

October 2023

Special Care  
DENTISTRY  
ASSOCIATION

# Pearls Newsletter

Innovations, Events & Member News



SCDAONLINE.ORG

# JOIN SCDA TODAY!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY BECOMING A BOARD MEMBER OF  
SCDA'S NEW AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS TODAY!



**American  
Association of  
Hospital Dentists**

**Academy of Dentistry  
for Persons with  
Disabilities**

**American Society  
for Geriatric  
Dentistry**

## SCDA Awards



**Click here to view  
SCDA Awards**





# SCDA2024 Annual Meeting

April 18-20, 2024 | Rosen Shingle Creek, Orlando, FL

**Coming Together,  
Growing Together  
For Oral Health Equity**

**SCDA's 36th Annual Meeting will be held at Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel in Orlando, Florida on April 18th - 20th, 2024.**

**New lower & affordable conference rates will be available this year and you can save \$100 when you register by February 29th, 2024.**

**[Click Here to Register](#)**

## **Submit your abstract today!**

**SCDA encourages all of its colleagues to participate in this education program by the submission of a formal abstract for lecture, oral or poster presentation.**

***Deadline is November 1st, 2023.***

**Click below to submit your separate abstract!**

- [2024 Lecture Abstract Submissions](#)
- [2024 Oral Presentation of Research Findings Abstract Submissions](#)
- [2024 Poster Abstract Submissions](#)



**Hello fellow SCDA members,**

**SCDA 2023 Dallas Meeting in April was a huge success, as we had 300 + attendees and a record high number of submissions and posters. Thank you all so much for making it possible!**

**Special thanks to our members in Texas who made a huge effort to bring local dentists, dental students, and dental hygienists to the event. Thanks also to all presenters. Presentations covered a wide range of topics, providing a very nice perspective of the depth and breadth of what our amazing members do every day to provide the best oral healthcare to our vulnerable patients.**

**The Dallas meeting has also consolidated the recent changes in our by-laws and showed the vibrant communities created within ASGD, AAHD, and ADPD. All three constituents of SCDA are buzzing with initiatives thanks to the fantastic mentoring of senior members in combination with the extraordinary energy from newer members. Talking about new members, it is important to highlight the impressive participation of dental students not only during the 2023 Meeting in Dallas, but also throughout the year in many SCDA committees, including the Board of Directors. New leadership is being nurtured and the future of SCDA is bright. Again, thank you for making SCDA this welcoming place where we can be better together!**

**Best wishes,**

**Leo Marchini, SCDA President 2023-2024**

# SCDA Fellowship Program

Looking for a way to distinguish yourself? Take your career to the next level by earning your Fellowship in Special Care Dentistry.

This honor recognizes professional excellence in hospital dentistry, geriatric dentistry, and dentistry for persons with disabilities. Securing a SCDA Fellowship is a unique opportunity to be recognized for the hard work and dedication you have for your profession and the patients you serve. We invite you to apply for Fellowship today by reviewing the criteria and completing an application.

SCDA offers two Fellowship programs, one for dentists and one for dental hygienists. For more information on the Fellowship process, please visit our website by clicking one of these links:

**Dental Fellowship** – *application deadline is February 23, 2024.*

**Dental Hygiene Fellowship** – *application deadline is March 1, 2024.*

*If you have any questions, please contact SCDA Headquarters at [scda@scdaonline.org](mailto:scda@scdaonline.org) or 312-527-6764.*

## 16 CE Credit Online Course

SCDA's 16-CE credit self-paced online learning program with 16 total modules; each one contains a short description, list of learning objects, presentation and self-assessment quiz. There's also a tutorial at the beginning of the course and a CE testing module at the end. This is an online course intended to be completed in 6 months. Each module covers various topics surrounding oral health care for people with special needs.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN  
MORE AND PURCHASE  
THE COURSE](#)



# SCDA Affiliate Organizations

After nearly a year of listening to our members through four Town Hall sessions and online member surveys, the SCDA Board acted on establishing a new organizational structure. SCDA is now organized into three affiliate organizations. They are the:

**President:**  
**Dr. Eric Sung**



**American Association of Hospital Dentists  
(AAHD)**

**Academy of Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities  
(ADPD)**



**President:**  
**Dr. David Fray**

**President:**  
**Dr. Jennifer  
Hartshorn**



**American Society for Geriatric Dentistry  
(ASGD)**

Each Affiliate is represented on the SCDA Board of Directors. They will be responsible for developing and setting into motion an independent annual work plan to grow their respective groups, create new member benefits and focus on key educational and advocacy efforts to better serve their patient populations. By illustration, work will continue to create educational standards in both geriatric dental medicine and special needs dentistry.

The SCDA Affiliate Organizations were formerly known as the SCDA Councils. For questions about participating in one affiliation, please contact our executive office at 312-527-6764.

# President, American Society for Geriatric Dentistry (ASGD)



The ASGD Board of Directors and members have been working hard on several initiatives since our 2023 Annual Meeting. Here is an overview of what we have been working on:

-ASGD has two teams of authors working on the development of two white papers including: “Barriers and Enablers to Oral Health for Functionally Dependent Older Adults”, and “The impact of daily oral care and professional dental cleanings on older adults.” The first paper is targeted to be published on the SCDA website late Fall of 2023.

-ASGD participated in the Fall webinar series with Dr. Leo Marchini’s presentation on “Oral Healthcare for Patients with Alzheimer’s Disease – An Update.” Included in this presentation was a message for anyone interested in collaborating on future publications (including but not limited to critical reviews of literature) to contact ASGD President Jennifer Hartshorn before October 2nd, 2023 ([jennifer-menary@uiowa.edu](mailto:jennifer-menary@uiowa.edu)).

-In summer of 2023, JADA published an ethical moment regarding Geriatric Dentistry which discussed how to manage a patient with cognitive impairment. Several members of the ASGD Board composed a letter to the editor further discussing assessment of decision-making capacity. This letter has been approved for publication and should be available to readers in the coming months.

ASGD’s Medicare Committee has continued to meet regularly in the development of a formal position on Medicare Dental Benefits. The committee is also considering future research projects to expand to the body of knowledge that could support a dental benefit proposal for Medicare beneficiaries.

- Of note, the Urban institute has published a September 2023 report, “Estimating the Cost and Effects of Adding a Dental Benefit to Medicare Part B” of which members may be interested in reading: [Click here to read.](#)

- On a National front, ASGD is monitoring the rollout of Medicare's medically necessary dental benefits. In January 2023, CMS expanded coverage to include some services to eliminate infection prior to organ transplant or prior to certain cardiac procedures. In January 2024, CMS is planning to again expand coverage to Medicare enrolls with head and neck cancers.

-ASGD is working to develop additional online CE opportunities available to SCDA members and the general public.

-ASGD is planning to develop handouts which clinicians may find useful when treating patients in their clinical practice

In addition, the ASGD Board recently voted to approve the ASGD Operational Plan ([see attachment](#)).

The Board welcomes comments on the ASGD Operational Plan and volunteers who would like to participate in these initiatives.

Please send all comments or requests to volunteer to ASGD President Jennifer Hartshorn ([jennifer-menary@uiowa.edu](mailto:jennifer-menary@uiowa.edu)).

Best Wishes!

Dr. Jennifer Hartshorn

## 2022 Annual Meeting Recordings are now available!

CLICK HERE



# SCDA's Live Webinars

## Past webinars:

Wednesday, July 19, 2023 | MRONJ - What We Know: Osteoporosis/Osteopenia and How It Relates to Dentistry

*By: Dr. Eric C. Sung*

[Click here to view  
the recording](#)

Monday, September 18th, 2023 | “Oral Healthcare for Patients with Alzheimer’s Disease – An Update”

*By: Dr. Leonardo Marchini*

[Click here to view  
the recording](#)

*\*\$20 fee for non members*

## Upcoming Webinars:

Monday, October 23rd, 2023 | “Dental Transitions of Youth and Adolescents with Special Healthcare Needs”

*By: Dr. Abidin Hakan Tuncer*

[Click here to register!](#)

[Click here to access the SCDA](#)

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# A word from SCDA's Executive Director: Jodi Metzgar

Dear SCDA Members,

I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits. As we move further into the year 2023, I am thrilled to share some exciting developments, accomplishments, and upcoming initiatives within SCDA.

The past year has been marked by resilience, adaptability, and innovation in our association. Despite the challenges posed by the ongoing global pandemic, our members have continued to demonstrate unwavering commitment to our shared mission.

As we chart our course for the future, there are several exciting projects and initiatives on the horizon. In addition to reenergizing this Newsletter, the Pearls, we will be increasing our online footprint including a continuation of a fantastic Webinar program. We are working to expand our online Course offerings and reinvigorating several SCDA Committees. Look for the Call for Volunteers email to be sent out soon.

I want to emphasize that SCDA's success is driven by the collective efforts of our members. Your involvement, whether through active participation in our programs, sharing your expertise, or volunteering, makes a significant impact.

If you have ideas, suggestions, or feedback, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Your input is invaluable in shaping the future of our success.

In closing, I want to express my deep gratitude to every one of you for your dedication to SCDA's mission. Together, we are making a difference in special care dentistry. I look forward to continued collaboration and success.

Warm regards,

Jodi Metzgar  
SCDA Executive Director