

# ODA Today

A publication of the Ohio Dental Association focusing on dentistry in Ohio

## QuickBites

### Save the date for the ODA Leadership Institute

The Ohio Dental Association Leadership Institute will be March 4 and 5, 2016, at the Hilton Columbus at Easton.

Leadership Institute is the ODA's award-winning program developed to help all ODA members become more successful and effective leaders.

Watch the "ODA Today" and ODA's electronic newsletter "NewsBytes" for more details about the 2016 Leadership Institute.

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## The ODA is the profession's primary resource in Ohio

Members can turn to the ODA for information, advocacy, products, services and more

By Jackie Best  
Managing Editor

As membership renewal season approaches, some members may be wondering what benefits they receive by renewing their membership. The answer is simple: the ODA is Ohio's resource for the profession. When a member has a question or needs something, he or she should contact the ODA first. Odds are the information is available through membership. Benefits cover a wide range of areas that dentists find valuable, including saving money on products and services, legal and regulatory compliance advice and information, opportunities to help improve access to care, advocacy efforts to ensure the profession remains strong and continuing education opportunities.

ODA President Dr. Chris Connell said he finds inclusion and information to be the two most important aspects of organized dentistry.

"I have found over my many years of involvement with organized dentistry that being a member of an inclusive, active, and caring group makes the myriad of other things we do in our dental careers that much better," Connell said. "The relationships that I have made throughout the state, and in fact the country,



ODA Staff

The Ohio Dental Association offers members opportunities to receive continuing education credits at a reduced rate. Members can attend the ODA Annual Session for at least \$375 less than non-members. The 2016 Annual Session will be Sept. 15-18.

are important to me. During my year as president of ODA, I am truly looking forward to the kind invitations that I have received to come to various local dental societies and meet with my friends and colleagues in their hometowns to provide updates on ODA activities and programs. I also know that there is a tremendous amount of information that I can access and utilize between my local, state, and the national levels of organized dentistry. The tripartite shines in this regard, because where one group stops, the next one continues. Staff at all levels play such

an important role, too. All those individuals at each level that I have had the opportunity to work with, have always been professional, enthusiastic, and eager to help. And now, sites such as ODA.org, success.ada.org, and mouthhealthy.org provide that information for me and my patients 24/7."

### Advocacy

Members continually rate advocacy as one of the top member benefits. As one dentist,

See MEMBERSHIP, page 7

## OSU College of Dentistry celebrates 125th anniversary

By Jackie Best  
Managing Editor

Throughout the past year, The Ohio State University College of Dentistry has been celebrating its 125th anniversary.

The anniversary celebration kicked off with a panel discussion in mid-January that featured seven OSU College of Dentistry graduates who spoke about how dentistry, dental education and the college have changed since they graduated. The panelists' experiences spanned nearly 50 years, and included then-ODA president Dr. Tom Paumier as well as other ODA members.

"The Ohio State University's College of Dentistry's 125th anniversary celebration is a great reminder of the long legacy of achievement so many of their alumni and faculty have been recognized for locally, nationally and internationally," Paumier said. "Listening to comments from alumni of the dental and hygiene schools over the last 60 years at the kickoff 'Then and Now' event demonstrated the long history of excellence and constant improvements in the educational experience for students. This has ensured Ohio State graduates are well prepared to meet the oral health needs of the patients they serve."

The OSU College of Dentistry has also



Photo submitted by OSU College of Dentistry

Then-ODA president and OSU graduate Dr. Tom Paumier speaks at the "Then and Now" panel that kicked off the OSU College of Dentistry's 125th anniversary celebration events.

hosted more than 15 alumni receptions throughout the year to celebrate the anniversary. Receptions have taken place throughout Ohio, at the ODA Annual Session and at dental specialty meetings and other locations across the country.

"With nearly 11,000 alumni scattered far

and wide, we needed a full year to 'reach out,'" said OSU College of Dentistry Dean Patrick Lloyd.

The OSU College of Dentistry has a long history of making an impact across the nation.

See OSU, page 2



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1370 Dublin Road, Columbus, OH 43215-1098  
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## Give Kids a Smile

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The Director's Chair

David J. Owsiany, JD  
ODA Executive Director

## Dentistry loses an advocate

On Sept. 9, 2015, Darryl Dever unexpectedly died. While not all the readers of this column knew Darryl personally, he undoubtedly had an impact on their professional lives whether they know it or not.

Dever had a long-standing relationship with the ODA. After working as a staffer at the Statehouse, he was hired as the ODA's director of government affairs in the early 1980s. Darryl then went on to form one of the most successful independent lobbying and government affairs firms in Columbus. He represented the ODA at the Statehouse for nearly 35 years.

Dever was many things: dedicated father, avid golfer, former college baseball player, successful businessman, entrepreneur, generous benefactor, effective advocate and mentor to many (including me).

His personality was bigger than life. He knew practically everybody and treated them all the same. He was as kind to the caddie or the bartender at his country club as he was to the CEOs and elected officials he dealt with in his professional life. He could tell stories that kept listeners in rapt attention, usually leading to a

punch line that left them in stitches.

Darryl achieved many things in his personal and professional life. Over the years, his client list was very diverse ranging from Fortune 500 companies to labor unions, but the ODA was his longest-standing client. He was the ODA's voice at the Statehouse.

Darryl was in the middle of every major dental issue in Ohio over the last three decades. There is not enough space in this publication to list them all. He successfully lobbied against attempts to force dentists to secure pharmacy licenses. He fought against the creation of provider taxes on dentists and extending the sales tax to dental services. He resisted attempts to limit the ability of oral surgeons to administer general anesthesia. He led the charge against the creation of midlevel dental providers and successfully fought to enhance dentists' due process rights. He advocated to reform Ohio's malpractice laws and the licensure process, ensuring dental students could take any regional clinical exam for licensure – ending NERB's monopoly in Ohio.

On issue after issue, Darryl led the fight to protect dentists from all kinds of unnecessary government and third-party interference. In fact, it is safe to say that no one has had a greater impact on Ohio's dental laws and regulations than Darryl Dever.

It is extremely rare for one person to have such an impact on a profession that is not even his own. However, Darryl often publicly expressed his respect for the dental profession, and his actions proved it. We are fortunate to have had him on our side for all these years.

### OSU, from page 1

The Ohio Medical University was chartered On Dec. 30, 1890. It included the colleges of medicine, pharmacy and dentistry. In 1914, Ohio State acquired the Starling-Ohio Medical College and created a College of Dentistry and College of Medicine for the University.

The college and its graduates have accomplished many achievements throughout its history. Some highlights include:

- Graduates of the college of dentistry practice in every state of the U.S. and in countries around the world.
- Dr. Carl Boucher (Class of 1927), served as editor of the "Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry" for 24 years.
- Dr. Gillette Hayden (Class of 1902) co-founded the American Academy of Periodontology in 1914.
- Three graduates have served as president of the American Dental Association.
- The college launched a dental anesthesiology residency program in 1986, which remains one of only nine

in the country.

• In 2004 the college launched the Oral Health Improvement through Outreach (O.H.I.O) Project, a community-based educational service experience for fourth-year dental students funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

"We are proud of our history and all that our college has accomplished over the years," Lloyd said. "By 'reaching out,' we can stay connected to and reconnect with alumni who are so vital to our future. We need them to recommend our college as an excellent place to earn a dental or dental hygiene degree or to complete specialty training, so that we continue to be a top-ranked dental school in the country. We need them to advocate for us to organizations, legislators, associations, corporations, and groups that assist dental schools in meeting their education, research and service missions. And, we need them to provide support to help keep the cost of dental education down, to fund student programs and to maintain our stature as a world-class college."



Photo submitted by OSU College of Dentistry  
OSU College of Dentistry Dean Patrick Lloyd speaks at an anniversary alumni reception.

# Group health benefit plans save tax dollars - even without an employer contribution!

It is now the time of year when many people are receiving health insurance renewal notices. It is not too early to begin investigating health options in order to have new coverage in place by January, the beginning of a new deductible period.

For dental offices that have never offered an employer group plan, huge tax savings are available. Moving to an employer-sponsored plan can replace the tax advantages that were lost when the IRS changed the employer pay plan rules.

ODASC now offers an employer group plan to ODA member dentists and their staffs – the ODA Wellness Trust.

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Detailed information on the ODA Wellness Trust is available at [www.odawt.org](http://www.odawt.org)





## Legal Briefs

Nathan E. DeLong, Esq.  
ODA Director of Legal &  
Legislative Services

# Handling negative online reviews about your practice

- Proving monetary damages is difficult to do
- The lawsuit itself may result in bringing even greater attention to the negative review.

If litigation is not generally the answer to a negative review, then what is? Well, unfortunately there are no silver bullets. One thing you might try is to request that the Web host voluntarily remove the offending post. On this front, your chances for success are not high, particularly if the posting falls into the category of the poster's opinion. You will likely maximize your chance of success in this appeal if you are able to demonstrate that the post violates the Web host's own "Terms of Use," which frequently prohibit users from posting material that is unlawful, untrue, harassing, libelous, defamatory, abusive, potentially tortious, threatening, or harmful.

You may decide ignoring the negative review is your best response, and often it will be. However, you should evaluate responding on a case-by-case basis. If you choose to respond, avoid violating HIPAA and remember that your "audience" is not the individual comment creator, but instead the dozens of others who will see your response and will likely judge you and your practice more on your response than on the negative comment itself. You do not want to engage in an online debate over the incident that provoked the review. Instead, you want to come off as caring, concerned and compassionate. A productive response along these lines might be:

"We are sorry that you feel that way. We treat hundreds of patients who are extremely satisfied with our practice, and we want to make sure that you are one of

them. Please call our office so that we can see what we can do to make things right."

Another way to deal with a negative review is by receiving multiple positive reviews, effectively "burying" the negative review amid a quantity of positive ones. This can be accomplished through patients who have had positive experiences with your practice posting comments and ratings. However, you need to be cautious in this regard because there are regulations that limit your ability to solicit positive reviews by either compensating (whether by cash or by "in-kind" payment, such as discounts) reviewers or requesting persons associated with your practice (such as your staff) from posting positive comments. Reviewers who post such endorsements must disclose that they have been compensated for their review or disclose their relationship to the practice.

Responding appropriately to a negative review is often a difficult and emotional task, but it can be important to do so. Before you decide whether and/or how to respond, take a few deep breaths and consider how many people will really see the review and whether it will actually affect your practice. For additional guidance, please contact the ODA legal department at (800) 282-1526 or consult with an attorney.

*Portions of this article came from the ADA's publication "A Dentist's Guide to the Law, 228 Things Every Dentist Should Know." This material is intended to offer general guidance but should not be construed as legal advice and cannot be substituted for the advice of the dentist's own legal counsel. Dentists should always seek the advice of their own attorneys regarding specific circumstances.*

## ODA Past President Dr. Richard McFarland passed away

J. Richard McFarland, DDS (Dick) born September 14, 1938, went to be with his heavenly Father on Tuesday, October 6, 2015. McFarland was active in many organizations, including the Cincinnati Dental Society and the ODA, for which he served as president in 1985. According to his obituary, he loved God with all his heart, mind and soul. He treated his wife, Sue (Susan Hayslip) with love and compassion, honoring her throughout their 56 years of marriage. Dick was a family man, so proud of his three children Jay McFarland, Jill Jenkins (Randall) and Megan Peters (Steven). His seven grandchildren Liam McFarland, Shea and Amy Jenkins and Logan, Weston, Dylan and Peyton Peters were his greatest treasures and he loved them dearly. James and Mary (Sparks) McFarland were loved and adored parents. As an older brother to Thomas H. (Judy) McFarland he led by example. A loyal friend and excellent dentist for 37 years, his passion was people. Whether it be golf, basketball, bridge or scrabble he was a competitive opponent. A world traveler, lover of good jokes and belly laughs. Dick will be missed and remembered by so many. Services were held Saturday, October 24, 2015 at Crossroads Church. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be directed to Hospice of Cincinnati, P.O. Box 633597, 45263, or Crossroads Church.

Visit [oda.org](http://oda.org) for current and archived "ODA Today" stories.

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## Nominations sought for Ohio State Dental Board positions

A call for nominations is now extended for dentist board member positions on the Ohio State Dental Board.

The Ohio Dental Association has the opportunity to recommend nominees to the governor of Ohio for two possible dentist board member openings on the Ohio State Dental Board (OSDB), which may be vacant in April 2016. The two board member positions are for general dentists. Additionally, the two dental specialty positions on the OSDB are vacant as well.

The ODA Executive Committee is seeking potential candidates who are interested in serving on the Ohio State Dental Board. The term of office for Ohio State Dental Board members is four years and the board meets on average eight to nine times per year.

Criteria that the ODA Executive Committee is seeking in candidates to the Ohio State Dental Board includes:

- being in practice at least five years
- being familiar with Ohio's Dental Practice Act
- having knowledge about regulatory issues related to dentistry
- having a history of support/involvement with ODA governmental affairs and activities such as ODPAC membership, grassroots efforts, etc.

Nominations for the Ohio State Dental Board member positions are due by Dec. 31 and should include a letter of nomination and the nominee's curriculum vitae. Please submit nominations to: Ohio Dental Association, Attention: David Owsiany, Executive Director, 1370 Dublin Road, Columbus, OH 43215, or to david@oda.org.

## Ohio to begin integrating OARRS with electronic medical records

Ohio Gov. John Kasich recently announced plans to integrate the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS) with electronic medical records and pharmacy dispensing systems across the state. This will allow instant access for prescribers and pharmacists, according to the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy.

The state will invest up to \$1.5 million per year to integrate software. For more information, including an integration request form, visit [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/integration](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/integration).



Like the ODA Annual Session Facebook page!



## ODA Meeting & Event Calendar

Nov.

- 10 Dental Insurance Working Group (call)
- 13 ODASC and ODAWT Board of Directors
- 13 Subcouncil on New Dentists
- 18 Dental Education and Licensure Committee
- 19-20 Annual Session Committee
- 20 ODPAC Board of Directors
- 26-27 ODA office closed for holiday

Dec.

- 3-4 Executive Committee
- 4 ODA Foundation Board of Trustees
- 8 Dental Insurance Working Group (call)
- 24-25 ODA office closed for holiday
- 31 ODA office closed for holiday

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Presented By

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Champions of Oral Health



Photo submitted by Henry Schein  
 Drs. Steve Moore (ODA vice president), Aubrey Bateman and Ruchika Khetarpal, who are all ODA members, at a TeamSmile event with Bernie Brewer of the Milwaukee Brewers and Gapper of the Cincinnati Reds.

TeamSmile events bring together dental professionals, sports, children in need

By Jackie Best  
 Managing Editor

TeamSmile has recently brought together dental professionals and professional sports organizations to provide dental care to underserved children in Cincinnati.

“Team Smile improves the dental health for children in so many ways,” said Dr. Desiree Moore, an Ohio Dental Association member from West Chester. “It cannot happen without the hard work of volunteers. I have had the honor of participating with TeamSmile for a couple years. I recognize the faces of some of the children that I saw in previous years. I wish I could boast that huge improvements have been made to the access to care, but I’m reminded how much work there is still left each time I see how many children are in need.”

TeamSmile is a nonprofit initiative that

Champions of Oral Health

“Champions of Oral Health” is a feature in the “ODA Today” highlighting access to care initiatives in Ohio. Champions of Oral Health are people, programs and initiatives that go above and beyond to improve access to quality dental care to underserved populations.

was started in 2007 and is supported by Henry Schein. Events are hosted at the home of NFL, MLB, NBA and college teams across the U.S. to help create an experience where children want to visit the dentist.

“It was amazing that children were able to just walk in and get treated,” said Dr.

See TEAMSMILE, page 11



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**MEMBERSHIP, from page 1**

it can be difficult to effect change when it comes to legal and regulatory issues. If special interest groups and insurance companies with significant resources are in opposition to the profession's best interests, one dentist alone doesn't have much of a voice. But when the Ohio Dental Association represents a large percentage of dentists in the state, there's power behind the association's message. By joining dentists together with a collective voice, the association can advocate on behalf of dentists and their patients, fighting against unnecessary and burdensome regulations and protecting the sanctity of the dentist-patient relationship.

Currently, the ODA is supporting legislation that would prohibit insurance companies from setting fees for services they do not cover. House Bill 95 has been approved by the Ohio House and is pending in the Ohio Senate.

Additionally, the ODA is opposing the creation of a midlevel provider in Ohio. Outside interest groups continue to push for this radical proposal, which would allow a person with only two years of post-high school training to perform irreversible surgical dental procedures including the extraction of teeth, cutting tooth structure and gums, and the administration of local anesthetic injections.

**Information**

In a 2014 "ODA Today" readership survey, 94 percent of respondents said the "ODA Today" is a valuable member benefit. Many respondents reported that the "ODA Today" keeps them informed of issues affecting dentistry in Ohio and many said it is their primary source of dental news. One survey respondent said the "ODA Today" is "informative, up to date, and well written. The coverage of pertinent legislative issues as well as perspective from our legal and legislative team is invaluable when it comes to what we should know in regulatory compliance."

Additionally, members receive updates through the ODA's e-newsletter, "News-Bytes," and have access to member-only information on the ODA's website, [www.oda.org](http://www.oda.org). Members can also call ODA staff to get questions answered and learn more information.

**Discounts on products and services**

The Ohio Dental Association Services Corp. (ODASC) researches products and services useful to dentists and their practices to help save them time and money.

ODASC now offers an employer group health benefits plan to ODA member dentists and their staffs – the ODA Wellness Trust.

The Wellness Trust is a self-insured plan, which allows participants to avoid some of the regulations and requirements of the Affordable Care Act. This plan has been exclusively developed for member dentists and their staffs to help battle the increasing cost of providing health care benefits and to provide access to health care plans outside the Affordable Care Act. Participants in a self-insured plan typically see a 10 percent savings compared to marketplace plans. For more information on the Wellness Trust, visit [odawt.org](http://odawt.org).

ODASC also offers many other products and services, and many members find that by taking advantage of the discounts provided to members through ODASC, they can actually cover the cost of their dues. For more information on all of the ODASC-endorsed products and savings available, visit [odasc.com](http://odasc.com).

**Volunteer opportunities**

The ODA offers dentists several opportunities to give back to their communities, including:

- Give Kids a Smile, where dentists

provide free care to children in need.

- Dental OPTIONS, where dentists provide care to low-income, uninsured individuals.
- ODA Foundation, where donations go toward providing scholarships to dental students and grants to programs throughout Ohio.
- Smiles for Seniors, a program that promotes oral health care of older adults through education.
- Operation TACTIC, an educational program to prevent the use of tobacco.

For more information about the ODA's volunteer opportunities and how to get involved, visit <http://oda.org/community-involvement/>.

**Continuing Education**

The ODA offers members opportunities to receive continuing education credits at a reduced rate. Members can attend the ODA Annual Session for at least \$375 less than non-members. Annual Session features nationally known speakers on a wide variety of topics for the entire dental team.

The 2016 ODA Annual Session will be held Sept. 15-18 in Columbus.

ODA members also have the opportunity to attend Leadership Institute, the



ODA Staff

Dr. Tyler Scott (right) meets with a legislative office during the 2015 ODA Day at the Statehouse. Advocacy efforts are consistently rated as a top benefit by ODA members.

ODA's award-winning program developed to help all ODA members become more successful and effective leaders. Attendees consistently rank the event as one of the top leadership development workshops. Attendees will have the opportunity to earn several free CE credits at the free event. Next year's Leadership Institute will be March 4 and 5, 2016, at the Hilton Columbus at Easton.

**Camaraderie**

Dentists often say that meeting other dentists from around the state is one of the top benefits of joining organized dentistry.

Throughout the year, the ODA features several events where dentists can connect with colleagues from across the state. From events like the Leadership Institute and Annual Session, to new dentist events and component society meetings across the state, it's a great way for dentists to meet other people like them.

**Renew Your Membership**

Membership renewal opens this month. Watch your mailbox for your dues statement, or visit [oda.org/renew](http://oda.org/renew). ODA membership dues are due Jan. 1, 2016, for the 2016 membership year.

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## Dental Insurance Corner

### End of the year dental insurance to do list

By Christopher Moore, MA  
ODA Director of Dental Services

With the end of the year fast approaching, dentists should ensure their practice has acted on two third-party payer related issues before the New Year rings in.

One, the "Current Dental Terminology" (CDT), is very straight forward, but the other, Medicare, is not as straight forward and has been wrapped in confusion for many.

#### CDT 2016 now available

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and Ohio law designate the American Dental Association's CDT as the designated code set that is to be used for dental insurance claims. As such, the current CDT should be used by dentists and accepted by third-party payers for dental claims.

The newest version of the "CDT 2016: Dental Procedure Codes" book takes effect Jan. 1, 2016 and is available to be ordered now. It contains 19 new and 12 revised procedure codes including new codes to reflect technological advances in dentistry, new and revised diagnostic codes for radiography for more accurate reporting, new denture codes that allow for greater coding specificity and revised anesthesia codes to simplify reporting for general anesthesia and intravenous conscious sedation. Eight codes have been deleted from the 2015 version of the code.

The 171 page CDT 2016 may be purchased from the ADA at ADAcatalog.org or (800) 947-4746 in either a hard copy or electronic format. It is also available as an app, called the "2016 CDT Code Check App," for iPhones, iPads and Android mobile devices.

The CDT 2016 may additionally be acquired as part of a kit with the "CDT Companion 2016: Help Guide and Training Manual." The "CDT Companion" is designed as a training workbook featuring:

- CDT to ICD diagnosis coding cross walk, i.e., it links the two code sets together
- 170 coding questions and answers, 27 detailed dental coding examples and 15 quick quizzes
- Full-color, illustrated chapter on coding for dental implants
- Comprehensive explanation of CDT code changes
- ADA dental claim form with completion instructions

#### What to do about Medicare

Actions by the federal government, specifically the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), essentially require every dentist who writes prescriptions for senior citizens to take some form of affirmative action with respect to Medicare to ensure coverage of those patients' prescription drugs. The enforcement of these prescription drug coverage rules is currently scheduled to take effect on June 1, 2016. It is recommended that dentists act by Jan. 1, 2016 to ensure all of the necessary paperwork is completed

by the June 1 date.

"Dentists who fail to enroll as a provider, formally opt out of Medicare or sign up as an ordering/referring provider will eventually see their patients' claims for otherwise Medicare covered medication denied," said Dr. Manny Chopra, chairman of the Ohio Dental Association Council on Dental Care Programs and Dental Practice. "To ensure this doesn't happen, dentists with Medicare covered patients should act before next year's deadline."

The new prescription drug rule is similar to an existing rule that calls on Medicare to deny diagnostic service claims, including those for laboratory and diagnostic imaging services, for Medicare covered patients that are ordered by providers, including dentists, who have not taken the appropriate action with Medicare. The difference being that Medicare will not pay the pharmacy for the prescription as opposed to the oral pathology lab or the diagnostic imaging service for the ordered service.

There are several factors for dentists to consider when deciding what course of action to take.

First, it is important to understand what Medicare covers when considering whether to become a Medicare provider

or opt out as one.

Medicare neither covers nor pays for most routine dental services such as fillings, cleanings, radiographs and dentures, even if they are provided in a hospital. Payment for these and any other non-covered dental service is the patient's responsibility.

It does cover a very narrow and limited set of dental services – those necessary to provide certain Medicare covered medical services, e.g., extracting a tooth as part of treating a fractured jaw, maxillofacial surgery for pathological or traumatic medical conditions, prosthetic rehabilitation to replace or treat certain oral and/or facial structures related to covered medical and surgical interventions such as cancer surgery, extracting teeth prior to jaw radiation treatment, oral examination prior to kidney transplantation and certain medical procedures that dentists are licensed to perform such as a biopsy for oral cancer.

Secondly, dentists should consider the impact their decision will have upon patients who are covered by Medicare Advantage Plans.

See INSURANCE, page 9

ODA members who would like to submit a dental insurance related question, problem or concern may do so by sending the appropriate information to the ODA Dental Insurance Working Group, 1370 Dublin Road, Columbus, OH 43215, or 614-486-0381 FAX, or [chrism@oda.org](mailto:chrism@oda.org). To see past issues of the Dental Insurance Corner, visit [www.oda.org/news](http://www.oda.org/news) and choose the category "ODA Today" and subcategory "Dental Insurance Corner."

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**INSURANCE, from page 8**

Medicare Advantage Plans are private health insurance plans that are approved by Medicare and are part of the Medicare program. Individuals have the option of joining a Medicare Advantage Plan or remaining in the traditional Medicare fee-for-service program. Those who join a Medicare Advantage Plan will generally receive all their Medicare-covered health care services through that plan. This coverage can include prescription drug coverage. Medicare Advantage Plans include: health maintenance organizations, preferred provider organizations, private fee-for-service plans, medical savings account plans and special needs plans. Oftentimes Medicare Advantage Plans offer extra benefits and lower co-payments than are found in the Medicare fee-for-service program. Medicare Advantage Plan enrollees, however, may be restricted to seeing participating providers or certain hospitals in order to receive benefits.

Some Medicare Advantage Plans offer enhanced dental benefits as part of their benefit offerings in hopes of enticing individuals to purchase their plans. These dental benefits can range from basic

diagnostic and preventive services to comprehensive dental coverage. Certain procedures will also often be accompanied by copays and may require the beneficiary to go to a contracting dentist.

It is important for dentists to check with those Medicare Advantage Plans that cover an appreciable number of their patients to determine the impact the dentist's Medicare participation/non-participation decision will have on their patients' dental benefits through those plans.

With this in mind, dentists have four options to consider:

- Do nothing. Typically, doing nothing is only a "good" option for dentists who do not write prescriptions or order laboratory or diagnostic imaging services for patients covered by Medicare. Doing nothing means the dentist's prescriptions for their Medicare covered patients will be denied. Similarly, oral pathology and imaging services that are ordered by the dentist will not be covered. Both scenarios will surely lead to an angry patient, pharmacist and/or oral pathologist.
- Enroll as an actual Medicare provider. Dentists who provide Medicare covered services and want to accept

Medicare's allowed fee as reimbursement should enroll as a Medicare provider. This may be done by completing the CMS Form 8551 (visit [oda.org/resource-library/search/](http://oda.org/resource-library/search/) and search for Medicare) and returning the paper form to the Medicare contractor for Ohio (CGS Administrators, LLC, Provider Enrollment Department, P.O. Box 20017, Nashville, TN 37202-0013) or online using Medicare's online Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System (PECOS) at: <https://pecos.cms.hhs.gov/pecos/login.do>.

- Opt out of the Medicare program. By submitting an affidavit to the Medicare contractor for Ohio (CGS Administrators, LLC, Provider Enrollment Department, P.O. Box 20017, Nashville, TN 37202-0013) the dentist can opt out of Medicare. In order to continue to be opted out the dentist must re-submit the affidavit every two years. Opting out means neither the patient nor the dentist may receive reimbursement from either Medicare or a Medicare Advantage Plan for any Medicare covered service the dentist provides. It also means the patient's prescription drugs, oral pathology and imaging ser-

vices will be covered. Both an American Dental Association developed sample affidavit and a sample private contract may be obtained by visiting [oda.org/resource-library/search/](http://oda.org/resource-library/search/) and searching for Medicare. The private contract, which is essentially a Medicare specific financial understanding and consent form, must be used by dentists who opt out of Medicare prior to providing Medicare covered services to Medicare eligible patients. The document informs the patient the dentist has opted out of Medicare and that neither the patient nor the dentist may submit a claim to Medicare for the service. A private contract is not necessary if the dentist is only writing a Medicaid covered patient a prescription.

- Enroll as an ordering and referring provider. If the dentist does not provide Medicare covered services then he or she may use the CMS Form 8550 (available online at [oda.org/resource-library/search/](http://oda.org/resource-library/search/) by searching for Medicare) to enroll as an ordering and referring provider. Just like dentists who opt out, patients of dentists who enroll as ordering and referring providers will see their prescription drugs, oral pathology and imaging services covered.

"The overwhelming feedback we've received from dentists is that it is much easier to complete the appropriate paperwork and mail it in to CGS than it is to do it online," Chopra said.

Dentists who either order or provide a Medicare-covered service to a Medicare beneficiary must maintain documentation for seven years from the date of service. Documentation includes written and electronic documents (including the ordering practitioner's national provider identifier (NPI)) relating to written orders and requests for payments for clinical laboratory, imaging or other designated Medicare covered services.

Dentists do not need to enroll, opt out or be an ordering/referring provider in order to simply refer a Medicare-covered patient to a specialist. Similarly, dentists who do not provide services, prescribe or order Medicare-covered services for Medicare-covered patients do not need to enroll, opt out or become an ordering/referring provider.

The ADA has opposed the creation of these requirements and continues to work toward getting dentists exempted from them. The ADA's efforts have resulted in CMS' past announcements that delayed previous enforcement dates of the new rules to the current June 1, 2016 date.



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Dr. Recker also represents multiple national dental organizations and individual dentists in various matters, including First amendment litigation (i.e. advertising), judicial appeals of state board proceedings, civil rights actions against state agencies, and disputes with PPOs and DMSOs.

Todd Newkirk was formerly an Ohio Assistant Attorney General representing several Ohio State agencies. Mr. Newkirk has been associated with Dr. Recker since 2007 and has also represented many dentists across the country. Email Mr. Newkirk at [newkirk@ddslaw.com](mailto:newkirk@ddslaw.com).

Ms. Sandra Ertel, paralegal, has assisted Dr. Recker and Mr. Newkirk in preparing for, and attending, depositions, court appearances and hearings in multiple states.

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# ODA Foundation awards nearly \$85,000 in grants and scholarships

By Jackie Best  
Managing Editor

In 2015, the Ohio Dental Association Foundation awarded nearly \$85,000 in grants and scholarships. The Foundation awards grants to programs working to improve access to dental care in Ohio and scholarships to qualified dental students to help decrease their dental school debt.

"As the holidays approach and we close in on the end of another year, the fact that it is better to give than to receive becomes even more meaningful," said Dr. Kim Gardner, chair of the ODA Foundation. "Your ODA Foundation was able to provide scholarships to nearly 40 of our youngest colleagues to give them some help with the tremendous financial burdens that are upon them. The generosity of ODA members can never be minimized and is always greatly appreciated. The profession of dentistry has always been marked as one in which giving of one's best is expected. Service to others and the gift of healing are hallmarks of a true dental professional. Our members show these hallmarks on a daily basis and their love for their profession and our future members is reflected in their support of the Foundation."



## Interested in helping access to care programs and dental students in Ohio?

Consider these ways to advance the mission of the ODA Foundation:

- Make an end of year donation online at [oda.org/donate/foundation/](http://oda.org/donate/foundation/). Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the law. Consult your tax-planning and financial advisor to maximize your tax benefits.
- Donate when you pay your membership dues. Membership dues statements are being mailed out in November.
- Plan ahead for memorial contributions by advising your loved ones that when it is time, you would like your obituary to include that "contributions can be made to the ODA Foundation" in your honor.
- Talk with your financial planner about planned giving options such as leaving a bequest to the ODA Foundation in your will.

## Foundation grant to help create school-based dental clinic

The ODA Foundation awarded a \$5,000 grant to Primary Health Solutions in Butler County. Primary Health Solutions is currently in the process of opening a school based health center that will include a dental clinic at Fairfield Academy in Fairfield City Schools. The grant will be used to help purchase equipment for the dental clinic.

"The recipient of our grant this year was Primary Health Solutions of Butler County," said Dr. Kim Gardner, chair of the ODA Foundation. "The grant will be used for expansion of their facilities to be able to serve more of those individuals who need dental care, but are unable to afford it. It is our mission to not only assist in defraying the cost of dental education but also to provide some solutions to the access to care issue in Ohio. Through the generosity of our members, we are able to make a difference."

Primary Health Solutions is the only Federally Qualified Health Center in Butler County and currently has a mobile dental office with two operatories that visits

public schools in Butler County. Once the clinic is open, students in Fairfield City Schools will be seen at the clinic, which will allow the van to travel to other schools in Butler County and see additional students, said Marc Bellisario, CEO at Primary Health Solutions.

The dental clinic will have three operatories and will have a paid dentist and hygienist. In the first year, the clinic intends to provide about 2,420 dental visits and within three years the clinic plans to have seen all students in the district. Each student's first visit at the clinic will include a full dental exam, x-rays, prophylaxis and sealants. The clinic will also see teachers and parents.

The clinic will utilize insurance and Medicaid if available, and children who do not have insurance will pay a \$20 fee per school year that will cover all dental care.

Primary Health Solutions has found that about half of the students at the school do not have a dental home and only visit a dentist when they have a crisis such as a tooth ache or broken tooth, Bellisario said.

In addition to the dental clinic, the school health center will also offer medical, vision and behavioral health care.

"It's a comprehensive vision of meeting multiple needs of children right while they're at school," Bellisario said. He added that having a clinic in the school helps provide easier access to care for children because often it can be difficult for parents to get time off work to take their children to appointments.

Bellisario said one goal of the clinic is to have children in the district regularly visiting for a check-up and cleaning instead of going to the dentist only when they are in pain.

"We're focused on kids. If we don't start with the children, if we don't start changing the way people think about dental visits, 50 years from now we'll be in the same position we are now," he said. He added that Primary Health Solutions is thrilled to receive the grant. "It helps us reach our goal of improving not just health care but oral health for all the kids in our area," he said.

## ODA Foundation scholarship recipients aim to improve access to care in Ohio

The ODA Foundation awarded \$73,000 in scholarships to 36 dental students.

"We are well aware of the tremendous debt load that our dental school colleagues bear," said Dr. Kim Gardner, chair of the ODA Foundation. "Due to the generosity of ODA member dentists, we are able to help defray a portion of the debt of these future ODA members. It is our privilege to help where we can."

Scholarships were awarded to 26 students at The Ohio State University College of Dentistry, nine students at the Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine and one student at the University of Louisville School of Dentistry.

"The ODAF scholarship is really important to me," said Britni Skoda, a dental student at CWRU. "I'm financing my education completely on my own, so by receiving a scholarship, that means I can take out less loans and have less financial burden after graduation, which is phenomenal. At the end of the day I'm going to be a graduating dental student with close to \$400,000 in student debt, so any scholarship money I receive is a wonderful gift."

This is the first year the ODAF board has awarded a scholarship to a student attending a dental school outside of Ohio.

"The ODA Foundation Board of Trustees recognizes that while the majority of Ohio resident students attend one of the two Ohio based dental schools, a significant number of students find their dental school homes out of state," said Dr. Billie Sue Kyger, past chair of the ODA Foundation. "These students are equally deserving of our student scholarships and often have an even greater financial debt to service upon graduation."



ODA Staff

The ODA Foundation awarded scholarships to 36 dental students to help defray the cost of dental education.

Sam Glick, a dental student at University of Louisville who received an ODAF scholarship, said he is very appreciative of the ODA and the opportunity the Foundation has provided for him with a scholarship. Glick said he decided to attend school out of state because he was impressed with the program at Louisville and thought it would be an opportunity to spend four years broadening his horizons and exploring a new city and state.

"My plans have always been to come back home to Cleveland and join my family (grandfather, father and uncle) in general practice," he said. "Dentistry is in our blood, and I'm hopeful one of my younger cousins decides to follow the same path and continue the tradition as well."

The scholarship recipients are among the top students in their classes and are active in many dental and non-dental volunteer activities. They meet criteria that include academic excellence, volun-

teerism and financial need.

"Just being selected was a pretty humbling experience because there are people who are well established that thought enough of me to try and help me out, and it is tough being a student," said Richard Hall, a dental student at OSU. "Knowing that somebody who's there in a profession that you're going into that you haven't established yourself in yet at all is there to help you really kind of spoke volumes about the career that we're in and is something I would like to try to emulate later on."

Most of the students chosen are active in the American Student Dental Association, many of them holding leadership positions. Most of them plan to practice in Ohio after graduation and are committed to continued involvement in organized dentistry.

"I think a big thing now that we're seeing in the state of Ohio especially is the

underserved areas like where I'm from in Appalachia," Hall said. "So in order to try to help access to care I'd like to go home and practice there and really raise awareness about oral health overall and try the best I can to meet the needs that are there."

Skoda agreed that practicing in an underserved area is important to her after graduation.

"I intend to complete dental school at Case and continue to practice in Cleveland and the surrounding areas," she said. "Cleveland is definitely a community in need of better access to dental care, so I want to do as much as I can to volunteer with groups that strive to improve this access. I plan to structure my office in a way to assist in this endeavor also. Everyone deserves access to great oral health care and I plan to be at the forefront of making

See SCHOLARSHIPS, page 13



Submitted photo

More than 50 dentists and spouses attended an event at Cedar Point hosted by the North Central Ohio Dental Society. At the event, professional makeup artists transformed two attendees into "screamsters"

## Dental society hosts event at Cedar Point

By Jackie Best  
Managing Editor

The North Central Ohio Dental Society recently hosted an event at Cedar Point.

After noticing a drop off in the number of participants at local events, the society decided to try something new.

"Our local society's events have been getting smaller and smaller every year," said Dr. Andrew Zucker, president of NCODS. "With more of our members getting CE either online or at other conferences, they no longer need to get their CE from our local society. And we've noticed the drop-off during our events. Last year we had a golf outing and only six dentists participated. So this year we decided to change it up and try something completely different. So we brainstormed ideas of cool events that people would really get excited about, and Cedar Point was at the top of the list."

More than 50 dentists and spouses attended the event at Cedar Point.

During the event, attendees got to explore the amusement park while it was closed to the public. Professional makeup artists who use latex prosthetics and professional makeup to transform employees for Halloween gave a demonstration to the group, where Dr. Justin Long and the wife of Dr. Mike Hablitzel were made into "screamsters."

Attendees also had the opportunity to "ride" next year's new roller coaster using virtual reality goggles and take a tour of a haunted house with the lights on in order to see how the illusions are created. David Owsiany, ODA executive director, also gave a legislative and regulatory update during dinner.

"It definitely aided in membership and retention because we saw a lot of members who haven't been to an NCODS event in a number of years," Zucker said. "And allowing spouses to join us increased the participation exponentially."

### TEAMSMILE, from page 6

Ruchika Khetarpal, an Ohio Dental Association member from Cincinnati. "There are so many families that do not have vehicles to take their children to get care, so setting up in their community or by having busing through schools is a great way to provide care in the community. Some children stopped in with their friends, took a consent form home to get signed and came back on their own for treatment. These children wanted us to help them!"

TeamSmile recently held two events in Cincinnati. The first was on July 11 during Major League Baseball's All Star Weekend at the US Banks Boys and Girls Club. At the event, 116 children received complimentary oral health assessments and treatment, including X-rays, fillings, cleanings and sealants. Volunteers also educated children on the importance of good oral hygiene and proper brushing and flossing techniques.

"This is our third year partnering with TeamSmile and each year the event brings more smiles to the children we help," said Butch Stenger, Henry Schein Dental's regional manager in Cincinnati. "I am so proud of the Cincinnati dental community who were so eager to fill the much needed volunteer positions – all in just three days. The quick mobilization of Team Schein volunteers says a lot about our team and everyone's willingness to 'give back' and 'help health happen' for children in our area."

The All-Star event was Khetarpal's first time volunteering at a TeamSmile event.

"I had a young girl with caries on her front tooth," she said. "She and her grandma were so thankful and happy to have the opportunity to get her tooth fixed. Giving confidence to a fifth-grader to smile is priceless."

Additionally, TeamSmile hosted an event Sept. 25 at Paul Brown Stadium in Cincinnati.

At the event, 90 volunteers treated about 250 children.

Moore said she has been volunteering at TeamSmile events for the past three years.

"The first year I participated in the TeamSmile event, I saw a little girl that was 9 years old," she said. "She had a swollen jaw and true dental pain. I asked her how long her tooth hurt. She looked away as if she was ashamed to give me her real answer and said, 'A month or two.' We got the girl the dental care she needed and communicated with her teachers to get the antibiotics she needed. It hurt my heart to see so much dental decay in our beautiful city of Cincinnati. My part is small compared to the entire group, but if each of us comes back every year I hope we can make a progressive positive impact with the education and dental care that is provided."

In support of the 2015 TeamSmile program, Henry Schein Cares, the company's global corporate social responsibility program, has donated approximately \$50,000 in dental supplies, materials and equipment, as well as transportation.

"Team Smile would not be successful without its volunteers," Moore said. "I'm not speaking of just the dentists, hygienists or dental assistants, who are essential. There is so much more involved. For example, the teachers and parents that come to support the children allowing us to communicate with them regarding follow up care the children need. The kids get excited when they see a football player, a Bengals cheerleader or a mascot to give them a high five or even a reassuring pat. Young volunteers are there giving them education which is vital to maintain their dental health. All of it builds upon itself to make the entire organization great. I volunteer because I believe in the cause. Our children are our future and we need to take care of them."



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## The Explorer

Matthew J. Messina, DDS  
Executive Editor

## Back to the Future

In October 1985, the movie "Back to the Future 2" was released, sending Marty McFly into the distant future – Oct. 21, 2015. Media celebrations of that anniversary led to fun evaluations of what the movie's writers had predicted correctly and what they had missed. Amazingly, they had correctly forecast the technological advancements of flat screen TV's, video conferencing, biometric IDs, 3D movies and drones. We still don't have hoverboards and flying cars, but I think we're OK without those.

Science fiction has always tried to guess the course of history and technological developments. Predictions of scientific advancements are more often right because we have the ability and curiosity to make something real if we can imagine it. If we identify something and describe it in books or film, most of the time, the genius inventors among us will find a way to figure it out. Is that life imitating art? Probably more a case of art creating a vision and people working to make the dream a reality.

I find it more interesting to look at the society of the future that is anticipated. Walt Disney's EPCOT (Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow) is, in the words on its dedication plaque, a place where "human achievements are celebrated through imagination, the wonders of enterprise, and concepts of a future that promises new and exciting benefits for all." Walt saw the happiest place on earth and tried to make it so.

Far more commonly, the future depicted in futuristic books and movies is a dystopian nightmare. The whole list is

massive, but remember the dismal, dark future predicted in such classics as "Brave New World," "Fahrenheit 451," "The Hunger Games," "I, Robot," "Logan's Run," "The Matrix," "1984," and even "Star Wars." These authors looked to our past and realized that as a society, we don't progress toward peace and happiness. We all took physics. We know that chaos is the natural order of things and the universe trends toward increasing entropy.

So, do we envision the future as we hope it will be? Or do we describe the future we are afraid will occur?

Between 1985 and now, reality is probably slightly better than the future Marty McFly visited. In 1985, we saw a world with great promise. Those 30 years were relatively peaceful and prosperous, in the big picture. Over the last two generations, life expectancy is up and people's quality of life is infinitely better. We haven't fixed all the problems we saw back then, but almost everyone holds in their hand a computer with more power than was a dream in 1985. We have even achieved the dubious position where obesity is a major health problem for everyone, including the poorest of Americans.

The political issues that face society haven't changed much in 1,200 years. We can only hope that we can find better solutions today than we have in the past. We may not like to admit it, but there is good and evil in the world. I do share a dim view of zealots, special interest groups and big governments. History tells us that more centralized power leads to less freedom and that is the path to despair. This is the dystopian future of the dark side that scares us.

As humans, we are dependent on our minds to evolve. We're not fast or strong; we don't have claws or wings. We only have what we create and then make a reality. It is our responsibility to make the world a better place. We get to write our own script. The future won't be a utopia, but it doesn't have to be a disaster either. Man can triumph. There are pockets of good and I believe in my heart that individuals will do the right thing.

The old advice to plan for the best and prepare for the worst, because reality will

be somewhere in between, remains valid.

The movie "The Martian" is in theaters now. It paints a picture of a future where NASA has put a team on Mars, then has to figure out a way to solve problems when something goes wrong and Matt Damon is stranded on the red planet. I grew up in the golden age of NASA. I was captivated by the audacity to plan to put a man on the moon, and bring him back again safely. This was a time of clear vision and goals. While I readily admit that the space race was not always done for completely altruistic reasons, as the USA and Soviet Russia were competing in a high stakes battle for military and technical supremacy. However, reaching the goal led to breakthrough discoveries in computers, communications and engineering. We proved that we are at our best when striving for a lofty goal.

Going to Mars requires a similar singularity of purpose. To get there will demand innovation in increasing the life of batteries, creating high-efficiency solar panels, and solving problems that are issues for all people. One of the significant issues in long distance space travel is the loss of bone density during the extended time in zero gravity. If we find a drug to stop the body from remodeling bone in space, then we will have advanced the cure for osteoporosis. There are more benefits to going there than just planting a flag.

I vote for making the effort to extend the reach of humans into space. I guess that I really am an advocate for manifest destiny. I believe that we grow as a people when we strive to reach a goal that we embrace. The challenge of writing the story of our future is to ensure that we are going to Mars because we want to. That would be the positive future of success for all of us. What we want to avoid is the dark future of racing to Mars because we have to escape here. That's a story I'm happy to leave to Hollywood and their fascination with the Zombiepocalypse. Let's work to see to it that in 2045, Marty McFly will be up on Mars, ready to leave with Captain Kirk to boldly go where no one has gone before.

*Dr. Messina may be reached at docmessina@cox.net.*



## The Happy Dentist

Najia Usman, DDS  
Guest Columnist

## Welcome back class of 1995

So this year was my 20 year reunion of my dental school graduation. When it comes to these things, I am a true "reunion aficionado." Last year I went to my high school reunion in Toronto, Canada. I still keep in touch with some elementary school friends and we try to meet once every two years. I'm not sure whether my need to reunite with friends from the past is nostalgia or a life yardstick. Honestly speaking, it is probably both.

Unfortunately I was unable to go to my dental school reunion this year and I am really feeling badly that I missed the last few (10, 15 and now 20). Because my husband is in academics, I have enjoyed attending a few Case Western reunions and was certain I would go to my own. Ironically I missed my S.U.N.Y Buffalo School of Dental Medicine reunion because I flew back to Portland, Oregon to meet with some old attendings and give a lecture to the incumbent endodontic

residents. The practice has been busy and family life is more demanding than ever, so I had to prioritize.

As you all well know, dental school reunions take place every five years, which means that several reunion classes are meeting at the same time. Five years is an interesting touchstone because you can usually make some generalizations after going to enough of these events and reading some alumni publications. I think most of us feel when dental school ends that four years of being tied to the same location and group of 100 is quite enough. Many of us vow to never step foot in those hallowed halls again. Some feel so bitter about everything from how they were treated to how much academic debt they have racked up, that they swear the school will not even see another nickel.

Five years goes quickly. Many personal goals that have been put aside, finally become realized. In those first five years after dental school, many people get married, start a family, travel ... basically shift the focus from school to "getting a life." For me I had had two kids and just started my dental post-graduate program in endodontics. I remember it being a huge priority for me to fly out for reunion weekend to show and share how productive I had been in the last five years. Chalk it up to a childish 20-something mentality. I know I am not the only one who feels like this, because that was a very well-attended reunion by Buffalo standards – about half the class.

My 10 year reunion came and went,

and quite frankly I don't even remember reading an email or getting any type of advance notice. I had just given birth to my fourth child and I was just trying to keep my head above water. I had decided earlier that year that I was going to leave my associateship and start my own practice. Most of us 10 years out are usually making some big steps and taking huge risks. That's what you do in your 30s. You subscribe to the thought process "If I don't do it now, I never will." The fog has cleared, you have looked after yourself and now you are ready to up the ante. There are no stories to tell and no time to tell them ... you are simply too busy.

My 15 year reunion also got shoved to the side again. 2010 was about finishing my boards, building out a new office space. So in my self-evaluation: Practice goal ... check. Family life on track ... check. Traveling and socializing ... check. What have I done for others ... open box.

**See HAPPY, page 13**

The views expressed in the monthly columns of the "ODA Today" are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the view of the Ohio Dental Association (ODA). The columns are intended to offer opinions, information and general guidance and should not be construed as legal advice or as an endorsement by the ODA. Dentists should always seek the advice of their own legal counsel regarding specific circumstances.

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**HAPPY, from page 12**

At 15 years post-graduation, life can take many turns. Some may be benefitting from that risky behavior. Others have lives that have taken a downturn. I have heard many unfortunate stories of broken families, drug abuse, financial problems, illness etc. I feel one way to bring meaning and peacefulness is to start looking beyond oneself for goal achievement. In that pursuit, 15 years after graduation, I wanted to be involved in dental education. I started taking an active role in organized dentistry. By sitting on committees and organizing programming for Annual Session, I was able to get that dental school reunion feeling again. By becoming more aware of the key issues of the day that affect our profession and being able to share my ideas in a productive forum, I feel like I am making a difference. I am always blown away by people who just have bottomless energy toward community and service. I have other fellow dentate friends who are passionate about access to care in remote areas around the world, providing education for girls and organ donation. These people get it!

I had mentioned that I had missed my 20 year reunion, but for a good reason. As I recounted my journey to the present departmental chair of OHSU endodontics, Christine Sedgely, I couldn't help but feel so grateful for a profession that had given such fulfillment. Being entrusted with someone else's health is a privilege in and of itself. To make the kind of livelihood that affords you the freedom to carve out your own authentic path should never be taken for granted. To recount my final comment to the Oregon end residents "don't hoard ... share your wealth, time and heart" is now my own mantra of life.

*Dr. Usman may be reached at usman@zoominternet.net.*

**SCHOLARSHIPS, from page 10**

a difference in the community."

Lydia Lancaster received this year's James F. Mercer Leadership Scholarship, which is awarded based on merit to one student entering the fourth year of dental school at The Ohio State University College of Dentistry to recognize leadership and accomplishments in the first three years of dental school. "Being recognized as the Mercer

scholarship recipient is truly a humbling honor," Lancaster said. "It's especially special to me because I really became a leader because of organized dentistry. I wasn't very involved before dental school, so the American Student Dental Association is where my leadership potential blossomed. So really, I have ASDA and the Ohio Dental Association to thank as the dentists and the leaders in the ODA welcomed me and encouraged me to grow. Receiving this award means far more

than money to me, it holds personal meaning. I'm truly grateful for the ODA and the ODA Foundation's support of not only me but all the students as we pursue our careers in dentistry."

Additionally, the ODA Foundation awarded a total of \$1,250 to two EFDA students and the Ohio Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Fund (a designated fund within ODAF) awarded a total of \$4,500 in grants to oral and maxillofacial dental residency programs.



*Seated: Tamara Zwick and Cheryl DeVore  
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