



SCRANTON DISTRICT DENTAL SOCIETY

April 2008

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Ben Shair Award Dinner Scheduled

Tuesday, April 15, 2008 marks the celebration of the 25th Ben Shair Award dinner. Held at the Radisson at 6:30 p.m., this is a dinner you won't want to miss. We are proud to have a candidate with outstanding credentials deserving of the scholarship. Please contact Dr. Joseph Kelly, Jr. at 587-4787 to reserve your spot. As always, dinner and parking are complimentary with your SDDS membership.



March Meeting Featured Dean of Medical College



Dr. Christopher Kotchick, SDDS President, Robert D'Alessandri, Dean and President of The Commonwealth Medical College, and Dr. Joseph Kelly, Jr., SDDS President-Elect, pause for a photo.



A rendition of the proposed building for the new medical college.

Members who attended the March 18th general meeting at the Radisson were treated to an excellent speaker and delicious dinner.

Dr. Robert D'Alessandri, Dean and President of The Commonwealth Medical College, spoke to us about the progress of the new college, the medical resource that the school will provide to local patients, and the huge economic impact the new school will have on our community.

If you'd like to hear Dr. D'Alessandri's recorded talk, go to our website (www.scrantondental.org) and click on "In the News" or contact Dr. Kotchick for a CD.

PADPAC Needs YOU!

*Written by Sylvan Morein, D.D.S.,
PCDS PADPAC Representative*

For the past three years, I have had the pleasure of serving as the Philadelphia County Dental Society's representative to PADPAC (that's the Pennsylvania Dental Association's Political Action Committee). PADPAC is our dental association's political arm – its goal is to support the election of legislators who understand public health issues from the prospective of organized dentistry.

Many issues concern us. The arbitrary fee schedules of insurers and interference with the treatment option dialog between doctor and patient have hindered our ability to deliver the best dental care for our patients. The major issue that confronts us in the near term is tort reform.

Malpractice lawyers directly oppose this with a well-organized lobby. But, if tort reform passed, your malpractice premiums would probably be reduced. Without tort reform, the continued rise in awards and premiums will eventually force all dentists to restrict their practices and avoid procedures that could cause tort exposure, a loss to public

health, the standard of care and the economic viability of their practices.

Other issues are: a statewide mandatory community fluoridation bill; financial aid incentives for dentists who open practices in underserved areas; and insurance coverage for general anesthesia used on young children and special needs patients.

It is very important that dentists from the entire Commonwealth participate in PADPAC and help voice our position on the issues that impact our profession.

2008 is an especially important year in Pennsylvania – half of the 50-member state senate will be standing for election; all 203 seats in the Pennsylvania House will be up for election; we'll elect an attorney general, an auditor general and a state treasurer.

So, we need YOU now more than ever! If you have already sent a contribution with your 2008 tripartite dues payment, I extend my personal thanks. If you have not contributed, or if you want to increase your contribution, please consider these options:

Century Club \$100-149

PADPAC Partners \$150-199
(member & spouse)

Keystone Club \$200-249

Keystone Club PADPAC
(member & spouse) \$250-499

Capitol Club \$500-999

Liberty Club \$1,000

Contributions from your personal account are considered as “hard” dollars and can be used to support elective candidates. Contributions from a corporate or business account are “soft” dollars and may only be used for administrative expenses.

I know that the economy is not at its best right now. I know that you constantly receive numerous other requests for your hard-earned dollars.

Won't you give a little extra consideration to putting a contribution to work for yourself and all Pennsylvania dentists? For more information or for a PADPAC membership form, please contact Dawn Marron, Esq., PDA's Director of Government Affairs, 1-800-223-0016, ext. 108 or via e-mail at dmm@padental.org.

Lead Contamination Concerns

By now, many of you have seen the media coverage surrounding an Ohio woman who hired a lawyer to sue her dentist as a result of complications from a new bridge. It was determined that her bridge was fabricated in China and contained lead. Claims have been made in the press that 15% to 20% of US dental restorations are outsourced and patients are unaware.

The ADA has developed a list of questions for dentists to ask their labs, and the state boards of dentistry in Ohio and Missouri have developed a dental lab form to insure product safety. We have listed the ADA questions below and the Missouri Dental Office Laboratory Prescription & Point of Origin Form is on our website

(www.scrantondental.org). Be sure to click on “In the News”.

- Do you outsource any part of my work to other labs?
- If yes, specifically what work of mine is outsourced?
- Do you outsource any part of my work to a foreign lab?
- If yes, will you provide me with your registration number with the FDA an “initial importer,” “re-packager” or “re-labeler?”
- Have you actually visited the foreign lab to which you are outsourcing my work?
- Will you provide me with documentation that the materials used in the work you outsource

are FDA approved and compliant with all ANSI and ISO standards?

- Will you fill my detailed lab prescription as written, regard less of where my work is fabricated?
- Do any of the materials you use to fabricate my work contain lead?
- Will you provide me with a document detailing the materials used in my work?
- Do you have products' liability insurance or other insurance that will protect me against claims for injuries allegedly caused by dental restorations coming from your lab?

Upcoming Events

PDA 141st Annual Session	Hotel Hershey	April 10-13, 2008	8:00 a.m.
General Meeting Ben Shair Award	Radisson	April 15, 2008	6:30 p.m.
CE Course: Sleep Apnea	Inn at Nichols Vill.	April 16, 2008	8:00 a.m.
Board Meeting	Faccia Luna	April 28, 2008	6:30 p.m.
President's Dinner	Michaelangelo's	May 17, 2008	6:30 p.m.
Yankee's Game	PNC Stadium	May 23, 2008	6:30 p.m.
PDA Council & Committee Mtg.	State College	May 30, 2008	TBA
PDA Leadership Conference	State College	May 31, 2008	TBA
Golf Tournament	CCS	June 18, 2008	TBA
Board Meeting	Faccia Luna	August 25, 2008	6:30 p.m.
General Meeting	Radisson	September 16, 2008	6:30 p.m.
Board Meeting	Faccia Luna	September 29, 2008	6:30 p.m.
General Meeting	Radisson	October 21, 2008	6:30 p.m.
Board Meeting	Faccia Luna	October 27, 2008	6:30 p.m.
Third District Meeting	Woodlands	November 14, 2008	8:00 a.m.

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