



ALABAMA
ACADEMY of
GENERAL DENTISTRY

SUMMER 2021

Composite

Dedicated To The Concerns
Of General Dentists In Alabama
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SORRY: IT'S NOT OVER!

Alabama has made the national news, again. And, as is sometimes the case, it is not a good thing this time. Our state is now dead last in the percentage of total population having had the vaccinations. The COVID situation is beginning to get worse, with the Delta variant rearing its ugly head on the home front.

Right now, this Delta variant, which was first detected in India, accounts for 83% of our nation's tested cases, and has been found to be significantly more contagious than any other strain.

Compared to the original virus, this Delta variant has proven to cause higher viral loads in the noses and throats of people infected, though patients do not seem to be sicker. However, these same patients do seem to be much more contagious to others while infected.

As recently as July 27, 2021, the CDC reversed course on masking guidelines. They now recommend that even fully vaccinated people return to wearing masks indoors, especially in parts of the United States where the virus is surging.

Alabama is one of those states where the infection rate is climbing, as is hospital occupancy by COVID-affected patients.

This is serious business! We have been dealing with this pandemic for a year-and-a-half, and it still is ravaging our planet. Our own UAB has been forced just this week to limit some of its services, due to the increased COVID cases.

97% of people hospitalized with COVID at UAB are not vaccinated, and medical professionals agree the situation is likely to get worse. Says UAB VP of Hospital Clinical Services, "The good news is we have the end to the pandemic in our hands. We have had it since December, in the form of the vaccine."

The past few days have seen an encouraging increase in those choosing to get the vaccine. We hope this trend will continue. However, 6-8 weeks are required to attain the full percentage of immunity, and even that is not 100%.

We dentists must stay up-to-date on the science, while admitting that the info changes daily.

Ladies and Gentlemen, keep those masks at hand. There are worse things than the inconvenience of wearing a mask, like gasping for breath, suffering permanent lung damage, harming a stranger or treasured family member, or being on a ventilator.

I am hopeful that we can get this THING under control. I am hopeful that we can someday soon be back to some form of normal. Meanwhile, keep yourself, your loved ones, and your staff and patients safe. You can be the best example of one who truly cares.

President's Message

Timothy Smith, DMD, FAGD, MBA

Timothy Smith,
DMD, FAGD, MBA
President



I hope this brief word finds you, your family, and your practice healthy, happy, and prosperous.

Right now, in our shared journey through the COVID maze, we'd like to begin with the positive note of "We're back!" Back, that is, to the way things were before the horror of lockdown; back to seeing our patients; back to church; back to enjoying restaurants with family and friends; back to a time of carefree vacations—limited only by what we could afford! BACK to some semblance of the normal we once knew, before the virus became our controller.

You can be sure that your team at Alabama AGD is not "back", for we never actually went away.

Like each of you, AAGD has done its best to roll with the punches, seeing our way through these unprecedented times. Most importantly, we have diligently continued to do all the work of AGD. We have not relented in advocating for the needs and concerns of General Dentists all over Alabama, as well as participating in that same advocacy on the national level.

Through Conference calls, Zoom meetings, countless emails, and phone calls, we have kept in touch about our progress and problems as we relish the ability to see each other—if

only remotely—while being unable to meet in person.

Although we reluctantly had to dispense with our September, 2020, meeting due to the COVID crisis, we are now excited to bring you our Emerald Coast Review of Dentistry, coming up this September, 2021! You can expect the same excellent quality of CE which you have enjoyed in all our previous meetings, as well as the camaraderie we have so missed with colleagues and friends while we were shut down.

While we all recognize that we are not back to things as they once were, we want you to know that we take pride in doing the work of your Alabama AGD. We are grateful for your continued confidence, and we thank you for your support. With your patience and a commitment to moving forward, we are determined to GET BACK!

Sincerely yours,
Timothy Smith, DMD, FAGD, MBA



President Timothy Smith (left in the center) conducts his first "in person" AAGD board meeting during the GCDC at Orange Beach



Dr. Charles Graffeo

We will all miss Dr. Charles Graffeo at our 2021 Emerald Coast meeting. Charles passed away April 19, 2021, after 53 years of practicing dentistry in Huntsville, AL.

Charles was always a comforting and level-headed presence in our state organization. He never failed to be willing to help in any way he was needed.

He was awarded the AAGD "Dentist of the Year" in 2015, a well-deserved honor for his many years of outstanding service. Our meeting will not be the same without him

CONGRATULATIONS REGION 19 AWARDEES!



Dr. Paul Diaz (L), Tuscaloosa, receives LLSR Award; Dr. Alexander Quante, (R), Birmingham, is awarded the AGD Fellowship

To earn Fellowship, you must complete the following requirements:

- Maintain current AGD membership for three continuous years by Dec. 31 of the year in which the application is received, to begin no earlier than the month of dental school graduation
- Have a dental license that has not been suspended or revoked within the past five years and is not currently under probation, suspension or revocation
- Pass the AGD Fellowship Exam
- Complete 500 hours of approved CE
- Attend the AGD Convocation Ceremony, held during the AGD Scientific Session, where you will receive the award; successful candidates are allowed three years following approval to complete this requirement.

To be eligible for LLSR, you must complete the following requirements:

- Maintain current AGD membership for three continuous year by Dec. 31 of the year in which the application is received
- Be an AGD Master
- Earn a minimum of 500 CE hours after receiving the Mastership Award, 150 of which must be participation hours. Hours must be earned in at least eight of the 17 recognized clinical subject areas.
- Accumulate 100 service points in any combination of dental-related community/volunteer service and/or service to organized dentistry; only those services performed since the date Mastership was received or since a previous LLSR was received are eligible.



Region 19 LLSR, AGD Masters, and AGD Fellowship recipients

152nd Annual Session Alabama Dental Association

FINALLY! I have an “In-Person” meeting on which I can report! All of our 2020 gatherings were cancelled, due to COVID, so I found it particularly sweet to see people—colleagues and friends—without the invasive benefit of Zoom technology on my computer.

Dr. Lauren Moore, President of AIDA this year, was able to pull off a Gulf Coast Dental Conference which was well-attended, with all the characteristics of a really good meeting. Here, we had excellent CE for doctors and staff members; social functions which were actually fun; plenty of time for all who were there to get reacquainted with all those special friends whom we only see at conventions.

Our hotel (Perdido Resort) had no mask policy, so each person made his or her own decision on site. Hotel handouts warned that service might be slow, due to shortage in personnel. However, we were treated well, and food was stellar, especially at Voyagers Restaurant on the main floor.

Our family tradition each year has been for us to celebrate my wife’s birthday at this meeting. We missed 2020, of course, but we made up for it this year! The Creme Brûlée was heavenly!

As always, our Exhibit Hall was a lively gathering place, especially during those scheduled Door-Prize-Drawing Events. I was privileged to assist Dr. Adolphus Jackson, Exhibit Chair, with this activity. Dr. Bob Jones

excelled as the Man-With-the-Microphone here.

Dr. Mark McIlwain, of Sheffield, was presented the prestigious 2020 Fuller Award. He also received a well-deserved Distinguished Dentist Award. It was our friend Mark who was instrumental in guiding our profession through the COVID crisis, as President of the Alabama Board of Dental Examiners.

Dr. Barry Booth, Spanish Fort, was awarded the 2021 Fuller Award, and has been one of the top financial contributors to the UAB School of Dentistry for many years. Heartfelt congratulations are due to both Dr. McIlwain and Dr. Booth for their huge help through these trying times.

Saturday’s President’s Party was—in a word—wonderful. Great food, drinks, music, and socializing were the order of the evening. Festivities were topped off with one of the most amazing fireworks displays we have ever had.

Sunday morning our conference ended with the Awards Breakfast, concluding with installation of 2021-2022 AIDA officers.

This was a highly anticipated meeting, long overdue. Here’s hoping and praying that this COVID surge will not prevent AIAGD from celebrating its Emerald Coast Conference this coming September 9-12, 2021. We “do” meetings right, too!

AGD 2021 Annual Meeting



Those receiving **Gold Certificates** are AIDA members who have practiced Dentistry for a total of **50 years**. Drs. **William Chesser**, left, and **Milton Essig**, right.



A member of the AIDA is nominated for the **Most Excellent Fellow Award** by the AIDA Board of Censors (All Past Presidents), then unanimously approved by the House of Delegates at Annual Session. L-R: Drs. **Ross Isbell**, **Jennifer Doobrow**, **Mark Summerford**, **Stuart Lockwood**



L-R: **Chris Chesser**, **Dr. Jaimie Morgan** (Utah), **Bill Chesser**
Dr. Morgan grew up with our children in Ozark, AL. It was great to reconnect with this fine dentist.



2021-2022 AIDA Officers installed in June, 2021



*AIDA members receiving Life Membership Certificates:
L-R: Drs. Adolphus Jackson, Steve Shirley, Tim Brooks, Charles Betts, William Ingram*



Dr. Barry Booth is pictured on R, with his brother. Dr. Booth, of Spanish Fort, AL. He received the 2021 Fuller Award from the SOD Alumni Association. He is a major contributor to the SOD, as well as many other charities.



Dr. Mark McIlwain received the 2020 Fuller Award, as well as the Distinguished Dentist Award, given by the UAB Alumni. Association. Shown at L is his wife, Connie.



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