

FLOSSLINE

newsletter



Message from the NDA President

Sheila L. Armstrong, DDS, FACD, FICD

Greetings National Dental Association members and family. It has been my hope that today finds you healthy, back to work, and living your best life in the midst of the year that will not soon be forgotten, 2020! This is the year of unprecedented phenomena. This year we have lost loved ones, we have seen civil unrest, we have seen our country come to a complete halt, we have had to cancel events and meetings, things that we have taken for granted in our daily lives suddenly stopped. Last year when I was thinking about a theme for my year as President of this great organization, I never could have imagined the events that have taken place in the world that we have experienced in 2020. The theme "NDA 2020: Refocusing Our Vision for The Future", really was an indicator that the National Dental Association is moving to the next level. I am so proud to say that the NDA has stepped up to the challenge, and met all expectations. I am proud to say that the 107th Virtual Annual Convention brought experts from around the country to disseminate current, relevant information to our members. The Virtual platform also allowed us to place all of the CE sessions on our NDAOnline.org website, for viewing after the live airing in July. I want to thank all of those that served on the committees that converted our planned face to face meeting to a virtual meeting. I want to thank the local convention committee in New Orleans, for the hard work that they had begun, and for understanding the need to convert the meeting to a virtual meeting. We look forward to returning to New Orleans in the very near future when it is safe to travel and convene.

During this time when our country has been greatly affected by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the National Dental Association has been at the forefront in discussions with governmental agencies such as the CDC, CMS, FEMA, FDA, USPHS, with Dental Organizations, and Inter-Professional Organizations. The National Dental Association was given the platform on more than one occasion to share our viewpoints, what our members need and more importantly what the vulnerable populations that we serve needed. I want to thank the many members that have stepped up to represent the NDA over these last few months. I want to thank the NDA Coronavirus Task Force members for all of their hard work and timely contributions. It has been a concerted effort that has made this organization shine during this year of unprecedented circumstances. The number one goal has been to disseminate useful information that our members can use to keep their businesses afloat, keep their patients safe and allow them to be resources in the communities that they serve.

The next few months are going to require a level of optimism and action that we have never seen. There are many changes that are going to take place in our country, and if those changes are not positive, unfortunately, it is going to affect our lives dramatically. If positive changes do not occur it is going to affect those that we have pledged and vowed to help, our communities of color. We are looking forward to the

first Vaccines for Coronavirus possibly being available in early 2021, that is great news, as we have heard from some of the top African American immunologists and virologists in the country. The next concern will be the distribution of the Vaccine, not only who will get it, but who will deliver it as well. Once again, I am sure that the NDA will be called upon, and we will need your input and your help in making sure that our voice is heard.

The NDA has been working on a new member benefit, an African American Legislative Pin Map (AALPM). This will be available on the NDA website in a new member only portal. This map will list African American legislators on the Local, State and Federal level. It will provide contact information for each legislator. This map will assist us in letter writing campaigns, and contacting legislators on matters that are of concern in our communities, a way that will allow our voices to be heard! Stay tuned for the launch of our member only portal and AALPM.

I just heard someone say that "2020 is a year to forget", well, I must disagree with this sentiment. 2020 is a year to remember! This is the year of transformational change; this is the year to "Refocus Our Vision of the Future". This is the year where we stopped running on the "wheel of life", and we were forced to reassess our priorities in life. We have been reminded that there are still people in this world that don't view our lives or the lives of the communities that we serve as valuable. We have seen a virus run rampant and take lives in these vulnerable communities at staggering numbers in comparison to other populations. We have been reminded that there is still a lot of work that needs to be done. Again I say, we have not arrived. This has been an eye-opening period of time where we looked at the "health" of our nation on all levels, social, economic, educational, physical, mental, and spiritual, and saw that we really are not as healthy as we may have thought. As we have all learned at various times in our lives, we must go back to the drawing board, regroup, refocus and move forward with ways that we can do better for the



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September 2020



Message from the NDA President

Continued from pg. 1

future. The National Dental Association is a steadfast and resilient organization that has been in existence for 107 years, and I have no doubt with our promising up and coming leaders from the Student National Dental Association that the NDA will be around for another 107 years. As long as we remain focused on our mission of promoting oral health equity among people of color by harnessing the collective power of our members, advocating for the needs of and mentoring dental students of color, and raising the profile of the profession in our communities the NDA will survive any pandemic or any adverse circumstances that our country finds itself in.

I would like to personally thank you for supporting the NDA financially, by paying your dues. In these unprecedented and uncertain times your dues are essential for the support of the national office and staff. I am asking for your continued financial support in 2021. Please continue to check our website www.ndaonline.org for updates and your email for urgent communications. I encourage you to please remain safe, continue to take the precautions that keep your patients safe, and continue to be the voice for those that cannot speak and advocate for themselves.

Sincerely,

Sheila L. Armstrong, DDS, FICD, FACD
96th President, National Dental Association

Thank You NDA COVID-19 Task Force

Sheila L. Armstrong, DDS, FICD, FACD, NDA President, Task Force Chair

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Message from the National Office



Greetings NDA Family and Friends,

The summer has wound down, but we are still moving in high gear here in the national office, working with organizations and agencies to bring the latest information on COVID-19; updating the website with 2020 convention sessions until September 30th. We are also preparing

and planning for the next Student Leaders Interprofessional Virtual Program; the 2020 Inauguration & Scholarship Virtual Extravaganza; the 2nd Multicultural Oral Health Summit – A joint convention in 2021 between the National Dental Association, the Hispanic Dental Association, and the Society of American Indian Dentists, and much more.

Let us start with our First Virtual Annual Convention, July 9 – 12, 2020, which included pre- and post-convention sessions. We have to say “Thank You” to all who assisted to make it happen and to those that attended the virtual convention. We received **AWESOME** reviews from members, supporters and partners. The scientific program was relevant to the challenges that minorities are facing during the COVID-19 pandemic; the carefully crafted sessions allowed us to build on our relationships with our community partners and other organizations in pursuit of our shared goal of health equity. It was exciting, as staff was forced to transform from planners into producers to keep up with everything in real-time with no pre-recorded sessions (none of us will ever view a television broadcast in quite the same way). The convention was even more special due to the fact that we had to quickly pivot and revamp the convention in 2 months due to COVID-19 and still provide attendees with an excellent experience. It was a **HUGE SUCCESS** with the continued support of our members, leaders, corporate partners, digital technology network, and exhibitors. Again, we say thank you.

NDA members, we ask that you continue to stand and let your voices be heard. In the midst of COVID-19, we still struggle with equity and social justice. The NDA continues to advocate for our communities; that includes our members, their families, and those that cannot speak for themselves. Make sure you visit our website for NDA’s latest Coronavirus PSA at <https://ndaonline.org/nda-coronavirus-psa/> to share the latest news affecting our communities. I hope you had the opportunity to read the August 13, 2020 press release as it was a reminder to health professionals that oral health is essential because it impacts overall health. I know we do not have to tell you, but because oral health is essential, we must continue to speak up for our community’s health.

Enjoy this Flossline edition as it will give you a recap on the First Ever Virtual Convention for NDA. Our family organizations also held their annual meetings virtually this year. Did you know that SNDA had close to 1,000 registrants to sign up for their virtual convention this year? Kudos to SNDA!!! Let’s help support the SNDA by visiting their website and purchasing one or two of their 2020 convention Freedom Collection T-Shirts at <https://sndaonline.net/shop-2/>.

Remember to mark your calendars for next year’s Joint Convention, the Multicultural Oral Health Summit II: “Shape our Future”, **June 17-20, 2021**, in Atlanta, Georgia, at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta with HDA and SAID. It will be a blast, lots of activities continuing from the 2012 joint meeting in Boca Raton, Florida, and Yes, the convention will be in **June**.

In closing, our President, Dr. Sheila L. Armstrong’s, 2020 theme “Refocusing our Vision for the Future” truly came to fruition this year; 2020 has made us all refocus and visualize the path to the goal of our legacy and mission. Working, learning, and training together makes it all possible. This year has been filled with many **WOW** moments, some good and some bad, but we continue to advance the NDA mission to promote oral health equity among people of color by harnessing the collective power of its members, advocating for the needs of and mentoring dental students of color, and raising the profile of the profession in our communities. We ask that you continue to support and do the same.

Sincerely,

LaVette Henderson, CMP, HMCC, FACD
NDA, Executive Director

**NDA
108th
Annual
Convention**

NDA + HDA + SAID = DDS

**MULTICULTURAL
ORAL HEALTH SUMMIT II**

“Shape our Future”

JUNE 17-20, 2021
HYATT REGENCY ATLANTA

ATLANTA
GEORGIA

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107th NATIONAL DENTAL ASSOCIATION VIRTUAL CONVENTION

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Message from the Chairman



Greetings National Dental Association Family

2020 began like any other year. You know, like participating in the Inter-Professional Student Leadership Colloquium and Summit at the Remote Area Medical (RAM) headquarters in Knoxville, TN where we, the Dentists and Students volunteered to provide free dental services for many of the 1534 patients who showed up for treatment. Or working on a project with 30 Title I second graders in Houston, TX to determine if having nutritious foods to consume over the weekend has a positive impact on learning, participation in class, attendance, behavior and testing, because you are one of 25 dentists selected nationally to participate in the ADA's Institute for Diversity in Leadership. I was participating in our annual Mid-winter meeting at our National office; we were discussing the possible partnership between the Prince George's Community College, National Dental Association and the Robert T. Freeman Dental Society in creating a new Dental Assistant program; we were attending incredible meetings like the joint NDA/HDA/SAID plenary meeting on March 6th and 7th in Chicago, IL, about our 2nd Multicultural Summit/Convention in Atlanta, GA in June 2021. We had agreed to sponsor a joint community outreach program in Oakland, CA, in September 2020, and NDA was also planning the installation gala for our President-elect, Dr. Pam'el Alston in December. And then.....

The COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Dental offices were forced to shut down on March 18, 2020. The US government categorized dentists as non-essential workers and liquor stores as essential businesses. Our offices in Washington, DC were officially closed until June 8th. On March 19th, our National President spearheaded our very own COVID-19 Task Force which included past presidents, NDA members from across the country, and me. We each were tasked with assignments, and we reported day and night for several days; editing and re-editing, making constant comparisons with the CDC until we completed a document with pertinent guidelines broken down by state that our members could implement immediately and upon reopening our practices. A huge thank you goes out to each member of the task force, because their labor of love created a document that each of us can be extremely proud of.

All the regularly scheduled meetings that we normally attend were being cancelled daily. Physical meetings both locally and nationally were being changed to virtual meetings.

To qualify for unemployment, our NDA staff had to be temporarily laid off. I volunteered to cover our national office 2 days a week. This time allowed me to concentrate on contacting the presidents of our local chapters about updating their profile forms and paying current chapter dues. I would like to remind our local presidents that profiles and chapter dues are expected on January 1st of each year.

Our culture and beliefs have taught us, when things get tough, pray, "It's me, it's me, it's me oh Lord, standing in the need of prayer!" President Dr. Sheila Armstrong, in her infinite wisdom, developed our weekly virtual prayer zoom meeting. What a blessing to have so many praying NDA, NDHA, NDAA, SNDA and ANDA members. Our spirits were uplifted each and every week.

I am also extremely proud of our National Vice President, Dr. Marlon Henderson, for creating and developing our first virtual SNDA to NDA Signing Day. As a result, we welcomed over 100 new members into our beloved NDA.

One of our most difficult challenges we had to overcome was to terminate the hotel contract for our annual convention. With the assistance of Attorney Derrick Humphries, we were victorious in cancelling the contract. However, there were only ten weeks left to develop, plan, and implement our very first National Dental Association Virtual Convention. Again, Drs. Sheila Armstrong, Hazel Harper, Nicole Cheek, Ms. LaVette Henderson and I worked

tirelessly for hours and hours each day creating a virtual convention worthy of the National Dental Association's Stamp of Approval. All hands were on deck at the National Office for the four-day virtual convention because we were not sure what technical difficulties might arise. I was extremely proud of the teamwork and comradery of our staff and officers.

I have said all of this to say, the pandemic may have shut down the entire world, but your precious National Dental Association took this time to pray more, be more thankful for all that He has done for us, be more grateful for Him making us stop and be still so that we could think, plan, create, develop and continue to run the day-to-day operations of the NDA.

Robert T. Freeman Dental Society, thank you for your constant love and support that you have given me, especially over the last two years. I also send you a huge THANK YOU for the significant charitable donation you made in the name of the National Dental Association/RTFDS to Prince George's Community College for the "Feed the Community Drive" on September 11, 2020. You are generous, kind and continue to serve our community.

There were a few local NDA members who attended Mayor Muriel Bowser's third annual National Maternal and Infant Health Summit, which builds on the growing public awareness and interest in this important issue and the District's new approach to ensure the health of women, babies and families, September 15-18, 2020, in Washington, DC. This year, with the coronavirus outbreak bringing business as usual to a halt, the Summit also addressed the impact of the epidemic on pregnant women, moms, and babies.

I want to take a moment to pay tribute to our Father of the Struggle, National Past President, Brother, Colleague, Friend and Trustee from District 2, Dr. Eugene Jordan. He wore all these hats and did so much more. He was a Civil Rights Activist, the Creator of our Rites of Passage, Founder of Black Man Army in Cleveland, OH, Mentor to dental students at Case Western and Howard University College of Dentistry, loving father, lifetime member of the National Dental Association and a strong supporter and encourager of me. We were all saddened to learn of Dr. Jordan's transition. He has left large shoes to fill. It will take more than you and me to fill them. The greatest thing that we can do in his memory is to continue his legacy and keep his vision at the forefront of our minds. "What is his legacy?", you ask? "Perpetuate the Species!" Dr. Jordan, I will especially miss the special conversations and advice you gave me

Message from the Chairman

Continued

over these last few years. As you take your place as the newest ancestor to watch over us, I leave you with this scripture, Matthew 25, verse 23 says, Well done, good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things.

Dr. Jordan/Dad, we love you and miss you. May your soul rest in peace.

I would like to thank our fearless leader, Dr. Sheila Armstrong, the Board of Trustees, the Executive Committee, our Speaker of the House, Dr. Wayne Walker for your leadership, commitment and dedication to our organization, Dr. Hugh McKnight, assistant treasurer for creating the budget and doing your best to make us aware of areas that we need to focus; Dr. Roderick Adams, Vice Speaker, thank you for all of the support that you lend to the NDA; Dr. Kim Smiley, treasurer, it has been a pleasure working with you over the last few years; to our dedicated and loyal Executive Director, Ms. LaVette Henderson, the words, Thank you do not seem sufficient for all that you do, for the National Dental Association. Dr. Hazel Harper and Dr. Kim Perry, thank you for your continuous support, encouragement, advice and guidance; to our immediate past president, Dr. John Daniels, I appreciate you for being by my side for the past two years; Mr. Derrick Humphries, thank you for providing legal counsel for me and the National

organization; and to the NDA family (NDA, NDHA, NDAA, SNDA), a thousand thank you's for allowing me to be your Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the last two years. It is my prayer that we have all served you well and completed the tasks that we were challenged with. Lastly, I thank my loving husband, Michael Butler for his patience, love and understanding as we strive to advance and move this organization forward. We know not what the future holds but with the Creator at the helm, we will continue to travel these uncharted waters.

In closing, always remember, "You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think. If you could see yourselves through my eyes, then and only then, would each one of you know, how very special you are to me." Stay strong. Stay committed. And most of all, Be Blessed!

My sincerest gratitude,



Cheryl Y. Lee, D.D.S.
Chairman of the Board of Trustees, NDA



NDA 97th National Dental Association
President's Virtual Inaugural Gala and Scholarship Extravaganza
DECEMBER 5, 2020 8:00 PM EST

"Forging and Fortifying Partnerships for Health Equity"

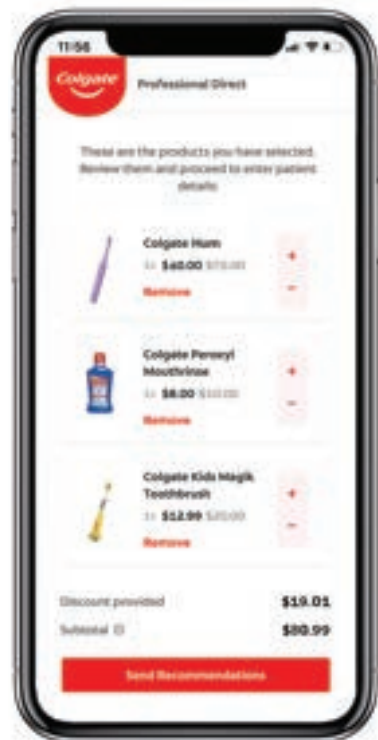
Pamela S. Alston, DDS, MPP, FACD
97th President of the National Dental Association

NDA Transition C.E. Virtual Course: December 3, 2020
"COVID-19's Mandate for Health Professionals in Black, Brown and Native American Communities."
(Testing, Vaccines, Social Determinants and Health Disparities)
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The Times We Live In

The dental profession is in the most profound of challenging times that most of us will ever reflect upon. For me, the HIV crisis came to life as I entered dental school in 1983. We were the first class of mandatory latex gloves. Dental professionals working in Hazmat suits were envisioned given what we knew about the virus. Flash forward 37 years and here we are. Our colleagues and our support staff are indeed working in Hazmat suits but from a different provocation. The COVID-19 virus. But we were prepared to deal with this decades ago. We certainly hope that all are safe and we pray for resolution to this pandemic soon.

But we also have another crisis that we are facing, which beginnings are centuries old. Precisely, since 1619. The instigation by Colin Kaepernick to dare to kneel during the National Anthem at an NFL football game, a racist song itself when researched for the last verse, brought out the worst of the misguided and misinformed of this nation to completely lose the context of his and others' protest.

Police brutality, the true reason for the protest, got its origins from the slave catchers centuries ago. The perceived need to keep slaves in their place and the fear of uprisings lead to fear tactics later to be employed by the Ku Klux Klan after slavery was abolished. From the recent police misconduct has arisen the most significant protests for justice and equality since the civil rights era. The Black Lives Matter movement began four years ago and has exploded due to incidents involving unarmed African American citizens of this nation. Studies have found that they occur 2.5 times more often than with Whites. These police actions have led the CDC to create a new classification of death, "Death By Government Intervention". If that is not an indication of dire public concern, I do not know what is.

The history of the founding of the National Dental Association (NDA) in 1913, the midst of racism, discrimination, and violence against Black bodies placed many of its members in a position of leadership in the civil rights movement across this nation. Dentists are held in high esteem in their communities and regarded as leaders and many fulfilled that expectation when it came to speaking out on racism and the rights for people in the communities they served. We honor many of them during the Civil Rights Luncheon held each Annual Convention of the NDA.

We have come a long way, but we clearly have a long way more to go. We must remember that when we see Black Lives Matter, we have to add the word "Too" at the end. In the founding of this nation, Black Lives were the equivalent of only 3/5th that of Whites. Black Lives did not matter then. When we think of Jim Crow Laws and the blatant lynching of Black people for little to no good reason, Black Lives did not matter. When we realize that systemic racism was and is perpetuated, it was and is was at the cost of Black Lives, and they did not matter. In the famous Dred Scott case, the United States Supreme Court proclaimed that Black Lives were not entitled to the rights as citizens of this nation under the Constitution. Although the Constitution stated, "All Men Are Created Equal", Black men and women were not included and therefore, Black Lives did not matter.

So now, we proclaim that indeed Black Lives Matter Too, because in the history of this nation they did not before. So, we do not accept All Lives Matter because we know they did not. Now Black Lives Do Matter more than ever. Be sure to vote in the memory of those who died for you to have that right. You owe it to your ancestors! **We cannot disrespect their struggles by idly standing on the sideline.** Get in the game but let them know that you matter first.

Founding Fathers (top to bottom)

Dr. Robert T. Freeman

Dr. David A. Ferguson

Dr. John Andrew Jackson

Dr. Robert Fulton

Dr. Stephen Lewis

Dr. James Wallace

VOTE!

Nathan Fletcher, DDS

84th NDA President - 2008

Protocol Corner



Wayne D. Walker, DDS
Speaker of the House of Delegates

For my final article for “Protocol Corner”, I’d like to highlight a few subjects I feel should be priorities in our governance. The topics I’d like for us to ponder are the tripartite dues payment structure, a commitment to volunteerism at the local level for the betterment of the national organization, and lastly, mentorship between our SNDA students and recent grads.

When the writers of our constitution put pen to paper, they did so with the best interest of our beloved National Dental Association in mind. It was established that we would be a tripartite dues paying organization. In doing so, I believe it was to unite participation from all levels: local, state, and national. We should be enforcing this dues structure for the same reason. Local components should pay their national and state dues to their state constituent, and those should be forwarded to our national office. Unfortunately, not all of our societies have active state chapters. I’ve heard over the years some members pay local or national dues and sometimes not both. Truly, these members need to appreciate the value in both memberships. We pay these tripartite dues in other organizations, and yet don’t question anything. We should do the same for the NDA without reservation: it’s in our bylaws.

Since we are a membership driven organization, it is our responsibility as members to make the commitment to serve for the betterment of the organization. The commitment to serve usually starts at the local level. Having a local NDA chapter and being involved in our communities professionally has always given us the best exposure. Most of us are involved in our communities on a nonprofessional level. When we use our local NDA chapters and showcase local dentists serving the underserved, we pass on the awareness that African American dentists exist, and we will continue to prosper.

I would like to close with one more thought on our prosperity. Another key, I believe, is our relationship with our recent graduates and SNDA students. Even though we don’t have the numbers of minority students entering and graduating dental schools as we would like, truly we have more than in years past. Our retention of those students is what we need to sustain the NDA for the next 100 years. We need to reach out to be a mentor to our young dentists and dental students. I’m sure we all can look back and say “Thank You” to someone for their support or word of encouragement. So, as an NDA member and one who wants to “perpetuate the species”, find someone who you could use your wisdom.

It has been my pleasure to serve this organization as Speaker of the House. I couldn’t have done it without the support and confidence of the members of the House of Delegates. I Thank You All!!!! I would like to thank Dr. Joshua Tyson for his willingness to accept the responsibility as Speaker. I will be here for him as long as he needs a helping hand. I know Dr. Adams will give him the same support he gave me.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Wayne D. Walker
Speaker of the House of
Delegates

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Community Outreach



NATIONAL DENTAL ASSOCIATION RECEIVES HEALTH CARE PRODUCT DONATIONS FROM HENRY SCHEIN CARES GLOBAL PRODUCT DONATION PROGRAM

By Hazel J. Harper Johns, DDS, MPH, FACD and Nicole Cheek, DDS

The National Dental Association (NDA) has received another donation of healthcare products under a grant from the Henry Schein Cares Global Product Donation Program. Henry Schein, Inc. and the NDA have been partners since 1976. Through this program, Henry Schein, Inc., the world's largest provider of health care products and services to office-based dental, animal health and medical practitioners, provides recipient organizations with several health care product donations valued between \$5,000 and \$25,000 over the course of two years. The grant has enabled the NDA to more effectively carry out its mission and expand its ability to provide care to thousands of underserved and vulnerable populations, including those in NDA-HEALTH NOW® [Health Equity, Access, Literacy, Technology and Hope. National Outreach on Wheels] cities: New York, New Orleans, Dallas, Chicago, Oakland, metropolitan Washington, DC, Atlanta, and Orlando. NDA-HEALTH NOW® has also supported programs in Haiti, Jamaica, Guatemala, Pakistan, Sudan, Kenya and Greece; hurricane relief programs in Houston, Texas, and the Bahamas; and the COVID-19 pandemic emergency program at the Javits Center in New York. Henry Schein Cares, the global corporate social responsibility program of Henry Schein, Inc., aims to expand access to health care for underserved and at-risk populations around the world by promoting wellness, prevention, treatment and education; providing emergency preparedness and relief; and building health care capacity.

Henry Schein Cares continues to partner with NDA to bring the resources we need to provide our services to communities that have the least and need the most. Our vast network of NDA members, Student National Dental Association members and community partners volunteer their services in underserved

communities around the country and around the globe. When we go into those communities, we are proud to take Henry Schein Cares with us," stated Dr. Hazel J. Harper Johns, Founding Director of NDA-HEALTH NOW®.

Henry Schein Cares stands on four pillars: engaging Team Schein Members to reach their potential, ensuring accountability by extending ethical business practices to all levels within Henry Schein, promoting environmental sustainability, and expanding access to health care for underserved and at-risk communities around the world. Health care activities supported by Henry Schein Cares focus on three main areas: advancing wellness, building capacity in the delivery of health care services, and assisting in emergency preparedness and relief.

Firmly rooted in a deep commitment to social responsibility and the concept of enlightened self-interest championed by Benjamin Franklin, the philosophy behind Henry Schein Cares is a vision of "doing well by doing good." Through the work of Henry Schein Cares to enhance access to care for those in need, the Company believes that it is furthering its long-term success. "Helping Health Happen Blog" is a platform for health care professionals to share their volunteer experiences delivering assistance to those in need globally. To read more about how Henry Schein Cares is making a difference, please visit their blog: www.helpinghealthhappen.org.

NDA is proud to continue our partnership with Henry Schein to further our mission to promote oral health equity among people of color by harnessing the collective power of its members, advocate for the needs of and mentor dental students of color, and raise the profile of the professional in our communities.



PRINCE GEORGE'S
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Robert T. Freeman Dental Society and NDA Proud to Support Regional Food Drive at Prince George's Community College

The NDA and the Robert T. Freeman Dental Society of Washington, DC, was proud to support Prince George's Community College in a regional food drive on campus in Largo, Maryland.

Prince George's Community College (PGCC) partnered with Catholic Charities of DC to address the root causes of food insecurity and health disparities with a Community Food Distributor on September 11, 2020. Held on the National Day of Service, the event brought residents of Prince George's County and surrounding communities together to provide food resources and education to individuals who currently lack healthy, convenient, and affordable options, including PGCC students and their families.

In the county, economic challenges and loss of income resulting from the coronavirus pandemic have exacerbated food disparities and food insecurity, creating hardship for many area residents, including those who have underlying health conditions. The food distribution event, part of a larger initiative, is just one of the many ways that the College has partnered with others to create a community in which basic needs are met for all residents.

This event served over 800 county residents during a two-hour contactless Healthy Food Distribution and provided over 500 prepared meals to feed a family of four and 500 boxes of fresh produce and frozen protein (chicken, ground beef or turkey).

The following addition items were also distributed at the event.

- Distribution of heart-healthy, budget-friendly recipes developed by PGCC chef instructors, in collaboration with the American Heart Association
- Tuition assistance for students, possibly displaced workers, as a result of COVID-19, who register for programs in culinary arts and food services that lead to certifications for jobs – information on how to register/apply will be inserted in grocery boxes
- 300 \$50 grocery gift cards (provided after all meals and grocery boxes were distributed)- made possible through the generosity of multiple donors
- Printed information on related courses in Nutrition, Wellness and Hospitality at Prince George's Community College

Data also show that nearly 14% of Prince George's County adult residents are diabetic, 36% are obese, and 64% of Medicare beneficiaries in this area suffer from hypertension. These rates are well above national and statewide averages.

The event was hosted by newly appointed president of PGCC, Dr. Falecia D. Williams, along with members of their Foundation Board.

The NDA and Robert T. Freeman Dental Society are proud to have made a financial donation, along with some of our members, to support this program for the community. Look forward to additional announcements from the NDA and Prince George's Community College with regards to the dental profession later this year.



Thursday, June 18, 2020 (Pre-convention course)**

8:00pm - 9:30pm 1.5hrs CE

"New COVID-19 Infection Control Guidelines for Health Professionals"

Moderator: Leslie E. Grant, DDS, MSPA

Opening Remarks: RADM Timothy Ricks, DMD, MPH, FICD

Panelists: Erin Hartnett, DNP, PPCNP-BC, CPNP; L. Faye Grimsley, PhD, CIH, MSPH; Kelli C. Mack, DDS, Col. USAF; Leslie S. T. Fang, MD, PhD

Sponsored by Henry Schein, Inc.

Thursday, June 25, 2020 (Pre-convention course)**

8:00pm - 9:30pm 1.5hrs CE

"Researchers' Cutting-Edge Approaches to Combatting COVID-19"

Co-Moderators: Janet H. Southerland, DDS, MPH, PhD; and

Keith A. Mays, DDS, MS, PhD

Panelists: Donald J. Alcendor, PhD; Kizzmekia S. Corbett, PhD; Rodney J. Hunter, PharmD, BCOP

Sponsored by Dental Symphony

Thursday, July 9, 2020

9:00am -12:00pm 3hrs CE

Minority Faculty, Administrators & Practitioners Forum

"Refocusing Our Vision for the Future"

Moderator: Kenneth B. May, DDS, MS

Presenters: Karen P. West, DMD, MPH; Sonya G. Smith, EdD, JD; Kelli R. Johnson, JD; Ms. Allison Manswell, MBA

Sponsored by Colgate-Palmolive, National Dental Association Foundation & American Dental Education Association

12:30pm - 1:45pm

Student Research Update and Faculty Awards Program

Moderator: Todd V. Ester, DDS, MA

Sponsored by Colgate-Palmolive & National Dental Association Foundation

2:00pm - 4:00pm 2hrs CE

Minority Faculty, Administrators & Practitioners Research Forum

"Oral and Systemic Health for Adolescents - Our Future"

Moderator: George Taylor, DMD, MPH, DrPH

Sponsored by Colgate-Palmolive & National Dental Association Foundation

Friday, July 10, 2020

7:00pm - 8:00pm

"Billable Dental Procedures to Medical Insurance"

Chris P. Farrugia, DDS

Sponsored by CareCredit

8:00pm - 9:00pm 1hr CE

"Mastering Teledentistry for Communication with Patients and Multi-Disciplinary Health Providers"**

Moderator: Kenneth B. Chance, DDS, FACD, FICD, FPFA

Paul Glassman, DDS, MA, MBA

Sponsored by Colgate-Palmolive and Aetna, Inc.

Saturday, July 11, 2020

9:30am - 10:30am 1hr CE

NDA / SNDA Global Oral Health Outreach Symposium

Sponsored by Colgate-Palmolive and DentaQuest Partnership for Oral Health Advancement

11:00am - 12:40pm 1.5hrs CE

President's Symposium**

"COVID-19's Call to Action: The Moral Imperative for African American Health Providers"

Welcome: Sheila L. Armstrong, DDS, FACD, FICD

Moderator: Nathan Fletcher, DDS

Special Invited National Partner: Kimberly Jeffries-Leonard, PhD, President, The Links Incorporated

Guest Panelists: Helene D. Gayle, MD, MPH, Inaugural CEO of McKinsey Social Initiative; Oliver T. Brooks, MD, President, National Medical Association

Closing Remarks: Senator Cory A. Booker

Sponsored by Colgate-Palmolive

12:45pm - 1:45pm 1hr CE

"So You Want to Place Your Own Implants? A Periodontist's Perspective"

Stephen B. Towns, DDS

Sponsored by Colgate-Palmolive

2:00pm - 3:00pm 1hr CE

"Applications of Artificial Intelligence Throughout the Health Spectrum"**

Moderator: Andrea D. Jackson, DDS, MS, FACP, FACD, FICO

Ravi Agarwal, DDS and Lasse Rouhiainen (*Book Author, Artificial Intelligence101-things you must know today about our future*)

Sponsored by Aetna, Inc.

3:15pm - 4:15pm 1hr CE

"Adhesive Dentistry Update: What's New, What's Not"

Edmond R. Hewlett, DDS

Sponsored by DentaQuest Partnership for Oral Health Advancement

Sunday, July 12, 2020

11:00am- 12:00pm 1hr CE

"Dental Ethics for a New Decade: The Power of Story"

Carlos S. Smith, DDS, MDiv, FACD

Sponsored by American College of Dentists

12:15pm- 1:15pm 1hr CE

"Oral Manifestations of Substance Abuse"

Ashley Clark, DDS and Cleverick CD Johnson, DDS

Sponsored by DentaQuest Partnership for Oral Health Advancement

1:30pm- 3:30pm 2hrs CE

Live Mini-Implant Session

Todd Shatkin, DDS

Sponsored by Shatkin F.I.R.S.T.

Thursday, July 16, 2020 (Post-convention course)**

8:00pm - 9:30pm 1.5hrs CE

"COVID-19: Health Disparities and the Unfinished Civil Rights Agenda"

Moderator: Cherae Farmer-Dixon, DDS, MSPH, MBA, FACD, FICD

Guest Panelists: James E.K. Hildreth, PhD, MD; Catherine Alicia Georges, EdD, RN, FAAN and Reuben C. Warren, DDS, MPH, DrPH, MDiv

Sponsored by American Dental Association

Thursday, July 23, 2020 (Post-convention course)**

8:00pm - 9:30pm 1.5hrs CE

Women's Health Symposium- A Tribute to the 50th Anniversary of Essence Magazine *"Aspiring to Achieve a New Normal for African- American Women's Health"*

Opening Remarks: Special Guest and Honoree

Ed Lewis, Co-Founder of Essence Magazine, Book Author: *"The Man from Essence"*

Guest Panelists: Sheila L. Armstrong, President, National Dental Association; Martha A. Dawson, President, National Black Nurses Association; Linda Goler Blount, President and CEO, Black Women's Health Imperative; Lakesha M. Butler, President, National Pharmaceutical Association; Patrice Harris, President, American Medical Association (invited)

Co-Sponsored by Colgate-Palmolive and the Black Women Dentists of Southern California

**** C.E. credits for dentists, nurses, physicians, and pharmacists. All sessions are in Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)**

NDA Hosts First Inter-Professional Summer Seminar Series

By Hazel J. Harper Johns, DDS, MPH, FACD, Nicole Cheek, DDS

During the 107th Annual Convention and first-ever Virtual Convention, the National Dental Association (NDA) launched its first, fully accredited, Inter-professional (IP) Continuing Education Summer Seminar Series. The series consisted of seven (7) courses that focused on the myriad of challenges and issues surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, health disparities and the social determinants of health. The unique summer series was conducted from June 18-July 23, 2020. The sessions included an illustrious cadre of world class subject matter experts, including exemplary African American presenters and distinguished moderators. The luminaries included researchers, clinicians, academicians, university deans and national organizational leaders in the fields of dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, psychology, public health and artificial intelligence. The IP series was supported by Aetna, Henry Schein, Inc., the American Dental Association, and the Black Women Dentists of Southern California.

Decades ago, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) identified the need for training non-dental health professionals to recognize risk for oral diseases. Although there are some health professionals training institutions that purport to teach students about the importance of inter-professional collaboration, there are shortcomings in both the teaching curricula and in practical application that do not provide mechanisms for continuous communication among health care providers. As reported by the IOM and AAMC, knowledge gaps also exist for medicine, nursing and pharmacy professionals and students in the areas of oral-systemic interaction. This knowledge gap results in minimal interaction between health professionals and a segmented rather than integrated approach to health care. The NDA seeks to close these gaps.

Today, COVID-19 has created a sense of urgency for all health professions to not only become more familiar with the disease and the underlying risk factors, but to also increase their awareness about the important role all health professionals must play in combatting the pandemic. When the NDA 2020 Annual Convention pivoted from a face-to-face convention to a virtual event, it provided the unique opportunity for the organization to design a timely, cutting-edge inter-professional education series. An IP Planning Committee was formed consisting of nurses, dentists, and continuing education directors from pharmacy and medicine. Members of the committee are: Erin Hartnett DNP, PPCNP-BC, CPNP, Janalyn Cantey Edmonds, PhD, RN, Nicole

Cheek, DDS, and Hazel J. Harper Johns, DDS, MPH, FACD, Chair. The courses were fully accredited for the disciplines of dentistry, medicine, nursing and pharmacy. The accrediting institutions are: the National Dental Association (Academy of General Dentistry/Program Approval for Continuing Education [AGD/PACE]; the New York University Rory Meyers College of Nursing (American Nurses' Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation [ANCC]); Meharry Medical College (Accreditation Council on Continuing Medical Education [ACCME]); and Xavier University of Louisiana College of Pharmacy (Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education [ACPE]). The Continuing Education Directors whose guidance and support were critical to the success of this program were: Martha Brown Earls, BS, Pharm.D., Clinical Assistant Professor Director of Drug Information Center, Division of Clinical and Administrative Sciences College of Pharmacy, Xavier University of Louisiana; Mattia J. Gilmartin, PhD, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, NICHE, (Nurses Improving Care for HealthSystem Elders) NYU; Allyson F. Fleming, EdD, Director, Office of Lifelong Learning Continuing Medical Education/Continuing Dental Education, Meharry Medical College; and Stephen C. Brisco, DDS, MAGD, Chairman, NDA Scientific Committee.

In addition to scientific and clinical updates, the Inter-Professional courses highlighted the moral imperative for African American health professionals. They emphasized the need for health providers to use their professional skills to improve health status; and for their organizations to collaborate to use their political will to advocate for their communities and preserve their businesses in communities where they are most needed. The collective impact of multi-disciplinary and multicultural organizations will drive transformational policy reform that must include systemic changes to eliminate disparities; provide adequate resources for essential safety net providers; and open lines of communication between African American health providers and the legislators and policymakers that are accountable to the constituents they serve. Together, African American health professionals, and others serving Black and Brown populations, can impact the quality of life and quality of care for patients who have been systematically marginalized and communities that have been traditionally disenfranchised.



Inter-Professional Summer Seminar Series

IP Session 1: Thursday, June 18, 2020

8:00pm - 9:30pm EDT

“New COVID-19 Infection Control Guidelines for Health Professionals”

Sponsored by Henry Schein, Inc.



Leslie E. Grant, DDS, MSPA
Moderator



RADM Timothy Ricks, DMD,
MPH, FICD
Opening Remarks



Erin Hartnett, DNP, PPCNP-
BC, CPNP
Panelist



L. Faye Grimsley, PhD, CIH,
MSPH
Panelist



Kelli C. Mack, DDS, Col. USAF
Panelist



Leslie S. T. Fang, MD, PhD
Panelist

IP Session 2: Thursday, June 25, 2020

8:00pm - 9:30pm EDT

“Researchers’ Cutting-Edge Approaches to Combatting COVID-19”

Sponsored by Dental Symphony



Janet H. Southerland, DDS,
MPH, PhD
Co-Moderator



Keith A. Mays, DDS,
MS, PhD
Co-Moderator



Donald J. Alcendor, PhD
Panelist



Kizzmekia S. Corbett, PhD
Panelist



Rodney J. Hunter,
PharmD, BCOP
Panelist

IP Session 3: Thursday, June 25, 2020

8:00pm – 9:00pm EDT

“Mastering Teledentistry for Communication with Patients and Multi-Disciplinary Health Providers”

Sponsored by Colgate-Palmolive and Aetna, Inc.



Kenneth B. Chance, DDS,
FACD, FICD, FPFA
Moderator



Paul Glassman, DDS, MS, MBA
Presenter

IP Session 4: Saturday, July 11, 2020

11:00am – 12:40pm EDT

President's Symposium

“COVID-19’s Call to Action: The Moral Imperative for African American Health Providers”

Sponsored by Colgate-Palmolive



Sheila L. Armstrong, DDS,
FACD, FICD



Nathan Fletcher, DDS
Moderator



Kimberly Jeffries-Leonard, PhD
President, The Links, Inc.



Senator Cory A. Booker



Helene D. Gayle, MD, MPH
President & CEO,
The Chicago Community Trust
and Affiliates



Oliver T. Brooks, MD
President, National Medical
Association

IP Session 5: Saturday, July 11, 2020

2:00pm – 3:00pm EDT

“Applications of Artificial Intelligence Throughout the Health Spectrum”

Sponsored by Aetna, Inc.



Andrea D. Jackson, DDS, MS, FACP,
FACD, FICO
Moderator



Ravi Agarwal, DDS
Presenter



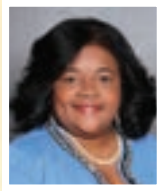
Lasse Rouhiainen
Presenter

IP Session 6: Thursday, July 16, 2020

8:00pm – 9:30pm EDT

“COVID-19: Health Disparities and the Unfinished Civil Rights Agenda”

Sponsored by the American Dental Association



Cherae Farmer-Dixon, DDS, MSPH,
MBA, FACD, FICD
Moderator



James E.K. Hildreth, PhD,
MD
Panelist



Catherine Alicia Georges, EdD,
RN, FAAN
Panelist



Ruben C. Warren, DDS, MPH,
DrPH, MDiv
Panelist

IP Session 7: Thursday, July 23, 2020

8:00pm – 9:30pm EDT

Women’s Health Symposium- A Tribute to the 50th Anniversary of Essence Magazine

“Aspiring to Achieve a New Normal for African- American Women’s Health”

Co-Sponsored by Colgate-Palmolive and the Black Women Dentists of Southern California



Hazel Harper Johns, DDS,
MPH, FACD
Co-Moderator



Lenise N. Yarber, DDS
Co-Moderator



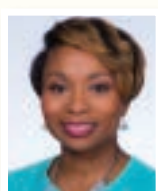
Sheila L. Armstrong, DDS,
FACD, FICD
**President, National
Dental Association**



Martha A. Dawson, DNP,
RN, FACHE
**President, National
Black Nurses
Association**



Yolanda Lawson, MD,
FACOG
**Board Chair,
National Medical
Association**



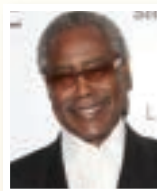
Lakesha M. Butler,
PharmD, BCPS
**President, National
Pharmaceutical
Association**



Huberta Jackson-Lowman,
PhD
**Immediate
Past-President,
Association of Black
Psychologists**



Linda Goler Blount,
MPH
**President and CEO,
Black Women’s Health
Imperative**



Ed Lewis
**Co-Founder, Essence Magazine
Honoree**

NEA 107th NATIONAL DENTAL ASSOCIATION **VIRTUAL CONVENTION**

2020 AWARD WINNERS



Marlon D. Henderson, DDS
PRESIDENT'S AWARD



Eleanor Fleming, PhD, DDS, MPH
PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD



Camesia O. Matthews, DDS
PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD



John T. Daniels, II, DDS, FICOI, FICD
IMMEDIATE PAST - PRESIDENT'S AWARD



Akeadra Bell, DMD
SNDA
NDA-COLGATE STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD



Nicole Cheek, DDS
NDA-COLGATE NEW DENTIST LEADERSHIP AWARD



Elenor Fleming, PhD, DDS, MPH
NDA-COLGATE NEW DENTIST LEADERSHIP AWARD



Reginald O. Salter, DDS, MBA, PhD
Howard University, College of Dentistry
NDA FACULTY SERVICE AWARD



Marcus D. Johnson, DDS, MSD
Interfaith Medical Center
NDA FACULTY TEACHING AWARD



Todd V. Ester, DDS, MA
University of Michigan School of Dentistry
NDA FACULTY SERVICE AWARD



**Student National
Dental Association**

A Fresh Air Celebration



Shaun Abrams, DDS, PhD
Research Fellowship &
Community Dentistry



Andrea Akabike, DDS
Community Dentistry



Sederic Grant, DDS
Pediatrics,
University of Minnesota



Ebony Helaire, DDS
UCSF AEGD



Emmanuel Mogire, DDS
Newark Beth-Israel GPR

The class of 2020 University of California, San Francisco African American (UCSF) SNDA members celebrated their graduation in Golden Gate park with food, drink and special gift bags for the graduates. The Greater Bay Area Dental Society (GBADS) supported the students with a donation to cover the costs of the food and gifts.

The gift bags were filled with a bottle of champagne and a copy of “Just Wish I Had Known: A Guide to Opening a Dental Practice” by Joy N. McDaniel, DMD. This event was organized by a rising 4th year SNDA member, future doctor Ifunanya Okeke, in lieu of the annual Senior Send-Off hosted by The GBADS. That event was unfortunately cancelled due to Covid-19 concerns, but Ifunanya was intent on wishing her classmates well as they embarked into their new career. With leadership like hers, the NDA has a bright future.

In addition to the six graduating dentists, a number of invited fellow students and members from the Greater Bay Area Dental Society wearing masks and keeping the appropriate distances joined the celebration. A moving and uplifting presentation was given by Dr. Dawud Muhaimin, Board member and Student Outreach representative. Comments were also made by Dr. William Hoskins, GBADS President and Dr. Marianela Carter, Board member and Web master.

The event was not only enjoyable but most rewarding seeing our future moving on to the next phase of becoming dynamic health care providers and community leaders. The majority of graduates are planning to go on to do internships in various disciplines in a variety of locations. Among the invited students were also two UCSF dental students jointly pursuing PhD degrees.

After the presentations, the cool San Francisco weather ended the celebration on a most positive note and timely fashion.

Congratulations UCFS School of Dentistry Class of 2020 graduates.

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THE PROBLEM: America Lacks Access to Oral Health Care

More than
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live in dental coverage shortage areas, where there are not enough dentists to adequately serve the population living there.

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Untreated dental disease among adults is disproportionately prevalent within racial and ethnic minorities:

42% African American adults

36% Hispanic adults

compared to **22%** Caucasians



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Investment in future-focused solutions like advancing medical-dental integration for a more integrated health experience



TRANSFORMATION

It takes powerful partnerships and collaboration to achieve quality oral health care and measurably healthier communities.



JOIN THE MOVEMENT AT [PREVENTISTRY.ORG](https://www.preventistry.org)

P1. Eke, B.A., Dye, I. Wei, et al. "Prevalence of Periodontitis in Adults in the United States: 2009 and 2010." Journal of Dental Research 91(10): 914-922, 2012. • American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute. "Oral Health and Well-Being in the United States." • Dieleman, J.L., Baral, R., Birger, M., et al. "US Spending on Personal Health Care and Public Health, 1996-2013." JAMA. 2016;316(24):2627-2646. doi:10.1001/jama.2016.18885. • American Dental Association. "Minority Health in America: Despite Progress, Disparities Persist." 2015. • The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. "Oral Health and Low-Income Nonelderly Adults: A Review of Coverage and Access." Policy Brief, June 2012. • The Pew Charitable Trusts: Children's Dental. "In Search of Dental Care." June 2013.



Thank You!

TO OUR INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTERS!



Dean,
Scott S. De Rossi, DMD, MBA



Dean,
Cherae Farmer-Dixon, DDS, MSPH,
MBA,



Dean,
Michael S. Reddy, DMD, DMSc



Dean,
Laurie K. McCauley, DDS, MS, PhD



Dean,
Paul Krebsbach, DDS, PhD

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Letter to The Academy of General Dentistry

September 9, 2020

Dr. Ashley W. Lamay,
Chair of the AGD/PACE Council

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Roderick H. Adams, Jr., DDS, FACD
Vice Speaker of the House

John T. Daniels, II, DDS, FICOI, FICD
Immediate Past President

LaVette C. Henderson, CMP, HMCC, FACD
Executive Director

Dear Dr. Lamay:

The National Dental Association (NDA) takes pride in its continuing education program, accredited by AGD/PACE for many years. For the most part, courses have focused on topics of clinical and scientific relevance. This year, the dual pandemics of COVID-19 and systemic racism have illuminated disparities severely impacting our members, predominantly African American, and the predominantly Black and Brown populations we serve. In fact, the national discourse has turned to health disparities. There is an urgent need for our members, and all health professionals, to be continually educated about the causes and impact of health disparities. Continuing education courses must include topics that focus on the impact of social determinants of health, implicit bias, racial discrimination, gender discrimination, and cultural incompetence on health. For these reasons, we are requesting that AGD expand its subject categories and course codes to include a broader scope of education devoted to dismantling systemic racism and sexism in health care. This action would not only enhance C.E. programming for the NDA, and other multi-cultural groups, but would also demonstrate the dental profession's commitment to eliminating disparities and improving health outcomes.

Although we do not yet have all the race-based data we need, we already know that COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on Black and Brown populations. Research shows our polluted environment is one of the major drivers of health disparities and disproportionately high mortality rates from COVID-19 in communities of color. Systemic racism in policies that shape the neighborhood and built environments in many Black, Latino, Native American, and other communities, is at the root of the problem. It should not be surprising that the social determinants of health are the root causes of increased diabetes, heart disease, obesity and other underlying conditions. The literature also abounds in documentation of the persistent and unabated problem of racial health disparities. In 2003, the Institute of Medicine published *Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care*. In 2017, Mary Otto wrote *Teeth-The Story of Beauty, Inequality, and the Struggle for Oral Health in America*. Most recently, Henrie Treadwell and Caswell Evans edited, *Oral Health in America-Removing the Stain of Disparity*.

During the recent NDA virtual convention, several inter-professional continuing education courses were conducted that addressed COVID-19, health disparities and the social determinants of health. Accreditation for nurses, physicians, and pharmacists was provided through New York University College of Nursing, Meharry Medical College, and Xavier University College of Pharmacy, respectively. The dental continuing education codes assigned did not adequately reflect the course content. The pandemic has created a new moral imperative for African American health professionals and other providers of color that is multifaceted. First, ethnic minority health professionals are essential safety net providers and are the lifeline for traditionally marginalized patients.

The expectation is that these professionals will live up to their reputation of being respected, trusted, and credible healers and will also be advocates for their communities. Our patients are at the highest risk of morbidity and mortality from COVID-19 and are self-quarantining because they are afraid of getting sick. They must be reassured that dental offices are safe, and that preventive care will help control their diabetes, hypertension, and pulmonary disease. New guidelines necessitate the need for health providers to become proficient in the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), compliant in new infection control protocols and diligent about safety for themselves, patients and staff.

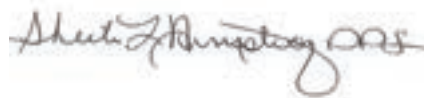
Second, as the nation moves into the pandemic's next phase, and researchers discover ways to prevent and treat COVID-19, educating Brown and Black populations about the safety of new medications will also be imperative. Many know of previous abuses in testing and clinical trials and are understandably distrustful of government health agencies. Providers that "look like them" and speak their language are the ones that must, first, believe in the research and science themselves, and second, carry the message to our communities and deliver the care. There is a difference between vaccines and vaccinations. Approving and manufacturing vaccines is one thing. Encouraging skeptical, at-risk populations to receive immunizations is another.

Third, we have a moral and ethical responsibility to be educated about the social determinants of health, structural and systemic racism, implicit bias, and the impact of racial and gender discrimination on patient care and health outcomes of minority populations. Comprehension of the unintended consequences of systemic iatrogenesis and benign neglect is of paramount importance

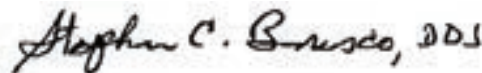
Finally, the role and impact of oral health professionals during this pandemic has been marginalized. However, their role in inter-professional and multidisciplinary networks is vital. Adequate resources must be channeled to communities and shortage areas where they are needed most. It is a travesty that the number of federally designated dental health professional shortage areas is increasing, not decreasing. Ethnic minority health professionals want to serve their populations and must be knowledgeable about business models, financing, and policies that will support their sustainability and ensure their success. State Boards must also re-evaluate and revise courses that are accepted for continuing education credits.

We know that codes were last updated in 2017, and we would greatly appreciate your consideration of updating codes that reflect the topic areas that have been mentioned. We look forward to hearing from you and hope that you will give this request your most favorable consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Sheila L. Armstrong, DDS, FICD, FACD
President, NDA



Stephen C. Brisco, DDS, MAGD
Chair, NDA Scientific Committee

Cc: NDA Board of Trustees

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National Dental Assistants Association • Auxiliary to the National Dental Association • Undergraduate Students National Dental Association

Press Release

For Immediate Release
August 13, 2020

Contact: LaVette C. Henderson
Executive Director
lhenderson@ndaonline.org

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National Dental Association and World Health Organization: Worlds Apart on Recent Recommendation

Greenbelt, MD - The National Dental Association (NDA) supports the work of the World Health Organization, but cannot in good conscience agree with its recent recommendation that “check-ups, dental cleanings, and preventive care be delayed until there has been sufficient reduction in COVID-19 transmission rates”.

The NDA represents the oral health providers, predominantly African American, who are essential safety net providers in underserved communities of color. Sixty-five percent of NDA members are Medicaid providers and along with other African American health professionals, they are the lifeline for Black and Brown populations. Additionally, using the WHO description of the nature and work of dental providers, some media outlets have reported that oral care providers have heightened risk of contracting COVID-19 and passing it to patients.” The inference that dental providers are transmitting the virus to their patients is unsubstantiated and unfounded. In consultation with Federal officials, we are unaware of any transmission of the virus from dental practitioner to patient. In fact, for nearly four decades, dentists have adhered to and mastered stringent infection control and universal protocols. With the onset of COVID-19, the dental profession has adopted additional infection control and safety protocols, including pre-appointment screening questions, temperature checks, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), air filtration systems, aerosol transmission mitigation, surface disinfection with chemical fogging or UV light.

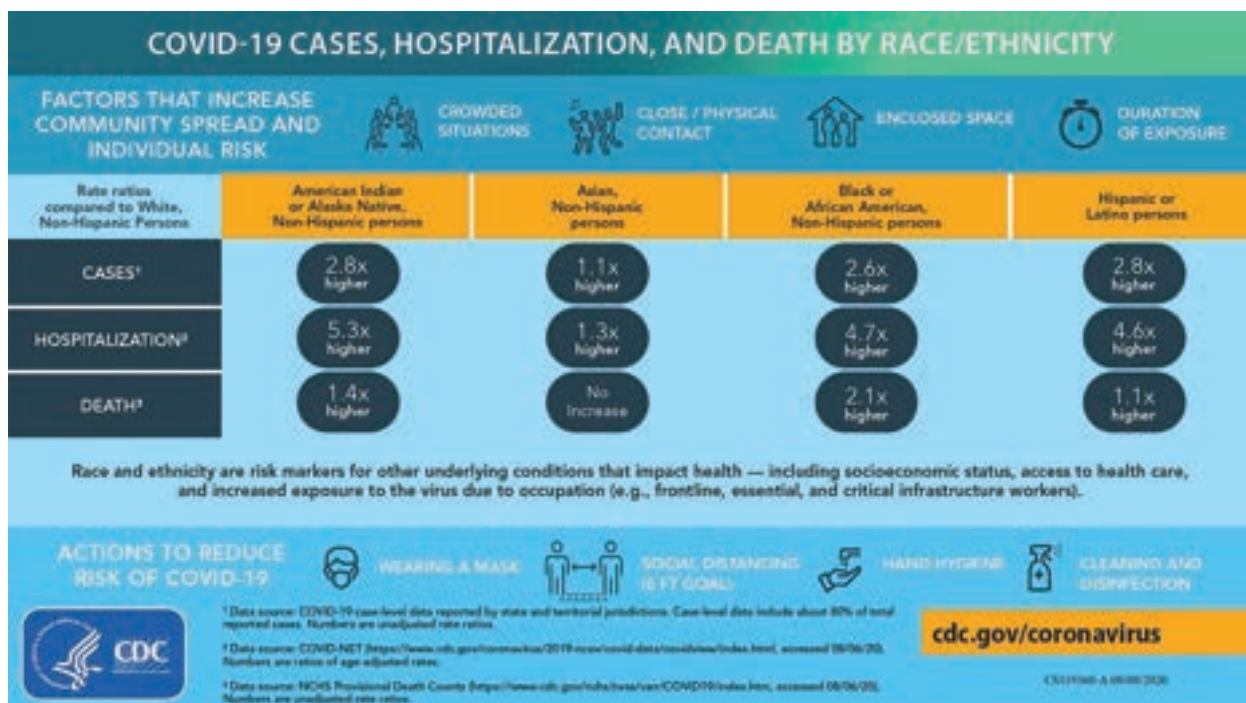
Oral health is essential to overall health. Current research links chronic periodontal disease with COVID-19 complications, indicating that poor plaque control can negatively affect the lungs of hospitalized COVID-19 patients. [V Sampson et al. *Could there be a link between oral hygiene and the severity of SARS-COV-2 infections?* British Dental Journal 228, 971-975 (2020)] [S Molayem, CC Pontes. *The Mouth-COVID Connection (MCC)*. Accepted for publication for the October 2020 issue of the Journal of the California Dental Association, reported in Dental Products Report, August 7, 2020] Oral hygiene and periodontal therapy improve health and protect against COVID-19 complications. As of August 6, 2020, the CDC reported that African Americans have 2.6x more number of COVID-19 cases than their white counterparts; 4.7x more hospitalizations; and 2.1x more deaths. This data is particularly significant for NDA

NDA Family Organizations

members, essential safety net dental providers, whose patients are predominantly African American.

The importance of good oral health for patients with compromised immune systems and underlying conditions cannot be overstated. Reports from NDA dental practices that have reopened in underserved communities reveal that the Coronavirus lockdown continues to have a negative impact on dental health. Telehealth, now routine, often results in new prescriptions (for hypertension or depression) that have a negative impact on dental health. The majority of NDA practitioners have a majority of patients with underlying conditions. Many of these patients remain in self-imposed quarantine, still afraid to make dental appointments despite the impeccable precautions that have been put in place for their protection. Delaying overdue prophylaxes will further compromise patients with high risk and chronic diseases making them more susceptible to COVID-19 and its complications. Dental professionals are complying with state recommendations and are following the CDC’s Framework for Healthcare Systems Providing Non-COVID-19 Clinical Care during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Of paramount importance is maintaining the safety and health of dental providers, their patients and their staff.

Dr. Sheila L. Armstrong, President of the National Dental Association stated, *“The delay or suspension of essential oral health care procedures has been proven to increase the rate of morbidity in the underserved communities that have been most affected by Coronavirus. It is the continuation of these essential services that may prove to be a mitigating factor in the survival rate of this vulnerable population that we serve. **Returning to the dentist is safe. Dentistry may be the game changer in this global pandemic.**”*



###

About the NDA: The National Dental Association promotes oral health equity among people of color by harnessing the collective power of its members, advocating for the needs of and mentoring dental students of color, and raising the profile of the profession in our communities.

NDA Resolution

Eugene James Jordan, DDS

WHEREAS, Dr. Eugene J. Jordan, was born in Columbus, OH, in 1936, he spent his formative years and obtained his early education in Columbus; Young Eugene excelled in school, was number one in his middle school class, and he was captain of his high school basketball team, it was during this time in his life that he began to dream of becoming a Doctor;

WHEREAS, Dr. Jordan enrolled in Capital University in Bexley, OH, and obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree (BS) in Biology; Dr. Jordan entered and completed dental school at Howard University College of Dentistry (DDS) in Washington, D.C., followed by Post-Doctoral Training at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Philadelphia, PA; Dr. Jordan also obtained an Associates Degree in Business Administration (ABA) from Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland, OH, and a Bachelor of Science Degree (BS) in Business Administration from Dyke College in Cleveland, OH (accelerated program).


WHEREAS, Dr. Jordan's dream was to return to the inner city to start two dental practices, one to serve the disadvantaged and one to serve the middle class; Over the span of his career Dr. Jordan has worked in various settings in the dental field in addition to his private practice, where he owned two private dental group practices with his son, Dr. Martin E. Jordan and his daughter, Dr. Joy A. Jordan; He worked as a Volunteer Dentist at the Cleveland Free Clinic; He was a staff Dentist at the Hough-Norwood Health Center; He served as a dental consultant for private Pre-school and Headstart Centers in Cleveland, OH; He also gave back by becoming a dedicated and lauded teacher at Case Western Reserve University College of Dentistry, and the Lorraine Community College Dental Hygiene Program; He was the first African-American appointed to the State of Ohio Dental Board of Examiners by Governor Richard Celeste; His private practice and dental work history spanned over four decades;

WHEREAS, Dr. Jordan developed a love and passion for organized dentistry, he was Co-Founder, secretary and member of the Buckeye State Dental Association; Dr. Jordan loved The National Dental Association, he served as its 69th President in 1993, Vice-President (1991), he also served in the House of Delegates, and on the Board of Trustees; He was the Chairman of the NDA Civil Rights Award Committee, and Nominating Committee; Dr. Jordan also loved conducting the Candlelight Ceremony commemorating past presidents at the NDA President's Inauguration Gala; Dr. Jordan founded the Student National Dental Association chapter at Case Western Reserve University College of Dentistry (CWRUCOD), He also started the SNDA Rites of Passage Ceremony at CWRUCOD; He has been a longstanding and awarded member of Forest City Dental Society where he served as President, Secretary, and on the Forest City Dental Society Spring Clinic Committee; He has held membership in the Ohio Dental Association, Ohio Dental Association PAC, Cleveland Dental Society, American Dental Association, Howard University Dental Alumni, American Academy of Dental Group Practice; State of Ohio Coordinator for the Colgate Bright Smiles Bright Futures mobile dental van; Represented the United States at the World Dental Health Conference, Lagos Nigeria, West Africa (1982);

WHEREAS, Dr. Eugene J. Jordan also enjoyed working with many civic organizations; He was an avid civil rights activist serving and supporting the NAACP for over 40 years; He served on the local, Cleveland NAACP branch Executive Board since 1995; He served on the Association of African American Cultural Gardens on the Board of Directors (2001), as President (2006-2009), and currently as Vice-President; He served on the Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation Board of Directors; Dr. Jordan has been honored with many awards such as Outstanding Dental Instructor Award (Hough-Norwood Health Center), Dental Assistant Utilization Award (Howard University College of Dentistry), Merit Award (Forest City Dental Society Award), Distinguished Service Award (Senator Lee Fisher, OH), Student National Dental Association Appreciation Award, The Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award for Community Service, NAACP Freedom Award, Ebony Magazine 100 Most Influential African Americans in the US for Community Organizations and Community Service; National Dental Association President's Award, and many others;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Board of Trustees and the entire membership of the National Dental Association, the Student National Dental Association, the National Dental Hygiene Association, the National Dental Assistants Association, the Auxiliary to the National Dental Association, and the National Dental Association Foundation extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Dr. Eugene J. Jordan and express our gratitude and appreciation for his unselfish dedication, diligent service, and unwavering commitment to the National Dental Association and our profession.

Presented on this 5th day of September, 2020.


Sheila L. Armstrong, DDS, FACD, FICD
96th President, National Dental Association



NATIONAL DENTAL ASSOCIATION

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<small>***Trustees, Delegates, & Past Presidents.</small> <small>The National Dental Association Legacy Fund was established in 2016. This fund ensures that the NDA and its signature programs NDA-HEALTH NOW, the Eddie G. Smith Leadership Training Institute, and the NDA New Dentist Program continue to remain vibrant and effective in our community. Your contribution to this special fund will help our organization improve access to those we serve and reduce oral health disparities in our community. This fund will encourage and strengthen the support of our future doctors. Will you consider a tax-deductible gift today? Please Give Today to Secure Tomorrow! Legacy Fund contributions are tax deductible - NDA is a 501(c)3 organization</small>		
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FALL EDITION 2020

NDA Mission Statement

The National Dental Association promotes oral health equity among people of color by harnessing the collective power of its members, advocating for the needs of and mentoring dental students of color, and raising the profile of the profession in our communities.

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Please contact the National Office with any address and phone number changes. We want to keep you informed of what is going on at the NDA! **Visit our website and get updated information on:**

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