



SCRANTON DISTRICT DENTAL SOCIETY

May/June 2012

Eli Stavisky, DMD, Named Third District Trustee

Our very own Eli Stavisky, DMD has been named Third District Trustee of the Pennsylvania Dental Association. His tenure officially began at the PDA's annual meeting in April 2012 and will last for three years. He is one of ten doctors in the state of Pennsylvania serving in this capacity.

In addition to attending several, regular meetings in Harrisburg throughout the year, Dr. Stavisky serves on the Strategic Planning Committee and as liaison between the PDA Board of Trustees & the Dental Benefits Committee. This committee monitors pending legislation regarding dentistry. This is a perfect fit for Dr. Stavisky since he served on the Pennsylvania State Board of Dentistry for 13 years, chairing it for 10 consecutive years.

Dr. Stavisky is no stranger to volunteering and holding important positions in numerous organizations, both professional and personal. He has served on the American Dental Association's Council on Accreditation team since 1985 and the North East Regional Board Specialty Examination in Oral Surgery since 1987. He is a consultant to Pennsylvania's Attorney General and the State Board of Dentistry on oral surgery matters. Dr. Stavisky also currently sits on the following Boards of Directors: Temple University Dental Alumni, Donated Dental Services (DDS), North East Regional Board of Dental Examiners, and St. Tikhon's Theological Seminary.

He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, and Fellow in the following, esteemed organizations: International College of Dentists, American College of Dentists, Pierre Fauchard Academy, and American College of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

He has won countless awards through



Dr. Eli Stavisky, Third District Trustee

out his illustrious career including Lycoming College's Outstanding Alumni Award, Achievement Award, and Angela R. Kyte Lifetime Achievement Award. The Pennsylvania Dental Association presented Dr. Stavisky with the PDA Special Services Award and the PDA Annual Award. Temple University honored him with the

Founders Award and inducted him into the University's Gallery of Success.

Dr. Stavisky and his family were recently the honored guests at the dedication of the Natasha Stavisky Pediatric Dental Clinic at Kornberg School of Dentistry at Temple University. This clinic was made possible by the generosity of Dr. Stavisky, his family, friends, and colleagues. Named

after his daughter who was in the process of establishing a pediatric dental practice in Haddonfield, New Jersey with her sister, Elena Stavisky Donohue, when she passed away in 2004, this state-of-the-art clinic was renovated to feature the latest technologies, including digital radiography and computer charting.

Speaking of his involvement as a Third District Trustee, Dr. Stavisky states, "The districts are the heart and soul of PDA. We are all working hard to serve our constituency by knowing the pending legislation, fighting for the rights of dentists, and listening to concerns. But the fact of the matter is, we've been losing members at a rapid rate over last decade. This trend must be reversed. If not, our legislative power will be dissipated and lost. Membership in organized dentistry is key." He is quick to say that, "If anyone has problems, concerns, or ideas, I am always available. Feel free to call me at the office at 570-346-7301."



Dr. Stavisky's family at the dedication. Back row (L to R): Mark Donohue, Chloe Donohue, Dr. Elena Stavisky Donohue, Kailyn Donohue, Dan Genel, Paula Stavisky, Dr. Eli Stavisky, and Dr. Tanya Stavisky Genel. Front row: Andrew Genel, Alexander Genel, and Ryan Genel.

Dr Stavitsky was seated as a delegate according to a new credentialing process called Member At Large. He was also sworn in as our new Trustee of the 3rd District Dental Society, which comprises the local PDA chapters of Hazelton, Luzerne, Monroe County, Panther Valley, and SDDS, representing approximately 300 PDA members.

The Annual session continued its two day format, attended by 84 Delegates from 10 districts across the state.

Dr. Eli Stavitsky was inducted at Trustee of the 3rd district. He then thanked Dr. Scott Aldringer, outgoing trustee from Panther Valley, for his outstanding service over the last three years.

The delegate representing the SDDS was Dr. Ken Miller (Scranton & Luzerne share 3 delegates and alternate yearly). Dr. Eli Stavitsky was also seated on the floor of the House as a Member at Large, and the Alternate was Dr. Matt Zale.

This annual session affords an opportunity for personal networking of interests and camaraderie where about 220 dentists and guests meet at Hotel Hershey. However, during the year most committee members communicate via conference calls to save time and expense.

Reports from the floor of HOD:

Accounting Consultant, Lisa Ritter, addressed the HOD to report a current annual loss and our dipping into reserve funds. Over the last 2 years expenses have been reduced, however, she emphasized the need for fiscal responsibility and changes in the way HOD does business.



Dr. Eli Stavitsky (pictured second from right) is sworn in as Third District Trustee.

The PDA publication, Transitions, will now be distributed entirely electronically, saving thousands. The PDA Journal will still remain in print form with a new format to cut cost.

Resolutions passed by the assembled PDA House of Delegates, HOD, include:

The Board of Trustees will now propose an operating budget, usually in late calendar year, and then approve/amend at the next earliest meeting of the HOD. A line item veto is allowed for the then current and/or proposed budget items. The Trustees can also set dues at the same time as the budget. An increase in state level dues is proposed at \$65 for next year; this is the first increase in about 10 years.

Also passed is a resolution to reduce in the number of paid ADA alternates to the ADA annual Session from 18 to 4.

Noteworthy also is:

Dr. Bernie Dishler of Elkins Park (Montgomery County chapter) was installed as the new PDA president for the one year

position; outgoing is Dr. Dennis Charlton. Dr. Dishler is working to bring a Mission of Mercy (MOM) event to Philadelphia in spring 2013. Working with America's Dentists Care Foundation, MOM events can provide more than \$1 million in dental care for many people who have no dental insurance or financial resources to afford private dental care. The goal is to treat 2,000 patients over two days. Each day there will be (2) five-hour shifts for a total of 20 service hours. During each shift 75 dentists, 75 assistants, 25 hygienists, and 25 non-dental volunteers will be needed.

Dr. Ismail, dean of Temple, presented a roundtable discussion about the pilot program of the ADA, called Community Dental Health Coordinator, CDHC. This is in response to barriers to care for underserved Americans. (See article in this newsletter entitled "Community Dental Health Coordinators" for more information.)

PDA delegate to the ADA, Dr. Charles Weber, is seeking a run for the ADA presidency.

An optimistic report by PDAIS (PDA's insurance subsidiary) stated a profit and is expanding its market share in surrounding states.

Complimentary CE was offered on site before the opening HOD session.

Organized dentistry is offering an alternative to media selected information. We still advocate fluoridation and a dental home for all residents, especially those at risk of oral disease. Will our message be heard of the media drumbeat? We need your help.

Community Dental Health Coordinator (CDHC) Q & A:

"Where are the three CDHC pilot programs?"

The rural site: University of Oklahoma; A.T. Still University Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health (ASDOH) in Mesa, Arizona; the American Indian site; and the urban site: Temple University in Philadelphia.

"Is this proposed CDHC a "mid-level provider?"

No. Mid-level providers are being promoted to drill, fill and extract. The CDHC pilot program focuses on the root causes of disease—the lack of adequate prevention and oral health literacy among underserved populations.

"Will the CDHCs perform irreversible procedures?"

No, under the supervision of a licensed dentist the CDHC performs reversible procedures, such as removing loose debris instead of performing irreversible procedures such as removing cavities.

"Why can't a dental assistant or dental hygienist do what a CDHC does?"

They can, provided they have the additional training to augment their clinical skills with the community health worker skills that enable them to focus on education, prevention and patient navigation. These skills include community-based advocacy for health, assisting community members in enrolling in state and

federally funded dental programs, motivational interviewing and counseling, patient assessment, and improving nutritional literacy.

"What delegated clinical duties can the CDHC perform?"

The CDHC collects information (such as photographs, radiographs) to assist the dentist in the triage of patients. The CDHC also provide preventive services including screenings, fluoride treatments, placement of sealants, placement of temporary fillings and simple teeth cleanings (for example, selective scaling for periodontal type I (gingivitis) such as removing gross debris, stains and calculus using anterior and posterior hand scalers until the patient can receive treatment from a dentist or hygienist).

Community Dental Health Coordinators

By Dr. Matthew Zale

We may have an answer for the “mid-level dental provider” right here in our own district. No doubt you’ve noticed that there is much media exposure on “access to dental care.” Recently CBS News reported on midlevel providers; and the New York Times ran a story about emergency room visits. Both presented stories of poor dental health in underserved residents.

Did you know that a Dental Hygienist in a public facility in our SDDS area is also an intern in a national pilot program? Studying via Temple’s Kornberg School of Dentistry, she is matriculating through one of only three such programs in the nation. Sponsored by the ADA, this new position does not deliver dental care, but does coordinate resources in each community. The position is called The Community Dental Health Coordinator (CDHC) and is proposed to address the current media blitz calling for “access to care.”

Studies have shown that the overall rate of caries has, contrary to their aim, NOT improved oral health where “mid-level dental providers” have worked in Alaska. The Kellogg program has been actively advocating such “mid-level dental providers” in Alaska and Minnesota. This report is referred to in the following article in CBS News Online (April 10 2012):

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A new report by a group that funds training and promotion of dental therapists says the midlevel practitioners worldwide offer safe, competent care in locations with rare access to dentists.

The report released Tuesday by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation details a review of more than 1,100 reports on dental therapists in 54 countries, including the United States.

In the U.S., only Alaska and Minnesota allow dental therapists to perform such work as extracting teeth and filling cavities. Foundation officials say more than a dozen other states are exploring the idea.

Is this one of the many examples of misinformation to persuade the public to request a new category of dental care known as “mid-level providers”? Should the government support less qualified dental care providers treating the public? Or instead reduce regulation and increase reimbursement to align with fair fee schedule?

A 2010 report by the Alaska’s Department of Health and Human Services, states “... in the Medicaid program,...- only 1 in 5 children receive a dental treatment service...”

In Alaska, “most private dental practices ... nominally participate in the Medicaid program. Issues raised by private dentists include Medicaid

reimbursement, which for most dental procedures has been frozen at 1997 Medicaid payment levels, non-kept appointments by Medicaid recipients, perceived excess paperwork, and/or liability provisions in the Medicaid provider agreement.”

They also advocate training programs on dental screening/triage to be performed by medical providers. Such proposals bypass the traditional dental office. Getting it for free did not change people’s behavior of infrequent dental visits & low compliance. Also in that flawed model of delivery, it is questionable whether the public is served via a proper diagnosis and treatment, by such a non-traditional less qualified dental mid-level provider.

The ADA is offering an alternative answer to the push for “mid-level dental providers.” In my opinion, we differ from most media reports by focusing on the patient perceptions and compliance. The current problem is NOT too few dentists or too few hygienists! Our ADA president, Dr Calnon, addressed the House of Delegates at the PDA’s annual session in April. He is a past president of the New York State Dental Association, hailing from the 7th (N.Y.) District Dental Society. He remarked that the incidence of caries has NOT declined where such “mid-level providers” have worked, and questions their lack of effectiveness. The ADA’s answer to this “mid-level issue? The Community Dental Health Coordinator (CDHC).

A pilot program from the ADA is a trying to improve access to oral health care for underserved Americans. It promises to help Americans become better stewards of their own oral health, which aligns with the new strategic goals of the ADA for 2011-2014.

This program is part of a comprehensive approach to access to care that also includes improving Medicaid reimbursement rates, placing new focus on oral health education and prevention. Linking patients to avenues of oral health care will also be an important role for the CDHC in working with underserved populations going through the maze of the health and dental care systems.

Students in the CDHC pilot program are recruited from the communities in which they will serve. These new members of the dental team will focus on oral health prevention, by helping residents enter into and navigate the health care system as well as overcome cultural and language barriers that deter them from seeking dental care. The recruitment of students is done by the site directors from dental clinics affiliated with their institutions.

Organized dentistry is offering an alternative to what the media passes as viable solutions. Will our message be heard over the

media drumbeat for government-sponsored healthcare by less qualified dental providers? We need to come together and voice our concerns as a public safety issue. We need your help.

All dentists are invited to come to Harrisburg to inform and lobby our legislators at Day on the Hill June 5. Register online at www.padental.org/ or call Marisa Swarney (717) 234-5941 x 116, or write mss@padental.org. We meet at the PDA bldg, 3501 North Front Street, Harrisburg, at 8:30AM for a briefing, then bussed over to the capital, and meet as a group with several legislators.

April’s Board Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Dr. Matthew Zale

The highlights of SDDS Board Meeting on April 30 at Sibio’s were:

Dr. Kopesky reported a profit for the CE series and presented Todd’s prayer called “Man in the Glass.”

I clarified my letter, “From the President,” in the last issue, which was my written response to the Scranton Times article March 26, on Emergency Room visits. Even though I submitted this letter to the editor, it was not printed.

Board approved support for the dental clinic at Volunteers in Medicine in Wilkes-Barre, which provides dental care for the working poor.

We discussed the need for dentists to volunteer for the Dental Clinic at Jewish Family Service (see last Newsletter issue seeking more participation by general dentists and call Joe Kelly for more information).

The McCann School in Dickson City and Wilkes-Barre is starting a Dental Assistant and Extended Dental Assistant Program and is **seeking dental offices for externships** to begin in approximately 12-18 months. The school is applying for state accreditation and would welcome your comments concerning the curriculum. The externship will be about 12-18 weeks, starting after the students had completed all of their didactic training. Please contact Kathleen Bird, McCann School of Business and Technology (570) 332-1317, if you are interested.

In response to our support of the Association of Retarded Citizens (ARC), Claire Maldonato sent a handwritten thank you card. She is approaching the century mark and is the wife of ARC founder and dentist Dr. Maldonato.

A request letter will be sent by the Concerned Colleague Committee of the PDA for support of enrolled dental staff. The state recommends that we offer a monitoring program to ALL staff in a dental office.

Career Fair

We need your help to man our table at the upcoming Health Professions Career and College Fair at The Commonwealth Medical College on Wednesday, July 11, 2012 from 9 AM – 1 PM. Last year, student participants commented that it was the “best fair” they have ever attended. This year, there are close to 70 new high school juniors attending programs this summer. Many have already heard about the fair and are very excited for this event! Please let Dr. Matt Zale (570-383-5300) know if you can assist.

President’s Letter

Our last general meeting honored the memory of Dr. Angelo and Dr. Shair for their accomplishments enriching our community. We presented a momentary award in their name to an outstanding student Martin Berger who is sure to augment our profession. In combining the two awards, we increased the amount in response to the sizable increases in tuition. Gifts will be accepted throughout the year for both the Scranton Area Foundation and for the Baby Angelo Fund. On a side note, Jeanne Bovard, who worked with us and the Scranton Area Foundation, was honored at a B’nai Brith dinner May 20.

Currently, we are looking for help for the following community events. All members are welcome to attend our table presentations and

help educate the public to our mission and their health. If you can assist, please call me at (570) 383-5300.

June 9 Health Fair at Nay Aug Park (10-2)

July 11 Career Day at The Commonwealth Medical College

The President-Elect Conference & PDA Board Retreat is coming up in Harrisburg on July 13-14 at the Radisson Hotel. For those involved, please mark your calendars.

Correction for the article printed in the Scranton Times of my résumé; I was an Associate Professor, not actually tenured at University of Missouri at Kansas City.

Sincerely,

Matthew A. Zale, DMD

Upcoming Events

PDA Day on the Hill	Capitol Harrisburg	June 5, 2012	8:30 AM
Health Fair	Nay Aug Park	June 9, 2012	10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Golf Tourney	Scranton CC	June 20, 2012	TBA
TCMC Career Fair	TCMC	July 11, 2012	9 AM – 1 PM
General Meeting	U of S, Brennan Hall, Rose Room	Sept 18	6:30 PM
ADA Annual Session	San Francisco	Oct 18-21, 2012	8:00 AM

Dr. Gary A. Kopesky
Route 191 Box 340
Hamlin, PA 18427