April 2026

QUARTERLY UPDATES

from your

2025-2026 EXECUTIVE BOARD AND REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

www.fapd4kids.org



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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we approach the end of another busy school year, I want to take a moment to wish all of you a smooth, successful finish and a joyful start to the summer season. This time of year is always special—filled with milestones for our patients, families, and practices—and I hope you're able to take a well-deserved moment to recharge.

It has already been an exciting year for the FAPD! One of the highlights was our very first FAPD Cruise, where colleagues from across the country came together to learn, connect, and create lasting memories.

Looking ahead, we have so much more to be excited about. Be sure to keep an eye out for upcoming regional events, and mark your calendars for our annual meeting this October—it's shaping up to be a fantastic experience you won't want to miss.
Thank you for all that you do every day for your patients and for our profession. Wishing you and your families a wonderful summer ahead!

Warm regards,
Marcie Young

Mission

To provide community, advocacy, and resources for the pediatric dentists in Florida so that we can provide optimal care for infants, children, adolescents, and persons with special health care needs.

Vision

A group of pediatric dentists who are passionate, engaged and are supported by peers, healthcare professionals and community as the authority for pediatric oral health.

Membership

We hope that you will read our newsletter to learn more about organized pediatric dentistry in Florida and discover upcoming events where you can learn online and in person while connecting with colleagues. Visit www.fapd4kids.org to join.

Continuing Education CRUISE RECAP



FAPD hosted its inaugural Continuing Education Cruise aboard Royal Caribbean's Liberty of the Seas from March 13–16, bringing together members from across the country for an unforgettable experience of learning, connection, and fun.

This first-of-its-kind event featured an outstanding lineup of speakers, including Jennifer Johnson, Dr. Kristin Grazioso, Dr. Martizabel Hogge, and Dr. Johnny Johnson, who delivered engaging and practical lectures on topics ranging from medical billing and coding to communication strategies, radiology, and fluoride science. Attendees earned valuable CE credits while gaining insights they can immediately apply in their practices.

Beyond the educational sessions, the cruise fostered meaningful connections and camaraderie among colleagues. Highlights included a scenic rum tour through Nassau, Bahamas, ending with a fun surprise at a hidden speakeasy, as well as a relaxing day on the beautiful beaches of CocoCay, Royal Caribbean's private island.

Evenings were spent enjoying group dinners, laughter, and conversation—strengthening both professional relationships and new friendships. The combination of high-quality education and a unique, relaxed setting made this event truly special.

FAPD's first CE Cruise was a tremendous success, and we look forward to making this an annual tradition. Next year the cruise will be Feb 2027. Hope to see you there!





DR. MICHELLE THOMAS

PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

FAPD continues to work with the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) and the Florida Dental Association with a seat on the FDA Public Insurance Task Force to address ongoing challenges and improve access to care for children across Florida.

We encourage members, whether they are Medicaid providers or not, to share any issues they are experiencing, including barriers to care, downcoding, improper reimbursement (such as not reimbursing for radiographs taken on the same day as treatment), increased pre-authorization requirements, or billing limitations for certain procedures, such as indirect pulp caps. Your input is critical to informing and strengthening our advocacy efforts.

Please reach out to our Florida Public Policy Advocate, Dr. Michelle Thomas, at FAPDPPA@gmail.com



PUBLIC *Policy* UPDATES

Pediatric Oral Health Advocacy Conference (POHAC) 2026

In March, AAPD President-Elect Dr. Charlie Bertot, FAPD Public Policy Advocate Dr. Michelle Thomas, long time advocate Dr. Jim Crall, residency directors Dr. Douglas Keck and Dr. Fatima Khan, FAPD Advocacy Team Member Dr. Robbie Harrell, and residents from the University of Florida Gainesville and Naples (Dr. Kaitria Abbatematteo, Dr. Phillip Ashkar, Dr. Virginia Hodges, Dr. Dalton Montgomery, Dr. Kailey Vredenburg), NYU Langone Tampa (Dr. Christian Summers), Healthcare Network (Dr. Lyndsey Byrnes, Dr. Ashley Perkins, Dr. Sydney Wright), NYU (Dr. Lindsay Marshall), and Children's of Colorado (Dr. Kaylyn Hudson) made up "Team Florida" and joined colleagues in Washington, DC for the 2026 Pediatric Oral Health Advocacy Conference (POHAC), the largest in its history with more than 400 attendees.





During the conference, participants connected with peers from across the country and met with members of Congress to advocate for key priorities, including the HRSA Pediatric Dentistry Training Program, the Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act (ELSA), and the restoration of federal oral health infrastructure. Team Florida had an exceptional showing, coordinating a record 11 congressional meetings, the most our state has held to date.



A new focus on AAPD PAC engagement resulted in 70% of state teams achieving full participation. Team Florida was proud to be among those teams, with 100% participation from all members, including residents, contributing to the Political Action Committee (PAC). In total, more than $44,000 was raised during the conference to support ongoing advocacy efforts.

FAPD was proud to support our Florida residents in attendance, including hosting a dinner to foster connection and mentorship. Thank you to all who represented Florida so well.



Read about our 2026 advocacy issues in depth at the following link: https://www.aapd.org/globalassets/aapdlobbydays2026.final.pdf

-Dr. Michelle Thomas

PUBLIC *Policy* UPDATES

Florida Dentists' Day on the Hill (DDOH)

FAPD Public Policy Advocate, Dr. Michelle Thomas, and FAPD Advocacy Team Member, Dr. Robbie Harrell, participated in the Florida Dental Association's Dentists' Day on the Hill in Tallahassee in January, joining colleagues from across the state to advocate for important oral health priorities.

Discussions with legislators focused on Medicaid dental funding and network adequacy, key budget initiatives such as the 2027 Florida Mission of Mercy, and opposition to dental therapy.

Dr. Thomas also provided testimony in the House Health and Human Services Committee in opposition to dental therapy legislation.

Dr. Thomas and Dr. Harrell were particularly honored to meet with Florida House Representative Daryl Campbell, a longtime advocate for oral health who actively volunteers at Florida's annual Mission of Mercy event and consistently champions dental issues in the legislature.

Following Dentists' Day on the Hill, we asked members to reach out to their senators through a targeted email campaign. We extend a special thank you to FAPD leadership and our Florida Regional Representatives for their efforts in mobilizing this outreach. Notably, dental therapy was removed from the Senate agenda the morning it was scheduled to be heard, reflecting the strength and impact of our collective advocacy. Great work everyone!

Read about the Florida Dental Association Legislative Issues at this link.

You can also track key bills in Florida here.

-Dr. Michelle Thomas









Dr. Michelle Thomas testifies against HB 363 in the House Health and Human Services Committee in Tallahassee.

THE DOUBLE O (OCEAN OBSESSION)

is back in the water and ready to go!

OUR NITROUS OXIDE ADVENTURE CE IS OFFICIALLY RESCHEDULED

Saturday Evening, April 18, 2026



THE EXPERIENCE:

- Clinical Updates: Nitrous oxide medical updates, indications/contraindications, and occupational safety.
- Equipment Pearls: Systems focus on delivery and scavenging.
- Adventure: Informal neuroscience, networking, and shark-fishing under the stars.

WHAT TO BRING:

- Attire: Wear non-skid shoes with good traction. Even on a calm night, decks can get slippery. A lightweight long-sleeve shirt or light jacket is recommended for the evening sea breeze.
- Gear: Sunscreen, a hat, and a hand towel. (Rods, tackle, bait, and fishing licenses are all provided).

EVENT DETAILS:

MEETING TIME

Please arrive by 5:30 PM for check-in

DEPARTURE

The Double O (Ocean Obsession) pulls away from the dock promptly at 6:00 PM.

MEETING LOCATION

The ticket booth at 505 Glen Cheek Dr, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920.

DATE

Saturday, April 18, 2026

VENUE

The Double O – Ocean Obsession (Cape Canaveral

HEALTH & SAFETY:

Seasickness: If you are at all concerned about motion sickness, the crew strongly recommends taking Dramamine or Bonine Non-Drowsy at least one hour before boarding.

(Registration instructions continued on the next page)

THE "ADVENTURE" MINDSET:

As the crew says, "It's called fishing, not catching!" While our goal is to put everyone on fish, the evening is primarily about networking, medical updates, and enjoying a unique night under the stars. Whether the sharks are biting or not, it's going to be a fantastic trip!

NEXT STEPS:

1. Automatic Rollover: If you were previously registered or sponsoring, your participation automatically rolls over to April 18.
2. Confirm Your Attendance: Please reply to this email to confirm you are still able to attend and indicate if you'd like to add any additional guests or colleagues.
3. Refunds: If this new date ultimately does not work for your schedule, please let me know so we can issue your refund.

(FAPD East CE social registration instructions)

Florida Academy of Pediatric Dentistry is an ADA CERP Recognized Provider approved by American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. ADA CERP is a service of the American Dental Association to assist dental professionals in identifying quality providers of continuing dental education. ADA CERP does not approve or endorse individual courses or instructors, nor does it imply acceptance of credit hours by boards of dentistry. Concerns or complaints about a CE provider may be directed to the provider or to the Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition at www.ada.org/cerp. Members of the CE planning committee have no relevant financial relationship to disclose. Dr. Robison has no relevant financial interest to report.

NEWS UPDATE

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
"Bright Lights Big Smiles"
The annual meeting is taking place in
Las Vegas, NV May 21-24, 2026
www.aapd.org

Southeastern Society of Pediatric Dentistry
2027 Annual Meeting
Friday-Sunday, January 15-17
Grand Hyatt Hotel in Buckhead, Atlanta, GA
www.sspd.org

Florida Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
2026 Annual Meeting
Saturday, October 24, 2026
Lowe's Sapphire Falls Resort in Orlando, FL
www.fapd4kids.org

Florida Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
PALS, BLS, Airway & Emergency Training
February 5-6, 2027
USF Health CAMLS in Tampa, FL
www.fapd4kids.org

Florida Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
2027 Continuing Education Cruise
February 19-22, 2027
Oasis of the Seas from Ft. Lauderdale
www.fapd4kids.org

DENTAL PRACTICE HAPPY HOUR

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT TO RELAX - MEET INDUSTRY EXPERTS!

Dentists, Unwind and Connect!

Join us for an evening of connection with local dentists and industry experts sharing trends, experiences, and success tips for building a thriving dental practice. Take the next step in your journey—register now!

APRIL 23RD

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

OPEN BAR • HORS D'OEUVRES • BUSINESS CASUAL

RSVP Today - Don't Miss Out!

Secure your spot now by reaching out to Ileana. He's here to confirm your attendance and answer any questions. Palm Beach and Broward welcome.

RSVP via: Call, Text, or Email

ileana.cruz@pattersondental.com

305.968.8079

Scan to RSVP

Location

Sixty Vines - Boca Raton

Sponsors

Duerr & Cullen

Huntington Bank

CARR

Patterson Dental

Digital Resource

GWA

Evoke Design Collective

FLORIDA ACADEMY OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY
ESTD 1964
FAPD

FAPD ANNUAL TOP GOLF SOCIAL

SMILES + SWINGS

1 HOUR CE LECTURE FOLLOWED BY FOOD + DRINKS

TOP GOLF TAMPA
10690 PALM RIVER RD
TAMPA, FL 33619

THURSDAY APRIL 30TH
6PM-9PM

REGISTRATION

STUDENTS: $0
FAPD MEMBERS: $20
NON-MEMBERS: $35

REGISTER BY APRIL 26TH

SPONSORED BY

Fireside KINDER

REGISTRATION INCLUDES 1 MONTH MEMBERSHIP WITH FIRESIDE AND A FREE RESICERAMIX CROWN KIT FROM KINDER KROWNS!

Register Here

CONTACT DR. HIBA ABDULHADI
FOR INQUIRIES: 585-451-4604

FLORIDA ACADEMY
ESTD 1964
FAPD
OF
PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

Central Region

TOP GOLF

Social

$35
FOR
MEMBERS

1 HOUR CE FOLLOWED BY
Fun and Food

Saturday, August 8, 2026
3 PM to 6 PM

REGISTER NOW!

https://fapd.regfox.com/top-golf-orlando-2026

Sedation and General Anesthesia in Pediatric Dentistry– an Anesthesiologist's Perspective

1 Hour CE

AUGUST 8, 2026, 3-4PM $35 FAPD Members*
TOP GOLF ORLANDO, FL $50 Non-Members*



DESCRIPTION

This lecture, presented by a pediatric anesthesiologist, highlights critical yet often overlooked considerations in the care of pediatric dental patients. Focusing on factors beyond the oral cavity, it will explore airway nuances, fasting and medication implications, behavioral and developmental variability, and hidden risks associated with common sedation practices.

OBJECTIVES

- Recognize key airway and anatomical considerations in pediatric patients that may impact dental sedation and anesthesia
- Identify systemic health factors and comorbidities that increase risk during dental procedures
- Understand the implications of fasting guidelines, medications, and recent illnesses on anesthesia safety

ADA C·E·R·P® | Continuing Education Recognition Program

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FOR MORE INFORMATION 941-445-7926 HTTPS://FAPD.REGFOX.COM/TOP-GOLF-ORLANDO-2026

Thursday, May 14
@6:30pm
Delray Beach Club

DENTAL PITCH BROKERAGE



Elijah Desmond, RDH, BS

Dental Pitch Brokerage
Co-Founder, Co-CEO

Elijah Desmond is a dental hygienist, entrepreneur, DJ, motivational speaker, and Co-Founder & Co-CEO of Dental Pitch Brokerage, a firm dedicated to helping dentists maximize the value of their practices through innovative multi-buyer events. A graduate of The Ohio State University, Elijah has founded and successfully exited seven companies.

He has dedicated his career to helping dentists understand practice transitions, improve EBITDA, and prepare for their ideal exit. With a passion for motivating audiences worldwide, Elijah blends his unique background as both a clinician and serial entrepreneur to deliver high-impact education. Beyond dentistry, he is a global motivational speaker, known for empowering youth through his Motivational Concerts movement, and as "DJ Smiles," combining music and motivation to change lives. His mission is simple: to help dentists protect their legacy, avoid costly mistakes, and achieve the future they deserve.

FROM EBITDA TO EXIT

PREPARING YOUR DENTAL PRACTICE FOR MAXIMUM VALUE

Every dentist will eventually face the question of when and how to sell their practice. Too often, owners wait until it's too late, leaving millions of dollars on the table and creating unnecessary stress.

In this course, Elijah Desmond draws from his journey as a dental hygienist, entrepreneur, and co-founder of Dental Pitch Brokerage to teach doctors the keys to being "sell-ready" years in advance. Using real-world stories and a proven framework, participants will learn how to maximize EBITDA, avoid costly mistakes, understand earn-outs, and attract the right buyers. This is not just about selling a business, but about protecting a lifetime of work, your team, and your legacy.

By the end of the session, attendees will be equipped with actionable strategies to ensure their practice commands top value on their terms.

After completing this course, participants will be able to:

1. **Define EBITDA and adjusted EBITDA, and explain their role in practice valuation.**
2. **Identify common mistakes dentists make when preparing to sell and strategies to avoid them.**
3. **Evaluate different buyer types (private, DSO, JV partnerships) and understand the impact of deal terms.**
4. **Implement proactive strategies such as quality of earnings reviews, margin optimization, and tax planning to increase practice value.**
5. **Apply a step-by-step framework to prepare a practice for a successful transition and maximize exit potential.**

Suggested Formats: 2 Hour Workshop or 1 Hour Lecture
Audience: Dentists/Dental Group Owners

808.348.6024 Elijah@DentalPitchBrokerage.com

PACE



SOUTHEAST TRIVIA NIGHT RECAP

Our FAPD Southeast pediatric dentists recently gathered in Jupiter for a lively Trivia Night at Civil Society Brewing Company.

The night was filled with great food, refreshing drinks, and even better company. While our team didn't take home the top prize this time, the evening was still a big win—full of laughter, friendly competition, and plenty of memorable moments.

We can't wait for our next event and a huge thanks to those of you who attended on a weeknight!

-Dr. Ryan Jelicich





NORTHEAST TRIVIA NIGHT RECAP

The Northeast region had a fantastic timen at trivia night at Mellow Mushroom in downtown Jacksonville, enjoying delicious pizza, great company, and a fun, game-filled atmosphere. Thank you to everyone who joined us and kept the energy high all evening. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

-Dr. Amber Sun





Super Smiles
Kid's Dental

WE'RE HIRING!



JOIN OUR TEAM

Super Smiles Kids Dental is a well-established, husband-and-wife owned pediatric dental group with 11 locations across South Florida and continued expansion to Florida's West Coast. We have a couple Pediatric Dental Associate positions available across the West Palm Beach, Broward, and Naples areas.

Our practice offers a supportive, mentorship-focused environment, modern facilities, and a positive, team-oriented culture. New graduates are welcome, and doctors enjoy the autonomy to practice while being fully supported.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Tremendous earning potential
- Mentorship and support for new graduates
- State-of-the-art offices
- Paid vacation and medical insurance
- Autonomy to practice dentistry
- Positive, team-oriented culture — "Love where you work!"

Super Smiles Kids Dental & Orthodontics
SuperSmilesFL.com
Locations In Plantation, Coral Springs, Delray Beach, Hollywood, Boca, Coconut Creek, Royal Palm and West Palm Beach

Please feel free to reach out via email at buscemidmd@gmail.com or by phone at 954.551.2810 if you have any questions.

WE'RE HIRING!



JOIN OUR TEAM

Seeking a Pediatric Dentist to work for a growing pediatric dental office. The practice is growing and has a healthy number of new and existing patients that need dental care during the entire week. The ideal candidate should have an excellent chair-side manner and be committed to providing care that makes patients feel like family. The office is staffed with a fantastic office manager and an eager team that will allow you to maximize your productivity and focus on exceptional patient care.

Our facility is modern, "kid friendly" design that utilizes the the latest in dental technology and a layout that provides privacy while maximizing efficiency. The office provides everything you need to provide high-quality dentistry. The practice is located in Hamlin Florida the second fastest growing community in the nation (**hamlinfl.com** for details on demographics) in a beautiful new well-manicured professional building located on the very busy Hamlin Groves Trail. Adjacent businesses are an OBGYN medical group, a 60,000 sf trampoline park and large church among many others. Within a half mile of the office is a Starbucks, Walmart supercenter, Publix, Chick-fil-A, and Cinepolis movie theater.

If you have a passion for dental care and are looking to work alongside other equally caring and committed professionals, we want to hear from you!

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide thorough examinations to determine overall dental health and evaluate patients for signs of gum disease, cavities, and infection
- Diagnose and treat dental problems including root canals, extractions, and restoration
- Perform dental care treatments including pediatric restorative and preventative dental services
- Consult with other dental specialists when necessary
- Supervise staff
- Provide education to patients on oral hygiene
- Adhere to strict health and safety guidelines

QUALIFICATIONS

- DDS (Doctor of Dental Surgery) or DMD (Doctor of Dental Medicine) degree from an ADA-accredited dental school is required
- Completion of 2-year residency in Pediatric Dentistry from an accredited specialty program.
- Board Certified and/or Board Eligible in Pediatric Dentistry
- Current state license
- Preferred previous experience in private practice
- CPR, BLS, and NPI certifications
- Deep understanding of dental standards and dental medicine trends
- Excellent communication skills with young patients and their parents
- Strong verbal and written communication skills



Call 781-608-4122 if interested

THE ROBERT E. PRIMOSCH ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE 2025 AWARDEES



Nova Southeastern University
Erica Ivo Sampaio, DDS



University of Florida
Dieu Vo, DMD



NYU Langone-Tampa
Amanda Tran, DDS



Nicklaus Children's Hospital
Andrew Ryu, DMD

The Robert E. Primosch Award for Academic Excellence was established in 2018 in honor of Dr. Robert E. Primosch, a former faculty member at the University of Florida College of Dentistry and active member of the Pediatric Dental community in his retirement.

Each year, the distinction is given to the graduating resident in each pediatric dental residency program in the State of Florida who achieves the highest score on the AAPD Post-Doctoral In-Service Examination given in the final year of his/her program.