



news bites

the FDA's official e-newsletter



NORTHEAST
DISTRICT DENTAL ASSOCIATION
A COMPONENT OF THE
AMERICAN & FLORIDA DENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

DECEMBER 2023

▶ NEDDA'S PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings, Northeast District Dental Association (NEDDA) members!

It's time for an update as we approach the end of the year. Our recent symposium on Oct. 20 at Maggiano's Little Italy had a great turnout. We were fortunate to have our Florida Dental Association's (FDA) Chief Legal Officer, Casey Stoutamire, come from Tallahassee to update us on pertinent dental legal topics. We also had fellow NEDDA members Drs. **Margaret Dennis**, **Shreena Patel** and **Susie Perry** provide a great deal of valuable information covering temporomandibular disorders and therapies, updates in orthodontics and pediatric dental trauma diagnoses and treatment planning.

Our next big NEDDA event will be our spring social on March 7, 2024 at Epping Forest Yacht and Country Club. Mark your calendars now! This free event will be for all dentists in the NEDDA. I encourage everyone not only to plan to attend but also to reach out to other dentists in the area who may have yet to attend an organized dental event. Our profession is one that other professions envy and much of that is due to our support system, organized dentistry. Our local, state and national dental associations work extremely hard to make sure our dental profession continues to thrive. We need to make sure that our associations can grow with stable membership and we can all help by encouraging all dentists to be members of the tripartite.

Some additional important upcoming dates are:

- Jan. 19: The FDA Leaders Emerging Among Dentists (LEAD) event in Orlando
- Jan. 20: The FDA House of Delegates (HOD) in Orlando
- Jan. 30: *Dentists' Day on the Hill (DDOH)* in Tallahassee

To learn more about each of these events, please visit floridadental.org.

The holiday season is upon us, and I hope you and your families are blessed with good health and happiness. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me (bdouglasdmd@gmail.com) or our executive director, Debbie Deville (ddeville@nedda.org), if you have any questions or suggestions regarding organized dentistry. I hope to see everyone at our March 7, 2024, event and wish everyone a very happy new year!

All the best,
Bethany A. Douglas, DMD



▶ NEDDA CLAY COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello colleagues,

We have just wrapped up our third dental meeting for the Fall 2023 calendar. We have been fortunate to have lectures from our very own member Dr. **Michael Semidey**, who spoke about medication-related osteonecrosis of the jaw updates and Anxiolysis and Dr. **Robert Weaver**, who updated us on the new Lakeside Dental Surgery Center that provides access to care for our vastly underserved patient population. Our Spring 2024 meeting date has been confirmed for Feb. 21 at the Orange Park Holiday Inn at 5:45 p.m.

Regarding our goal of engaging local members in our community, we were lucky to have Drs. **Aiosa & Hoffman** host a Kickball Tournament earlier this month, with proceeds going to the Clay County Dental Society to fund the construction of the new Clay Dental Care Clinic. We received \$7,100 from the event, and "The Party Enamels" (representing Dr. Michael Semidey's office) took the gold! We followed up with our Fall Social event at Whitey's Fish Camp with great camaraderie, food and libations. We plan to host another social event in the spring to keep the fun coming. Our social events are open to all dentists and staff members and are purely fun-focused.

Our goal is to keep Clay County a great place to practice dentistry, with a high level of camaraderie and support from fellow professionals. Check our Facebook page ([Clay County Dental Society](#)) for more information and updates.

Very respectfully,
Erin Standish, DMD
ClayCountyDS@gmail.com

▶ JACKSONVILLE DENTAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear colleagues,

We've had a great start to the year at the Jacksonville Dental Society (JDS). On Oct. 26 we had a very entertaining lecture by Dr. **Michael Dorociak**, from Sarasota. He discussed a wide range of topics and, clarified the merits of some newer restorative materials and provided guidance about when we should consider premedicating our patients.

Our next dinner meeting will be Jan. 18, 2024 at Epping Forest Yacht Club featuring Dr. **Julio Sixto**, of Admira Dentistry. Dr. Sixto will be discussing "The Physiologic Approach to Treating TMD." This topic should be extremely interesting for those who have struggled with diagnosing and treating this challenging issue.

Our focus will then shift to the annual Give Kids a Smile Event, led by our Vice President, Dr. **Nathaniel Williams**. We will have a screening event on Feb. 21, and the main event will be on Feb. 24 at Florida State College at Jacksonville North Campus. It's a very impactful event where local dentists, hygienists, assistants and other team members donate their time to treat children needing dental care. Dr. Williams is seeking donations of time, money and dental materials for the event. If you have dated handpieces or dental equipment, please consider donating to the Give Kids' a Smile Event.

We are excited about bringing back an old tradition of the dental society, the JDS Golf Tournament. The event will be held at The Golf Club at South Hampton in March (date TBA).

Please email Virginia Smith at jaxdentalsociety@gmail.com for information about signing up for the Jacksonville Dental Society. We look forward to seeing you on Jan. 18, 2024!

Alex Fetner
President, Jacksonville Dental Society
ajfetner@gmail.com



Friends and colleagues,

It is hard to believe that 2023 has just about come to a close. I hope that 2023 has been a good year for everyone and that this holiday season is joyous.

I am writing you this update upon returning from our most recent Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting. Our December meeting was held at the FDA headquarters in Tallahassee. The FDA Foundation (FDAF) board had its annual in-person meeting just before the BOT meeting and there was a chance for interaction between both groups.

Speaking of the Foundation, this important non-profit portion of your FDA supports many worthy endeavors. Just recently, FDAF supported Project: *Dentists Care* with a \$50,000 donation to help with their mission to provide care for those most in need. Support also goes out when dentists in Florida are affected by hurricanes. The flagship event is the *Florida Mission of Mercy (FLA-MOM)*, which will be held May 30-June 1, 2024, in Lakeland. Please sign up to volunteer at flamom.org and consider donating to the Foundation to support all their fantastic work.

The BOT received an update on our media campaigns' efforts to raise public awareness about the importance of routine dental care, reinforcing the authority of the FDA as the reliable source for oral health information and directing patients to seek care from FDA member dentists. From December 2022 through November 2023, this campaign has resulted in over 22,000 clicks on the Find a Dentist page that the ADA manages.

As usual, our Governmental Affairs team has been working very hard getting ready for the upcoming session in Tallahassee. One of the biggest strengths of organized dentistry lies in the tireless advocacy on our behalf, which ensures that our profession and the patients we serve are protected. This legislative session will have a focus on health care. We are monitoring any potential legislation that will be introduced and will work to support positions that benefit dentistry. We are also pushing hard for much-needed insurance reforms and patient protections in response to the rise in direct-to-consumer dentistry and advocating for \$500,000 in funding for the 2025 *FLA-MOM*. Our voices must be heard loud and clear in Tallahassee this session. Please plan on attending *Dentists' Day on the Hill* on Jan. 30, 2024. There will be a legislative briefing and dinner the night before.

The BOT will meet on March 20, 2024, via Zoom and in person on May 17-18, 2024 at FDA Headquarters in Tallahassee. Please do not hesitate to contact me at tbrown@bot.floridadental.org with any concerns.

Respectfully,
Tom Brown, DMD, MS
Trustee

► 2024 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DEADLINE IS JANUARY 1!

Visit floridadental.org/dues (typically, your username is your American Dental Association (ADA) number) and choose from different renewal options, including auto-renew. If you prefer to speak to a person, please call our friendly membership team at 850.681.3629 to renew over the phone. Thank you for your support in 2023 and we look forward to an even brighter and better 2024 together!



► RECENTLY RETIRED OR RETIRING SOON?

If you are no longer practicing or have plans to retire soon, please contact our membership team at membership@floridadental.org or 850.681.3629 to complete your retired affidavit through a quick and easy DocuSign form. Most retired members pay little or no dues to maintain their membership and keep access to all their benefits and services.



► RECEIVING EMERGENCY DENTAL CARE OVER THE HOLIDAYS

With the holidays here, we wanted to remind you that you are required, either personally, through another Florida-licensed dentist or through a reciprocal agreement with another group, to provide 24-hour emergency care for all patients under your continuing care. If you do not provide this emergency care, then you are subject to discipline by the Board of Dentistry (BOD). Emergency care is also listed in the ADA's Dental Patient Rights and Responsibilities Statement. It states that a patient has the right to reasonable dental care and emergency treatment arrangements. The full list of patient's rights and responsibilities can be found at ada.org.

Unfortunately, the FDA cannot give you any clear-cut parameters on what will be enough to satisfy this rule. For example, is a 24-hour number for patients to call you enough; do you have to be available to have patients come into your office 24 hours a day, seven days a week? Instead, the reasonable standard will apply here. Ask yourself if the access to emergency care you are providing to your patients is reasonable under the circumstances.

The BOD Rule on this is 64B5-17.004, Emergency Care: It is the responsibility of every dentist practicing in this State to provide, either personally, through another licensed dentist, or through a reciprocal agreement with another agency, reasonable twenty-four (24) hour emergency services for all patients under his continuing care.



► REGISTER TODAY FOR LEAD

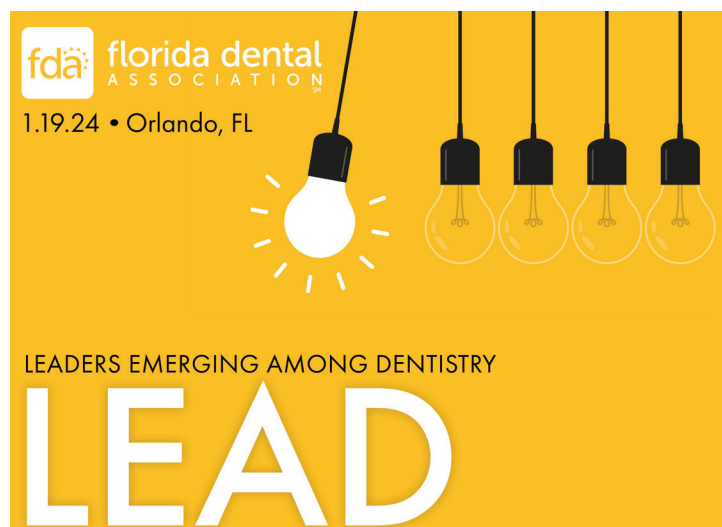
Join us for LEAD on Friday, Jan. 19, at the Marriott Orlando Airport Lakeside Hotel. Register for the 2024 LEAD program the day before the FDA's semi-annual HOD meeting. New this year, LEAD will include an HOD training and guide to parliamentary procedure as well as some tips on how to get plugged into organized dentistry.

Here are a few highlights of the program this year:

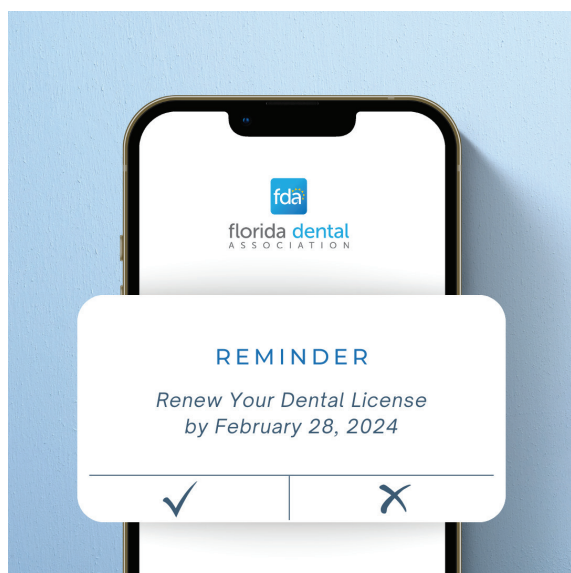
- LEAD offers development and skills training to enrich leadership and interpersonal skills.
- Morning and afternoon sessions with the option to take both for a full day.
- Networking lunch and evening reception.
- Featured speaker for the morning session: Bobi Seredich, "Emotional Intelligence for Leadership Influence" What is EI and the value it has personally and professionally in influence, performance and teamwork.
- Featured speaker for the afternoon session: Marko Vujicic, ADA Health Policy Institute, "The Future of Dentistry" A look at national trends focusing on Florida-specific trends.
- House of Delegates training for new and current delegates, alternates or anyone who wants to know how policy is created in the FDA.
- The cost for the program is \$25.
- Space is limited to the first 50 registrants.

LEAD is an excellent opportunity to get plugged into organized dentistry at all tripartite levels and grow in your leadership.

Register [here](#).



► REMINDER: RENEW YOUR DENTAL LICENSE BY FEBRUARY 28, 2024



All Florida licensed dentists must renew their licenses through the [MQA Online Services Portal](#) for the 2022-2024 biennium by **Feb. 28, 2024**. You must have 30 hours of continuing education (CE) by the biennium deadline to renew your license by Feb. 28, 2024. [Click here](#) to view the list of courses you must take to renew. If you already have the required CE credits to renew your license, [click here](#) to start the renewal process.

Are you looking for additional CE to renew your dental license?

The FDA offers FREE online CE for member dentists through the popular *Today's FDA* column, "Diagnostic Discussion." Members can earn up to six hours of general CE by reading the column and taking a quick online quiz. Discussions and quizzes are available 24 hours daily to take in the comfort of your home or office. [Click here](#) to access these free courses. Verified CE credits for Diagnostic Discussion courses are reported to the CE Broker on the first Friday of each month and weekly in February.

► FDA SERVICES ALERT!

Dental offices face fines and stop work orders due to a lack of Workers' Compensation! Member offices have reported being visited by audit personnel from the Florida OIR in the last few weeks. Some were found not in compliance with Florida law, mandating coverage for practices with four or more employees. Don't risk penalties — act now and secure your policy with FDA Services, the insurance agency of the FDA. Protect your practice and ensure compliance today!



► REGISTER TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE 2024 FLA-MOM TODAY!

Please visit FLAMOM.org and register to volunteer at the state's largest charitable dental clinic. The Florida Mission of Mercy (FLA-MOM) provides dental care to any patient at no cost, with the goal of serving the underserved and uninsured in Florida. The 2024 FLA-MOM clinic will be held in Lakeland and will treat residents of Polk County and the surrounding communities. With a goal of treating 2,000 patients, FLA-MOM needs volunteer dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, dental lab techs, physicians, nurses, EMTs and community volunteers. Volunteer with FLA-MOM and enjoy the best two days of dentistry! [Click here](#) for more information about the ninth FLA-MOM.



RP Funding Center, Lakeland, FL
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► ARE YOU READY TO SUPERCHARGE YOUR CAREER? ELEVATE YOUR PRACTICE WITH THE FDA'S WEBINAR SERIES!



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FDC2024 HAS THE CE YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!

JUNE 20-22 | ORLANDO



Mark your calendars for the 2024 Florida Dental Convention (FDC) on June 20-22 at the stunning Gaylord Palms in Orlando! FDC2024 is your golden ticket to crafting “Your Future. Your Design.” Stay at the forefront of the dental industry by immersing yourself in the latest trends and groundbreaking technologies. FDC2024 boasts an impressive lineup of more than 130 courses featuring various topics, including AI in dentistry, bone augmentation, dental implants, 3D printing, dental photography, full arch restoration and so much more! FDC is your gateway to explore the frontiers of dentistry, shaping a future that aligns with your vision. Ready to dive into the details? [Click here](#) to explore the full course and speaker lineup. Don't miss out on this unparalleled opportunity to elevate your practice and shape the future of dentistry!

▶ MAKE YOUR FDC2024 HOTEL RESERVATION!

Take advantage of the chance to stay where the excitement unfolds! The FDC2024 hotel room block is now open, offering you an exclusive opportunity to reserve your room at the discounted rate of \$215, including FREE self-parking. The FDC room block will sell out, so make your reservations early. [Click here](#) or contact the hotel directly at 877.491.0442 to make your reservation. Make your FDC2024 experience even more extraordinary with convenient and discounted accommodations at Gaylord Palms!



American professional sporting events these days often set aside a moment to recognize Veterans with a quick “thank you for your service” tribute. As heartfelt as the patriotic sentiment may be, this is only a first step in appropriately expressing gratitude to the men and women who have sacrificed so much by raising their right hands and taking an oath to protect our nation in uniformed services.

A major public misconception exists that the Veterans Administration Medical Centers (VAMC) provides for the health care needs of America's Veterans. In reality, access to VA care is available based on disability rating. To receive dental care, Veterans must be 100% disabled or former prisoners of war. Only 9% of Veterans meet this criteria as defined in U.S. law and even less, approximately 3%, are receiving dental care.

To directly serve local Veterans, Pasco County Dental Association (PCDA) member dentists and FDA members from around the state have participated in Stars, Stripes, and Smiles, a single-day annual event providing relief from pain, infection and embarrassment from untreated dental disease — at no cost to the patient.

Each year since 2015, approximately 70 Veterans have received examinations, radiography, oral hygiene instructions, fillings, dental cleanings, extractions, root canal therapy and denture services from doctors, dental hygiene students and dental assisting students attending the Pasco Hernando State College (PHSC).

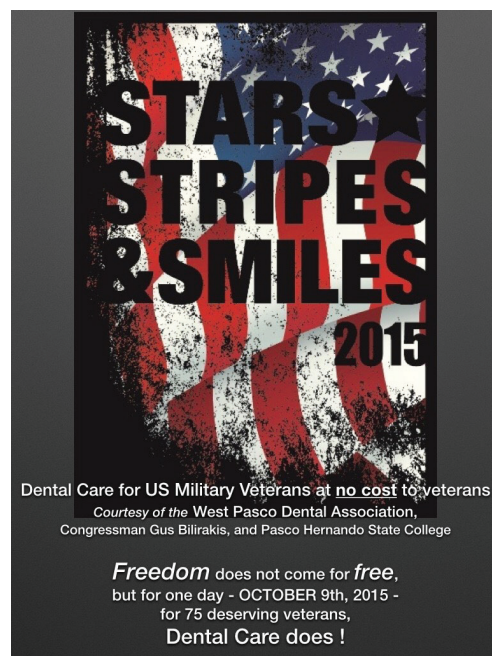
One Veteran who received care, Ken, had been trying over the last few years to have the remaining teeth in his mouth removed so that he could finally obtain a denture so that he could digest his meals better and perhaps have the confidence to obtain employment.

The collaboration between the PCDA, the office of Congressman Gus Bilirakis, and the PHSC directly met the urgent needs of the patients, but the patients still need a dental home.

The annual event has also raised awareness about Veteran dental care needs and legislation, [HR 2410 – VETCARE Act of 2023](#), introduced by Congressman Bilirakis and co-sponsored by all of our dentist members of Congress. This bill would create a pilot program in five VA centers to help America's Veterans live healthier lives through improved oral health while saving Veterans and all taxpayers money.

Partners that have supported Stars, Stripes, and Smiles over the years include Henry Schein Cares Foundation, More Health, Inc., Hungry Harry's BBQ, Southern Dental Refining, Florida Veterans Foundation and more.

Volunteers and partners are always welcome! To volunteer or support future events, please visit usaveteransmiles.org/.



▶ ADA SCIENCE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO COMBINE WITH FORSYTH INSTITUTE

The ADA and the Forsyth Institute recently announced the formation of the ADA Forsyth Institute, which will bring together talent, research opportunities and dynamic innovation prospects dedicated to advancing oral health through scientific innovation and research.

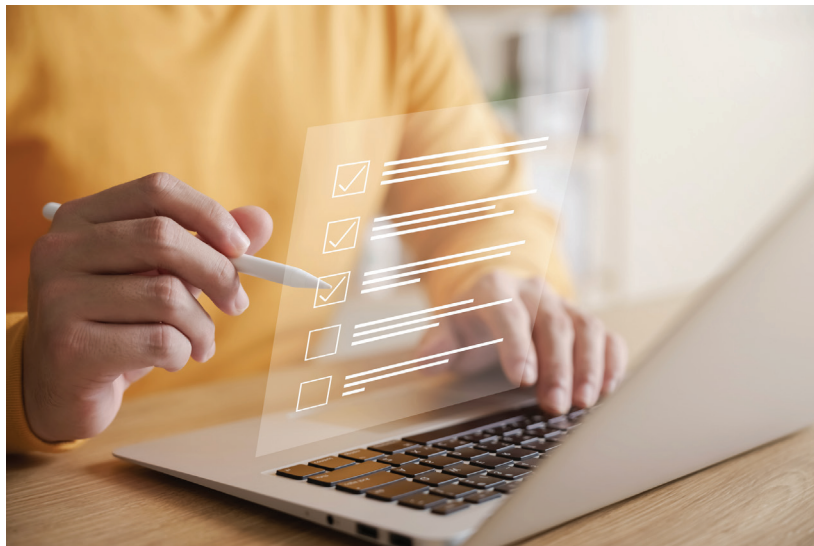
“The new institute will be a world-class leader in dentistry, defining the future of oral health through biological research, local and global public health outreach, and technological innovation,” said Dr. Wenyuan Shi, President and CEO of the Forsyth Institute. “The positive impact will be felt globally.” The work of the ADA Forsyth Institute begins immediately with Dr. Shi leading the efforts from Boston.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

▶ A REQUEST FOR INSIGHTS ON DISRUPTIVE PATIENT BEHAVIORS

A new research project, led by University of Florida (UF) behavioral scientists and dental school faculty, asks dental professionals and students to complete a brief survey regarding their views about patients’ disruptive behaviors during dental appointments. Specifically, the survey will ask about the types of training dental professionals have had in addressing disruptive behaviors during appointments, what responses to disruptive behaviors are most common, and which of several behavioral intervention strategies for minimizing disruptive behavior (described in the survey) are considered practical or acceptable. The UF Institutional Review Board has approved this survey. The survey results will guide efforts to develop and evaluate practical interventions for helping reluctant patients, especially children and individuals with neurodevelopmental disorders, to tolerate routine dental examinations.

Any dental professional or dental student with experience delivering services to patients and currently resides in the U.S. is eligible to participate. Experience with patients who are disruptive or diagnosed with a neurodevelopmental disorder is not required. The survey will take roughly 10 minutes to complete and is entirely anonymous. Click [here](#) to access the survey.



► NEDDA AFFILIATE WEBSITES



CLAY COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY

AN AFFILIATE OF THE NORTHEAST DISTRICT,
AMERICAN & FLORIDA DENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

• claycountydental.org •



JACKSONVILLE DENTAL SOCIETY

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► NEDDA CLASSIFIEDS

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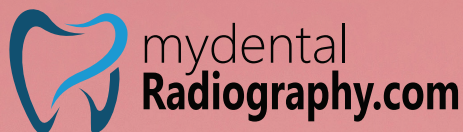
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*Non-members pay \$385.

FDA Career Center

The American Dental Association, Florida Dental Association and your local dental association all work together to provide members with every level of service and support. This three-tier system forms a cohesive partnership to ensure the success of individual members and their practices, as well as the dental profession.



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2024 DENTISTS' DAY ON THE HILL

TUESDAY, JAN. 30, 2024



MONDAY, JAN. 29

Legislative Briefing
6 PM at Hotel Duval
Complimentary dinner to follow

TUESDAY, JAN. 30

Capitol Visits
Lunch Provided

REGISTRATION OPEN:
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For more information, please contact the FDA Governmental Affairs
Office at 850.224.1089 or gao@floridadental.org.

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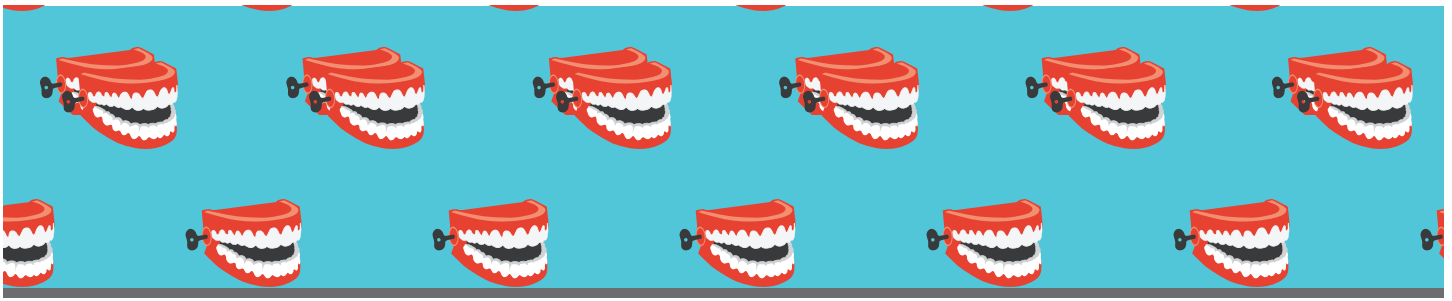
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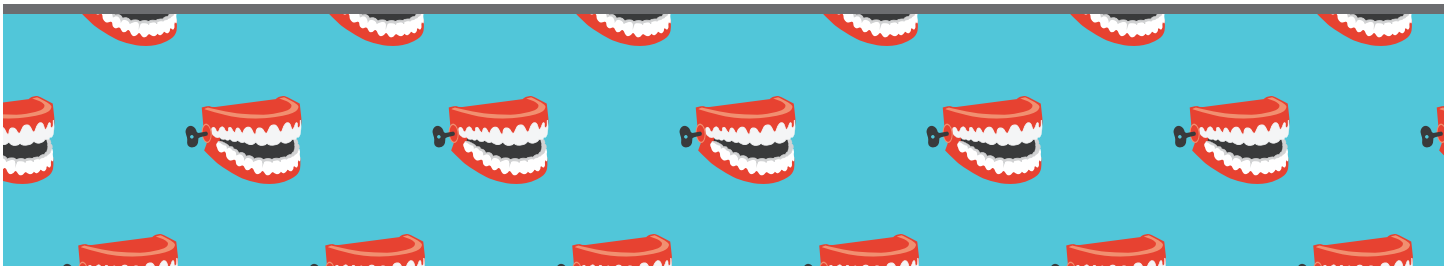
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FLORIDA DENTAL CHATTER

This Facebook group is designed for dentists to interact with other members, receive the latest updates and information, and engage with FDA leaders and staff. This is the place to be in the know!

Join us at facebook.com/groups/floridadentalchatter.



IN THE KNOW WITH GAO

Webinar series for FDA members to stay informed on legislative and political issues.



The Florida Dental Association's Governmental Affairs Office (GAO) would like to invite you to join in on our listening sessions to learn about legislative issues that may have an impact on the dental profession, political issues that could affect the dental industry, and a number of other hot topics that may be of interest to you!

The listening sessions will be scheduled for mid-afternoon, 30-minutes long and will allow you to ask questions of the speakers. These sessions are meant to give you a quick update on issues and topics during your lunch hour, without interrupting the flow of your day.

POTENTIAL GUESTS:

- Elected officials (federal, state and local)
- Candidates running for office
- State agency and department heads
- FDA Members
- National dental leaders/experts



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*Check your emails
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