



ALABAMA
ACADEMY of
GENERAL DENTISTRY FALL 2018

Composite

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

*The Goldenrod ushers in fall with blazing glory!
This North American Plant was the former Alabama state flower.*



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Editor's Notes

Bill Chesser, DMD, MAGD

DENTISTRY AND DIABETES

Practicing dentists are likely to encounter patients with *diabetes mellitus*. It is a relatively common metabolic disease which leads to **Hyperglycemia**, when the body fails to create enough insulin.

Type 1 diabetes is a chronic autoimmune disease in which beta cells in the pancreas create little or no insulin, accounting for 5% to 10% of all cases. **Type 2 diabetes** accounts for 85% to 90% of all such cases, and is one of the most common chronic diseases in medicine. Patients show a decreased response of target cells to insulin, dysregulation of insulin, or both.

Practitioners and their staffs should be aware of the signs and symptoms of uncontrolled diabetes. Xerostomia (dry mouth); burning sensation in the mouth; impaired or delayed wound healing; severity of infections; candidiasis (commonly called "thrush"); gingivitis; or periodontitis are some of the signs.

Hypoglycemia may be a problem during treatment. Staff members should be trained to recognize the signs, and to treat patients appropriately who experience low blood glucose. These signs include blurred vision; shakiness; nausea; dizziness; or excessive sweating.

Most diabetics will know these symptoms ahead of time, and might be able to alert the doctor of the problem. Dentists should have some appropriate snacks in their offices for use in these situations. **Hard candy** (not sugar-free); **fruit juices**; or **honey** to place under the tongue for quick absorption.

Diabetes can occur at any age. Dentists must carefully review every patient's medical history, take vital signs, and evaluate for uncontrolled diabetes.

A professional should err on the side of caution, when treating the marginally or poorly-controlled diabetic. Elective treatment may need to be delayed until the patient's diabetic condition is more stable.

Implants can be placed in patients with well-controlled diabetes. However, dental implants in poorly-controlled diabetic patients have an unpredictable prognosis. **Coordination** with the **patient's physician** may be necessary to determine if planned dental treatment is a safe choice. Physicians should also make laboratory test results available to the dentist upon request.

Be aware of the numbers! Ask your patient for his or her blood glucose level. (Normal should be 71-161mg/dl. A1c normal is 4-5.6%)

In general, morning appointments are best for diabetic patients, as the risk for hypoglycemia is lower at this time. Dentists must also confirm that the patient has eaten normally prior to the appointment, in addition to having taken all prescribed medications,

Take care of your diabetic patients. There are many of them out there in the general population, some of whom are not diagnosed. And while we're at it, let's **learn our own NUMBERS, ladies and gentlemen!**

President's Message

Derrick Mendez, DMD



I hope you were one of the almost 400 attendees at this year's 45th Annual Review of Dentistry in Destin, Florida. Despite early concerns that we may have problems from a hurricane that came through early in the week, we enjoyed fantastic weather for the majority of the event. Attendees had the opportunity to choose from 16 hours of hands-on CE from a total of 72 hours that were offered at our conference. This CE program we had planned drew attendees from all over Alabama and Mississippi, but we also had a handful of attendees from Arkansas, California, Delaware, Florida,

Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Tennessee, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia. I would like to sincerely thank everyone who made it for taking time out of their schedules to join us for a fantastic weekend. I also encourage you to thank our exhibitors and corporate sponsors who are key in helping make our events a success year after year.

One of the duties of the president of the Alabama Academy of General Dentistry is to ensure our annual meeting is planned in such a way that it runs smoothly and accomplishes its primary goal: delivering our members first-class continuing education. I'll let you in on a little secret...this takes a lot of work! Planning begins more than a year in advance and at times it is difficult to envision the end result. There are so many pieces that have to fall into place that the details can begin to become overwhelming. Fortunately, we have a great team of leaders within the Alabama AGD that help make this happen.

That said, we are not content with maintaining where we are. For us to grow both our organization and our annual meeting, we need help from you. The current leaders are a small group of highly dedicated individuals that represent a small segment of Alabama dentists. Over the coming years I would like to see us expand that representation and develop a broader set of colleagues leading this organization. Fortunately, I believe that Drs. Ross Isbell and Kim Stiegler (your president-elect and vice president) share this goal. Under the guidance of Executive Director Dr. Gary Myers we hope to re-build our committee structures that have historically allowed Alabama AGD to flourish. Only by doing this can we tackle the challenges that lie ahead in an effective and strategic manner. Expanding our leadership circles will require us to identify individuals who are interested in getting involved with the AGD and getting them engaged in small, but ultimately very meaningful ways. Don't be surprised if we approach you personally with a call to step forward and become an integral part of this very special organization!

One challenge this year as president was feeling as if my focus on the annual meeting was taking attention away from other areas of the ALAGD that need work. While we feel that our annual meeting is one of the best constituent-level AGD

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The Mendez family, Erin, Derrick, and Ian.



President Mendez receives the ALAGD green coat from Executive Director Gary Myers

Ian Mendez applauds Dad with Erin Mendez

Alabama AGD convened its 45th Annual Review of Dentistry **September 5, 2018**. The newly-renovated **Sandestin Hilton** was our beautiful venue for the second year.

Our Annual Review has to be one of the best bargains in CE available in the country. The schedule offers **72 hours of continuing education**, including 16 hours of participation courses. Oh, and the location happens to be right on the most beautiful beach in the world.

Classes kicked off on Thursday, following the **Keynote Address** presented by **Rev. Keith Pugh**, a pastor at **Alberta City Baptist Church**, which was heavily damaged in the notorious and deadly tornado in Tuscaloosa several years ago. Pugh's inspiring message put everyone there in a positive frame of mind.

A rousing **Welcome Reception** was held that evening. Thankfully, the weather (always a possible issue at any beach) cooperated, allowing this event to be held outside on the deck at sunset. That spectacular Gulf view, in addition to great eats, made this a perfect time for mingling, catching up with old friends, and making new ones.

An extra-special presentation during the Reception was made to **President Derrick Mendez**, who received his traditional **Green Jacket**, signifying his service to ALAGD.

Our organization also chose this time to honor Delaware's **Dr. Nick Russo**, a **former national AGD President** and **Speaker of the House**, who has faithfully attended our annual meetings for **23** years.

His boundless support of ALAGD was rewarded that evening with an **honorary membership** in our organization, as well as the gift of the hallowed **Green Jacket**. Nick was deeply moved and surprised by this honor made by our Board of Directors. He stated he has felt a special kinship with ALAGD since his first visit with us, and plans to continue to attend as long as possible.

Friday's **Exhibit Hall Party**, with drinks, copious servings of finger foods, and grand door prizes galore, is a splendid tradition for everyone. Thousands of dollars in goodies are handed out to dozens of lucky Exhibitors, doctors, and staff members each year. **Dr. Bob DeShazer** and **Dr. Bill Ingram** did the honors for 2018.



Dr. Gordon Isbell introduces Dr. T Bob Davis. T Bob is from Dallas Texas but is a graduate of UAB School of Dentistry class of 67. He presented a lecture and participation course on bonded bridges.



Dr. Nick Russo is presented The ALAGD Green Jacket and honorary membership in the ALAGD and congratulated by Executive Director Gary Myers and President Mendez. Nick has attended our meeting for 23 years and is from Delaware. He has served as Speaker of the House and is a Past President of AGD.



President Mendez explains the behind-the-scenes workings to Dr. Kendall Brinkmann (who happens to be his brother-in-law).

VIEW OF DENTISTRY

There were **dentists from 11 states in attendance!** Our continued goal is to reach for greater success each year, as we listen to suggestions for improvement from vendors, dentists, and staff members. Dr. Mendez's leadership this year as President was awesome, and we look forward to his continued energetic involvement in ALAGD.

Dr. Ross Isbell will serve as our 2019 President, and is already hard at work preparing for next year's 46th Annual Review. He asks for your help in making it happen. Step up to the plate for our profession, and **volunteer.** You might be asked to host a Speaker during a class, help with Registration, serve as a possible backup, or just be there to give directions to first-timers.

It takes a village to carry this thing off. The benefits are in **new friends**, pride in **making a difference**, and integrity in **honoring your profession.** Mark your calendars now: **September 6-9, 2019.** You can follow updates about the **2019 Annual Review** on our website, www.alagd.com. Hope to see you then.



*Friends enjoying the fun and fellowship at the Welcome Reception.
(L-R) Dr. John Comisi and wife, Karen, from South Carolina, Dr. Nick Russo from Delaware, and Executive Director ALAGD, Gary Myers.*



*Friends and class mates – University of Alabama School of Dentistry 1967
T Bob Davis, Bobby Babb and Bill Chesser.*



*Left, Dr. Glen Miller, Region 19 Region Director, and friend,
Dr. Ray McLaughlin, ALAGD Past President, from Ozark.*



*Pastor Keith Pugh gives the Keynote Address on Thursday morning.
Keith played football at Alabama before going into the ministry.
His talk on leadership was inspiring for any professional.*

45TH ANNUAL REVIEW OF DENTISTRY



The Board of Directors led by President Derrick Mendez, center, President Elect Rooss Isbell, left, Executive Secretary Angie Gilliver, Executive Director Gary Myers and Nick Russo, honorary member.



Mr. Tod Doobrow converses with Bill Ingram about retirement strategies during his presentation



Dr. Bob DeShazer always does a great job at the Exhibitor Party. Assisted this year by Hampton Doobrow.



Dr. Tod Engle presented a lecture on implants for general dentists as well as a participation course.



Dr. Jennifer Doobrow, a periodontist, presented a seminar on periodontics.



Dr. Michelle Robinson, Interim Dean at the SOD, speaks to the alumni during the Dean's Reception.



Dr. Mia Geislinger presented the Infection Control seminar. She is on periodontics faculty at UAB.



Dr. Bill Ingram on hand to congratulate the grand prize winner of the 50" TV.



Dr. Michael Lew, AGD Secretary from California, and Dr. Carol Wooden, Region 19 Trustee from Georgia.



*Delegates to the House of Delegates for 2018 attending the pre-caucus meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina.
L-R Gary Myers, Derrick Mendez, Kim Stiegler, Ross Isbell and Bill Chesser.*

2018 REGION NINETEEN PRE-CAUCUS MEETING

Each year, Region Nineteen, which includes **Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina**, holds a meeting to discuss the resolutions coming before the House of Delegates at the national AGD Annual Meeting. Hosts for this gathering are rotated among the states each year, and this year North Carolina did the honors in **Raleigh, NC**.

Alabama Delegates are **Gary Myers, Derrick Mendez, and Ross Isbell**, along with Alternate Delegates **Kim Stiegler and Bill Chesser**.

Two Resolutions coming before the HOD this year may be of interest to those of our readers who have achieved their Masterships in AGD. **Resolutions 202 and 203** both concern the Lifelong Learning Service Recognition (**LLSR**) status.

The LLSR recognition can only be pursued after having attained the Mastership Award.

Resolution 202 promotes making LLSR an award such as the FAGD and MAGD. Members would only achieve this award once, and it would be designated the “Lifelong Learning and Service Recipient Award”.

Resolution 203 involves keeping the LLSR as a recognition only, and not as an award. It, too, holds that this can only be received once. At this time, many members across the nation have earned multiple LLSR awards. Of course, if 202 is adopted, then 203 becomes moot.

Region 19 is not in favor of either of these Resolutions. Instead, your Regional leaders would prefer the LLSR status remain as it is now. (One can receive it as many times as it has been earned by the individual.)

Your AGD HOD meets in Chicago in November. Tune in afterwards for the results of this national decision.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE *Continued from page 3*
events in the country, we are missing out on fostering other areas of our organization that have the potential to be just as outstanding. This is not a new problem in , but it is one that will begin to grow if we do not address it. Fortunately, your next president is already taking steps to begin to remedy this problem. Like our executive director, Dr. Isbell envisions our annual meeting planning process beginning much earlier than it has in the past few years. In fact, as of the end of this October, online registration for exhibitors and corporate sponsors will already be open and accepting registrations for the 2019 meeting. I am excited to see what his year as president will bring, especially with his early start on preparations for next year.

Thank you all again for making our meeting a success. I have learned a lot in the planning process. As a result, I have garnered a greater appreciation for the time and effort that goes into planning and conducting a dental conference. I have also gained a greater appreciation for the AGD family I have been surrounded with. Whether it’s the executive council, the members of the board, the meeting chairs, the speaker hosts, or any of the other volunteers who pitched in, I am truly proud of everyone who took part in working the event. I’d also like to offer a special thanks to Dr. Gary Myers who has been an invaluable source of encouragement, advice, and energy in my year as president thus far. I hope you join us at the Hilton Sandestin next year for the 46th Annual Review of Dentistry!



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