March 2025

QUARTERLY UPDATES

from your

2024-2025 EXECUTIVE BOARD AND REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

www.fapd4kids.org



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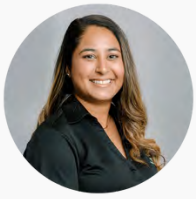
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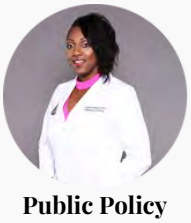
Central
Dr. Khusbu Patel



North
Dr. Amber Sun



East
Dr. Tamara Robison



Public Policy Advocacy
Dr. Irwine Sainvil

Greetings FAPD Members,

This quarter has been highly productive, featuring both online and in-person continuing education opportunities. Highlights include our Oral Health Potpourri lecture with Dr. Jason Portnoff, the Fluoride Science vs. Political Science lecture with Dr. Johnny Johnson, our bi-annual Airway Management, PALS, and BLS training at the CAML Simulation Center in Tampa, Florida, and a Southeastern Florida Medical Management and Emergencies course. Our public policy advocacy team continues to work diligently on behalf of our providers. Members have spoken across the state to raise awareness about community water fluoridation and its preventive benefits. Additionally, FAPD has hosted social events, allowing members to connect and plan future collaborative efforts. We are excitedly planning our 2025 annual meeting in Orlando, Florida, and gathering information for those interested in attending a 2026 FAPD Continuing Education Cruise in March 2026. Stay updated via email, our newsletter, and social media: @fapd4kids on Instagram. I look forward to bringing you more value in the next quarter within your scope of dentistry.

Warm Regards,
Dr. Erika King

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.

Fluoride in Florida



Fluoride is naturally present in all water. Community water fluoridation is the precise adjustment of fluoride that occurs naturally in a community's water supply to the level recommended for optimal dental health. The U.S. Public Health Service, a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has established the optimal concentration for fluoride in water supplies to be 0.7 parts per million (ppm). Currently around the state of Florida, many cities are debating on removing fluoride from community water. To help advocate locally, find out if your city has any plans on meeting about fluoride removal, get other local dentists to write individual letters to your city council members regarding the importance of fluoride in the community water and include your experiences on prevention and lack thereof in your practice. Please see the links below for facts you can reference.



- **AAPD Fluoridation**
- **FAPD Fluoride Presentation**
- **FDA Fluoridation**
- **ADA Fluoridation**
- **ADA Key Messages on Fluoridation**
- **Fluoridation for the Patient: JADA June 2024**
- **AAP's Campaign for Dental Health: Court Case**
- **Water Operator Fluoride Fact Sheet**
- **AAP's Campaign for Dental Health: NTP Report**
- **Fluoride: Fact Sheet for Health Professionals**

Please contact FDA Lobbyist Brandon Edmonston at bedmonston@floridadental.org or 850.224.1089 if community water fluoridation is scheduled to be discussed at your city or county commission meeting

@fapd4kids
fapdexec@gmail.com
www.fapd4kids.org



Medical Emergencies and Airway Management





FAPD: Southeast Region



On Thursday, February 13, Southeast Florida sponsored a course on medical emergencies and airway management. Dr. Gershon Fink and Dr. Paravine Sadeghi discussed a wide variety of emergencies for the dental office, and some dentists were able to get additional PALS and BLS training with Daniel Peez. We had 40 pediatric dentists attend--it was a great event and so much fun soe everyone!









PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES

MEDICAID PROVIDERS

As those of you who provide for Medicaid patients know, new dental managed care contracts were signed as of February 1st, 2025. Included in these contracts was one major change regarding how anesthesia in conjunction with dental services is reimbursed.

Historically, ASC/Hospital anesthesia services were paid by the patient's medical plan and dentistry services were paid by the patient's dental plan. With the new contracts, the dental plan is now responsible for both anesthesia and dental services as both Dentaquest and Liberty's contracts state "Anesthesia Services - The Dental Plan shall be responsible for the coverage of anesthesiology services when provided in conjunction with covered dental services." This means your ASC/Hospital needs to contract with and bill to the dental plan in order to be reimbursed for anesthesia services.

We have received feedback from some of our colleagues reporting increased GA case denials and cancellations as well as difficulty onboarding facilities and anesthesia teams with the dental plans. Please know that we are working hard behind the scenes to get a seat at the table not only to address these current issues at hand but also in hopes of being consulted before major changes are made in the future. If you and your patients are being negatively affected by this change in any way, please send us an email at FAPDPPA@gmail.com as we would like to keep track of this data for upcoming discussions with AHCA and offer any help that we can.

The more data we gather and the more we communicate and collaborate, the greater our chances are of advancing care for underserved children in Florida (and our own individual practices as well). For this reason, we would like FAPD members who provide care to patients with Medicaid to be able to more easily connect and are excited to announce a new, private facebook group to accomplish this. In order to join, please email us at FAPDPPA@gmail.com.

-Dr. Michelle Thomas

-A recent executive order has frozen federal agency funding, temporarily restricted agency communications with outside organizations, and initiated changes in CMS personnel. While Medicaid has been exempt from this order, we encourage FAPD members to remain vigilant. If you have noticed any impact on your reimbursements, please reach out to us so we can advocate on your behalf.

-On February 14th, I met with the senior manager of DentaQuest to address the significant challenges their pre-authorization rules and claim policy updates have created since placed into effect June 2024. These policies place an unnecessary burden on providers and delay essential treatment for children. We are actively working to eliminate these barriers and ensure that insurance policies prioritize patient care over administrative hurdles. Change is on the horizon—stay tuned as we continue this fight for our patients and pediatric dental colleagues.

-Dr. Irwine Sainvil



On Super Sealant Saturday, residents and faculty from NYU Langone - Tampa Pediatric Dentistry volunteered at LECOM School of Dental Medicine to provide essential dental care to children in need. The event offered free dental exams, prophylaxis, fluoride treatments, and sealants to 171 children, emphasizing the importance of preventive care in pediatric oral health. Through this initiative, the volunteers helped promote healthy smiles while educating families on the significance of early intervention in cavity prevention.



Residency highlights around Florida

Residents from Nicklaus Children's Hospital educated the community on pediatric oral health at the annual Homestead Holiday Health and Resource Fair. They provided valuable information on proper dental hygiene, preventive care, and the importance of regular dental visits for children. Through interactive discussions and educational materials, they promoted healthy oral habits and raised awareness about common pediatric dental issues. Their participation demonstrated the hospital's dedication to improving community health through outreach and education.







FAPD 2025

Announcements



Employment Opportunity

FLORIDA-SARASOTA

Join our well-established & well-respected pediatric dental practice focused on providing the best dental care for children. We are a fee-for-service pediatric practice with a great reputation and a strong, large patient base. Qualifications: DDS/ DMD degree, pediatric residency completed, active dental license in Florida or ability to attain, strong communication skills and a passion for working with children; kind, easy going, professional, responsible & reliable! Offering a competitive salary and a comprehensive benefits package, CE allowance and malpractice insurance coverage. For more information, please contact jaleh.pourhamidi@tdn.care

Congratulations

Dr. Charles Fain Award: The LECOM Scholarship and Awards Committee has chosen student Dr. Cassidy Burrelli as this year's recipient. The graduation ceremony is on June 8, 2025.



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Get in Touch

Do you have a job posting or major event that you would like to include in our next quarterly newsletter? Please send us your information at the email address listed below.







SAVE THE DATES

Regional Meeting OPPORTUNITIES

Thank You
Dr. Johnny Johnson

Thank you for advocating and leading our educational zoom on Fluoride and its impact on public health.

North Florida

Regional Representative: Dr. Amber Sun
Our spring social will be held on April 3, 2025 at 6:30pm at the San Jose Country Club. Check your email and respond with your RSVP.

Panhandle

Regional Representative: Dr. Michelle Thomas
Our happy hour new date is coming soon. The location will be at Pescado Rosemary Beach. Look for an email from your regional representative.

Central Florida

Regional Representative: Dr. Khusbu Patel
Save the Date: August 8, 2025 for our area meeting. Stay tuned for more information.

West Florida

Regional Representative: Dr. Mark Dawoud
Save the Date: June 5, 2025. Stay tuned for more information.

East Florida

Regional Representative: Dr. Tamara Robison
Save the Date: April 24, 2025. Look out for more information from your regional representative.

South East Florida

Regional Representative: Dr. Ryan Jelich
Stayed Tuned!

South Florida

Regional Representative: Dr. Helena Urrea-Feldsberg
Stay Tuned!

Visit our website at www.fapd4kids.org to take advantage of our online courses listed below and more.

On-Demand Courses

- Medical Errors
- Human Trafficking
- Medical Emergencies
- Domestic Violence
- Controlled Substances

Have you registered for our annual meeting taking place on Saturday, October 25, 2025 yet? Check our website for more information.

fapdexec@gmail.com
@fapd4kids
www.fapd4kids.org



MEET our Speakers

FAPD ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025



Dr. Purnima Hernandez
Pediatric Dentist

7 hours of Continuing Education



Dr. Gerald Samson
Orthodontist- Pediatric Dentist

Dr. Hernandez, triple board certified as a pediatric dentist, behavior analyst and a health and wellness coach, has been in practice for over 30 years after receiving her education from Columbia University College of Dental Medicine. Also a trained functional medicine provider, she was drawn to finding a better understanding of how lifestyle factors influence health. Her vision now is to integrate knowledge from all of these disciplines to further help the children she sees in her practice every day.

Described as an educational entertainer, **Dr. Gerry Samson** completed pediatric dental residency at Emory University, 1979 under the direction of Dr. Ed Hibbard and orthodontics at Northwestern University, 1981 under the direction of Dr. Hal Perry. Since that time Gerry has been in private orthodontic practice, is a Diplomat of The American Board of Orthodontics and a Fellow of The American College of Dentists. In addition to orthodontic private practice, Dr. Samson holds formal faculty appointments at 6 USA postgraduate programs, is consultant to private pediatric dental and orthodontic practices, lectures extensively both in the United States and internationally. In addition, he reviews orthodontic mechanics articles submitted for publication to The American Journal of Orthodontics and The Angle Orthodontist. He was the invited guest Co-Editor of the Journal Seminars In Orthodontics: "Age Appropriate Orthodontics", March and June, 2014 and author of the orthodontics mechanics chapter in the reference text book by Wiley Publications, "Recognizing and Correcting Developing Malocclusions: A Problem-Oriented Approaches to Orthodontics" – Prof. Eustáquio A. Araújo, Prof. Peter H. Buschang, 2016. Dr. Samson's presentations emphasize clinical decisions based on science.

Registration

www.fapd4kids.org

FAPD Member $375
Non-Member Dentist $475
Team Member $300
Faculty $300
Pediatric Dental Resident $300
Undergraduate Dental Student $0.00
Early bird registration is available now!

Orlando, Florida

UPDATES

AAPD SSPD FAPD

2025- 2026

SSPD

- Two $3000 Farrington Scholarships are available next year. This cash award is given annually at the January SSPD meeting. Applicants are to self-apply for the award. Candidates are eligible during residency and up to three years after graduating.
- Following Hurricane Helene, SSPD, along with the AAPD, AAPD Foundation and Western Society of Pediatric Dentistry created a disaster relief fund. These funds are earmarked as grants for pediatric dentists in our district who suffered from the effects of this unbelievable storm. If your practice needs help, please reach out to sspddisasterrelief@gmail.com.
- Save the Date: January 16-18, 2026 Grand Hyatt Hotel in Buckhead, Atlanta, Georgia. “A Wellness Symposium for the Pediatric Dentist: Embracing Health to Avoid Burnout and Thrive in your Practice.



AAPD

- The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Annual Session 2025 is scheduled to take place from May 22 to May 25, 2025, at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver, Colorado. Attendees can anticipate a diverse program featuring over 150 hours of content.
- The Winter Planning/Board Meeting accepted an amendment to the AAPD Strategic Plan and updated our Culture Statement: The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry is a membership organization committed to mentoring and supporting our members as they advance optimal oral health for all children. Our members – as oral healthcare professionals, pediatric specialists, and academic and community-minded leaders – put children first, adhering to the highest standards of patient safety, evidence based are, and ethics. Together, we are THE leading national advocate dedicated exclusively to children’s oral health and THE big authority on little teeth.
- In our upcoming and updated Reference Manual, we will be retiring the Policy on Xylitol. The Council of Clinical Affairs believes and is accurate in their conclusion, that there just is not enough good research out there to support Xylitol and it’s benefits at this time.
- The ADA is holding a Dental Anesthesia Provider Summit coming up in May. Stay tuned for more information.

(Dr. Ann Bynum, SouthEast Trustee Report)





FAPD

Join us for our first CE Cruise March 13-16, 2026 with the Royal Caribbean Liberty of the Seas.

- **4 CEUs**
- **$350 registration**
- **Speakers**
  - **Dr. Johnny Johnson - Opinions and Politics vs Fluoride Science**
  - **Dr. Martizabel Hogge- Dental Radiology, Back to the Basics**
  - **Dr. Kristin Grazioso - Navigating Modern Parenting: Effective Communication Strategies for Pediatric Dentists**
  - **Jennifer Johnson - Medical Billing in the Dental Office**
  - **Visit www.fapd4kids.org to register.**


2025
EDUCATIONAL
ADVENTURES
AAO
American
Association of
Orthodontists
AMERICA'S PEDIATRIC DENTISTS
WINTER25
CAMLS