

# 8<sup>th</sup> District Bulletin

Volume 60 | Number 3 | Fall 2024

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- \* ECDS "THE GROOVE" NEWSLETTER
- \* SHRED DAY 2024



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**BULLETIN**

**Eighth District Dental Society  
of the State of New York**

3831 Harlem Road, Buffalo, NY 14215  
(716) 995-6300 FAX (716) 995-6305

American Dental Association - 800-621-8099

New York State Dental Assoc - 800-255-2100

**EDITORIAL STAFF**

Kevin Hanley, Editor 716-523-9060

John D. Craig, PhD, Assoc. Editor 716-995-6300

Kari Hicks, Assoc. Editor 716-995-6300

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Joseph Rumfola President-Elect

Michael Ehlers Vice President

Jennifer Frustino Secretary

Joseph Modica Treasurer

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The Dental Society is organized for the purpose of encouraging improvement of the health of the public, to promote the art and science of dentistry, and to represent the interests of the members of the profession and the public which it serves.

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## FROM THE EDITOR

When I was a senior in dental school, we had to take a regional board to qualify for licensure in the Northeast region of the United States. As we all know, this was a two-day, pressure-packed exam which could determine if your last four years of education would be worth the time and treasure invested or did you just waste four years of your life. Of course, if you failed, it was not the end of the world, but it did delay your entry into that world.



However, this would only qualify you to be able to secure a license to practice dentistry in only those states recognizing the Northeast Regional Board (NERB). If you wanted to practice in a state not recognizing the NERB, you had to endure another board examination for that state. Which for most people was another roadblock to licensure in the state where you wanted to practice. I will not go into the logistics of such an attempt, but they would be significant. To my young, inexperienced mind, this did not seem to be very fair.

I did not know at the time how some states were very protective of the dentists practicing in that state. Does Florida ring a bell? I also did not see how a pressure-packed exam could determine your level of competence in doing

*Continued on Page 3*

# FROM THE EDITOR

*Continued from Page 2*

dentistry. To me, all it proved was you were able to perform dentistry in an extremely high-pressure situation to someone else's arbitrary standard of excellence. My feelings were, if the dental schools were doing their job correctly, graduates of the school should be able to do dentistry safely and effectively on patients once they graduated. There should be no reason for such an examination. Sorry, but I was young at the time.

Well, I did pass the NERB and was able to secure a license in Connecticut where I studied orthodontics because Connecticut recognized the NERB exam. All I had to do was take an exam about the dental laws in Connecticut and pass. When I left Connecticut and came to Buffalo, I did not have to take any exams because I had a Connecticut license and, through reciprocity, I was allowed to obtain a New York State dental license.

Most states now have reciprocity and recognize your license as evidence you are a capable dentist, and this will allow you to obtain a license in such a state. However, you still must pay that state's licensing fee to get the license. If you live near the border of a state and want to practice in both states, you need to be licensed in both states and you need to pay two licensing fees. I understand this but it can get expensive.

This may end in the future with the implementation of the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact. The Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact is an idea begun by the Department of Defense to aid military dentist and hygienist spouses to have license portability more easily. Since military personnel are transferred often, dentist and hygienist spouses must secure licenses in any area they may be transferred to. The Council of State Governments (CSG), the ADHA, the American Dental Association (ADA), and a team of other oral health stakeholders developed the compact over the course of 18 months in 2021 and 2022. **(1)** The compact allows those who qualify to practice in any state that is a member of the compact.

This is true license portability. Right now, the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact is in its infancy. However, it reached its first milestone when Maine became the seventh state to become part of the Compact. The other six states are Kansas, Virginia, Iowa, Washington, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. Seven states had to become members for this idea to move forward. To become a part of the Compact, a state legislature must pass legislation allowing that state to join the Compact. Because Maine became the seventh state, a commission can now be created with one representative from each state to create an application process and oversee vetting applications. The first compact privileges are expected to be issued in approximately one year.

This idea has merit. It allows true portability for dentists and hygienists to move to other states without the onerous hurdles some states place in their way. Florida, are you listening? And to all the other states who are not participating, it is time to move into the 21st century. Our population is more mobile now than it has ever been. People are transferred all the time. Spouses who are dentists or hygienists will benefit from this, as will all dentists and hygienists who desire to move but are inhibited by the prospect of jumping through regulatory hoops to obtain a license to practice in the desired state.

This is a win-win for everyone. Dentists and hygienists get license portability, states get a chance to help serve underserved areas, and patients get better dentistry. Sounds like a good thing to me. For my entire career, I have been calling for license portability. Hopefully, someday soon, the Dentist and Hygienist Compact will be the answer to that clarion call.

[1. DDH Compact: Working toward dentist and dental hygienist license reciprocity across state lines | Registered Dental Hygienists \(rdhmag.com\)](#)



# FROM THE PRESIDENT

Colleagues,

Welcome to another beautiful Western New York summer. We are blessed with some of the best summer weather in the nation and hopefully you have been able to get out and enjoy it. Although our summers are short, we always seem to get a lot of activities packed in to them.



In the spring your Society was busy with a flurry of activity before taking a break from regular meetings. The Dental Society hosted the graduating Senior Dental Students at sign up day on April 26 at The Steer on Main St. The event was a great success with a very high turnout and number of students signing up to join organized Dentistry. A big thank you to John, Kari and Dana for their hard work organizing the event and to our generous sponsors. Several members of the executive council were on hand to give their personal remarks to the students about the importance of being a part of the ADA.

On May 11th Dr. Kapral and I were on hand to present awards at the ECC Dental Hygiene School pinning ceremony. It was great to see the enthusiasm from the new grads.

Also, in May we held our first combined meeting of the Executive Council and the Dental Society Foundation Board. We are confident that this new structure will streamline the meeting process and allow for better synergy and flow of information.

The NYSDA House of Delegates meeting was held at the end of May at Turning Stone Resort in Verona NY. As always, the 8th District had a large delegation of members present and successfully got our resolution on workforce development passed. This resolution calls on NYSDA to call on the ADA to develop an educational video program that can be used by all parts of the tripartite to educate and encourage high school students about the various careers in Dentistry. Dr. Frank Barnashuk was presented with the Mark J Feldman Distinguished Service award for his many years of dedicated service to Organized Dentistry.

One of the most important new items for the membership announced at the HOD is the new CE Registration service called CE NAVIGATOR. This new online service should make it easier and more convenient for members to record and track their CE credits. The system is just starting to go live and members are encouraged to go to the web site: [www.nysdentalnavigator.com](http://www.nysdentalnavigator.com)

June brought us the Annual William C. Knauf Jr. Golf Tournament and CE program, held this year at Diamond Hawk Golf Course. Dr. Andreana gave an excellent course on Dental Implantology and we are saddened that he will be leaving Buffalo for a new position as Implant Director at NYU. We wish him well and will miss him greatly.

Finally, although we are on a bit of summer recess the 8th District is actively working on behalf of the members. Dr. Craig has been working hard to finalize the 1st Annual WNY High School Dental Career Pathway & Professional Engagement Conference scheduled for October 4th. This program is designed to engage students and provide a look into the job opportunities in the various careers that support the Dental Profession. We hope this program will help alleviate the critical workforce shortage affecting members across the nation.

Yours in partnership,

Bob

**IT'S HERE!** Introducing CE Navigator – the ultimate tool for effortless CE submission and tracking. Set your own email and password, upload your CE certificates, and download the app for instant access. Starting September 30, 2024, all CE submissions must go through CE Navigator – fax, email, or mailed submissions will no longer be accepted. Get started today and take control of your continuing education journey: [nysdentalnavigator.com](https://nysdentalnavigator.com). For additional information, visit the webpage or contact Brenda Turner at [ce@nysdental.org](mailto:ce@nysdental.org)



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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE

By John D. Craig, PhD

Fall is slowly trending forward with the start of Bills Training Camp, but there still remains a good stretch of summer to enjoy. I hope you, your family, and staff are able to relax a little and take in the great, and, at times, interesting weather patterns we have had this season.

In my last bulletin report, I highlighted five important trending shifts in programs and services in the tripartite, and while many are moving forward, we have experienced a slight delay in the new digital transition of the membership platform for Fontiva/Salesforce, which was scheduled for July 8th. That is now planned for September 1st, provided final testing and assessment protocols are worked through.

There will be five (5) pilot states adopting a new membership model in 2025 and they are currently working on mechanisms of support between ADA, state and local component functionality. At the ADA Summer Conference I attended, it was shared how this process is working within three of the five states, but it will remain somewhat specified by each state on how it will be supported top down. This is due to the nature and operational structure of each state's system, which are unique and varied. There will be a bundling of sorts between each entity to structure membership benefits, programs, and services, and tailor them to your individual needs and interests, much like an Amazon or Netflix experience. In this way, the ADA hopes that creating a better member experience digitally will enhance the overall targeting of actual support and a leveling of membership dues with price structures for each of them. While this bundling concept will be a work in progress, it is not well known how NYSDA and local components in our region will be onboarded to support this feature, how revenue will be shared, and what it will look like. It will take some time for the actual fine tuning to be put in place and move forward; stay tuned.

Locally, we are working to redefine the Foundation and its mission/vision in the Society and its purpose moving forward. In 2006, the Foundation made structural changes in which some programs ended, and the purpose and outreach of support was redesigned. Back then and continuing through today, funding to support our Foundation was made through continuing education (CE) revenue, sponsorships and grants. We now realize that CE funding is shrinking, due to declining participation, and the ability to raise funding needs to be reimaged for existing services and outreach and how best to support them, or even which ones should be a continuing priority? If you have ideas or suggestions, please contact me.

We are also working on the 2025 calendar for programs and services. While many strongly supported and beloved services and programs will remain, we also need to understand that all these efforts require not only support for them in terms of participation to make them viable, but that they also cost the organization money. This year we had to tighten our belt a little on some efforts to ensure we are fiscally responsible. We've operated at a small deficit, but we are hopeful 2025 will be a better year for endorsement and ongoing sponsorships and perhaps new foundation grants.

This past year I had the opportunity to serve as the President of the Association of Component Society Executives of the ADA (ACSE). I have been a member of the leadership group since 2022, taking over for Chris Klimecko when he retired as the Secretary/Treasurer. Overall, it has been a positive experience to learn more about operations nationally at the ADA as well learn from colleagues on how best they serve their members. It was a great time in my development as your local ED and I want to thank the Society leadership over these past three years for supporting my work and allowing me to be at important meetings and functions, which required travel and out of town time. I also have been asked to coordinate the NY ED group as well, which is an honor to support our state concerns with my counterparts.

As always, if you have questions, concerns or issues to resolve, we are here to assist you and your staff. Contact me at [jcraig@8ddsny.org](mailto:jcraig@8ddsny.org) or call 716-995-6300.

# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND WAIVER OPTIONS

John D. Craig, Ph.D. – Executive Director

Every year there is the annual renewal of your membership through the ADA and NYSDA in some shape or format. There are also many options to consider depending on your current state of work, retirement, and life member status. For some, there are also occasional hardship or special circumstances that may result in a member not renewing their dues and falling away from collective support.



We all can sympathize with those changes and uncertainty. I think we all know someone who has had an unforeseen situation and is not always certain of what to do, so in some cases, they choose to end their membership.

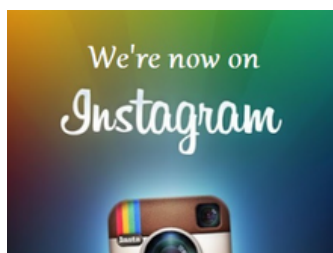
We want members to know there are options to consider before you actually stop making any membership payments, paying dues and ultimately lose your tripartite benefits. For many years, both the ADA and your state association have supported a Waiver process to allow you to remain active while paying little to nothing for a period of time to remain an active member. The areas that qualify for this waiver include the following: significant financial hardship, including temporary or permanent disability, catastrophe, parental leave or medical illness.

Perhaps you are now fully retired from practicing, but teaching part-time at the dental school, this is a legitimate financial issue and may qualify for a waiver. Perhaps you or your spouse has undergone a serious medical issue and you have to take time from work to support your or their care and can no longer work a full-time schedule for an extended period of time, this is a legitimate claim for a waiver.

There are certainly a variety of scenarios that may qualify for consideration. So, if you find yourself or know of a member who may be, let them know they can apply for a waiver and be granted one for up to a year.

Please call the office at 716-995-6300 if you find yourself in this set of circumstances. We will email or mail you a form to complete based on your current state and process it to the state association for review and approval.

While approvals are generally a week or more in terms of a confirmation, they also may require more details to make a valid determination. Just because our office may affirm the waiver, it is really up to the Membership Team at NYSDA to approve and process the request. We want all our members to know, they have options.



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# MEMBER ONLY SHRED DAY 2024

On Saturday, June 22nd, the Eighth District Dental Society held another successful shred event for our members. We once again teamed up with Lincoln Archives to offer our members an opportunity to clean out their offices and properly recycle their old files. Lincoln Archives tells us that our members filled two large shred trucks to capacity once again with just shy of 14,000 pounds of paper! This event has had major success the last four times we have offered it, and we can assure our members that we will continue to make this an annual event. **SAVE THE DATE:** Next year's shred event will be held on Saturday, June 14, 2025.



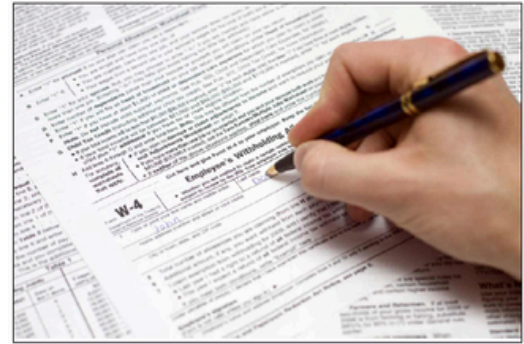


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# HOUSE OF DELEGATES AWARDS 2024

Verone, NY \* May & June



There were a few noted award winners at this year's NYSDA House of Delegates meeting at Turning Stone. Dr. Frank Barnashuk was this year's recipient of the prestigious Dr. Mark Feldman Award given out annually for outstanding contributions to NYSDA and organized dentistry. His nomination was sponsored by Drs. Ray Miller and Brendan Dowd from the 8th District.



Also being honored this year, was Dr. Joseph Gambacorta by the Pierre Fauchard Academy. Joe received both the Outstanding Community Service Award for 2024 for his work in RAM outreach both nationally and internationally and for his academic support at UB's Dental School. Joe was also recognized as an inductee as an Academy Fellow for 2024.

## AUXILIARY CORNER - DENTAL ASSISTING AWARDS

### SUNY Erie 2024

This year's 2024 recipients of the Eighth District and Erie County Dental Assisting awards at graduation this year in May, were Ms. Minal Nalawade 8th District; and Ms. Sadie VanGorden, Erie County pictured to the right.

Congratulations to these two recent SUNY Erie Dental School graduates. Best of luck in your professional career paths!



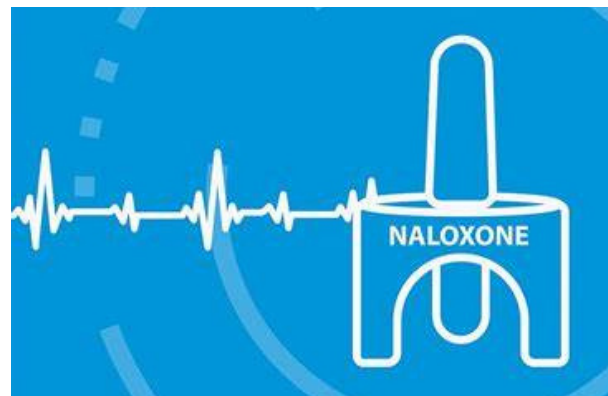
**Minal Nalawade, EDDS**



**Sadie VanGorden, Erie Co.**

# BECOME FAMILIAR WITH NALOXONE & SAVE LIVES

Drug overdoses have become the leading cause of accidental deaths in the US, with almost 150 lives lost every day. The major reason for this is the abundance of Fentanyl in the drug supply. Much of it is in the form of a fake prescription pill in which a single dose can be lethal. Everyone needs to know that recreational drugs are now laced with Fentanyl which is fifty times stronger than heroin. Last year, 112,000 Americans died from drug overdoses.



In many cases, victims unknowingly take drugs like cocaine, fake painkillers, Adderall and even marijuana, that contain Fentanyl. As health care providers, we should be able to recognize and treat overdoses.

Opioid overdoses have three cardinal symptoms, shallow, slow or stopped breathing, a decreased level of consciousness and pinpoint pupils. Other symptoms include a slower or absent pulse, pale clammy skin, blue lips or fingernails, gurgling noises or vomiting. If you suspect an overdose, call 911 and then administer Naloxone. Naloxone, or Narcan, attaches to receptors in the brain and replaces opioids that are there. It is highly effective in reversing opioid overdoses and easily administered as well as safe to use. Naloxone will do no harm to the person if they are not having an opioid overdose. It does not interact with medications other than opioids and there are no contraindications to it.

Narcan is now deregulated and can be purchased at any pharmacy. If you to go the OASIS Harm Reduction website you can get free Naloxone as well as drug testing strips that identify if a drug has Fentanyl in it.

The difference between life and death can be the availability of Narcan and it needs to be in your office emergency kit. You should even keep it in your car in case you come across a victim of an overdose. The opioid epidemic affects all of us. The life you save may be someone you know and love.

Dr. Amy Bryan is the chair of the NYSDA Committee on Substance Abuse and Well Being. If you or someone you know is struggling with substance abuse, confidential assistance is available from dentists who have suffered the damage of addiction and experienced the benefits of treatment in their own lives.

Call 1- 800-255-2100 for help as your call is confidential and may save a life.

## In Memorial

Dr. Joseph Pagliacci

May 2024

## NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Melissa Fallon

Dr. Ye Lin

Dr. Ariyan Ravangard

Dr. Amanda Torsney

Dr. Laleb Holmes

Dr. Gabrielle Leo

Dr. Samargandi Azhar

Dr. Melissa Balk-Elliott

Dr. Andrew Hietanen





Photo taken by Dr. Cryan

## The Groove

The ECDS would like to celebrate and congratulate members who are making great dental moves in Erie County! If you have exciting news about your dental practice that you would like to share with your peers please e-mail [jcraig@8ddsny.org](mailto:jcraig@8ddsny.org) and place subject title "ECDS The Groove." Congratulations to our members "In the Groove" and making moves in our dental community!

Dr. Sanil Nigalye's practice Niagara Implant & Oral Surgery is moving to 6490 Main Street, Ste 5, Williamsville, NY. The new space will be the first dental facility in WNY to be safety compliant with NFPA 99 codes. (716)276-3553

Dr. Katherine Pauly has opened her practice specializing in endodontics. Erie Canal Endodontics, at 1321 Millersport Hwy, in Williamsville NY. (716)648-2020

Dr. Amanda Torsney, has opened Lakehouse Pediatric Dentistry, formerly Moore Kids Smile. pediatric dental office, located at 169 Main St Hamburg. (716)612-3636.

## SAVE THE DATE: UPCOMING EVENTS

Please call the office at 716-995-6300 to learn more. For our CE's, office staff are always welcomed to join in the fun. For the Social Hours, come have a drink and enjoy seeing friends.

**September 24** - ECDS Board Meeting @ EDDS office, 7pm

**October TBD** - CE "Airway Concerns in the Orthodontic & Pediatric Dental Patient" with Drs. Helen & Andy Dusel

**November 6** - Member Social Hour and Meeting @ Buffalo Niagara Dental Meeting (upstairs), 6pm

**January 25** - 2025 President's Installation Dinner



**2024 ECDS President**

**Amanda Cryan**

Growing Smiles Pediatric and Adolescent Dentistry  
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It has been a busy and exciting year in Erie County for dentistry. Fluoride will be re-added to the Buffalo Public Water System after a nine year omission.

Pediatric Dentists will be able to continue using Oishei Children's Hospital for their surgical cases at least for the near future.

ECMC started a dental clinic on Hertel Ave for individuals with special needs. I am amazed by the positive difference in the community we, as dentists, make. Through the ECDS, I have enjoyed being part of the Erie County dental matrix and I encourage all dentists to attend in person meetings to hear, interact, and be inspired by our contemporaries.

**We are always looking for dentists to join our Board. Please call the 8th District office if you're interested.**



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Congratulations to Executive Council member Dr. Elizabeth Kapral, who received the Buffalo Business First Excellence in Healthcare Award. She was honored at the ceremony on June 13th at Salvatore's Italian Gardens. Dr. Kapral is the Director of Special Needs Dentistry at ECMC. She is the recipient of multiple HRSA grants that total over \$3M to address



workforce challenges in dental care for vulnerable patients. In 2023, Dr. Kapral and the dental team opened the ECMC Center for Dental Care at 800 Hertel Ave. This center operates within a multidisciplinary facility focused on meeting the needs of patients with disabilities and has significantly expanded ECMC's impact on this community. In addition to her work at ECMC, Dr. Kapral is the chair of the NYS Special Needs Dentistry Taskforce, a NYS delegate to the American Dental Association as well as a fellow of the American Academy of Oral Medicine, Special Care Dentistry Association and the Academy of General Dentistry. A very well-deserved recognition!



# Closed Claim Summary



## Noncompliant Patient Alleges Failure to Diagnose

*This Closed Claim Summary is based on an actual claim and has been adapted for educational purposes.*

This is a case of a 48-year-old man who presented as a new patient for evaluation of a lesion on the right side of his tongue. The patient initially delayed this first appointment with the insured for more than a month due to insurance coverage reasons. On the patient's first visit, the doctor documented a 2 x 1 cm white and red lesion that the patient reported had been present for about eight months. Our insured recommended the lesion be biopsied and tissue samples were sent to a lab that same day. The patient presented for two post op visits over the next two weeks and the insured documented that the patient was healing well; however, the pathology report had not yet come back from the lab. The doctor informed the patient that results would be delivered over the phone once the report was received. The pathology report, which was received the next day, noted "moderate dysplasia." The doctor asked his front desk staff to call the patient to schedule an appointment to discuss the results.

Three days later, the front desk staff at the dental office documented a call was placed and a voicemail was left. The following day, staff documented another unsuccessful attempt to reach the patient. A second voicemail was left instructing the patient to schedule an appointment to discuss the pathology results.

Almost two years later, the patient returned to the insured's office with complaints of pain in a maxillary tooth. The doctor documented a recurrence of the tongue lesion and referred the patient to a local OMS.

Nine months later, and without a visit to the OMS as recommended, the patient again presented to the insured, now with a complaint of a lump in his throat. When asked, the patient said he did not schedule the appointment with the OMS as recommended because the office was out of network, and he was not worried about the lump then but was now. Two weeks later, the patient visited the OMS, had the second biopsy performed, and learned that the diagnosis was now squamous cell carcinoma.

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Walsh Duffield is the exclusive Fortress agents for dentists in the Eighth District Dental Society. Contact Christine Garvelli at 716-362-7363 or [cgarvelli@walshduffield.com](mailto:cgarvelli@walshduffield.com) with any insurance questions.

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The patient required a hemiglossectomy and radiation treatment and was referred to medical oncology, which he initially refused. Eighteen months later, the patient was ultimately diagnosed with colon cancer, had a hemicolectomy and a PET scan revealed recurrence of the tongue lesion. The patient expired a few months after this diagnosis and a wrongful death lawsuit was filed against the treating dentist. Allegations included failure to diagnose oral cancer in a timely manner, failure to timely communicate pertinent pathology results, and failure to timely follow up with a patient presenting with possible pathology.

*Continued on next page*

# Closed Claim Summary

*Continued*

## Noncompliant Patient Alleges Failure to Diagnose

Plaintiff expert testimony opined that, had the patient's cancer been followed regularly after the initial biopsy by the dentist, the patient would not have had to undergo such an extensive procedure and his survival rate would have been higher. Experts obtained by Fortress noted that the lack of additional follow up by the dental office and limited documentation by staff could present challenges to the defense. However, Fortress experts also noted that the patient held responsibility for his own health and that the noncompliance with returning calls and scheduling follow up appointments contributed to the outcome. With consent of the insured, this claim resulted in a settlement, reduced from the initial demand, due to the decedent's own culpability.

### Risk Management Tips

- Document the presentation of all lesions. If photos are not an option, consider documenting the size, color and texture of any lesions as well as any changes over time, including improvements.
- Develop and document office policies related to patient follow up. Keep in mind that policies related to patients who present with lesions and/or have pending pathology results may be different than those who require follow up to schedule subsequent treatment for an elective procedure.
- Train staff on management of noncompliant patients, especially those who present with lesions to mitigate potential allegations associated with failure to communicate or follow up.
- Practice how you might communicate responses to noncompliant patients who require additional follow up or treatment. Consider relaying to the patient a concern for their overall health and why treatment recommendations are being made.
- Communicate with referrals on a regular basis, to stay up to date with diagnoses, patient compliance with appointments and recommendations, treatment plans and any changes to those plans.
- Document any communication with patients, including details of any voicemails, texts, emails or messages left with the patient or their approved representatives and any communication with referrals.

### Related Fortress Resources

Biopsy related office resources are available to support these situations:

- Biopsy Tracking Log
- Oral Pathology Informed Consent Forms

To download these forms, log in to [dds4dds.com](https://dds4dds.com) and click "Consent and Office Documents" in the menu.



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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## SEPTEMBER 2024

Monday, September 2  
Labor Day  
Office Closed

Wednesday, September 4  
Defensive Driving Course  
5pm, EDDS Office

Tuesday, September 10  
EDDS Executive Council  
7pm, EDDS Office

Tuesday, September 24  
ECDS Board Meeting  
7pm, EDDS Office

## OCTOBER 2024

Thursday, October 4  
Career Pathways Day  
9am, Marriott Hotel, Amherst

Tuesday, October 8  
EDDS Executive Council  
7pm, EDDS Office

Monday, October 14  
Columbus Day  
Office Closed

Tuesday, October 22  
ECDS Board Meeting  
7pm, EDDS Office

## NOVEMBER 2024

Monday, November 4  
Basic Life Support  
5pm, EDDS Office

Monday, November 11  
Veteran's Day  
Office Closed

Tuesday, November 12  
EDDS Appreciation Dinner  
6pm, Saturn Club

November 28 & 29  
Thanksgiving  
Office Closed

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# WILLIAM C. KNAUF JR. MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 2024 William C. Knauf Jr Golf Tournament was held on Monday, June 17th at Diamond Hawk Golf Course in Cheektowaga, Approximately 50 dentists attended the Continuing Education portion of the event, which was sponsored by Ivoclar. Dr. Sebastiano Andreana presented a two-hour CE entitled "Implant Therapy and the Edentulous Patient".

Following the CE presentation, 98 golfers took to the links following a lunch of burgers, sausage, and grilled chicken. The weather was hot and sticky, but everyone made the best of it, and all golfers completed the entire 18 holes under a blazing sun. A cocktail hour and buffet dinner capped off the evening, with awards and door prizes. We are all looking forward to next year's tournament already, which will be taking place at Fox Valley Country Club in June 2025.



- Men's Overall Winner:** Dr. Chris Kacalski, Dr. Rob Kacalski, Dr. Mike Piazza, and Mr. Joe Piazza
- Senior's Overall Winner:** Drs. Robert Reszel, Ron Chmiel, Scott Seier, and Gregory George
- Super Senior's Overall Winner:** Drs. Timothy Seel, Joseph Rutecki, Richard Lynch, and David Stasiak
- Women's Overall Winner:** Drs. Catherine Gogan, Patricia Starring, Frances DePlato, & Alyssa Tzetzto
- Mixed Overall Winner:** Drs. Chester Gary, Rick Redmin, Frank Sindoni and Ms. Julia Gengo
- Closest to the Pin:** Mr. Mike Johnson
- Longest Drive:** Men - Dr. Carl Embury, Ladies - Ms. Julia Gengo, Senior - Mr. Alex Johnson, and Super Senior - Dr. Joe Rutecki













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Pictured left to right include Dr. John Buscaglia, Dr. Ramses Tamaya Guerra, Sister Mary Johnice, Dr. Kenneth Raczka, Dr. Stanley Zak, Dr. Peter Davidow, and Dr. Jerry Carlo

The Guild of St. Apollonia held its annual appreciation brunch on Sunday, April 28 at St. Leo the Great Church in Amherst. Member dentists and their families gathered for Mass followed by a catered lunch in the parish hall. The guest speaker was Sister Mary Johnice from the Response to Love Center. Sister Johnice shared the story of the inspirational mission work she does on a daily basis at the Response to Love Center. The Guild also presented its annual student service award to graduating D4 UB student Ramses Tamaya Guerra. The Guild of St. Apollonia is a group of dentists who provide needed dental care to those in the community who otherwise cannot afford it. The Guild is always accepting new members, and is a great way to provide charitable dentistry for those in need in our own community. For more information on joining, please contact Dr. Peter Davidow at (716) 536-3630 or [pdavidow@ecmc.edu](mailto:pdavidow@ecmc.edu).



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### SPEAKERS

- Effie Ioannidou, DDS, MDS  
*Robert J. Genco Distinguished Speaker*
- Arthur Tomaro, DDS
- Colleen Huff, FAADOM
- Alex Fleury, DDS, MS
- Shannon M. Nanne, RDH
- Juan F. Yepes, DDS, MD, MPH, MS, DrPH
- Bruce McFarlane, DMD, BScD, MCID, FRCD(C)
- Justin R. Baumann and Jessica M. DeMichiel, Esq
- David R. Rice, DDS '94  
*Alumni Speaker Series*
- Alyssa Tzetzo, DDS '20, MPH '21  
*Alumni Speaker Series*
- Michelle M. Lee, DMD
- Sam Shamardi, DMD
- Alan Scott Douglas, DDS
- Julie Varney, CDA, RDA, CDIPC

#### Oral Diagnostic Sciences: 30-Years of Excellence *Alumni Speaker Series*

- Nicole V. Hinchy, DDS '12
- Elizabeth B. Kapral, DDS '13
- Raymond G. Miller, DDS '85
- Jose Luis Tapia, DDS '12

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# NEW DENTIST SPOTLIGHT

## Introducing Dr. Elana Korn, DDS!

Dr. Korn is a life-long Western New Yorker, whose hometown is Buffalo, New York. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Union College, and then went on to attend dental school at SUNY at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine, graduating with her Doctor of Dental Surgery Degree in 2017. Following her pre-doctoral studies, Dr. Korn stayed in Buffalo to complete an Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) Residency at the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine, from 2017-2018.

After completing her residency training, she began working in Buffalo as an associate at Allentown Dental in 2018, and in 2020, she took the next step and purchased the practice. When asked what she loves about her job, Dr. Korn remarked that she loves the relationships that she gets to build with patients as a General Dentist, and she loves seeing her team share in the same enjoyment. Dr. Korn loves General Dentistry and the variety of procedures she completes throughout the day. She loves being a practice owner, as she has learned a lot about herself and has found a great amount of joy in being a business owner. In 2022 she remodeled an old Elmwood Village house to serve as the new home for Allentown Dental, moving the practice around the corner, to this newly outfitted space in 2022. Dr. Korn loved that this allowed her to create a welcoming space, tailored to meet the needs of her practice, and a place for her team and patients to feel at home.



On a daily basis, Dr. Korn strives to give excellent comprehensive care to her patients, by listening well, providing thorough patient education and providing a high standard of clinical care. A long-term goal of hers is to keep up with the ever-changing technologies in the field and continue to grow and hone her clinical skill set. Continuing to grow as a practice owner is very important to her. She strives to maintain a positive work environment, developing a committed long-term team to keep the practice healthy. She holds professional memberships in the ADA, NYSDA, 8th District Dental Society, and the Erie County Dental Society.

When she is not treating patients and managing the business side of the practice, she spends her free time with family and friends. Dr. Korn was excited to mention that her son will be turning 2 this summer, remarking that she and her husband “have enjoyed this new season of life so much”. Her other interests are dining out, attending concerts, traveling, skiing, and spending time in the stands cheering on the Buffalo Bills, as she is a long-time season ticket holder.

Dr. Korn's advice for other new dentists is to stay motivated to keep learning, and to push your comfort zone to allow continued growth. She recommends developing relationships with colleagues, mentors, specialists, and sales representatives to help foster growth. She also reminds us that there are no rules regarding timeline in dentistry, saying “trust your gut when opportunity presents”. Dr. Korn mentioned that she did not imagine being a practice owner so early in her career, but when she knew Allentown Dental was the right fit, and the opportunity to purchase the practice presented, she put her fears aside and moved forward.

**\*\* If you know of a new dentist who you feel should be featured in an upcoming “New Dentist Spotlight,” please e-mail your nomination to [econley@buffalo.edu](mailto:econley@buffalo.edu) \*\***

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