QUARTERLY UPDATES

Fall 2026

from your

2025-2026 EXECUTIVE BOARD AND REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

www.fapd4kids.org



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Panhandle
Dr. Patrick Johnson



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Dr. Khusbu Patel



East
Dr. Tamara Robison

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear FAPD Colleagues,

I am excited about the positive changes we will be making in the months ahead.

We are fortunate to have the expertise and forward-thinking perspective of Dr. Mark Dawoud, our next FAPD President. Mark (an AI genius!) has some exciting ideas that we can't wait to share with you.

Our goal is to make your FAPD membership a meaningful and valuable resource—whether through advocacy, continuing education, networking, or simply connecting with colleagues who understand the rewards and challenges of practicing pediatric dentistry today.

If you have ideas or would like to become more involved, please reach out. We welcome and value your input and suggestions.

I also look forward to seeing many of you at the FAPD Annual Meeting on October 24 in Orlando. It will be a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with colleagues, meet new friends, laugh, and learn together—and, of course, enjoy some great food!

Thank you for being part of the FAPD. I am honored to serve as your President and excited about what we can accomplish together for Florida's children and our pediatric dental community.

Warm regards,
Dr. 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.

FLORIDA ACADEMY OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY
ESTD 1964
FAPD

FAPD 2026

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Your meeting. On your phone.

Scan to open the meeting app

fapd2026.base44.app

No download. No login.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR THE DAY

- Live schedule & sponsor spotlights
- Dr. Solomon & Dr. MacLean speaker information
- Claim your 6 CE credits in the CE tab
- Sponsors & table numbers
- Ask tab: parking, Wi-Fi & where to go
- Session reminders

ADD TO YOUR HOME SCREEN

iPhone

Open in Safari → Share → Add to Home Screen.
Open FAPD from your home screen → Enable reminders.
Required for reminders on iPhone.

Android

Open in Chrome → Three-dot menu → Add to Home screen or Install app.
Open FAPD → Enable reminders.

Get set up before you arrive!



FLORIDA ACADEMY OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY
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WELCOME RECEPTION

STRONG WATER TAVERN (on property)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2026 AT 7PM

Free drinks and light fare sponsored by:

NuSmile® OVERJET

Get your caricature drawn by our artist Rafael Diaz

CARTOON YOU Caricatures

sponsored by:

magnify





6 hours of Continuing Education



AM session with Dr. Joshua Solomon: Confidence in Anterior and Posterior Composite Restorations for the Pediatric Dentist

Course Description

Treating decalcification, caries and fractures in permanent incisors can be some of the most professionally rewarding procedures for a pediatric specialist. However, working in the esthetic zone can be time consuming and unpredictable. Color matching, recreation of natural anatomy and avoiding debonds will be explored. Time permitting Class II restorations will also be discussed. Dr. Solomon will use a mix of slides and live procedures with overhead video and a typodont.

Objectives

- Learn to use anatomically-accurate, clear matrices in conjunction with heated and injection molded composite
- Learn to how to quickly place composite, shape and polish restorations that have little risk of debunking
- Understand the basics of vital tooth bleaching and color matching
- Review the concepts of golden portions, gingival architecture, and smile design
- Watch live demonstrations of placement of a class III composites, fracture repair and restoration peg lateral



PM Session with Dr. Jeanette Maclean: Trends in Minimally Invasive Dentistry

Course Description

Increasing patient awareness and demand for minimally invasive treatment options calls for dental providers to expand their clinical training beyond conventional surgical interventions. This course will review the scientific evidence for minimal interventions and bioactive restorative treatments.

Objectives:

- Review the scientific literature for nonsurgical caries treatments
- Describe the case selection, materials, and clinical protocols for minimal interventions



FAPD ANNUAL MEETING

Meet our Sponsors

Saturday, October 24, 2026 | Exhibit Hall opens at 7:30 AM

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Valleygate Dental SURGERY CENTERS

VITANA Pediatric & Orthodontic Partners

VARDIS SWITZERLAND

TWO FRONT
The orthodontic practice that runs itself for pediatric dentists

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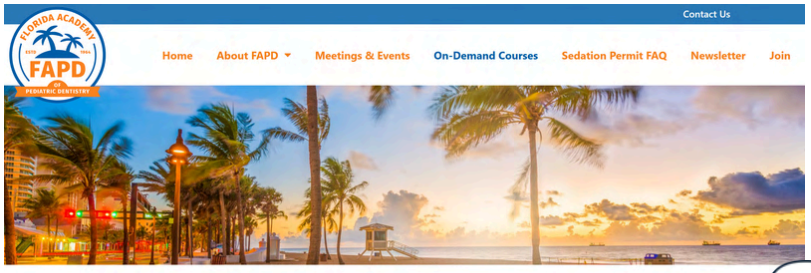
See you soon!

Executive Director Update

Dr. Michael Roseff

Our FAPD On-Demand CE page will be back up after the New Year with

- Domestic Violence
- Medical Errors
- Neurodivergence
- Sedation Rules
- Protocols



Upcoming Courses



Panhandle Update

Dr. Patrick Johnson

Hello, Panhandle colleagues! I'm Dr. Patrick Johnson, and I'm excited to introduce myself as your new Panhandle Regional Representative for the Florida Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

It's been a wild time in the Panhandle with Hurricane Isaias coming through, but thankfully, our regional pediatric dental practices escaped major damage and are back to serving our communities. It's encouraging to see our colleagues supporting one another through these challenges.

To keep that connection growing, we're creating a WhatsApp group where we can network, share clinical tips, and collaborate to provide the best possible oral health care for children across the Panhandle. We're also planning an in-person get-together in early 2027—stay tuned for that announcement!

I look forward to connecting with you all!

Patrick Johnson, DDS
Board Certified Pediatric Dentist
FAPD Panhandle Regional Representative



PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES

"In the world of public policy, this fall has brought travel, collaboration, and steady progress on several fronts."

-Dr. Michelle Thomas

Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act (S. 1677 / H.R. 3277)

As we know, children born with cleft lip, cleft palate, ectodermal dysplasia, and other congenital craniofacial conditions often require years of medically necessary care. What many may not realize is that these families frequently face insurance denials because that care is classified as "cosmetic." The bipartisan Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act (ELSA) would close this loophole and currently has 54 Senate and 211 House cosponsors.

I would like to recognize our FAPD President, Dr. Marcie Berger Young, who partnered with Florida Dental Association President, Dr. Dan Gesek, on a Tampa Bay Times op-ed urging Senator Ashley Moody to support ELSA. AAPD featured the column in its national advocacy press.

In September, FAPD also sent a call to action asking members (you!) to contact Senator Moody's office in support of S. 1677. Thank you to all who responded. Unfortunately, Senator Moody has not yet cosponsored, so if you have not yet reached out, you can still help. A sample letter is included on page 8. Please copy and personalize it with a sentence or two about your own experience and send it to her Legislative Director, Charles Sedore.
Charles_Sedore@moody.senate.gov

Additional ELSA information is available from the AAPD here.

Medicaid Updates: D9999 and the Managed Care Plans

I'm pleased to report that D9999 (Dental Anesthesia Support in the Office Setting) is now being reimbursed for dentists treating patients in their office in conjunction with an anesthesiologist providing IV sedation. A few new issues have come up during implementation and we are actively working to resolve them. You can read the original AHCA Health Care Alert here.

AHCA has also connected us with leadership at DentaQuest and Liberty, and we are now meeting directly to advocate for timely care and fewer administrative barriers for the children we serve. We sincerely thank AHCA for the connection and both plans for their willingness to work with us. We continue to work on other policy and access issues, including network adequacy, and will keep you updated.



ADA House of Delegates: Indianapolis

In early October, I attended the ADA House of Delegates in Indianapolis as a Florida Alternate Delegate and enjoyed reconnecting with AAPD leadership and fellow members at the AAPD happy hour.
The hot topic was Resolution 408 which addressed new ADA-developed pediatric sedation and anesthesia guidelines. AAPD advocated for continued alignment with the AAPD/AAP guidelines, which have been jointly maintained for more than 20 years and were reaffirmed in 2025. The House referred Resolution 408RC for further review, with a report back in 2027, input from the ADA Council on Scientific Affairs, and a future public comment period. We will share that opportunity when it opens.

Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act (S. 1677)

Sample Letter

Please personalize areas highlighted

Call to Action

Dear Charles,

As a Florida pediatric dentist practicing in [City/Region], I am writing to ask that Senator Moody become a cosponsor of the Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act (S. 1677).

Children born with cleft lip, cleft palate, and other congenital craniofacial conditions often require years of medically necessary reconstructive, dental, and orthodontic care to eat, speak, breathe, and develop normally. Unfortunately, families too often face insurance denials when this essential care is classified as "cosmetic."

The Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act would require health plans to cover medically necessary treatment related to congenital anomalies affecting the eyes, ears, teeth, mouth, or jaw, including related dental and orthodontic care.

Approximately 1 in every 33 babies in the United States is born with a congenital anomaly, and many require ongoing treatment throughout childhood. As a pediatric dentist, I see firsthand that this care is about far more than appearance as it can be essential to a child's health, function, and development.

[PERSONALIZE: Add 1–2 sentences about your experience caring for children with congenital craniofacial conditions and why this legislation matters to you.]

I respectfully ask that Senator Moody join her bipartisan colleagues and become a cosponsor of S. 1677.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to comment further on this issue and, if helpful, connect you with the Florida Academy of Pediatric Dentistry's Public Policy Advocate, Dr. Michelle Thomas, for additional perspective. She can be reached at FAPDPPA@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
[Name], DMD
Pediatric Dentist
[Practice Name]
[City, Florida]

Why not just send a letter to click and send?

When form letters are simply forwarded from a site, they are often weeded out, not received, or have less impact. Coming from your personal e-mail helps to ensure that the letter will go through.



Photograph: Dr. Reza Ardalan (AAPD Southeastern Trustee), Dr. Amber Sun (FAPD Secretary/Treasurer), Dr. Charlie Bertot (AAPD President), Dr. Michelle Thomas (FAPD Public Policy Advocate), Dr. Karina Miller (VAPD President and UF Graduate)



AAPD LEADERSHIP SUMMIT & PUBLIC POLICY WORKSHOP: CHICAGO

In September, FAPD Secretary/Treasurer, Dr. Amber Sun, and I attended the AAPD Leadership Summit and Public Policy Workshop, where I had the privilege of representing FAPD and presenting “Medicaid Advocacy in the Sunshine State” to AAPD Leadership and advocates from across the country. The presentation highlighted two of Florida’s recent successes: the reversal of the 2025 policy that shifted hospital and ASC facility and anesthesia fees to the dental plans and the creation of Medicaid coverage for in-office IV sedation along with the new D9999 code. The central lesson of Florida’s story is that advocacy is a team sport and I am grateful for our collaboration with AAPD, the Florida Dental Association, the Powers Law Firm, and AHCA to help make a difference in our state.

My favorite takeaway from the meeting: marine biologists are integral to saving the whales, but we raise awareness to save the whales, not the marine biologists. Our advocacy is always about the children we serve, and our mission is to advance optimal oral health for all children. It was also wonderful to connect with AAPD leadership, make new friends, and see old ones who share this common goal.

Artificial Intelligence Summit Takeaways: A Pediatric Perspective

In September I attended Overjet's first AI Summit in Scottsdale, where I took part as a speaker and advisor. I advise Overjet, so I want to be upfront about that.

What stayed with me was how little of the conversation was about the technology itself. The best rooms were clinicians comparing notes on what changed in their day, where their teams pushed back, and what they would do differently. Three takeaways for pediatric dentists:

1. AI works best when it gives time back. The open question is whether that time goes to children and parents or to a fuller schedule. We should decide on purpose.
2. Adoption depends on follow-through. A tool sticks when one person on the team owns it after the trainer leaves.
3. Show, do not tell. In pediatrics the decision maker is the parent. Seeing a finding on the image shortens the conversation.

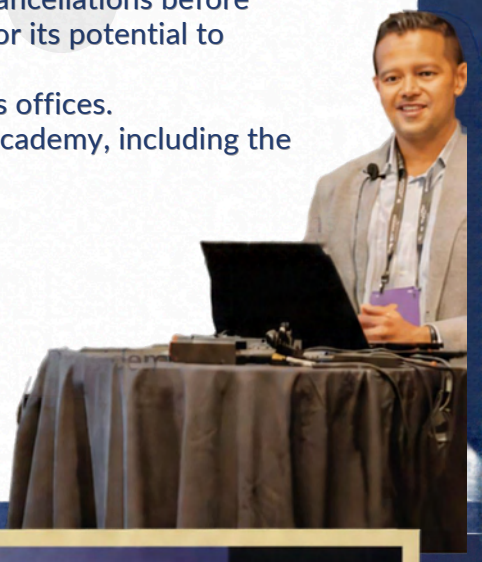
Why I build my own tools

I'm a practicing pediatric dentist, and I build software for problems I run into at Oak Dental Partners. A few examples:

- dentalnotes: drafts clinical and billing notes from a procedure description, with built-in dosing, BMI and voice dictation, and checks each note for completeness.
- Oak Intelligence and Oak Clinical Intelligence: analytics tools that give our leadership team a clear view of operations, clinical quality and provider performance, connected to our practice management system.
- School Calendar Planner and Office Predictor: plan each office's capacity around school calendars, testing windows and early-release days, so we can anticipate cancellations before they happen. CareQuest Innovation Partners later highlighted this work for its potential to lower barriers to Medicaid participation.
- OakCompliance: supports our infection control and OSHA program across offices.
- FAPD Board Hub and this year's Annual Meeting app: built for our own Academy, including the guide you will use on Oct 24.

I build these because a clinician sees the problem first, and the first version is never right. Our teams tell me what breaks, and the tools improve. If you're curious about building something for a practice, I'm glad to talk.

Mark Dawoud, DMD, Chief Dental Officer, Oak Dental Partners;
Incoming FAPD President







August '26

FAPD Central Region Event

Brings Education and Connection to Topgolf Orlando















The Florida Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (FAPD) Central Region brought continuing education and fun together for a memorable afternoon at its Topgolf Social on August 8, 2026, in Orlando. The event welcomed 10 dentists for an afternoon that combined one hour of continuing education with food, golf, and an opportunity to connect with colleagues.

The educational program, "Sedation and General Anesthesia in Pediatric Dentistry—an Anesthesiologist's Perspective," was presented by Dr. Jiten Patel, a board certified pediatric anesthesiologist practicing currently at Nemours Children's Hospital. The presentation highlighted topics that an anesthesiologist focuses on when sedating patients, and other high yield topics about pediatric airway and anatomic differences, fasting and medication considerations, behavioral and developmental variability, and potential risks associated with common sedation practices.

The goal was to help dentists recognize factors that may influence the safety of patients under sedation and anesthesia.
Following the educational session, attendees traded the lecture room for the hitting bays, enjoying food, conversation, and friendly competition at Topgolf. The relaxed setting gave members an opportunity to strengthen professional relationships while continuing conversations sparked by the afternoon's presentation.

The Central Region event was made possible through the generous support of Valleygate Surgery Centers, Henry Schein, Curodont, and Florida Medical Advisors. FAPD extends its sincere appreciation to these sponsors for supporting continuing education and opportunities for dental professionals to connect.

-Dr. Khusbu Patel

Picture Perfect



UF Gainesville

This June, we celebrated the graduation of five exceptional pediatric dental residents in Gainesville! We are incredibly proud of all they have accomplished throughout their residency and the impact they have made on our patients, families, and program. (From left to right: Dr. Dalton Montgomery, Dr. Deanna Choma, Dr. Kaitria Abbatematteo, Dr. Jonathan Sorsok, and Dr. Virginia Hodges).

FLORIDA PEDIATRIC DENTAL RESIDENCY UPDATES:UF EDITION



We would also like to celebrate a Gainesville graduate, Dr. Kaitria Abbatematteo on being selected as the winner of the AAPD Graduate Student Research Award (GSRA)! Established in 1989, this prestigious award recognizes outstanding research by current and recent pediatric dentistry residents and students, with eight finalists selected each year to present their work at the AAPD Annual Session. Her research entitled National Trends of Pediatric Dental Procedures under General Anesthesia, provides valuable insight into the evolving landscape of dental care for children requiring treatment under general anesthesia and contributes important data to the field of pediatric dentistry. We are incredibly proud of this accomplishment and her dedication to advancing pediatric dental research!

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From left to right (Charlie Brimacombe, Chad Couch, Henry Brooks, Shannon Townsend, Tiffany Daniels, Lynn Le, Annabel Kisling, Grace Rayner, Hope Baxter, Lindsay Hasson)



UF Naples

The Naples program also celebrated the graduation of five outstanding residents this summer. We are excited as they begin their careers and provide care to children in multiple different states. (From left to right: Dr. Phillip Ashkar, Dr. Madison Sox, Dr. Kaiko Perkins, Dr. Kailey Vredenburg, Dr. Ana Hernandez)



ABPD Board Certification: A Commitment to Excellence

Board certification by the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry (ABPD) demonstrates a pediatric dentist's specialized knowledge and skills, commitment to continued competency and lifelong learning, and dedication to quality patient care. This additional credential may also be required for hospital privileges. Earning and maintaining ABPD certification reflects an ongoing investment in professional growth and the care of children and families.

Thank you to our Florida colleagues for the many hours dedicated towards giving back to our profession as OCE Board Examiners. Pictured left to right: Dr. Shane Fisher, Dr. Julie Russo, Dr. Manav Malik, Dr. Matthew Cooke

Once a candidate has passed the QE and OCE Board Examinations, they are formally known as a Diplomate. From there, you can start your journey towards becoming a Fellow candidate.

AAPD Fellowship: A Commitment to Leadership and Service

Becoming a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (FAAPD) recognizes a pediatric dentist's commitment to advancing the specialty through activities such as leadership, scholarly work, and community service. Fellowship honors meaningful professional contributions while encouraging continued involvement in organized dentistry, education, and mentorship. Earning and maintaining this designation reflects an ongoing dedication to professional growth and service to children, families, and the profession.

Visit https://www.abpd.org for more information

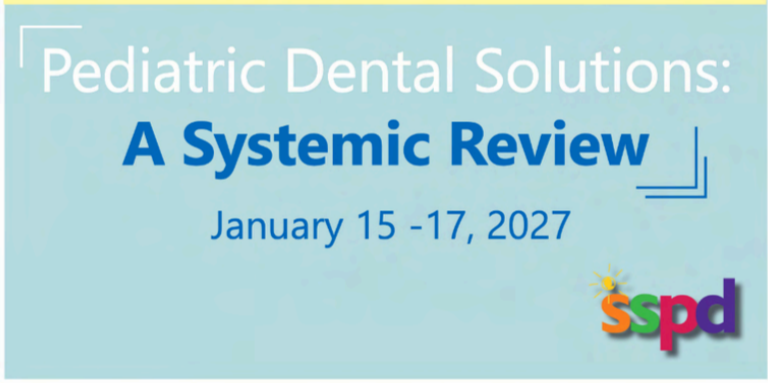
GRAND HYATT
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

SOUTHEASTERN SOCIETY OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY
UPDATES



2027 ANNUAL MEETING

SSPD is planning an enhanced reception on Saturday, January 16, 2027 from 5-7 pm to celebrate our 60th anniversary as a society since we had to cancel the meeting in Puerto Rico.



PEDIATRIC DENTAL RESIDENTS

Attendance to the SSPD Annual Meeting is free for you. A resident representative from each program will recieve $300 for travel and a room for 3 nights. All residents are invited to a Saturday lunch presentation.

- 11 POHAC Grants were distributed this year to residency programs in the Southeast.
    - Membership is at 70%

FARRINGTON AWARD APPLICATIONS

Here is the link to apply. https://sspd.org/service-leadership-award/. It is open to those in residency and up to 3 years in practice.

FLORIDA DENTAL ASSOCIATION CONNECT



Dr. Shana Capra is one of our pediatric dental colleagues who is President of the Palm Beach County Dental Association, a Florida Dental Association Delegate, an American Dental Association Delegate, a Board Member for the Florida Dental Association Political Action Committee as the Atlantic Coast District Representative and the Chair of the FDA Insurance Committee. As Chair of the Insurance Committee, she is committed to helping FDA members navigate the complexities of dental insurance, address administrative burdens, and advocate for fair and transparent insurance practices. Visit www.floridadental.org for more information.

Fall 2026

Get more involved with FAPD



Help shape pediatric dentistry in Florida.

Pick one or more groups. The ask is small: about 2 hours a month and one group call a quarter, and a board member supports every group.

- Government Affairs & Medicaid: win better Medicaid dental rates for Florida's children
- Fluoride & Prevention: help parents and physicians after Florida ended community water fluoridation
- Sedation & OR Access: track sedation rules and help shorten hospital OR waits
- Membership & Regional Events: help your regional rep run events and welcome new members
- Communications: share photos, cases and stories for the newsletter and Instagram

Scan the QR code on page 2 to sign up, open the FAPD meeting app and tap "Get involved."