



Next Month Is National Children's Dental Health Month

Plans for National Children's Dental Health Month are well underway. This year's events promise to be packed with children once again.

We are in need of volunteers to help with this community-minded event. Doctors are needed to visit local schools, attend our two, signature events, and assist in the procuring of give away items. If you can help in any way, please contact Dr. Christopher Kotchick at 346-7301.

Events:

Tooth Fairy Day at the Children's Library, Sunday, February 3, 2008, 2:30 p.m.

McDonald's Day Saturday, February 9, 2008, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

Scranton School District Visits During the Month of February

New Location for January's Meeting

Remember that January's general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 23, 2008 at the Inn at Nichols Village during the lunch portion of the C.E. course: "Immediate Loading of Implants."

As always, lunch is free for all members of the SDDS. Please contact Dr. Chris Kotchick at 346-7301 if you plan to attend.

Don't forget! Our new officers will be voted in at January's general meeting.



The Alliance Holiday Dinner



Attendees of the Dental Alliance's annual holiday party held Monday, December 10th at the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel enjoyed dinner and a program and had a wonderful time of food and fun.

Pictured here are (seated L to R) Jane Yeomans, Jeanne Saccone, Mary Lou Burne, Alice Stofko; (standing L to R) Dr. Linda Frantz, Connie Hayes, Jennifer Gallagher, Kathleen Fennie.

Study Supports Benefits of Community Water Fluoridation for Older Adults

In a retrospective study in the fall 2007 *Journal of Public Health Dentistry*, researchers from Indiana University, Oregon Health and Science University, and Kaiser Permanente Northwest (KPNW) report that older adults may benefit more than children from community water fluoridation. The study received online news coverage from *Medical News Today*, *Newswise*, and *Reuters Health*.

The authors reviewed administrative data from KPNW dental HMO members to evaluate the impact of community water fluoridation on dental treatment experiences and costs over a six-year period. They analyzed a 1990-1995 dataset of dental treatment costs and services provided to HMO participants, who resided in fluoridated and nonfluoridated regions in northwest Oregon (Portland and Salem areas) and southwest Washington (primarily Vancouver, WA).

The study focused on dental services and procedures that community water fluoridation (CWF) could directly influence, including dental restorations and prescription fluorides.

After statistical analyses adjusting for impact of fluoridation, locale, and

age on treatment costs and utilization, the authors determined that community water fluoridation was associated with reduced total and restorative costs among dental HMO members, but cautioned that the overall effects were “generally small.”

The researchers attributed this to the study population of dental HMO subscribers, which was described as having relatively lower risk for dental disease, higher levels of dental utilization, and greater use of preventive procedures (e.g., sealants and fluoride supplements).

Importantly, in all study locations, the number of dental restorative procedures in the study population was higher among older HMO members living in areas with non-fluoridated water. As noted by the authors, the use of insurance data presented several limitations, since the study population was predominantly white (over 90%) and the data analysis did not address a range of unobserved variables (e.g., socioeconomic status and actual time spent living in specific water districts).

Based on these and other methodological considerations, the authors indicated that their “findings may not

be directly generalizable to the overall US population.”

Still, the study sample offers useful population-based data for analyzing the impact of community water fluoridation on the use and costs of dental treatment for insured patients, particularly older individuals with access to care.

Funding support for the study was provided by a contract with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Alliance for Community Health Plans. For further study, the authors recommended more evaluation of differences in treatment costs (estimated savings) associated with community water fluoridation.

Along with other major health organizations, the ADA supports community water fluoridation as a safe and effective means of preventing tooth decay. The ADA also recommends fluoride supplementation for children who live in areas without optimal fluoride in their water. For more information, visit the ADA Statement on Water Fluoridation Efficacy and Safety and additional resources at www.ada.org/goto/fluoride.

(Taken from the ADA.org)



Dr. Miriam C. O'Malley, 2007 president, and Dr. Christopher J. Kotchick, 2008 president

From The President

I count it an honor to begin serving my term as president of the society. I hope this year we make great strides in building on the work of past years.

Please make January's C.E. course and general meeting a priority in your schedule. Note that the general meeting is during lunch of the C.E. course on the 23rd. We will be voting on the 2008 officers during this meeting.

As you plan for February, remember that it is National Children's Dental Health Month. We need you!

Your role is important, whether it's coming to one of our key events, visiting a school, or participating in some other way, your service is invaluable to the community.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have ideas or questions about the work of the society.

Sincerely,

Dr. Christopher J. Kotchick
2008 S.D.D.S. President

3rd District New Member Welcome Party

The Third District held a “Welcome New Members” reception on Friday, November 16th at the Lackawanna Trolley Museum in Scranton. Those who attended learned about the benefits of local membership, and reported having a great time. Don’t forget to do your part by inviting new doctors to come to our general meetings!

Below, top: Dr. Mike Everett (Third District President), his wife, and Dr. Rick Uttard gather to chat.



Below, bottom: Outgoing Third District Trustee, Dr Richard Grossman, meets with Dr. Miriam O’Malley (outgoing Scranton District Dental Society President) and new SDDS member Dr. Bridget Walsh.

Dr. Brian Miller (Luzerne County Dental Society President), Dr. Wade Newmann (Chairman of the New Dentist Committee for the PDA), and Jessica Forte (Membership coordinator for the PDA/Liaison to the PDA New Dentist Committee) take a moment to pose.



2008 Officers

- President:** Dr. Christopher J. Kotchick
- President Elect:** Dr. Joseph T. Kelly, Jr.
- Vice President:** Dr. Mark A. Giallorenzi
- Vice President:** Dr. Kristin A. Paoli
- Treasurer:** Dr. Matthew A. Zale
- Secretary:** Dr. William H. Hitt
- Bulletin Editor:** Dr. Kenneth J. Zenker
- Directors:** Dr. Frank A. DiNoia, Dr. Lawrence F. Gallagher, Dr. Gary G. Wadsworth, Dr. Stephen X. Solfanelli
- Delegates:** Dr. Kenneth G. Miller, Dr. John F. Erhard III, Dr. Matthew A. Zale
- Alternate Delegates:** Dr. Miriam C. O’Malley, Dr. P. Joseph Perrotti, Dr. Brian C. Kerr



Upcoming Events

Third District Meeting	East Mountain Inn	January 16, 2008	6:30 p.m.
CE Course: <i>Immediate Loading of Implants</i>	Inn at Nichols Vill.	January 23, 2008	8:00 a.m.
General Meeting	Inn at Nichols Vill.	January 23, 2008	12:00 p.m.
Board Meeting	Foccia Luna	January 28, 2008	6:30 p.m.
CE Course: <i>Oral Anesthesia</i>	Inn at Nichols Vill.	February 20, 2008	8:00 a.m.
CE Course: <i>All Facets of Endo, including Rotary Endo</i>	Inn at Nichols Vill	March 19, 2008	8:00 a.m.
General Meeting Ben Shair Award	TBA	April 15, 2008	6:30 p.m.
CE Course: <i>Sleep Apnea</i>	Inn at Nichols Vill.	April 16, 2008	8:00 a.m.
PDA 141st Annual Session	Hotel Hershey	April 23-26, 2008	8:00 a.m.
President's Dinner	Michaelangelo's	May 17, 2008	TBA
Yankee's Game	PNC Stadium	May 23, 2008	TBA
Golf Tournament	Scranton Country Club	June 2008	TBA
ADA Annual Session	San Antonio, TX	October 16-21, 2008	8:00 a.m.
Third District Meeting <i>"Marvin Miller, Dental Technology"</i>	Woodlands	November 14, 2008	8:00 a.m.

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