



# GP NEWS



*The Publication for the General Practitioner*

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May, 2011

## AGD in Washington Meeting with Legislators on Issues of Concern To General Dentists

On April 11th and 12th, the Academy of General Dentistry had its annual Washington legislative conference called "A Great Dentist Goes To Washington" in Washington, DC. The conference was Chaired by our own Myron J. (Mike) Bromberg, DDS, who is also the national Chair of the AGD's Council on Legislative and Governmental Affairs. The California AGD was well represented. In addition to Dr. Bromberg were Drs. Guy Acheson, Anita Rathee, Steve Skurow, Michael Lew and Tim Verceles.

The focus of the meeting was to prepare attendees to meet with Senators and Congressmen and discuss items of concern to general dentistry. This year those items included repeal of the 1099 form reporting requirement which would have required dentists to file 1099 forms each time they purchased \$600 or more in goods, which would have been quite onerous for dental practices. Additionally, modification of ERISA, so as to prevent carriers from setting fees on non-covered services and repeal of McCarran-Ferguson which allows certain anti-trust exemption for carriers were also on the list.

However, the major thrust of the conference was to disseminate information and strategies to be used in dealing with the push at the state level for mid-level providers in dentistry which has already been taking place in a number of states and is expected to take place in California shortly.

The AGD has taken a very clear position in opposition to the independent practice of mid-level providers and believes there is no need for another category of provider. Dr. Bromberg told the conference that: "Access for the poor is a very real problem that we must deal with, but to suggest that the problem can be solved by the addition of more providers with limited training is just not realistic, nor is it responsible. Our focus is the protection of the public."

The AGD White Paper on Access To Care has investigated numerous well-documented solutions that have been shown to be effective. We already have a system that works. We should not pour our resources into new systems that have unproven and questionable results."

The conference was highlighted with role-playing by the attendees who had a chance to exhibit what they learned in preparation for their Congressional visitations. Other highlights included a presentation (continued on page 4...see ADVOCACY)



Dr. Myron "Mike" Bromberg, National AGD Legislative Chairman, addressing representatives from all across the United States at the conference

# 2011 Annual Meeting \* San Diego \* July 28-31



*A world-class meeting in  
a world-class city...!*

- \* *Dr. Gordon Christensen "The Christensen Bottom Line"*
- \* *Dr. David Hornbrook "Hot Topics in Restorative and Esthetic Dentistry"*
- \* *Dr. Terry Tanaka "Treatment Planning Guidelines for Fixed and Removable Prosthodontics"*
- \* *Dr. Pascal Magne "Biomimetic Restorative Dentistry"*
- \* *Dr. Howard Glazer "What's Hot and What's Getting Hotter"*
- \* *Dr. Karl K. Koerner "Surgical Extractions Using New High-Tech Devices"*
- \* *Dr. Louis Malmacher "Total Facial Esthetics"*
- \* *Dr. Joseph J. Massad "Dentures and Implant Overdentures:  
How They Have Improved the Quality of Life"*
- \* *Dr. Harold S. Crossley "Street Drugs Exposed  
and Top Thirty Most Prescribed Medications"*

TO REGISTER AND VIEW THE ENTIRE COURSE SCHEDULE, GO TO: [www.agd.org](http://www.agd.org)

E-MAIL: [meetings@agd.org](mailto:meetings@agd.org)

PHONE: 888.AGD.DENT, Ext. 4339

*The Academy of General Dentistry's Annual Meeting and Exhibits is the premier dental event of the year, granting general dentists and their teams access to the highest quality continuing education, the best products and the newest techniques, along with lively social events and an impressive convocation ceremony.*

*As the nation's eighth-largest city, San Diego boasts a vibrant economy and an easy-going lifestyle; the perfect place to conduct business and relax on the same trip. With blue skies and pristine beaches, fine dining and upscale boutiques, family-friendly attractions and bustling nightlife, San Diego has earned a worldwide reputation as "America's Finest City!"*

*The*  
**G.P. NEWS**  
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# ADVOCACY *(continued from page 1)*



California's delegation (left to right):  
 Dr. Guy Acheson (Fair Oaks)  
 Dr. Mike Bromberg (Reseda)  
 Dr. Mike Lew (Novato)  
 Dr. Anita Rathee (West Hills)  
 Dr. Tim Verceles (San Rafael)  
 Dr. Steve Skurow (West Covina)



Chuck McFarland (E.D., AGD), Dr. Fares Elias,  
 Dr. Paul Gosar (Congressman, DDS),  
 Dr. Mike Bromberg and Dr. Howard Gamble  
 (AGD Pres. Elect)



Representatives prior to visiting Senator Boxer's office.  
 Left to right: Dr. Tim Verceles, Dr. Steve Skurow,  
 Dr. Anita Rathee, Dr. Guy Acheson



Senator Patrick Leahy  
 with Dr. Bromberg



Role-playing in preparation for visitation with  
 senators and congressmen

by dentist and recently elected Congressman Paul Gosar (R—Arizona) who was greeted warmly by the attendees. Dr. Gosar emphasized the need for dentists to be involved in the legislative process and even encouraged those so inclined to run for office. Mr. Morton Kondracke, a highly respected journalist, political commentator and television personality mesmerized the audience with his insightful analysis into the inner workings of recent political activities in our nation's Capitol.

Mr. Pat O'Connor, AGD's lobbyist with the firm of Kent and O'Connor, discussed the intricacies of working within the political system and how to best attempt to achieve your goals. Additionally, he gave an overview of the issues facing the profession, as well as those on the horizon.

James Paluskiewicz, affectionately known as "JP," had been a Legislative Aid for deceased Congressman Charlie Norwood, a dentist and great friend of dentistry. "JP" is now the Deputy Chief of Staff for Congressman Michael Burgess, MD, of Texas. He gave a captivating talk on his experiences as a Legislative Aid, where the power often is in DC, and how the behind the scenes work gets done.

The Legislator of the Year Award was presented to Senator Patrick Leahy (D—Vermont) by Dr. Bromberg and Dr. Fares Elias of Michigan, President of the Academy of General Dentistry. This prestigious award was given to Senator Leahy in recognition of his efforts to repeal of the McCarran-Ferguson Act.

As the Conference ended, a number of attendees remarked on the success of their visitations and stated they felt well prepared to handle similar activities in their own state capitols.

Dr. Bromberg is a past president of the California AGD and has been the National AGD Chairman of Legislative and Governmental Affairs; Chairman of the Conference, for an unprecedented number of years; and the past National Chairman of Dental Practice, also for an unprecedented number of terms.



Senate Dining Room with AGD  
 lobbyist, John Kent



Cong. Brad Sherman (San Fernando  
 Valley), Dr. Elias, Dr. Bromberg



4 Congressman Darryl Issa greet-  
 ing Drs. Elias and Bromberg



Dr. Bromberg and Morton  
 Kondracke (Journalist)

# Dr. Eric Z. Shapira Receives AGD's Most Prestigious Humanitarian Award

The AGD is pleased to announce that Dr. Eric Zane Shapira of Montara, California, received the organization's Humanitarian Award in New Orleans. The Humanitarian Award is presented to a dentist who contributes voluntary service in conjunction with a consistent commitment to enhance the image of general dentistry through the continuous delivery of quality dental care and leadership in areas of civic involvement. Only twelve of the AGD's 35,000-plus members have received the Humanitarian Award since its inception in 1982. "We are proud to honor Dr. Shapira," says AGD President, Dr. Fares M. Elias. "He is an outstanding individual who represents a positive image of the dental profession and successful leadership in dental practice." Dr. Shapira was nominated for the award by past national AGD president, Dr. Mac Edington of Clarksville, Tennessee.



ERIC Z. SHAPIRA, DDS, MAGD

In 2004, Dr. Shapira founded Aging Mentor Services, Inc., an organization that offers a variety of services to elders in the transitions of aging and their families, including patient advocacy; geriatric counseling; care management; and physical, mental and home safety assessments. He is the author of "A New Wrinkle: What I Learned from Older People Who Never Acted Their Age," a book about the mysteries and the challenges of aging.

Dr. Shapira has done humanitarian work in Mexico, Guatemala, Chile, Ecuador, Bolivia, Sri Lanka, China, Italy, the United States, Canada, Hungary, Czech Republic and the Philippines. Eric has his Mastership in the AGD and continues to teach MasterTrack courses in Geriatric Dentistry and special patient care for the AGD. He is a spokes-dentist for the AGD, as well as writing community grants and grants to support the USO. Dr. Shapira belongs to the American Dental Association, the California Dental Association, the San Mateo County Dental Association and the California Academy of General Dentistry.

Dr. Shapira graduated from Temple University School of Dentistry in 1975 and was in private practice from 1978 to 2004. Eric and his wife, Susan, have three children, Zane, Sabrina Robinson and Desiree Meyer.

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## THE EYES, THE EARS AND THE VOICE OF THE GENERAL DENTIST

### *About the Academy of General Dentistry*

The Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) is a professional association of more than 35,000 general dentists dedicated to staying up to date in the profession through continuing education to better serve the public.

Founded in 1952, the AGD has grown to become the second-largest dental association in the United States, and it is the only association that exclusively represents the needs and interests of general dentists.

More than 772,000 persons in the United States are employed directly in the field of dentistry. A general dentist is the primary care provider for patients of all ages and is responsible for the diagnosis, treatment, management and overall coordination of services related to patients' oral health needs.

For more information about the AGD, please visit [www.agd.org](http://www.agd.org)

# Laser Dentistry Workshop

## FOR G.P. DENTISTS AND SPECIALISTS

**Sunday, June 5, 2011**

8 a.m. till 5 p.m. (registration 7 a.m.)

8 CE Units

Instructor: **Robert Convissar, DDS**  
(aka "Laser Bob")

**Embassy Suites Hotel**

11767 Harbor Blvd., Garden Grove, California 92840

Continental breakfast and fabulous lunch buffet, ten-page procedure syllabus handout, free parking . . . presented by the **Southern California Academy of General Dentistry**

*Specific procedures to be covered include:*

- \* Soft and hard tissue crown lengthening
- \* Cordless gingival sulcus troughing
- \* Frenectomy
- \* Gingivectomy
- \* Cosmetic recontouring of gingival tissue prior to laminate preps and impressions
- \* Ovate pontic site preparation
- \* Ridge surgery and vestibuloplasty to improve denture stability
- \* Treatment for altered passive eruption
- \* Torus and tuberosity removal
- \* Peri-implant soft tissue modification and treatment for peri-implantitis
- \* Treatment for denture stomatitis
- \* Hard tissue lasers: Are we ready to replace the turbine handpiece?
- \* Periodontal regeneration surgery and laser guided non-membrane tissue regeneration procedures
- \* Long-term management of the periodontal-prosthetic patient
- \* Epulis fissuratum removal without scarring or soft-tissue shrinkage

This workshop is suitable for Periodontists, Oral-maxillofacial surgeons, Prosthodontists, Orthodontists, General Dentists and Dental Auxiliaries. We will be working with fresh pig mandibles and chicken. Please bring to the course a gown, gloves, face mask, eye glasses and paper towels.

Dr. Convissar is a pioneer in the field of laser dentistry. He has over twenty-one years of experience with CO<sub>2</sub>, Nd:YAG, Diode and Erbium wavelengths. He has authored fifteen peer-reviewed papers and is the author/co-author of four textbooks on laser dentistry, and has presented over 300 seminars on five continents. He practices in New York City. His latest textbook, "Principles and Practice of Laser Dentistry," was published September, 2010.

## Registration Form

Dental License No.: \_\_\_\_\_ 6-digit AGD No. if you are a member: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DR RDH RDA DA (encircle)  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Visa/MC/Amex/Disc No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit card billing address and zip: \_\_\_\_\_

*Cancellation Policy: Must be within ten days of the meeting for a 90% refund to be issued to you. Otherwise, a CE credit voucher.*

### Tuition Due by May 29, 2011

AGD Member.....\$195  
Non-AGD Member.....\$245  
Dental Auxiliary.....\$100  
Dental Students.....\$50

### After May 29, 2011

AGD Member.....\$225  
Non-AGD Member.....\$275  
Dental Auxiliary.....\$130  
Dental Students.....\$80

### At-the-Door Registration:

Dentists.....\$300  
Dental Students.....\$200

*Fax and internet credit card information is safe and secure.*

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

For credit card payment, fax this completed form to: **310-472-6729**

Phone: 310-471-4916





**DR. STEPHEN LOCKWOOD**  
*President, CAGD, La Jolla*

# Knowing Yourself

## ...The Key To Growth and Development

Regardless of the dental school we may have attended or the influence of professors, we eventually develop our own philosophy of patient care. It continues to evolve as we gain clinical experience and get feedback from our patients. The feedback comes in various forms and often motivates us to make adjustments—more than just occlusal adjustments! Sometimes the feedback can be humbling as we learn we need to replace a restoration that has cracked or failed and it is not clear that the patient was abusing our highly polished work of art. Sometimes our hygienist points out an open margin on a radiograph and the patient is able to see and to co-diagnose our own recent treatment. More infrequently, perhaps, we might get a letter from peer review or a “love letter” from an attorney. Along our journey we face many challenging circumstances and meet people who help shape our professionalism. One of the purposes of the AGD is to guide general dentists throughout their career by offering valuable CE courses taught by ethical leaders in our field. Growing professionally empowers us to be more adept and confident in relating to our patients and the treatment we perform. Our journey can be sabotaged, however, if we fail to really know ourselves.

Over the years I have looked up to the clinical leaders in our profession and tried to imitate their wisdom and approach. Attendance at non-commercial CE courses lead by respectable clinicians has been invaluable. I have learned to enjoy dentistry more as courses have empowered me to improve and responsibly balance my desire to perform excellent dentistry while carefully managing my patients. This balance demonstrates and defines my ethics. There are many influences that can shape our ethics, but we must guard ourselves from influences of an insistent patient, “creative” insurance billing, or greed. Being honest and truthful is ethical. This must also be conveyed to our staff members who represent us in their communication with patients and potential patients. A simple test of our ethics is to ask the following. Regarding proposed treatment, would I perform a given procedure on a close family member? Or would I want this treatment for myself? We need to remember that our only professional obligation is to diagnose and inform and/or refer. We sometimes forget that we have no obligation to treat even though we may desire to help a patient. Actual treatment follows informed consent after dialogue about the risks, benefits, and alternative treatment options. It is important that we are aware of our clinic limitations as well.

Our professional growth, development, and maturation involves the ability to know ourselves. This is of great value in improving our effectiveness in communicating, treating, or referring our patients. Such self-evaluation is mandatory for all of us. Knowing ourselves involves being honest with our understanding of materials and procedures, but also understanding our patients. When I meet a patient I immediately and subconsciously assess where I perceive they fall within a broad psychological profile such as the House Psychological Profile:

- I. Philosophical (*trusting*)
- II. Exacting (*conditional trust*)
- III. Hysterical (*no trust, won't trust*)
- IV. Indifferent (*don't care*)

In my experience, I enjoy working on philosophical patients. They tend to welcome a more trusting connection and they are attentive when I explain risks, benefits and alternative treatments. They trust that I care about them, their safety, and well-being. They are reasonable and comfortable asking questions of me, too. I am grateful that most of the patients in my practice are philosophical. The exacting patient simply takes a lot more of my office time. This group of patients demands details and additional explanation. Admittedly, this does test my patience at times. They can be persuaded once they are educated and satisfied with all considerations. I am rather reluctant to even discuss the next two psychological profiles simply because the patients here lack trust. Here, we strictly adhere to our office policies. Some of the individuals in these groups eventually learn they can trust and welcome our service and others are simply referred out or never return to our practice. Fortunately, this is a smaller segment of our patient pool. Remember, you are not obligated to treat. Understanding your own tolerance levels, patience, and communication skills is helpful. Respectful, yet firm, communication works best to reduce the stress of managing a dental practice.

So far I have discussed the external influences on our ethics and philosophy. Internally, we must confront that our inclination to perform perfect dentistry is a two-edged sword. In school we learned what ideal and perfect meant. It meant getting a good grade or passing or even graduating! Later in our careers we learned that clinical acceptability was tolerable, but mediocre. We hope that our patients perceive our care as excellent and that our peers would deem it above clinically acceptable. Attempting to perform at a high level places an expectation on us that is reasonable given our license, learned skill sets, and experience. (continued on page 17...YOURSELF)



DR. JAY THOMPSON  
San Diego

## MESSAGE FROM OUR TRUSTEE

# Why Belong to the AGD?

Just this past week I received an e-mail from another dentist who does not live in California. He told me of an encounter with a good friend of his who is a California dentist, but who does not belong to the AGD. His question was why he should join the AGD. As I have been a member for over twenty years, this is a question that I probably haven't considered for a while, yet it is a question that all of us should have a ready answer.

The practice of general dentistry today is really quite remarkable. When I was in dental school in the mid-1980s, I was told by a professor that in 1965, the average 65-year-old had seven natural teeth. He went on to expound that it was very easy to set up a dental practice: you would graduate, decide where you wanted to live, go to the bank and get a loan and go to work. Children got fillings, adults got root canals and crowns, and seniors got extractions and dentures. He felt that those were the "Golden Years" for practicing general dentistry. Fortunately for our patients and us, general dentistry has undergone a revolution. Today, no one has to wear a removable appliance, and most of the children I see in my practice don't need more than routine maintenance.

This change is due to many factors, but the basis for this success has been dentistry's focus on the prevention of oral disease. In addition to this have been the wonderful advances in the actual practice of general dentistry: composite restorations, ceramic crowns and bridges, dental implants, wireless orthodontics, to name just a few. Because of these changes, much of what I learned in dental school has become, in many ways, obsolete.

The Academy of General Dentistry has been essential to my practice. Not has it only provided me with the education I needed to deliver to my patients improved techniques and restorations, it has been my advocate to allow me to provide this care. I am a member of the ADA, and have been a member since I was in dental school. I strongly support the ADA and I encourage you to join if you don't belong. But the ADA does not advocate exclusively for the general dentist, it advocates for all of dentistry—as it should. When the American Academy of Periodontology states that the general dentist is not qualified to treat anyone with a furcation involvement, or should not treat pregnant patients; when the American Association of Orthodontists states that the care provided by orthodontists is substantially different from the treatment provided by general dentists; when the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery tries to establish additional licensure requirements to place dental implants, it is not the ADA which intervenes and protects the ability of the general dentists to provide this care to their patients, **IT IS THE ACADEMY OF GENERAL DENTISTRY!** Not only does the AGD fight to protect your right to practice all aspects of dentistry, it provides you with the necessary education to provide your patients with the very best care possible.

More importantly to you and your future, there is a movement today to develop an Independent Mid-Level Provider for dental care. The Pew and Kellogg Foundations have funded studies to develop a curriculum for non-dentists, who do not have a college degree, to take a two-year program to allow them to do "simple restorations and extractions." The ADA has yet to take a hard stance against this. The AGD is the organization which is currently battling to prevent our patients and the general population to receive different standards of care—one standard for all who have the means to see a dentist; another, lesser standard, for all else—primarily those who are most vulnerable and who are in most need of care by an actual dentist.

Our organization is a member-driven professional society. We are a group of caring dentists who associate in order to provide the best care we can for our patients. It has been amazing to me that over the past few years that there have been so many times that the AGD has had to fight to allow general dentists to simply continue to care for their patients.

On average, only 22% of general dentists belong to the AGD. In California, that number is about 10%. As we fight these battles, it is so important that we increase our membership percentage so that we can have a louder voice—a voice heard by legislators, regulators, specialists and others.

*If you do not belong to the AGD, I ask that you think about all the organizations to which you belong and consider what they all do for you to better equip you to provide excellent dental care to your patients. Then, think about what the AGD is doing for you today. If you do, I believe that you will find that the AGD is an organization which deserves your support through membership.*

*"I ask you to think about all the organizations to which you belong and consider what they all do for you... the AGD is the organization which deserves your support through membership."*



# Sacramento-Sierra AGD News

Howard Chi, DMD, MAGD, President, SSAGD, Stockton

SSAGD has exciting news to announce! We are having our annual continuing education course on June 4, 2011 and for only \$150 you will receive seven units of participation credit!

This course is a hands-on course for the general practitioner. Learn how to safely, and easily, lift the membrane in the maxillary sinus using the crestal approach.

See below (*right*) to register for this course. Space is limited and is already filling up.

On December 29, 2010, SSAGD had its board meeting at Scott's Seafood Restaurant in Sacramento to announce its new slate of officers for 2011. With our success last year, the SSAGD board of directors of 2010 has been renamed for 2011. With a unanimous vote, the current SSAGD board members are now all serving another term.

*Returning this year is:*

**Howard Chi, President**

**Smita Khandwala, Treasurer**

**Erin Carson, Secretary:**

**Jim McNerney, CE Committee Chair**

**Guy Acheson, Study Club Director**

**Sireesha Penumetcha, Immediate Past President**

**Terri Wong, Executive Director**

**Kevin Kurio, Board Member at Large**

**Eric Wong, Board Member at Large**

With great gratitude, I would like to thank the 2010 SSAGD board for their outstanding leadership and hard work. I also welcome those same board members for 2011, and hope for another awesome year...!

*We hope to see everyone at our course on June 4th!*

*The Sacramento-Sierra Academy of General Dentistry  
presents*

## **The Crestal Approach Sinus Lift Surgery**

*featuring*

**Dr. Mike M. Chen**



**June 4, 2011 at the University of Pacific**

757 Brookside Road, Stockton, California 95207

9 a.m. ~ 5 p.m.

### Registration

AGD Dentists @ \$150 \* Non-AGD Dentist @ \$180  
(limited to forty participants . . . seven CE units)

Register on-line at: [ssagdgroupp@yahoocom](mailto:ssagdgroupp@yahoocom)

or fax to: 209-946-7584



**NO REFUNDS FOR CANCELLATION AFTER MAY 26, 2011**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

AGD Number \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

MasterCard     Visa     American Express     Discover

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name (as printed on card) \_\_\_\_\_

CVC Number (3 digits) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Crestal Approach Sinus Lift  
Surgery Seminar**

# CAS-KIT

**HIOSSEN** HANDS-ON COURSE

# CAGD's Annual Meeting in San Francisco

Lynn Peterson, CAE, Executive Director

The California Academy of General Dentistry's 2011 Annual Meeting took place the weekend of January 22nd at the Marriott Union Square Hotel in San Francisco. Dr. John Kanca presented a comprehensive program on adhesive dentistry. The subjects of infection control, California law and risk management were also presented.

In addition to the continuing education programs, the 2011 officers of the CAGD were elected and installed at the Dr. Bill Frank Memorial Officers' Dinner on Saturday, January 22, 2011. During the dinner, the Dr. Deon Carrico Memorial Spirit of Leadership Award was presented to Dr. Steve Skurow of Covina. The Dr. Virgil Brown Memorial Dentist of the Year Award was presented to Dr. Yolanda Mangrum of Sonoma. The CAGD Annual Meeting also provided an opportunity for the board of directors to meet with Dr. Howard Gamble, the AGD [NATIONAL] President Elect, and Dr. Manuel Cordero and Nicole Harris from AGD headquarters in Chicago.

*(more at the bottom of the next page)*



Dr. Steve Lockwood (right) presents President's plaque to Immed. P.P., Dr. Wm. Langstaff



Dr. Langstaff (left) and Exec. Dir. Lynn Peterson present Dr. S. Skurow AGD's "Spirit of Leadership Award"



Dr. Mike Bromberg (right) places the Past President's pin onto Dr. Wm. Langstaff's lapel



Dr. Wm. Langstaff presents the AGD's "Dentist of the Year Award" to Dr. Yolanda Mangrum of Sonoma



The Board of Directors of the California AGD met in San Francisco in January to address issues facing California's general practitioners



CAGD's Lynn Peterson, CAE (Certified Assn. Executive)



CAGD's incoming president, Dr. Steve Lockwood of La Jolla, and his staff (and wife) were in San Francisco for his installation



Drs. H. Gamble, J. Thompson (rear); M. Cordero, G. Acheson (front)



# Welcome To Our New AGD Members

Dr. Nima Aflatooni, *Elk Grove*  
 Dr. Minti Agarwal, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Borzoo Ahmadi, *Los Angeles*  
 Dr. Arvin Ahmadi, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Samer Alassaad, *Davis*  
 Dr. David Bainer, *Encinitas*  
 Dr. Sisiley Bao, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Piotr Barysenka, *Los Angeles*  
 Dr. Manraj Bhandari, *Walnut*  
 Dr. Lavanya Bikki, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Jesmine Boghwala, *Tustin*  
 Dr. Jon Browning, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Susan Cane, *Hidden Hills*  
 Dr. Paul Cater, *Rocklin*  
 Dr. Stephen Chadwick, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Diana Chan, *Daly City*  
 Dr. Teresa Chan, *Cupertino*  
 Dr. Barry Chiang, *Arcadia*  
 Dr. Sara Chilcutt, *San Diego*  
 Dr. Ava Chung, *Diamond Bar*  
 Dr. John Czochanski, *Orange*  
 Dr. Phillip D'Angelo, *Willits*  
 Dr. Wyatt Dannels, *Pasadena*  
 Dr. Hardik Desai, *Riverside*  
 Dr. Stella Dijamco, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Stephen Doan, *San Diego*  
 Dr. Ai-Quyen Duong, *Corona*  
 Dr. Matthew Durschlang, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Hamid Ebrahimi, *Loma Linda*  
 Dr. Celeste Eckerman, *Shingle Springs*  
 Dr. Sten Ericson, *Santa Barbara*  
 Dr. Paul Falvey, *Grass Valley*  
 Dr. Snigdha Fnu, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Chad Green, *Los Angeles*  
 Dr. Jeffrey Greenberg, *Encinitas*  
 Dr. Daniel Guindi, *Loma Linda*  
 Dr. David Herbert, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Titus Hou, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Andrew Huang, *Morgan Hill*  
 Dr. Gregory Hurt, *San Marcos*  
 Dr. Dmitriy Ivanov, *Los Angeles*

Dr. Shalini Kalia, *Palo Alto*  
 Dr. Jessica Kang, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Ehsan Karimian, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Saritha Ketepalle, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Khashayar Khodadadi, *Los Angeles*  
 Dr. Ansony Kim, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Houn Kim, *Santa Clara*  
 Dr. Hyun Kim, *Irvine*  
 Dr. Sarah Koyama, *Los Angeles*  
 Dr. Anupama Krishnamurthy, *Dublin*  
 Dr. Bethany Kum, *South Pasadena*  
 Dr. Linda Kuo, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Mark Lamborn, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Charisma Lasam, *Alhambra*  
 Dr. David Lau, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Nancy Le, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Alegria Ledda, *Vallejo*  
 Dr. Jamie Lee, *La Canada-Flintridge*  
 Dr. Andrew Leland, *Los Angeles*  
 Dr. Kon Leung, *Glendale*  
 Dr. Chun Nan Lin, *Rosemead*  
 Dr. Natalie Luu, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Mona Mahmoodi, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Ellen Mark, *Woodland*  
 Dr. Richard Marlais, *Fremont*  
 Dr. Donald McAdams, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Moemen Metwally, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Michael Min, *Ontario*  
 Dr. Helen Mockler, *Sunnyvale*  
 Dr. Chalise Morgan, *El Dorado Hills*  
 Dr. Krystie Morrissey, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Patricia Murphy, *Del Mar*  
 Dr. Vagan Mushegyan, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Premal Naik, *Moreno Valley*  
 Dr. John Nalchla, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Luz Nares, *Gilroy*  
 Dr. Jennifer Neglerio, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Hieu Ngo, *Anaheim*  
 Dr. Hung Nguyen, *Westminster*  
 Dr. Polin Nikolay, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Noha Nour, *Irvine*

Dr. Soumya Pandey, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Madhukar Patel, *Temple City*  
 Dr. Nilima Patel, *Duarte*  
 Dr. Sonal Patel, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Alberto Ponce de Leon, *Sacramento*  
 Dr. Garrett Porteus, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Kathryn Preston, *Los Angeles*  
 Dr. Mary Pauline Puno, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Anh Quynh, *Ventura*  
 Dr. Vanessa Robb, *Los Angeles*  
 Dr. Kevin Robertson, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Ray Rodig, *Modesto*  
 Dr. Eryn Rose, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Bahareh Safaie, *Calabasas*  
 Dr. Clio Samia-Lindenauer, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Matthew Sandretti, *Los Angeles*  
 Dr. Nachiket Saoji, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Sophia Sellas, *Redlands*  
 Dr. Nima Shayesteh, *Los Angeles*  
 Dr. Tammam Shhebar, *Mission Viejo*  
 Dr. Andrea Sosa, *Fairfield*  
 Dr. Fred Stalley, *Redondo Beach*  
 Dr. Zachary Streit, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Mihai Tiplea, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Alain Toca, *Bell*  
 Dr. Johnny Tran, *Lake Forest*  
 Dr. Stephen Tropp, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Daniel Unzicker, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Veena Vaidyanathan, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Joanne Vargas, *San Diego*  
 Dr. Amandeep Virk, *Union City*  
 Dr. Ramu Vuppala, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Greg Wright, *Grand Terrace*  
 Dr. Donavon YapShing, *Yucaipa*  
 Dr. Afsaneh Yeganeh, *Los Angeles*  
 Dr. Vivian Yin, *Los Angeles*  
 Dr. Wenlang Zhang, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. James Winterton, *San Francisco*  
 Dr. Zhao Zhou, *Los Angeles*

## CAGD (continued from the adjacent page)



Standing: Dr. Verceles, Dr. Lew, Nicole Harris (AGD Chicago), Dr. Penumetcha, Dr. Gamble, Dr. Cordero, Dr. Thompson, Dr. Acheson, Dr. Choi, Dr. Madireddi, Dr. Keshav, Dr. Garfield, Dr. Chetty;  
 Seated: Dr. Lockwood, Dr. Costigan, Dr. Langstaff



Dr. Lockwood takes the reins of the CAGD as President in January in San Francisco



# Student FellowTrack South

## IMPLANT WORKSHOP

Dr. Robert Garfield, SCAGD Executive Director, Los Angeles

The California Academy of General Dentistry (CAGD) state constituent has led the way in the development of the AGD's FellowTrack program for dental students. "FellowTrack" is an opportunity for dental students who are planning to enter general practice and GPRs after graduation to accumulate AGD continuing education credits while still in school. These CE credits will apply toward AGD Fellowship after graduation. This gives students of general dentistry a "jump start" toward a lifetime of learning to improve their skills and knowledge.

Dentistry is so complex today, and with our standards so high, it is nearly impossible in four years of dental school to adequately train general practitioners in all of the subjects they need to know to be competent practitioners. The Academy of General Dentistry, with its Fellowship and Mastership programs, helps to fill these voids in professional education and develop attitudes in young general dentists for a professional lifetime of dental education.

The structure of the FellowTrack program is to have students in each of the dental schools join the AGD and establish student AGD FellowTrack chapters or "clubs," with student officers and leaders who will plan their CE activities with the help of CAGD mentors in their geographic areas. The students will decide which type of CE courses they want and who they want as their instructors. They will then set up, with the assistance of their mentors, noon and weekend lectures and workshops in the subjects they have chosen, and receive full CE credit toward Fellowship in the AGD. These student CE courses can be either on or off campus, sponsored and CE units recorded by the AGD.

The following photos were taken of thirty, mostly senior, dental students from UCLA and USC attending a full-day FellowTrack implant placement and restoration workshop on December 21, 2010, held in Calabasas Hills, California, at the Implant Direct Sybron International Training Center, thanks to the generosity of Dr. Gerald Niznick, the company founder. The instructors were Robert Garfield, DDS, SCAGD Executive Director, and Brian Banton, MDT, Vice-President of Product Development, Marketing and International Sales for Implant Direct Sybron International. The photos were taken by Phil Chung, USC dental student. Loc

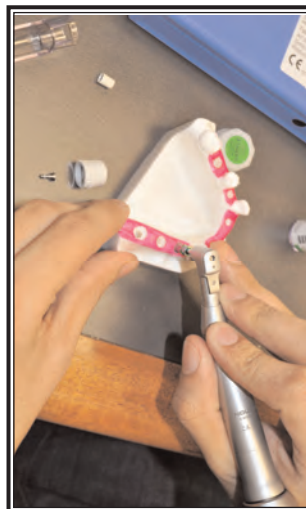
12 Doan (USC) and Rupali Gupta (UCLA) are the student FellowTrack leaders. *(continued, next page)*



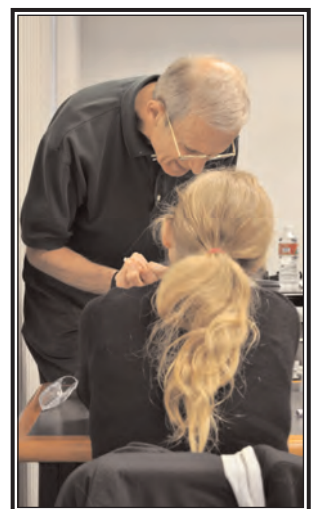
Students from USC and UCLA at work



Entire class at the Implant Direct Sybron International Training Center in Calabasas Hills



Model setup...one for each attendee



Dr. Garfield assisting a student

## WORKSHOP *(continued from page 12)*

The following are some of the comments made by course attendees on the AGD continuing education course evaluation forms:

*"Great course. Very hands-on and relevant. Another in-depth class would still be required before placing implants on patients."*

*"Thank you so much for this opportunity."*

*"The course and workshop were extremely helpful and informative. Dr. Garfield is very enthusiastic and knowledgeable about the subject. He is friendly, funny and engaged. I learned a lot today."*

*"Enthusiastic presentation, compelling and a valuable learning experience. I greatly enjoyed the tour of the implant manufacturing facility."*

*"I would recommend this course to any dental student."*

*"Very positive experience."*



### *Student FellowTrack Benefits:*

#### **Reduced Membership Fees and Student FellowTrack Website**

The Student Section of the website at [www.cagd.org](http://www.cagd.org) offers student members Facebook, Twitter and CE information. You will also be able to download the California Academy of General Dentistry's publication, the GP News, and articles from other sources.

#### **Premier Publications**

Subscriptions to AGD's publications General Dentistry and AGD Impact are included in your membership. Articles are available to download at the AGD website.

#### **Student/Recent Grad Transitional Manual**

This free manual provides you with instant access to practice management tips you may not have learned in dental school, such as goal setting, financial planning, marketing, and printable worksheets to keep you on track! Members can download this at:

[http://www.agd.org/membership/dental\\_students/damanual.asp](http://www.agd.org/membership/dental_students/damanual.asp)

#### **Free Annual Meeting and Exhibits Registration**

Get a jump on graduation by starting your job search early. The Academy of General Dentistry has information and resources specific to the needs of dental students.



A complete bench set-up for every student at Implant Direct



Robert Jungman, UCLA student, "giving it his all"



Jessica Lee and Chad Green, both UCLA students



Brian Banton, MDT and Robert Garfield, DDS, course instructors



# Northern California AGD Activities

Shanthi Madireddi, DDS, President, NCAAGD, Los Altos Hills

The author C.S. Lewis wrote: *"You are never too old to set another goal or dream a new dream."* After twenty-one years of dental practice, I decided that I wanted to grow in new directions, and enrolled in the CAGD MasterTrack program. This intense course of study is an extraordinary opportunity to learn the best techniques in all aspects of general dentistry. Furthermore, it provides the added bonus of a study club, wherein participants mentor each other.

What originally motivated me was a desire to gain a "designation" after the DDS. That became totally irrelevant as I realized how wonderful it feels to have support from other dentists in our group.

Of course, obtaining Mastership status or even Fellowship is not necessary to be an extraordinary dentist. Being part of the AGD can give you tools that you need to be such a dentist.

In December, 2010, the Northern California AGD surveyed the members to determine their continuing education needs. *As a result of that survey, the following courses were planned for this year:*

✦ **DR. TIM VERCELES**  
a very inspiring mentor, was the facilitator and speaker for a leadership workshop held on *Friday, April 15th.*

✦ **DR. FRANK CERVONE**  
will present an endodontics workshop in San Jose on *Friday, June 17th.*

✦ **DR. ROBERT CONVISSAR**  
will present a laser workshop on *Friday, August 19th.*

*Another full day lecture is being planned, although the topic and date are yet to be determined. Watch for an announcement.*



Dr. Shanthi Madireddi

*"...I decided that I wanted to grow in new directions, and enrolled in the CAGD MasterTrack program."*



Dr. Paul Schafer, Dr. Renee Meyer, Dr. Tim Verceles



Standing: Dr. William Choi, Dr. Kinnari Ghia, Dr. Renee Meyer, Dr. Dinu Gray and Dr. Paul Schafer. Seated: Dr. Tim Verceles, Dr. Mina Levi, Dr. Chitra Shikaram and Dr. Shanthi Madireddi



# More from Northern California...

**Chitra Shikaram, DDS, Editor, NCAGD, Campbell**

The NCAGD started 2011 with its first board meeting on January 30th at the home of Dr. Shanthi Madireddi. The slate of officers for 2011 was approved at this meeting. Dr. Tim Verceles, our Immediate Past President, presented the new board.

*They are:* **Dr. Shanthi Madireddi, President**

**Dr. Ralph Hoffman, Secretary**

**Dr. Craig Crispin, Treasurer**

**Dr. Chitra Shikaram, Editor**

Also welcomed was a dynamic and motivated group of dentists as guests who bring good networking skills and are keen on helping the NCAGD Board.

Dr. Tim Verceles did a phenomenal job during his term as the President. Dr. Verceles is a dynamic leader in the making and he will be serving as the Treasurer for the California AGD this year. The NCAGD wishes Dr. Verceles all the very best and success in his future endeavors. We also look forward to his guidance and advice in the coming years.

Dr. Madireddi, President of the NCAGD, expressed how excited she is about the year ahead. She is very happy to see the dynamic, energetic and highly motivated group of future leaders.

The board discussed the achievements of the past year and also the agenda for the upcoming year. The year 2011 holds great promise with participation courses planned in endodontics, lasers, and leadership (*see the previous page*).

The NCAGD Board has completed an online CE survey via our CAGD website about the courses and speakers that AGD members would like to see present at CE events. The survey had a very good response. The NCAGD Board would like to thank all the participants for their input. Participants of the survey were included in a drawing. The winner of a \$50 gift card was Dr. Carol Lucas.

On behalf of the NCAGD, I request all to participate in the upcoming CE events. **You need not be a member of the AGD to attend our events.** It is a great way to not only get the knowledge and credits needed, but also a great way to network with fellow dentists. *We make learning fun!*



**Dr. Mina Levi, Dr. Shanthi Madireddi, Dr. Dinu Gray**

Your NCAGD Board will send out notifications regarding all CE courses and membership events.

*For information, visit*

[www.ncagd.com](http://www.ncagd.com)

Should you have any questions or comments about NCAGD membership, benefits, networking or mentoring opportunities, or anything else, *e-mail to:*

[smadireddi@gmail.com](mailto:smadireddi@gmail.com)

*or call:* 650-804-5037

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## Governor Appoints Langstaff To Hygiene Committee

Dr. William Langstaff of Villa Park, CAGD's Immediate Past President, was appointed to the Dental Hygiene Committee of California by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The DHCC will consist of nine-members appointed by the Governor; four public members, one practicing dentist and four dental hygienists. The responsibilities of DHCC include issuing, reviewing, and revoking licenses as well as developing and administering examinations. Additional functions include adopting regulations, determining fees and continuing education requirements for all hygiene licensure categories. In the near future, the DHCC will establish a Diversion Program for licensees whose competency may be impaired due to drug or alcohol abuse and will establish a Diversion Evaluation Committee.



# Watchdog REPORT *Looking out for patients and general practitioners*

Dr. Guy Acheson, DDS, MAGD, Watchdog Committee Chairman, CAGD Vice President, Fair Oaks

I have just returned from Washington, D.C., as part of "A Great Dentist Goes To Washington," the annual AGD trip to lobby legislators. *What an experience!*

Dr. Mike Bromberg, with the help of AGD national staff, puts on a fabulous experience for two days that includes lessons in how to lobby, the etiquette of lobbying, and role playing with critique in how to present your case to your representative's office. We also had inspirational talks by our AGD president, Dr. Fares Elias and AGD's advocacy point man, Daniel Buksa. On the second day we have presentations by Dr. Paul Gosar (R-Ariz) who is a dentist and Morton Kondracke, a long-time journalist and regular guest on the McLaughlin Group television program. Then we went off to visit our representatives. I will leave the details to Dr. Bromberg's report.

2011 is the beginning of my second year attending the Dental Board of California meetings and reporting to you, the California AGD members. This will be a busy year for the Dental Board of California and I look forward to some interesting meetings. This report will have two parts: a report on what was presented at the February, 2011 DBC meeting, and then some musings of my own. I let you know now that the opinions expressed in this article are my own. They do not represent the official positions or opinions of the Academy of General Dentistry or the California Academy of General Dentistry. *Ahhhhh . . . now I am free!*

The DBC met in San Diego on February 24-25, 2011. *The most relevant issues that came up included:*

1. The DBC had decided last year that dental continuing education courses that are PACE or CERP approved will now be accepted towards license renewal no matter where they are presented. Previously, courses required a course provider code issued by the DBC to qualify towards license renewal. Most courses presented outside of California never applied for the California provider code so they didn't count towards license renewal continuing education requirements. Sounded so simple and complete when it was announced last year, but there is still a catch. Turns out that the old rules were never expunged from the regulations and the DBC staff is required to enforce the rules as published. So there is still a conflict between what the DBC wants and the law allows. I was told last year that the conflicts were resolved but in my discussions with the DBC staff, they were not. I testified about this problem to the DBC in public comment and hope that the issue is truly resolved this year.

2. Governor Schwarzenegger signed legislation in 2010 allowing licensure by portfolio in California. This means that graduates from dental schools in the state of California will no longer have to take a separate dental board examination to obtain a license to practice in California. The individual dental schools will certify that their graduates meet the DBC requirements and Voila!, they are eligible for a dental license in California. Another rite of passage to become a dentist falls on the wayside.

3. The DBC has finally clearly specified that CPR/BLS courses required for licensure in California must be American Heart Association or American Red Cross approved in order to qualify for California license renewal. Be careful when you sign up for courses. Courses "taught to AHA or ARC standards" but not taught by AHA or ARC certified instructors will not count. This happened in my office just last year. The card you receive must be an AHA or ARC card.

4. The DBC is in the final phase of modifying Division 10 of Title 16, section 1018 of the California Code of Regulations (I did not make that up) to make it "unprofessional conduct" for a dentist to: fail to provide records requested by the DBC within fifteen days, fail to report an indictment within thirty days, fail to report a felony charge within thirty days, fail to report a conviction within thirty days, fail to report disciplinary action taken by another professional licensing entity or other specified agency within thirty days. That means your license is at risk, even for just an indictment or charge! "Convictions" does not include traffic infractions with a fine of less than \$1,000 unless the infraction involved alcohol or controlled substances. It is not clear whether the \$1,000 fine is just the base fine for the infraction or the total fine charged which includes fees, penalties, and surcharges. This may seem picayune to some but the base fine for a simple speeding ticket (less than 15mph over the posted limit) is only \$37, but with fees, penalties, and surcharges the total fine approaches \$300.

*Now for my personal musings on trends in Dentistry regulations in California:*

Licensure by portfolio is a significant change in California. For future graduates it removes one of the great stressors on the path to becoming a dentist in California. For already licensed dentists it may make them angry that future dentists don't have to go through the gauntlet of "taking the board exam." Some will feel that dental schools are really the best ones to judge the clinical competence of a dental student because they have so much experience with that student. Others will question the lack of having an independent agency, the DBC, judge the clinical competence of dental school graduates. The reality of the situation is that the DBC doesn't have the money to pay for board exams and the dental schools are not providing their clinical spaces to the DBC for the exams. It's all about the money, Honey. You can expect licensure by portfolio to become the norm for RDA, RDAEF, RDH, and RDHAP.

I am concerned about this trend towards licensure by portfolio because of the lack of independent evaluation of applicants for licensure. The dental schools have a vested interest in making sure that their students, who have paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in tuition and fees, are successful in obtaining a dental license to practice in California. It also allows for some significant variability in what constitutes clinical competence among the various dental schools. All of the dental schools have their own cultures and interpretations on clinical standards. This will now expand to include all the schools for dental assistants and dental hygienists being the deciding authority on the competence of their graduates. *How is the DBC going to oversee this?* With continually shrinking budgets for the DBC there is the probability that oversight will become very thin. The power for judging the competence of graduates for licensure in California starts shifting toward the educational institutions and their regulatory agencies such as the California Association of Dental Assisting Teachers (CADAT). The educational institutions and organizations will be telling the DBC what is important in assuring competence of practitioners. They could say that it costs too much to train dentists to do certain procedures, say oral surgery. They could say their students are

*(continued on page 17..WATCHDOG)*

## YOURSELF (continued from page 7)

Our own professional expectations should be above our patients' expectations. The dialogue and consent we have with our patients must allow our expectations to be above or congruent with the patients' expectations. If patients' expectations are consistently above our own expectations then we either need to get more clinical or communication training. In the meanwhile, it may be wise to not treat. Perfectionism was what most of us were taught in dental school. Attention to detail was its corollary. We were trained to be both precise and accurate...*all the time.*

There is a less virtuous side of perfectionism I wish to share, however. I first learned from a Catholic monk years ago that **the emotional polar opposite of perfection is anger.** This statement literally hit me between the eyes...*and hard.* This discovery resonated with me. I had thought my frustration over an ill-fitted crown or an open contact was justified. Deep down I was upset...*okay, angry!* I was annoyed by the inconvenience and the physiological responses that would come over me. I was anxious about informing a patient that my work was not acceptable. What would the patient think? I was tempted to throw the lab technician under the bus as well. One of my patients actually helped me in this area. I recall him saying that he appreciated me not just cementing the \$1000 crown on his tooth that was not done right. He understood and said he appreciated me because he perceived my perfectionism.

I have learned that I can be myself and embrace perfectionism, but temper it with a sense of humor. God is perfect... and I am not. The striving for perfection is termed perfectionism ... and like parallelism in dentistry, it is not exactly parallel

in reality. The desire to perform artistic and functional dentistry on each and every patient is an honorable goal, but remember to keep a sense of humor. Being angry makes us unattractive to our patients, our staff, and those who love us. There are vices that have overtaken dentists over the years. The worst consequences are self-destructive behaviors. Sadly, we don't have to look very far. Ironically, we paid for our dental education and unknowingly received perfectionist training. The downside, if not balanced, is becoming increasingly vulnerable to negative emotions. Anger can influence our philosophy, ethics, relationships, and personality. Left undetected, this may lead to failure in various aspects of our lives.

The simplest ethical challenge we have is to know ourselves, our limitations, our fears, and our desires and values. Asking the right question can be as useful as having the right answer.

What do I really care about? Why do I do what I do...each day? Have I allowed perfectionism to influence my attitude and thinking? Do I value myself? Do I value my neighbor as I value myself? Do I value helping people through the art and science of dentistry?

The most courageous thing we can do for ourselves is to self-evaluate from time to time. This, in turn, becomes the most important thing we can do for our patients and everyone else in our lives. May your professional journey bring you towards greater balance, understanding, and fulfillment.

## THE Dental Trader

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*Proud supporter of the California Academy of General Dentistry*

## WATCHDOG (continued from page 9)

trained to refer these procedures to specialists rather than teach them these basic skills, all in the name of cost/benefit studies. *I see lots of opportunities for mischief. Prove me wrong.*

The independent mid-level dental provider issue is coming to California soon. A bill has been introduced in the California senate, SB 694, that at this time is a shell bill that is expected to be filled with something related to independent mid-level providers. We are watching.

Lastly, the DBC ceases to exist by the end of 2011 unless it is extended by legislation this year. The process of developing legislation to continue the existence of the DBC is called Sunset Review. The DBC exists within the Department of Consumer Affairs which is overseen by the Business and Professions Committee. It is the Business and Professions Committee that will put up legislation to authorize the continuation of the DBC. This provides an opportunity for legislative

changes to the constitution of the DBC and legislative changes to the dental regulations. Just two of the possibilities being mentioned are changing the composition of the DBC to have fewer dentists and more non-dentists as well as adding the duty of administration of local anesthesia to the duties of an RDAEF. *Should be an interesting year!*

Here is my continuing call for comments and opinions from you, the AGD members. The California Academy of General Dentistry board members need to know your thoughts, your feelings, your opinions if we are to represent you properly. It is not fair to criticize our efforts to represent you if you do not make your opinions and feelings known. My telephone and e-mail boxes are open at all times.

**Guy E. Acheson, DDS, MAGD, Vice President, CAGD**

[drguyacheson@gmail.com](mailto:drguyacheson@gmail.com) 916-214-666



# Student **IMPLANT COURSES** FellowTrack North

Sun Costigan, DDS, MAGD, *President-Elect, CAGD and FellowTrack Mentor, Novato*

The CAGD's Student FellowTrack and Northern California AGD offered implant continuum courses, Part I and Part II, in January and March. It was a combined effort to offer great courses to students and dentists as a part of CAGD member benefits. These courses were attended by more than eighty dentists and students. Additionally, many mentors from the Northern California AGD participated. Thanks to all mentors who donated their time to provide assistance at these successful courses. FellowTrack also appreciates the sponsors who generously donated their facilities and materials allowing us to provide quality courses to all. Thanks to all AGD students and officers who helped register and organize the transportation to MicroDental Lab where the courses were held. The students were very excited, enthusiastic and are taking important steps to enhance their future in dentistry. The Academy of General Dentistry will continue to offer added learning opportunities to both dentist and student members. These programs, combined with the many other benefits of AGD membership, make membership essential for all general dentists!



Lecturer, Dr. John DiPonziano



Mentors: Dr. Tim Verceles, Dr. Renee Meyer, Dr. Mina Levi, Dr. Sun Costigan, Dr. Rich Ringrose and Dr. Shanthi Madireddi



Lecturer, Dr. Mike Chen



Dr. Ralph Hoffman oversees students and dentists during bone grafting

*"Students...taking important steps to enhance their future in dentistry."*



Attendees pay close attention to the speaker



Students learning about procedures



I believe my angulation looks good...!



Mentor, Dr. Paul Schafer, helping one of the students



## MORE OF THE FELLOWTRACK NORTH IMPLANT COURSE



Placing an implant on the model



More than eighty students and dentists from northern California attended



Placing the abutment and then the impression



Oh, I want this impression to be perfect...!



Let's mark the location



Hands-on bone grafting can be fun...!

Comments from Student Representative:

**BHARANI KUMAR BHATTU**  
FellowTrack Representative, Class of 2012,  
UCSF, School of Dentistry

*"I started at UCSF in June 2010 as an IDP student with seven years of dental background from India. I am enjoying studying a wide spectrum of areas in dentistry at UCSF. I am updating my knowledge by attending elective courses and Top Gun programs at UCSF.*

*"Another great learning opportunity came from my involvement in the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD). This organization has brought several guest speakers in various fields from Practice Management to Implants. Recently, I attended the Implant I and Implant II Hands-on Course at Micro Dental lab. It was a really great learning opportunity which included bone grafting procedures, implant placement techniques, various implant case studies, and research reviews on implants. I want to thank Dr. Sun Costigan for this great opportunity and to all of the students who attended the Practice Management and Implant courses. I request more of this kind of seminar in the future."*



# THIRTY-FIRST SKI AND LEARN SEMINAR WAS HELD AT *Snowmass/Aspen, Colorado*

The Southern California Academy of General Dentistry, in conjunction with the Western Society of Periodontology, held the Thirty-first Annual Ski and Learn Seminar from February 12th through the 19th. It was an enjoyable experience for all attendees. The accommodations at the Top of the Village condominiums were both luxurious and convenient. All one had to do was step out of their door, put on their skis and glide off into a beautiful day.

The fifty-plus participants were treated to ideal conditions, sunshine, fine dining experiences and a very informative scientific program featuring: Dr. Joseph Cain, Professor Emeritus, University of Oklahoma, College of Dentistry, whose topic was "Overcoming Mistakes with Dental Implants." Also, Dr. Bruce Houser, DDS, MS, Board Certified Periodontist from Scottsdale, Arizona, who spoke about "Improved Function and Esthetics with Pre-Prosthetic Surgery." Dr. Bradley J. Sandvik, DMD, FAGD, General Dentistry from Phoenix, Arizona, whose topic was "Beyond Single Tooth Implant Restorative Techniques and Treatment Planning for the Edentulous Arch." Also presenting was Dr. Brant Bradford, DDS, Col. US Army, Chief of Prosthodontics, Ft. Irwin National Training Center, California. His topic was "Cosmetic Approach To Prosthetic Rehabilitation."

We thank Dr. Don Truex, Nastar Race Chairman and Awards Banquet Master of Ceremonies, and Dr. Lionel Greenberg of the Western Society of Periodontology for making this trip such a success.

Our program began with a Sunday night Welcome Party. A Nastar Race on Wednesday, a picnic and a Farewell and Awards Banquet on Friday night concluded our stay.



Snowmass/Aspen, Colorado for the 2011 Ski and Learn Seminar (*group gathered at the picnic for a photo shoot*)



Dr. Bob Barrett, *Trip Chairman*; Linda Osborn, Dr. Dave Osborn, Dr. Lionel Greenberg, Jadranka Borgudan Cain

We look forward to next year's Ski and Learn Seminar. We are investigating several sites so that we can plan another memorable experience. We plan on having four clinicians and the ambiance that keeps our members returning year after year. *We are always open to welcoming new participants.*

Watch for announcements in future AGD publications, the U.S. Mail, e-mail and word-of-mouth. Martha Perez will once again be arranging our travel and accommodations.

*You can contact Martha at:*

**SKI.com**  
2349 Honolulu Avenue  
Montrose, California 91020  
1-800-525-2052, Ext. 3045



*Medals to the winners: Patricia Mikami, Teresa Sepulveda and Dr. Vera Deutch (presented by Dr. Don Truex)*

See you next year at the Thirty-second Annual Ski and Learn Seminar.



# SKI AND LEARN *(more from the adjacent page)*



Daring skiers ready to hit the slopes



Patti Barrett going for a snowmobile ride  
*"It was great fun and thrilling...!"*



Dr. Dave Osborn and Dr. Don Truex  
*(approximately at 12,000 foot elevation)*



Buffet line at the Awards Banquet



The Dr. Tory Lindh Family from Florida



Dr. Don Truex presented medals to Nastar Race winners



Dr. Don Truex, Linda Osborn, Patti Barrett,  
Martha Perez from Ski.com



Our four clinicians: Dr. Joe Cain, Dr. Bruce Hauser,  
Dr. Brant Bradford and Dr. Brad Sandvik



## CAGD's Dr. James Thompson Among Awardees

The UCSD Free Dental Clinic Project began eleven years ago to provide ongoing free dental care for people that are underserved financially which included the working poor in San Diego, California. This unique project is run by undergraduates and recent graduates from UCSD as well as the other universities in the San Diego area. Currently, the UCSD Free Dental Clinics operate in three locations around San Diego County and they have plans to open a fourth clinic when they have adequate funds.

Since 2003, there have been 350 students that have gotten into dental school. They have about 200 students that are a member of the Project this year and there are now over eighty dentist volunteers who have provided more than \$3.5 million dollars in freedental care to over 10,000 patients. This is a result of over 50,000 hours of student time and 6500 hours of donated doctor time.

In addition to the clinics, many of the student and doctor volunteers have served with the USS Mercy Hospital Ship, the USNS Comfort Hospital Ship, USNS Byrd, and USS Pelilieu. Presently, we have civilian volunteers on the USNS Comfort Continuing Promise 2011 going to the Caribbean's, South America, and Central America and the USS Cleveland Pacific Partnership 2011 going to 5 of the Oceania Islands. Last year we had 133 civilian volunteers on the USNS Mercy Hospital Ship.

On March 26, 2011, the UCSD Free Clinic had their annual awards dinner to honor outstanding volunteers. This year the recipients of the Dan Kershner Recognition Award went to students: Cuong Nguyen and Martin Weinstein and the faculty recipient was Dr. James H. Thompson, DMD, FAGD to honor him for being a great mentor and teacher to the students and an excellent community volunteer through the UCSD Free Dental Clinics.

The recipients of this award are selected by a committee of students and faculty and is given in honor of Dr. Daniel C. Kershner, DDS, who was one of the original five volunteer dentists who founded the project. He additionally donated many hours of dental care for the homeless and working poor. Dr. Dan also traveled to many Caribbean countries, mainly the Virgin Islands, to assist and provide dental care for the needy in those countries. He graduated from the UCSF Dental School in 1993, and succumbed to his battle with lung cancer on March 21, 2004, at the age of fifty.

The Scott Perry Quiet Leadership Award went to students: Kang Ko and Kevin To. This Award was presented by Scott Perry's parents and recognizes the students who provide service and support for the clinics. These students were instrumental in keeping the equipment at the clinics operating so that the patients could be provided the care that they required. This award is given in honor of Scott Perry who passed away from a swimming accident, possibly due to a heart attack. He died on June 24th 2007. Scott dedicated himself to the project and worked tirelessly to keep the clinic operating without needing any recognition. He was a quiet leader.

*The UCSD Free Dental Clinic Project has won:*

- ◆ **Golden Apple Awards (2005 and 2008)** and has also the **ADA's Access to Care Award.**
- ◆ 2008 San Diego County Public Health Champion Award
- ◆ Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition.
- ◆ Certificate of Appreciation from United States Senate.
- ◆ California Legislature Assembly Certificate of Recognition Award.
- ◆ The Certificates of Appreciation from Congress were given to our members for their humanitarian work in 2008, 2009, and 2010 with the U.S. Navy.
- ◆ 2006 American Red Cross Real Heroes Award for Medical Hero Recognition.
- ◆ 2006 Blue Cross of California Community Service Award.

*If you are interested in learning more about the UCSD Free Dental Clinic Project they will have a booth at the AGD Annual Meeting in San Diego or you can contact them at:*

UCSDFDCP  
6080 Lake Murray Boulevard, Suite C, La Mesa, California 91942-2571



The recipients and members of the San Diego County Dental Society, many of whom are volunteer dentists for the Project.



Front row, L to R: Cuong Nguyen, Kang Ko, Kevin To, Martin Weinstein. Back row, L to R: Samual D. Dove, DDS, Sussi Yamaguchi, DDS, Irvin Silverstein, DDS, James H. Thompson, DMD, FAGD, Randy Taylor, DDS.  
*(Drs. Yamaguchi and Taylor are student alumni of the Project)*



# 2011 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

For more information, call us toll-free at 888.AGD.DENT (888.243.3368) or join on line at www.agd.org

**Referral Information:**  
If you were referred to the AGD by a current member, please note information below:

MEMBER'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE/PROVINCE OR FEDERAL SERVICE BRANCH \_\_\_\_\_

## Member Information

FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ MIDDLE INITIAL \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DESIGNATION (e.g. DDS, DMD, BDS) \_\_\_\_\_ INFORMAL NAME (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership (check one):  
 Active General Dentist     Active General Dentist (but, a recent graduate in last four years)  
 Associate     Resident     Dental Student     Affiliate

Date of Birth (month/day/year) \_\_\_\_\_  
Required for access to the AGD website

Do you currently hold a valid U.S./Canadian dental license?  Yes     No

LICENSE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ STATE/PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE RECEIVED (month, year) \_\_\_\_\_

If you are not in general practice, indicate your specialty: \_\_\_\_\_

Current practice environment (check one):  Solo     Associateship     Group Practice     Hospital     Resident

Faculty (institution): \_\_\_\_\_  Federal Services (branch): \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a member of the Canadian Forces Dental Service, please indicate your preferred constituent:  U.S. Military Counterpart     Local Canadian Constituent

## Contact Information

Your AGD constituent is determined by your address (Northern California, Sacramento-Sierra, Southern California or San Diego)

PREFERRED METHOD OF CONTACT:  E-Mail     Mail     Phone

PREFERRED BILLING/MAILING ADDRESS:  Business     Home

BUSINESS ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE/PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP/POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF BUSINESS (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE/PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP/POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ PRIMARY E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ WEBSITE ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

## Education Information

ARE YOU A GRADUATE OF AN ACCREDITED\* U.S./CANADIAN DENTAL SCHOOL?  YES     NO     Currently Enrolled

DENTAL SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ GRADUATION DATE (month and year) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a graduate of an accredited U.S. or Canadian post-doctoral program?  YES     NO     Currently Enrolled    TYPE:  AEGD     GPR     Other

Post-Doctoral Institution \_\_\_\_\_ STATE/PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_ Begin Date (month and year) \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ End Date (month and year) \_\_\_\_\_

## Optional Information

GENDER:  Male     Female    Are you interested in becoming a:  MENTOR     A MENTEE

ETHNICITY:  American Indian     Asian     African-American     Hispanic     Caucasian     Other \_\_\_\_\_

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT US?  AGD Member (please indicate information in the Referral Information box, top right)     AGD Website     AGD Constituent

Newsletter     Advertisement     Mailing     Dental Meeting     Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Dues Information

<b>AGD HDQTR. DUES</b>	<b>AGD Hdqtr. Dues:</b>
Active G.P.....\$354	
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Resident Program..... 71	
2010 Graduate..... 71	
2009 Graduate..... 142	<b>California AGD Dues:</b>
2008 Graduate..... 212	\$ _____
2007 Graduate..... 283	
Student..... 16	equals
<b>CALIFORNIA AGD DUES</b>	<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED</b>
Regular (GP/Assoc.).....\$ 95	\$ _____
First Year Graduate..... 5	
All others..... .95	

## Payment Information

Check (enclosed)     VISA     MasterCard     American Express     Diners Club     Discover

Note: Payments for Canadian members can only be accepted via VISA, MasterCard or check

\_\_\_\_\_

Expiration \_\_\_\_\_ PRINT THE NAME AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR CARD \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that all the information I have provided on this application is correct and, by remitting dues to the AGD, I agree to all terms of membership.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Return this application with your payment to:  
**AGD, 211 East Chicago Avenue, Suite 900, Chicago, Illinois 60611-1999**  
 Credit card payments, fax to: 312.335.3443





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As a member of the California AGD, you can think of this as your online guide for member resources. We have gained exclusive access for your member benefits and you can check them at any time by logging in. After you have logged in, this website also serves as a portal to the AGD.org website.

You can do so by logging in to [www.CAAGD.org](http://www.CAAGD.org) just like you do at AGD.org. In the blue "Log In" box on the left, type your six digit AGD number and your "Password" which is usually your birthdate as eight digits in a row with no dashes. MMDDYYYY. For example: January 28, 1970 makes your password 01281970.

We also have information and tools for the public, such as the "Find an AGD Dentist" search tool, where you can search by name, area or even Fellow or Master skills.