



ALABAMA  
ACADEMY of  
GENERAL DENTISTRY

SUMMER 2017

# Composite

Dedicated To The Concerns  
Of General Dentists In Alabama  
Official Publication of the Alabama Academy of General Dentistry



*Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas  
Site of AGD's Scientific Meeting*



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## Editor's Notes

Bill Chesser, DMD, MAGD

### HELP!

Life is filled with uncomfortable challenges. Studies show that we dentists are near the top of the heap as far as stress-related problems we experience, caused by working in our profession.

Researchers tell us that we are above-average in the general population for the occurrence of heart problems, HBP, stroke, alcoholism, and drug abuse. In addition, we are remarkably susceptible to divorce and suicide (twice the rate of other professions.)

*No wonder we are stressed! We work in a tiny area of the human body, doing intricate procedures while most of our patients watch us, fully awake. To make matters more complicated, things do not always go as planned!*

Our patients are often anxious, and some are quite "up front" about not wanting to be there at all. How many times have you heard: "No offense, Doc, but I hate dentists!" Or, how about, "I'd rather have a baby than be in this chair!"

Oh, we answer politely that we understand, that everything is under control, that there's nothing to worry about... But, let's be honest! **It still takes a toll.**

Then, there are the ongoing headaches of **appliances that do not fit**, fillings that fail, or that moment when the "**Simple Extraction**" **ISN'T**. Now your carefully-laid plans are out the window, the Reception Room is stacking up, and that **pain in the neck** is setting in with a vengeance.

Financial concerns abound in any small business. Our younger docs are saddled, in many cases, with a **debt** of \$300,000 or more upon graduation from dental school. And let us not forget that if you're not physically on the premises, you're earning zilch!

Most of us love our profession, and few want to toss it for some other job. Sadly, almost none of us has any training in "running a business", yet – suddenly – we are the CEO's of the companies which will provide our futures. Here we have the perfect storm leading to bad decisions.

What now? Well, we can look in the mirror, get a grip, and demand of ourselves, "Shut up and get over it!" But here are a few suggestions to carry you past that confrontation with your own psyche.

- **Improve your working environment.** If there is no window in there, hang some art which you like on the walls.
- Have a regular "**date night**" with your significant other. Dinner, movie, whatever.
- Plan a **weekend get-away** into your schedule which doesn't involve dentistry.
- **Leave the office building for lunch.** You need a break. Meet friends, or go home.
- **Exercise**, for Pete's sakes! Whatever floats your boat – gym, ball, golf, swimming, weight lifting, walking or running, Yoga – doesn't matter. Just Do It!
- **Get professional help**, if you need it.

Look behind you. No-one is in line back there to do this for you. Learn all you can about this profession and how it can work for you. Your patients deserve it. Your family deserves it. But most of all, **YOU deserve it.**

# President's Message

Toni Neumeier DMD, MAGD



## DEAR FRIENDS OF ALABAMA AGD,

Since I graduated from dental school in 1989, I have kept many good friends from among my classmates. Sadly, I have had to bid goodbye to some, much too soon. Increasingly, I have learned to treasure the time spent with colleagues and friends. Life is too short not to get away from the office and do things for camaraderie and relaxation.

Let us gear up for some enrichment of mind and body now, as we prepare for the **44th Annual Review of Dentistry, September 7-9, in Sandestin, Florida.** We have shortened our CE courses from the traditional 3 to 2 1/2 days, to give everyone more time for the beach and social activities.

For the first time, we have added a **Keynote Speaker, Dr. Jeff Cole.** In addition, there will be a **Welcome Reception** for all attendees. We will also have **E-Poster and Clinical Case Presentations** to increase the diversity of the program, offering more opportunities for social networking and sharing clinical experiences with each other.

As usual, we have invited nationally and internationally known speakers in almost all aspects of dentistry, including **Restorative (Dr. Burgess), Endodontics (Dr. Glassman), Implantology (Dr. Reddy), Periodontics (Dr. Geurs), Prosthodontics (Dr. Goodacre), Radiology (Dr. Ingram), Pathology (Dr. Morland), and Practice Management (Dr. and Mrs Comisi, and Mr. Buzan).**

We have placed emphasis on **Self-Enrichment**, with a program presented by **Mr. Mellor.** **Nutrition and Exercise** will be presented by **Mrs. Gaines and Dr. W. Neumeier.** We will be offering CPR and Infection Control updates as required for renewing our licenses. Yet another program will help us in communicating with our labs, addressed by **Mr. Winstead, of Oral Arts, and Mr. Waldrop, of Burdette.**



*D3 Student and President of the ALAGD Student Chapter, Bright Chang and ALAGD President Dr. Toni Neumeier*

Here, you will learn of current trends in digital dentistry from a laboratory aspect.

### Update on Alabama AGD Student Chapter:

Our Alabama student chapter has been formed and registered officially, both in national AGD and UAB Dental School.

**Mr. Bright Chang (D3),** is the initiator and **president** of this chapter. Our first meeting has been held with elected officers, **August 10, 2017.** We need your spiritual and financial support (\$17 AGD member fee, per student) for this newly formed chapter. Please extend your welcome to these committed future dentists. **You can contribute on your own registration form for our September meeting.**

In conclusion, I hope to see each of you at the beautiful Sandestin Beach Resort in September.

Toni Neumeier, DMD, MAGD  
President, Alabama AGD



*ALAGD Award recipient, Dr. Margaret Gray, with ALAGD President Dr. Toni Neumeier and Dean Michael Reddy*



*Enjoying the UAB Reception in Las Vegas  
Linda Cole, Cindy Isbell and Gordon Isbell*

# GULF COAST DENTAL CONFERENCE ~ 2017

The 148th Annual Session of the Alabama Dental Association is becoming a true regional conference. We are seeing more and more out-of-state attendees at the Perdido Resort in June.

This year, our Alabama AGD Executive Director, **Dr. Gary Myers**, served as President of AIADA, and the meeting was a stellar success. **Dr. Jennifer Doobrow** headed the planning council, and she and her entire team did an exceptional job.

There was CE for everyone, staff and Doctors alike. Social events provided plenty of opportunities for mingling with old friends and new ones, too. Wednesday the Wine Tasting Party kicked off the festivities, while exhibitors kept everyone excited with new ideas and products. Friday found us all enjoying the Team Appreciation Happy Hour and Beach Bonfire. The President's Beach Party on Saturday offered awesome food, great music and dancing, and an amazing fireworks display.

Door prize drawings kept us all engaged in Exhibit Hall doings, and a "Sip, Spend, and Save" Cocktail Reception on Thursday afternoon, as well as a "Muffins and Mimosas" breakfast on Friday morning, made everything much more enticing.

**Mark your calendars now for next year's GCDC: June 6-10, 2018.** Dr. Gordon Isbell, new President of AIADA, has fantastic CE and Social Events planned for us. With the aid of Dr. Mike Edwards as General Chair for the Planning Council, this meeting promises to be a wonderful celebration for Alabama dentists.



*Dr. Milton Essig, Past President of ALAGD, receives award recognition for service as American College of Dentistry Regent for Regency 3.*



*Dr. Gordon Isbell congratulates Gary Myers for a successful year as President of the Alabama Dental Association.*



*The 2017-18 ALDA President, Gordon Isbell, with his wife, Cindy Isbell.*



*Dr. Bobby Babb receives 50 Year Certificate as member of ALDA.*



*Dr. John Fleming (right) receives 50 Year Certificate from Dr. Bob Jones.*



*Dr. Art Lewis (right) receives 50 Year Certificate from ALDA, Dr. Bob Jones.*



*Gary Myers congratulates Dr. Stacey Gardner as ALDA President Elect.*

# WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS...

The 2017 AGD National Meeting convened on July 13 in Las Vegas. This is the first year that the Scientific Section (CE) of AGD has been separated from the Governance Section. Your own Region 19 was instrumental in bringing the Resolution requiring this separation of Scientific/Governance meetings, and successfully moved the Resolution through the House of Delegates to make it a reality.

More than 3,000 people registered for this wildly-successful meeting. In addition, over 500 dental students attended. Caesar's Palace was the grand venue for this scientific meeting.

**Dr. Maria Smith, President of AGD**, can be rightly proud of the program's success. There were plenty of opportunities to learn from the experts while acquiring new dental skills to take back home to our patients.

What happened in Vegas, in this case, did not stay in Vegas! Instead, it was spread throughout the U.S. and Canada to improve patient care.

On a local note, **UAB Executive Director of Development, Scott Huffman**, arranged a reception



*Las Vegas President of AGD, Dr. Maria Smith, announces the great news.*

for Alabama Fellowship recipients, and Region 19 joined in the effort to honor all Mastership and Fellowship winners in the region. We heartily thank Mr. Huffman and **Ms. Abby Vinson, Alumni Events' Coordinator**, for arranging this special event.

Alabama had two Fellows this year, **Dr. Joycelyn McClellan, of Alabaster**, and **Dr. Tim Smith, of Hanceville**. We are so proud of each of them, and we wish them well as they work toward their Mastership requirements.

Las Vegas offers many attractions for visitors—gambling, first class entertainers, great food and venues. Many of our colleagues tried their luck at the many games of chance available. Some won, some lost, some passed on the opportunity. Most had a good time.

Next year the AGD Scientific Session will be held in New Orleans, June 7-9, 2018, featuring more unequalled CE for those participating. Unfortunately, Alabama's Annual AGD Meeting, the Gulf Coast Dental Conference, **will be held that same week**. That's where your Editor will be.



*(L TO R) Gary Myers, Nancy Miller, Glen Miller, Cindy Isbell, Gordon Isbell, Linda Cole, Jeff Cole, Bill Chesser and Ken Gilbert.*

# WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS...



*Keynote Speaker at General Assembly Dr Mark Miodowink, PHD, from England, is an expert in materials.*



*Opening ceremony for the Las Vegas meeting.*



*Dixie Land band announces the 2018 AGD Scientific Meeting will be in New Orleans.*



*The AGD Singers opening the Scientific meeting in Las Vegas*



*Scott Huffman, Gary Myers and David Hogue attending the UAB reception.*



*Fountain water show at the Bellagio every thirty minutes*



*Airport slot machines in the arriving and departing access.*

# 2017 AGD CONVOCATION ~ LAS VEGAS

In 1951, a small group of dentists created a study club which would one day become the Academy of General Dentistry. These dentists were united in one goal – improving the quality oral care of their patients through their lifelong learning.

Today, AGD continues to offer its members outstanding CE opportunities, important oral health initiatives, professional camaraderie, and organized representation for general dentists across the continent.

Fifty-six years later, that tiny gathering has burgeoned into a powerful national organization numbering over 40,000 members in the United States and Canada. Each year, the AGD Convocation recognizes the perseverance of the Masters and Fellows in their commitments to the profession of dentistry.

One must earn a minimum of 500 approved CE credits to be awarded a Fellowship, in addition to passing a comprehensive examination. To earn a Mastership, Fellows must complete an additional 600 CE credit hours in dental discipline, 400 of which must be participation courses.

Alabama AGD is proud to have two dentists who have completed requirements for and been awarded Fellowships in AGD: **Dr. Tim Smith, of Hanceville**, and **Dr. Joycelyn McClelland, of Alabaster**



*Alabama Fellows with ALAGD President Dr. Toni Neumeier.*



*Dr. Joycelyn McClelland*



*Dr. Timothy Smith*



*Region 19 Masters and Fellows*



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