHMAD, DDS, FAGD
Owatonna, Minnesota

GURRINDER S. ATWAL, DDS, FAGD
Danville

MICHAEL J. BISSIRI, DDS, FAGD
Lake Forest

JOSEPH FIELD, DDS, FAGD
Los Altos

PHILLIP T. FLETCHER, DDS, FAGD
Palo Alto

KINNARI GHIA, DDS, FAGD
San Jose



On the way to the summit.

HEMANT N. JOSHI, DDS, FAGD
Pomona

FERAS AL REZK, DDS, FAGD
Visalia

NANCY SALISBURY, DMD, FAGD
Temecula

SARAH J. SIBBACH, DMD, FAGD
Chino Hills

SAMEEN SINGH, DMD, FAGD
San Jose

MICHELE M. YAMADA, DDS, FAGD
San Diego

MORE OF THE CAGD IN PHILADELPHIA (continued from the adjacent page)



CAGD Region13 Caucus meets with the Canadian Caucus in Philadelphia discussing issues prior to the AGD House of Delegates meeting.

Participants (left to right, generally): A Dr. Mike Lew B Dr. Jay Thompson C Dr. Harriet Seldin D Dr. Steve Skurow E Dr. Anita Rathee F Dr. Steve Lockwood G Dr. Sun Costigan H Dr. Howard Chi I Dr. Guy Acheson J Dr. Tim Verceles K Dr. Craig Crispin L Dr. Chethan Chetty M Dr. Sireesha Penumetcha