

THE ALABAMA COMPOSITE



ALABAMA
ACADEMY of
GENERAL DENTISTRY

The Newsletter of the Alabama AGD

Editor: Bill Chesser, DMD, MAGD



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Editor: Bill Chesser, DMD, MAGD

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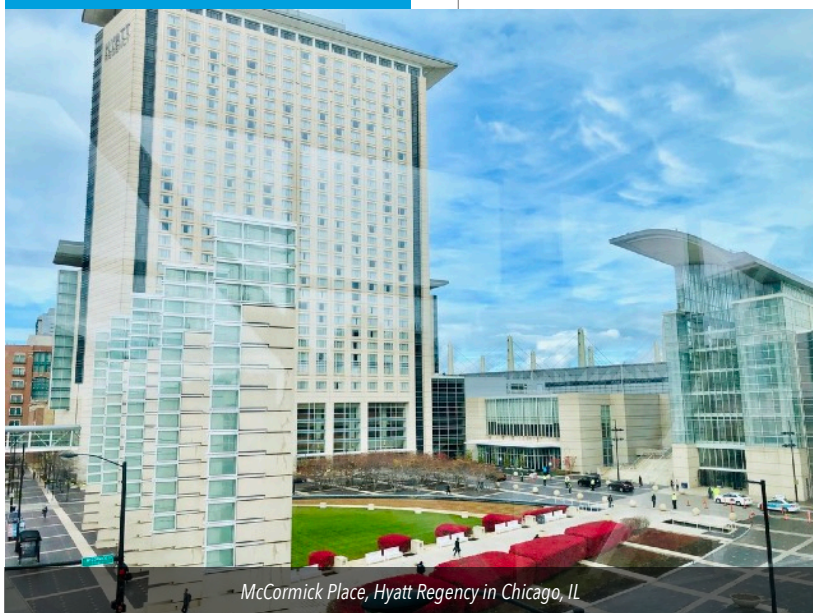
Charles Betts, D.M.D.
Immediate Past President

Windy City Hosts 2023 AGD Annual Meeting

written by: Dr. Derrick Mendez

The AGD Annual Meeting convened at the Hyatt McCormick Place in Chicago, November 10-12, 2023. At this gathering, the governing body of the AGD, the House of Delegates, assembles to consider resolutions which will affect our organization.

Each constituent sends delegates (as well as alternates) to vote on the various issues, and to elect the national officers of the Academy of General Dentistry. Alabama’s delegates included **Drs. Wendy Holder, Mike Robinson, Harrell Bullard, and Derrick Mendez.** Along with Alabama AGD Executive Director **Dr. Gary Myers,** the constituent was also accompanied by two student



McCormick Place, Hyatt Regency in Chicago, IL



alternate delegates. **Nicole Nguyen** will be in the UAB Dentistry graduating class of 2024 and **Alex Boulay** will be in the graduating class of 2025; these two students represented the national student membership and Alabama exceptionally well.

The honor this represents cannot be understated. There are only 4 student delegates (2 primary, 2 alternate) selected to represent the whole nation. So, out of four total slots, two of them were granted to students from Alabama!

Preparation for the House of Delegates begins in October, with our Region 19 Pre-Caucus. This tradition was begun several years ago by Dr. Gordon Isbell of Gadsden, Alabama. He believed

that our regional delegates need to prepare for this national meeting by being familiar with resolutions to be addressed by the HOD. Student Alternate Delegates Nicole and Alex also agreed this pre-exposure to the business of the HOD was crucial to the prepping of new delegates like themselves. To the uninitiated, the manner in which the national governance meetings are conducted can be much of a mystery.

Unfortunately, the idea of an in-person regional pre-caucus is fairly unique. Few regions choose to do this as it does involve a significant investment in time and travel for the volunteers involved. Sadly, some attendees from other regions are not as well prepared when they arrive in Chicago.



Pictured (left to right): Dr. Gordon Isbell, Dr. Gary Myers, Dr. Mike Robinson, Dr. Wendy Holder, Nicole Nguyen, Dr. Harrell Bullard, Dr. Derrick Mendez, and Alex Boulay following the 2023 constituent award presentations; photo courtesy of AGD Constituent Services

On Friday, November 10th, the House of Delegates opened its first session with words from Dr. Hans Guter (outgoing national AGD President) and Dr. Linda Edgar (current ADA president), among others. Following this, various awards of individual member achievement were presented.

Dr. Gordon Isbell of Gadsden, Alabama was presented with the prestigious Mark S. Ritz Advocate for Dentistry Award. The award recognizes individuals who distinguish themselves with national-level advocacy in an active, visible, and successful manner. This award is not presented every year and is only given to individuals when deserved and appropriate, making this honor all the more important for those that receive it.

Awards recognizing outstanding achievements at the constituent/state level followed the individual

awards. Alabama is pleased to have received three of the awards within our membership category, which included honorable mentions for Constituent of the Year, the William W. Howard ACE Award (recognizing our quarterly newsletters), and the Public Information Award.

Regional caucuses are held the second day. At this time, each region analyzes the many resolutions, decides the options available, and share opinions on voting choices. This year, these resolutions involved mostly “housekeeping” tasks that involved cleaning up existing AGD policy, improving consistency, and ensuring what AGD has “on the books” is modern and relevant. There is typically little contention on these matters.

That said, Resolution 315, introduced by Dr. Callan White (Region 19 delegate from Asheville, NC) did introduce some controversy. The primary goal of this resolution was to acknowledge artificial intelligent (AI) as a growing tool within the field of dentistry, but more importantly, establish in AGD policy that AI should not supersede doctor-patient relationship. It stated that “AGD holds that third party payers who utilize AI should not unduly track and/or attempt to influence recommended treatment.” Those who spoke out strongly against this resolution did so on the basis that AI is evolving at too fast a pace for the AGD to accurately make a statement on it. Fortunately, Dr. White’s resolution was extensively researched and vetted ahead of time, and many of the detractors finally saw the light—it ended up passing successfully without being referred back to committee.



Dr. Gordon Isbell being presented with the Mark S. Ritz Advocate for Dentistry Award by Dr. Merlin Ohmer (left) and Dr. Chetan Chetty (right); photo courtesy of AGD Constituent Services

Sunday, November 12th brought the commencement of the third session of the HOD. Resolutions on the agenda were discussed and voted on by the House. Another point of contention was the passing of the budget resolution. As it stood, the resolution failed to take into account a budget shortfall that had come about as a result of one of the AGD’s building tenants not continuing their lease. While the House expressed great displeasure with the budget resolution as it was presented, there was not adequate time to prepare a new budget before the close of the last House session. Alas, the budget resolution was passed, despite this unfortunate shortfall.

The last day of the House also includes the election and induction of national officers. The following officers were elected: Marc J. Worob, DDS, FAGD, as vice president; Kimberly R. Wright,



The Alabama delegation at the Region 19 Pre-Caucus in Wilmington, NC

DMD, MAGD, as secretary; Robert M. Peskin, DDS, FAGD, as speaker of the House of Delegates; and Timothy F. Kosinski, DDS, MAGD, as editor. The former president-elect, Merlin P. Ohmer, DDS, MAGD, assumed the office of president and the former vice-president, Chetan Chetty, DDS, MAGD assumed the office of president-elect. As we transition into 2024, the House looks forward to the leadership that Dr. Ohmer will lend to the Academy of General Dentistry. —



Alex Boulay (left, student alternate delegate from U. B) and Dr. Gary Myers (right, Alabama AGD Executive Director) address the group at the Saturday Town Hall session

AGD Annual Meeting

2023 House of Delegates - McCormick Place, Chicago, IL



Dr. Mike Robinson (center) while House of Delegates is in session



Part of the 2023 Executive Committee during House opening ceremonies



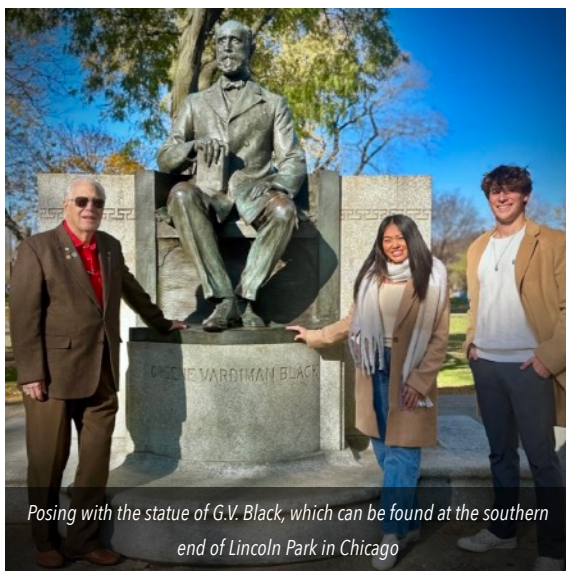
Pictured left to right: Drs. Harrell Bullard, Gary Myers, and Bill Burn (Region 19 trustee) deliberate over resolutions while in regional caucus session



National AGD Vice President Dr. Chetan Chetty with Dr. Mike Robinson and two students, Alex Boulay & Nicole Nguyen



Dr. Gordon Isbell joined by family after receiving the Mark S. Ritz Advocate for Dentistry Award



Posing with the statue of G.V. Black, which can be found at the southern end of Lincoln Park in Chicago

IMPORTANT DATES IN 2024

July 17-20
National AGD Scientific Meeting
Minneapolis, MN

September 5-7
Emerald Coast AGD Annual Review of Dentistry
Hilton Sandestin – Destin, FL

Closing Remarks From the President

written by: Mike Robinson, DMD, MAGD

Greetings Colleagues from lower Alabama, where it was 70 degrees last week and will be in the teens next week. I don't remember it ever being in the 70s in January; the 30s and occasional 20s in January and February make for good hunting weather...but not the teens. That is called anecdotal evidence and is in no way to be taken as the gospel or scientific evidence. It just seems as if we have more extremes and wider swings. Global warming or natural variations? The debate rages on, and I am not sure it will ever recede in the divided world we live in, with alternative facts.

However, one thing I believe we can count on is that science and innovation have made our professional lives much better and easier than ever. For many, gone are the days of taking messy crown impressions, pouring up models, trimming dies with a lab handpiece (if you trim your own dies), writing lab prescriptions, boxing up everything, calling the lab for pickup or mailing the case to the lab, and waiting 2 weeks to deliver said crown. Today, we can scan our prep (our scanning software will tell us if we have draw, and point out undercuts) and transmit our scanning files to our lab via the internet with lab instructions, all before we finish making a temporary crown. Speaking of temporary crowns, we can take a pre-op scan, transmit the scan files to our 3D printer design site, receive temporary restoration design files back in less than five minutes, and begin printing the temporary crown, which will be printed on our 3D printer and ready to cement...all before we can

complete our crown prep. With CAD/CAM software and a mill, we can transmit our post-op scan files to our design service and receive them back in less than 5 minutes (or, if you are so inclined, design your definitive restoration yourself), and mill a definitive crown, without having to make a temporary restoration. Needless to say, Bull and Cool Slab Powell would be overwhelmed!



Alabama AGD President,
Dr. Mike Robinson

That is just how much our crown and bridge technique has progressed in the last five, or so, years. Today, we can also have 3D printed or milled dentures, bite splints, night guards, surgical guides, clear aligners, indirect bonding trays, implant-supported fixed hybrid or milled ceramic prostheses, diagnostic wax-ups, and pre-op models.

There is no debate or alternative facts involved here (unlike global warming), and two facts are indisputable:

- Practitioners have to invest in the technology
- Practitioners have to learn how to use this technology

That is where AGD and the Alabama AGD come in. We try to present programs that help you select the product that is best for your practice and help you learn how to use it. With our in-person and online CE offerings, as well as our AGD Fellowship, Master Track, and Lifelong Learning and Service Recognition programs, we seek to help you stay



Dr. Mike Robinson receiving his green jacket

abreast of those issues which impact your practice & professional lives, advocate for regulations that are not too restrictive as these technological advances

present, and occasionally, we become a social club with dental interests.

This is my final President’s Message and I want to thank all those who supported me throughout my tenure as your president, including all members of

the Board of Directors, our Annual Meeting Committee, our Executive Director, Dr. Gary Myers, our Executive Secretary, Amber Dodd, and, especially, Angie Gilliver who stayed on to help me with my duties relative to the Annual Review of Dentistry.

I hope everyone will do their best to help our President Elect, Dr. Wendy Holder, Vice President, Dr. Harrell Bullard, incoming VP (to be elected after our Board meeting next month), Executive Director, and Executive Secretary. I look forward seeing many of you at the Alumni Meeting and encourage you to attend the Sunday morning Board meeting and become involved in Alabama AGD. You will not regret it.

Thanks,
Mike

September 5-7, 2024 Emerald Coast AGD Annual Review of Dentistry

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Good, Better, Best

written by: Bill Chesser, DMD, FAGD

As we look forward to the year 2024, many of us may be making those “New Years Resolutions.” High on that list could be losing weight, with fad diets abounding. Exercise regimens also could get the nod, and gym memberships could soar, making it hard to find a spot to do your body-building routines.

Give it a month or two, however, and diets might be cast aside, while tumbleweeds blow through the weight machine rooms!

St. Jerome, Patron Saint of Librarians, is credited with this famous quote: “Good, better, best. Never let it rest, ‘til your good is better and your better is best!”

Now, THAT’S a worthy resolution!

While you are in the “Resolution Mood”, think about working toward your AGD Fellowship, Mastership, or LLSR. Wherever you may be on this particular journey, you can set these goals, becoming your personal best.

You will benefit professionally, but your patients will reap the rewards of the investment of your time, talents, and commitment as your professional skills improve. Your practice may even reflect this with increased profit.

There were plenty of opportunities for pursuit of FAGD and MAGD awards at our recent 2023 September meeting at the Sandestin Hilton. Dr. Mike Robinson and his crew produced a fun-filled week,

packed with exciting and valuable CE.

We had attendees from many different states, in addition to numerous VIP national AGD officers. Dr. Hans Guter, AGD President; Dr. Merlin Ohmer, AGD President-Elect; Dr. Bill Burn, Region 19 Trustee; and Dr. Jeffery Gardner, Region 19 Director, were all in attendance.

We were also privileged to host a contingent of ten Student AGD members at this meeting. UAB School of Dentistry can be proud of these future professionals. Tomorrow’s dentistry is in their hands!

Kudos to Dr. Robinson for an outstanding year! Mike will remain president until our Board Meeting in February. At this time, Dr. Wendy Holder will be installed as president. This hard-working woman has been in charge of our Master Track program, so you can bet there will be some outstanding CE at her meeting next September, 2024.

Put September 4-7, 2024, on your office calendars right now. Plan to take your next step toward FAGD or MAGD awards. I can guarantee from personal experience that you will be so glad you did! Good luck to everyone in 2024. And remember: “Make your good better, and your better, best!”



Dr. Bill Chesser, Alabama AGD Editor

Photo Review of the 2023 Emerald Coast AGD Annual Review of Dentistry

Hilton Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort - Destin, FL



AGD student members posing with the President of AGD, Dr Hans Guter (front row) and AGD President-Elect Dr Merlin Ohmer (back row)

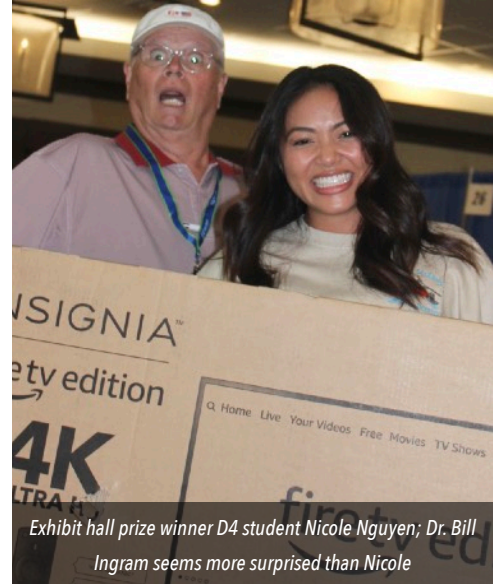


Exhibit hall prize winner D4 student Nicole Nguyen; Dr. Bill Ingram seems more surprised than Nicole



EMERALD COAST

AGD ANNUAL REVIEW OF DENTISTRY



Dr. Charles Betts (far right) receives Recognition for Service as 2022 Alabama AGD President



Hands-on course for the MasterTrack® Program

Artificial Intelligence & Today's Dentistry

written by: Unknown

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been revolutionizing various aspects of our lives, and dentistry is no exception. With the advent of AI, dentistry has witnessed remarkable advancements in diagnostics, treatment planning, and patient care. Here are various applications of AI and its potential benefits for dentists and their patients.

First, let's look at the field of dental diagnostics. Traditionally, dentists rely on their expertise and visual examination to diagnose oral conditions. However, AI algorithms can now assist in early detection and diagnosis of dental diseases. AI can analyze digital images, such as X-rays and intraoral scans, assisting dentists in identifying caries,

periodontal diseases, and even oral cancer. By utilizing machine learning techniques, AI can continuously improve their accuracy and become reliable tools for dentists.

Treatment planning can also be aided with AI. AI algorithms can analyze patient data, including medical history, radiographs, and intraoral scans. This can enhance the precision of treatment, but also saves time for both the dentist and the patient. AI can also aid in predicting treatment outcomes, allowing dentists to make more informed decisions, providing patients with a better understanding of possible results.

AI can enhance communication and accessibility in patient care. Virtual assistants powered by AI can provide patients with instant responses to their questions, hopefully reducing unnecessary dental visits. AI "chatbots" can also help patients in

2023 AGD
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2023 AGD
WILLIAM W. HOWARD
ACE AWARD
HONORABLE MENTION



2023 AGD
PUBLIC INFORMATION
AWARD
HONORABLE MENTION



CONSTITUENT AWARDS

Each year, the constituents of the AGD are expected to submit an extensive report on the previous year's activities. At the annual House of Delegates session, awards are given out in 4 categories, as well as an overall Constituent of the Year award.

The vice-president is typically responsible for compiling the report and submitting it to AGD headquarters each year. For 2023, Alabama was recognized with the three honors listed here.

scheduling appointments, managing their oral health, and providing post-care instructions.

Furthermore, AI can contribute to improving the quality of dental education and training. Virtual reality simulations, powered by algorithms, can create realistic dental scenarios for students to practice various procedures. AI can provide real-time feedback, helping students to enhance their skills and ensuring they are adequately prepared for clinical practice. Dental research can be enhanced with AI analyzation of vast amounts of data, identifying patterns which might not be evident to human researchers.

Despite the many benefits, we must address the challenges associated with AI used in dentistry. Privacy and security concerns regarding patient data should be carefully addressed to ensure

confidentiality of patient information. Also dentists must be adequately trained to effectively use AI systems. Ethical considerations concerning reliance on AI should also be taken into account, ensuring that the human/dentist/patient relationship remains at the core of dental practice.

To conclude, the integration of AI in dentistry has shown tremendous potential in transforming various aspects of dental care. From diagnostics to treatment planning to patient care, AI has the capability to revolutionize the field. As technology continues to advance, it is crucial for dental professionals to embrace AI, using its benefits to improve patient outcomes and enhance our profession.

[CONFESSION: This article was generated by AI.]

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