July 2025

QUARTERLY UPDATES

from your

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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.

Celebrating the life of

Dr. Michael McIlwain

March 2, 1976 – June 6, 2025



Dr. Michael Fulghum McIlwain, a beloved husband and father, devoted pediatric dentist in Florida, accomplished athlete and coach, and an unwavering optimist, passed away on June 6, 2025, at the age of 49.

Driven by a desire to serve others through healthcare, Mike pursued dentistry at the University of Florida College of Dentistry in Gainesville. There, he completed both dental school and specialized training in pediatric dentistry. His commitment to excellence led him to become a Diplomate and Fellow of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry.

Mike joined McIlwain Dentistry, the family-owned practice founded by his uncle and mentor, Dr. James McIlwain, where he brought warmth, expertise, and an ability to make everyone around him feel at ease during every patient interaction. He grew the office into the multispecialty practice it is today, but his greatest joy was working daily in the family-style environment fostered with his partners and his incredible staff. Mike's love for his profession and his patients was evident to everyone. He generously donated his time and expertise to the Tampa Bay Cleft and Craniofacial Center and was also a proud member of numerous professional affiliations.

Mike was Catholic and lived out his values through service to others, whether chairside at work or on the sidelines coaching soccer. A friend to everyone he met, Mike had a unique ability to bring people together. He was selfless, compassionate, and had the most infectious smile; it was impossible to be near Mike and not feel the pure joy that constantly radiated around him.

Dr. Mike Fulghum McIlwain will be remembered for his unwavering dedication to family and community, his exceptional expertise in pediatric dentistry, and his lifelong passion for soccer. May the memory of his smile, laughter, and unwavering positivity comfort and inspire us all in the future.

This past quarter, the Florida Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (FAPD) hosted a range of engaging educational and networking events across the state.
We kicked off with an online webinar featuring guest speaker Dr. David Collier, who presented on Food Additives of Human Concern. If you missed the session, the recording is available on our website.
Regional highlights included:

- FAPD North (Dr. Amber Sun) held a member social in April, offering a great opportunity to connect and collaborate while learning about early interceptive orthodontics.
- FAPD East (Dr. Tamara Robison) hosted an orthodontic-pediatric case-based study dinner lecture, followed by a hands-on crown preparation experience with KinderKrowns.
- FAPD West (**Dr. Mark Dawoud**) organized a continuing education evening focused on Artificial Intelligence in Dentistry, presented by Overjet, which was followed by a fun and relaxing night at Topgolf.



Additionally, our Executive Director, **Dr. Michael Roseff**, delivered a lecture on Pediatric Dental Trauma to the LECOM Dental Pediatric Club, continuing our mission of education and mentorship.
We are proud to celebrate **Dr. Johnny Johnson**, who was honored with the Florida Dental Association President's Choice Award. Also pictured are **Dr. Ann Bynum**, our AAPD Southeast Trustee and a featured speaker at the AAPD 2025 Annual Session, and **Dr. Brett Kessler**, the current President of the American Dental Association, who has done a phenomenal job leading the profession with vision and dedication.
As this quarter continues to fly by, we remain committed to bringing you high-quality programming and meaningful opportunities as a valued member of the Florida Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. It is truly an honor to serve as your 2025–2026 FAPD President, and I look forward to all we will accomplish together in the year ahead.

-Dr. Erika King











PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES

-DR. IRWINE SAINVIL



About Our Advocacy

From March 15th to 18th, we attended the annual advocacy conference in Washington, D.C., representing the Florida Academy of Pediatric Dentistry's (FAPD) public policy interests. Pediatric dental residents from the University of Florida and NYU Langone Tampa programs joined us in our efforts to advocate for children's oral health. We also had the chance to build camaraderie over dinner and prepare for our visits to Capitol Hill, where we met with four congressional offices.

Our primary focus during these meetings was the importance of continued and increased funding for pediatric dental training programs through Title VII of the Public Health Service Act. For Fiscal Year 2025, $13 million has been allocated each for general and pediatric dental residency programs. This funding has been instrumental in expanding access to dental care for underserved populations—especially children enrolled in Medicaid, who make up two-thirds of the patient population in these training programs. Title VII funding has helped grow the pediatric dental workforce, which directly impacts the number of children able to receive care.

In addition to workforce development, we advocated for a fix to the current tax burden placed on dental faculty who receive loan repayment assistance through the Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program (DFLRP). Under current law, recipients are taxed on the funds they receive—creating a financial barrier that discourages many from entering academic careers. We urged members of Congress to support H.R. 1758, the Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Assistance Act, which would exempt these funds from gross income. This bipartisan legislation would make it easier for dental professionals to choose teaching positions and help address faculty shortages in dental education.

Finally, we stressed the importance of preventive measures that protect children's oral health at the community level. We asked lawmakers to support efforts that maintain and expand access to community water fluoridation and promote healthy childhood nutrition. These public health strategies are two of the most effective and affordable ways to prevent dental disease. Without fluoride in water systems, communities would see a rapid increase in tooth decay—something many Americans today have never had to witness firsthand. Through continued advocacy, we aim to ensure that every child has access to quality dental care and a healthier future.

We continue to work behind the scenes to advocate for improved access to care for the most vulnerable children in our state including those with Medicaid as well as Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD). We are proud to represent FAPD with a seat on AHCA's Dental Care for Children Subcommittee, the Florida Department of Health's IDD Roundtable, as well as the Florida Dental Association's Public Insurance Task Force. If you or any of your patients are having any difficulty providing or accessing care, please reach out to us at FAPDPPA@gmail.com

-Dr. Michelle Thomas











Florida Academy of Pediatric Dentistry members had valuable opportunities to network while deepening their understanding of legislative policies and the impact we can make as advocates. We are working to collaborate within our healthcare specialties and communites to address our overall approach to the reeent decision to remove fluoride from community water. From visiting the Capitol to attending the national meeting in Denver, CO, and engaging in regional events in Tampa and Satellite Beach, FL, our members explored some of the most innovative products and procedures shaping the future of pediatric dentistry.



















AAPD
ANNUAL SESSION 2025

The AAPD Annual Session 2025 was an unforgettable celebration of education, connection, and community. From the inspiring opening session to the Wild West–themed Welcome Reception, a dynamic exhibit hall, and world-class continuing education opportunities, this year's event truly left a lasting impression.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Carlos "Charlie" Bertot on being elected AAPD President-Elect, and to Dr. Manav Malik as the College of Diplomates Southeast Trustee. A special shoutout to Dr. Reza Ardalan, who brought joy and creativity to the Opening Session as he starred as Mr. Wonka in the AAPD Chocolate Factory Opening Session.

One of the most exciting highlights this year was the debut of the new edition of the Handbook of Pediatric Dentistry, now available for purchase through the AAPD online store.

As a reminder, tripartite membership in the AAPD includes valuable benefits at the national (AAPD), regional (SSPD), and state (FAPD) levels—providing members with a robust network of resources, education, and advocacy.

DENVER, COLORADO











AAPD ANNUAL SESSION 2026
LAS VEGAS, NV
MAY 21-24, 2026

Continuing Education



REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE ONLINE NOW

Registration is open for our **Annual Meeting**, and hotel room blocks are available for the **October 25, 2025** weekend on our website www.fapd4kids.org. Our continuing education lecturers are Dr. Purnima Hernandez (Pediatric Dentist) discussing Autism Spectrum Disorders: The Architecture of a successful dental appointment and Dr. Gerald Samson (Orthodontist and Pediatric Dentist) discussing Take A Breath: Clinical effects of expansion, extraction and "facial type" on airway and breathing followed by Successfully Balancing Work and Life. This course offers 7 hours of continuing education. We will also be **offering the required fingerprinting and background screening** that is required by the Florida Department of Health for our 2026 licensure renewal.



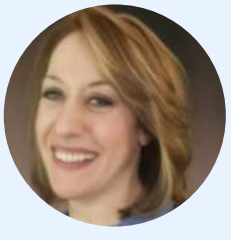


Join us for our first **Continuing Education Cruise March 13-16, 2026** with the Royal Caribbean Liberty of the Seas. The speakers and course objectives include:

- **Dr. Johnny Johnson** is covering the history of fluoridation, the credibly conducted science on the benefits and risks of optimally fluoridated water, and claims made against fluoridation with refutations based in credible science.
- **Dr. Martizabel Hogge** will be discussing Radiation Physics and Pediatric Radioprotection: Core Concepts for Safe Practice. This lecture focuses on the essential principle of x-ray generation and proper radiographic image production, with specific emphasis on pediatric radiography techniques. Special attention is given to radiation protection protocols for pediatric patients, including dosage considerations, dose reduction strategies, shielding recommendations and the latest evidence-based guidelines to ensure both patient and staff safety.
- **Dr. Kristin Grazioso** will be discussing the Navigation of Modern Parenting: Effective Communication Strategies for Pediatric Dentists. She will explore effective communication strategies to foster positive interactions with today's parents, including how to address sensitive topics with confidence and empathy, diffuse conflicts, and establish ourselves as trusted healthcare providers. By understanding modern parenting perspectives and refining our communication skills, we can strengthen the dentist-parent relationship, enhance patient care, and ensure the best outcomes for the children we serve.
- **Jennifer Johnson**, dental hygienist, will be going over the introduction of dentists to medical billing.









FLORIDA ACADEMY OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY
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FAPD

FAPD ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025
7:30AM-5:30PM

7 hours of Continuing Education

Morning Session: Autism Spectrum Disorders: Architecture a successful dental appointment

Descriptions: As dental providers to children with or without special healthcare needs (SHCN), we have experienced moments of extreme child resistance to delivery of even the simplest oral care procedures. What is our strategy when a patient will not sit in a dental chair, block access to the mouth and resist with the strength of a superhero? Dental procedures can be challenging for children. They are especially difficult for individuals with intellectual disabilities, behavioral disorders and sensory issues. These moments are equally challenging for the provider and accompanying caregivers.

Dr. Hernandez is a parent of a young adult with special healthcare needs (SHCN). Her personal experience with her son's complex medical journey along with deep dives in behavioral psychology and health & wellness coaching, has allowed her to approach these appointments from a unique perspective. Designing these appointments are key to success for a lifetime of oral health. In her presentation, she will discuss concepts and strategies from each of her deep dives and how she incorporates them in a dental appointment. She has a WHOLISTIC and PERSONALIZED approach to each child and each event. As a health and wellness coach she will share how she incorporates lifestyle factors discussions during anticipatory guidance with parents. She will also discuss evidence-based techniques that will help prepare both parent, child and provider for a successful dental visit. While the conversation is around the topic of SHCN, strategies discussed are applicable to ALL children.

Afternoon Session: "Take A Breath"

Clinical effects of expansion, extraction and "facial type" on airway and breathing.

As primary care providers of pediatric dentistry and orthodontics all of us prefer to base our treatments on evidence based principles. We yield to the obligation of making clinical decisions based on science. As professionals we strive to provide accurate information to parents whose children present with occlusal and facial relationships which if left untreated may lead to conditions which can be unattractive, dysfunctional and become more severe.

The seminar will feature "selections from the following topics":

- For pediatric dental/orthodontic patients what are possible interrelationships between cross-bite malocclusions orthodontic extractions, airway, head posture and tongue position.
- How is facial-type related to airway and malocclusion.
- Can we predict which patients are most likely to have an airway benefit from expansion?
- Prior to treatment, which specific orthodontic records, tests, consultations and informed consent forms are needed?

"Happily Balanced"

Successfully Balancing Life and Work

Here's a novel thought: a successful, happy balance of life and work is not a series of random events. Rather, it's based on self-knowledge, enthusiasm and creativity. It's understanding your personal proportion of the time value of money and the money value of time.

Chew on this reality, if you're not happy with yourself how can others be happy with you?

This presentation will focus upon an entertaining and introspective look at achieving these goals. Participants are assured of a motivating, provocative and worthwhile experience.

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

LOEWS SAPPHIRE FALLS RESORT
UNIVERSAL ORLANDO



MEET our Sponsors

FLORIDA ACADEMY OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY
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FAPD ANNUAL MEETING
Saturday, October 25, 2025
7:30am Exhibit Hall Opening

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LOEWS SAPPHIRE FALLS RESORT
UNIVERSAL ORLANDO



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2025

7-9PM

Welcome Social at Strong Water Tavern (The hotel lobby level). Our caricature artist will be there!



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025

7:30AM -5:30PM

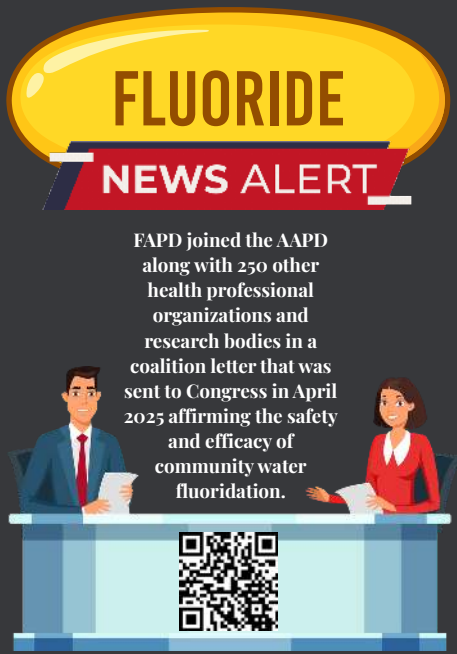
Breakfast, Registration and Exhibit Hall Open at 7:30am
Stay tuned for more information on how to sign up to meet your Florida Department of Health fingerprinting requirements at this meeting. Cost is $110 (cash or check), $115 (credit card). You will pay the company directly. This is not included in registration.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

- Lunch is included
- Raffle prizes throughout the day
- Opportunity to network with new and familiar colleagues
- Learn about new products in the exhibit hall
- Sponsored parking on Saturday, October 25. See the SPRIG booth in the exhibit hall to get your voucher.
- Sponsored snacks breaks in the AM and PM lecture sessions

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

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 relationships to disclose.





CHECK OUT THIS WUSF *YOUR FLORIDA* STORY, WHERE DR. MICHELLE THOMAS JOINS OTHERS TO SHARE INSIGHT ON DENTAL CARE ACCESS AND WATER FLUORIDATION

Healthcare Providers: Visit the American Fluoridation Society for resources on discussing fluoride with your patients.



Did you know?

With fluoride being removed from community water supplies and the recent initiative of the FDA to remove concentrated prescription fluoride ingestible products for children from the market, it's more important than ever that we, as pediatric dental providers, step up to protect the oral health of our patients. As dental homes, we are uniquely positioned to deliver personalized education and anticipatory guidance based on each child's clinical and radiographic findings.

Given the diverse cultural, socioeconomic, and educational backgrounds of our patient populations along with the wide range of parental dental literacy, it is essential that we communicate oral health strategies in ways that are clear, accessible, and actionable for families.

Beyond routine oral hygiene instruction, topical and systemic fluoride treatments, dietary counseling, and consistent preventive care, we must ask ourselves: What more can we do?

- Clinical care remains a cornerstone, but we can extend our impact further by:
  - Integrating oral health education into school curriculum and community-based programs, including after-school and summer initiatives.
  - Advocating at the local and state levels, engaging in organized dentistry, and lobbying for policies that protect and promote public oral health.

Together, through education, advocacy, and community involvement, we can help fill the gap left by fluoride removal and ensure that all children continue to receive the care and protection they deserve.



What you can do by Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Informational links on fluoride supplements

- Fluoride Therapy
- Fluoride Fact Sheet for Health Professionals
- Fluoride Topical and Systemic Supplements
- AAP supports the use of Fluoride in the pediatric population

A public meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, July 23, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST. The in-person meeting will take place at the FDA White Oaks Campus, 10903 New Hampshire Ave, Building 31 Conference Center, Great Room (Room #1503), Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002.

You can participate virtually by registering at this link.

Prior to this meeting, you can provide comments to the Federal Register to share your position on the importance of continuing to allow the use of fluoride supplements. Please include factual information on the use of fluoride supplements. A list of references are provided for your convenience. Comments provided will be public and should be directed to the efficacy, safety and benefits of fluoride supplements. Click then on the link above and then look for the green "submit a public comment" green box.

Silver Spring, Maryland

More Information
www.federalregister.gov

3rd QUARTER

Upcoming Events

AUG 8

FAPD CENTRAL FLORIDA (Dr. Khusbu Patel)
Summer Social 5-8pm
Come learn more about using the SOAN Intraosseous Injector by NuSmile. Check your email for more details.
RSVP by July 31, 2025

Aug 23

FAPD Panhandle Edition (Dr. Michelle Thomas)
Pescado Rosemary Beach Social 3-5pm
Click the QR code to RSVP by August 11.

Aug 29

Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics Meeting
FAPD Immediate Past President Dr. Yoshita Patel Hosking is speaking on oral health in children.

TBD

FAPD Continuing Education Webinar
Stay tuned for more information.

Is there a particular topic or speaker that you would like to learn more about through one of our FAPD Webinars? Email us at fapdexec@gmail.com
www.fapd4kids.org

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