



# EDITOR'S MESSAGE

*By Brooke Elmore, DDS, FAGD*

Happy New Year! No doubt: you survived 2017 and are feeling the holiday aftermath. Back to work with a few extra holiday pounds to shed. Thankfully with a new year, there are always new beginnings! You are probably putting down some New Year resolutions or goals, as well as I am. And near the top of my list are the Texas Academy of General Dentistry and its publications. I am honored to serve as Texas AGD's Editor and am looking forward to an exciting 2018. By serving in this new role for me, I am hoping to bring a fresh look to the publications we provide to you. The Texas AGD is the strongest constituent of the AGD and we strive to showcase just how special its members are in these.

Many local components in Texas have great events including high quality CE, outreach and service, advocacy and social activities. This year, it is a goal of ours to highlight these events across the state and share ideas amongst our components. Hopefully, this will help each component realize its potential and elevate our organization to the next level. In addition, we will continue to deliver informative news and articles to you through the monthly TexasGP publication. For example:

## **ADVOCACY PULSE:**

This year will not be met without challenges for dentistry in Texas. We are definitely at a crossroads as the Texas State Dental Board of Examiners tackles the rule-making process following Sunset legislation. Our advocacy program is strong and represents us very well in Texas. Through our online TexasGP Advocacy Pulse articles and monthly Gatekeeper updates, you will stay well-informed. I hope that you take time to read this information as the rules written this year without a doubt will affect the way you practice dentistry. There will be opportunities for you to get involved in the process along the way -- please keep your eyes and ears open to the developments.

## **CASE STUDIES:**

One of my favorite parts of our TexasGP is the Case Study section that will highlight cases that our members have completed in their offices. We try to identify cases that showcase interesting techniques or technology, challenging multidisciplinary cases, or show the demonstration of high quality dentistry. Not every case has to be perfect to be a part of a case study, because as you know, that is not the way dentistry happens in our offices. In fact, I believe that sometimes discussing a case that may not go "as planned" and how you adapted and succeeded is an excellent way for us to learn from each other. We all have our own way of "doing things" and being able to candidly share those with our colleagues is a fantastic avenue for us to continue our lifelong learning. If you have completed an interesting case in your office and would like to share it with our members, please submit it at [Marketing@TAGD.org](mailto:Marketing@TAGD.org).

## **BEYOND THE CALL:**

Another highlight of the TexasGP you will see is our members who provide outreach to underserved areas. It is fascinating to learn about all of the mission trips our members attend or local outreach events being done in Texas. If you have participated in one or know of a Texas AGD member who has, please contact me so we can share your story with our members. Sharing will motivate others to get out there and give back. Hopefully it will also pique your interest in joining one of these next mission trips or outreach events.

I hope you will include "Reading Texas AGD TexasGP and Gatekeeper" in your 2018 resolution list. There are many volunteers who contribute their stories to make it a success. Our publications are the best way for you to learn more about whom we are and what we are doing. I truly believe Texas AGD is the premier dental organization in Texas and our publications prove it. Cheers to a great 2018!