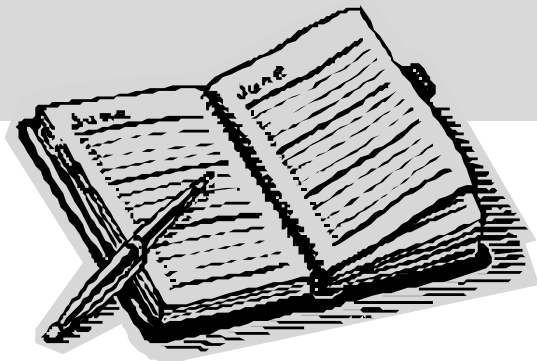
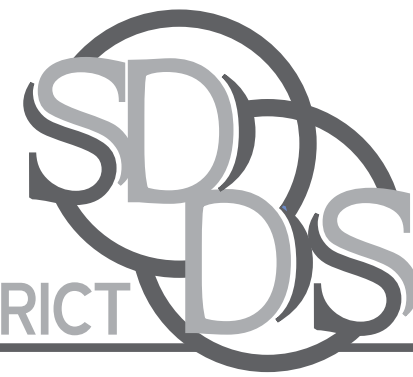


Upcoming Events

ADA Annual Session	Las Vegas	October 16-20, 2006
Continuing Ed Seminar	Hilton	October 17, 2006
General Meeting	Hilton	October 18, 2006
Board Meeting	La Trattoria	October 30, 2006
Continuing Ed Seminar	Hilton	November 21, 2006
President's Dinner	Scranton Country Club	December 9, 2006
National Dental Health Month		February 2007



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SCRANTON DISTRICT DENTAL SOCIETY

October 2006

Volume 1, Issue 2

SDDS Announces 2007 Continuing Education Series

The Scranton District Dental Society is pleased to announce the 2007 series for Continuing Dental Education. A total of 24 credits may be earned by the University of Pittsburgh's Off-Campus Program.

Register early and save! Those registering by December 1st qualify for the early registration discount.

The registration deadline is January 1, 2007. All classes will be held in the Scranton area. See the

tuition schedule below for more important registration information.

Scranton District Dental Society members would benefit from attending the 2007 seminars. Don't forget to take a moment today to register early at the reduced rate. If you have any further questions about the 2007 seminars please call Dr. Miriam O'Malley at (570) 586-5300 for more information.

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

"Nutrition and Nutraceuticals"
 Dr. Nasir Bashirelahi

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

"Oral Surgery for the General Practice"
 Dr. William James Hall

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

"Conservative Anterior Esthetic Dentistry"
 Dr. Howard E. Strassler

Wednesday, April 4, 2007

"Restoration of the Dental Implant"
 Dr. Steve J. Kukunas

Tuition Schedule

Tuition (paid by December 1, 2006):

- \$595/dentist PDA member (series of 4)
- \$795/dentist Non-PDA member (series of 4)
- \$250/dentist PDA member (single course)
- \$375/dentist Non-PDA member (single course)
- \$90/auxillary Attending with PDA member (per course)
- \$110/auxillary Attending without PDA member (per course)

Tuition (after December 1, 2006):

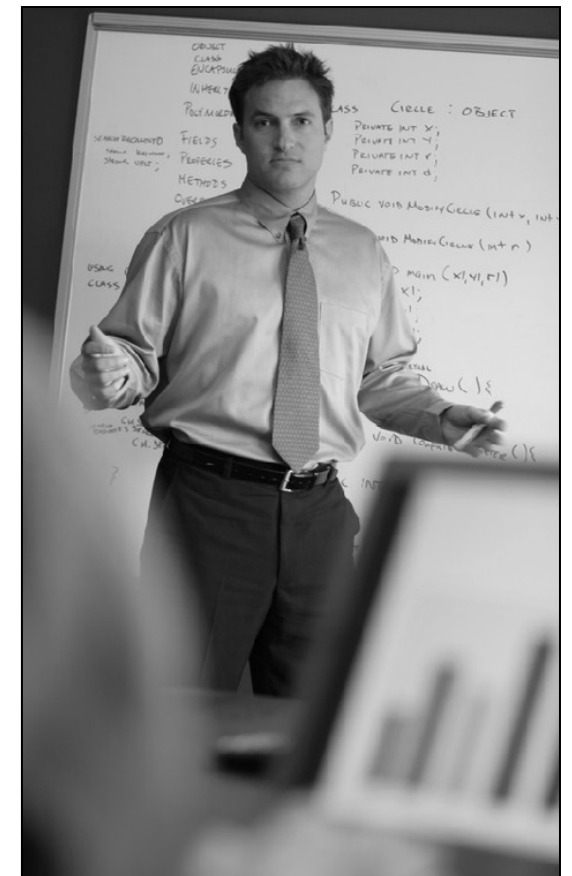
- \$615/dentist PDA member (series of 4)
- \$815/dentist Non-PDA member (series of 4)
- \$250/dentist PDA member (single course)
- \$375/dentist Non-PDA member (single course)
- \$100/auxillary Attending with PDA member (per course)
- \$125/auxillary Attending without PDA member (per course)

Make checks payable to:
 Scranton District Dental Society
 Remit to: Charles Potter, DDS
 319 Center St., Dupont, PA, 18641

Upcoming 2006 Classes

On October 17, 2006, Dr. Gordon Pringle, Oral Pathologist, from Temple University, will speak on "Bisphosphonates Pathology and Management in Dental Practice" at the Hilton Hotel, Scranton. The seminar will be held at 6:30 p.m., dinner will be served.

In November, Ms. Renee Magnotta, Bureau of Narcotics, will speak on Prescription Drug Abuse. Join us on November 21, 2006 for her informative seminar at the Hilton Hotel, Scranton, 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be provided. Each of these classes count for one hour of credit.



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Scranton District Dental Alliance Addresses Senior's Oral Health Needs



The Scranton District Dental Alliance recently participated in Senior Smiles, a national oral health awareness campaign of the Alliance of the American Dental Association in partnership with Sullivan-Schein Dental --- a Henry Schein Company and GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare.

The mission of the Senior Smiles campaign is to educate seniors on the importance of good oral health and to raise awareness within the community of the oral health needs of seniors.

The Alliance provided 100 kits to Meals on Wheels of Northeastern Pennsylvania for distribution to homebound seniors in Lackawanna County. "This event is a great opportunity to reach the homebound seniors in our community and call attention to the oral health care needs of

our elderly citizens," said Eulaine Gronsky, president of the Scranton District Dental Alliance. "We are grateful to the Senior Smiles program and Meals on Wheels of Northeastern Pennsylvania for helping us in this endeavor."

The Alliance to the Scranton District Dental Society was formed in 1935 by 20 spouses of local dentists. It was the second to be formed in the nation.

Throughout the years, the Alliance has been a voice of Dentistry in the community initiating such programs as distribution of toothbrushes to day care centers, class rooms, and institutions for children and adults; and has donated funds to cancer research, Pennsylvania Association for the Blind, Boys and Girl's Clubs, St. Joseph's Children's Hospital and the American Red Cross.

An Ounce of Prevention is Really Worth a Pound of Cure

Expect health plans to expand their dental benefits. According to the Wall Street Journal, on September 19, 2006, health plans are linking serious and expensive medical problems to poor oral hygiene.

In a move to pay for certain services now, insurers hope to reduce the amount of serious health care issues occurring later. Studies are suggesting that the prevention and treatment of gum disease can influence pregnancy, heart disease and diabetes.

Insurers are now more willing to pay for services such as extra cleanings, prescription mouthwashes, and gum treatments. Many of the insurance companies are focusing on treating patients considered at higher risk for health problems.



"We are grateful to the Senior Smiles Program... for helping us in this endeavor."

Dental Filling Safety in the News

The controversial subject of dental filling safety was addressed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in September. The American Dental Association welcomed the call by a FDA panel for additional review of scientific studies on the safety of dental amalgam fillings.

"The more well-designed studies that are considered, the better the pool of evidence for making treatment recommendations to patients," states American Dental Association Executive Director, James B. Bramson, D.D.S. "First and foremost, we want scientific evidence to lead the way when it comes to health care treatment."

The overwhelming weight of scientific evidence supports the safety and efficacy of dental amalgam, and it should continue to be made avail-

able to dentists and their patients, the ADA states.

The ADA provided written testimony to the Sept. 6-7 FDA panel meeting reaffirming its position that dental amalgam is a safe and effective cavity-filling material based on already published scientific studies.

According to the testimony, the ADA does not advocate for the use of one dental material over another, however it champions the principle that patients and their dentists should have access to the full range of safe and effective options for treating dental decay.

The FDA prepared a draft report in advance of the meeting that supported the safety of dental amalgam. No specific FDA regulatory action is expected. The meeting received widespread media coverage. For more information visit ADA.org.



For more information on dental filling safety visit ADA.org.

Urge your Senator to Support HB 1588!

Remember to urge your Senator to support HB 1588, the Community Water Fluoridation Act! Every dollar spent on fluoridation saves our patients and our state \$38 in dental expenses.

The Pennsylvania Senate will consider a bill that will require Pennsylvania's public water suppliers to provide an optimal level of fluoride. This bill, House Bill 1588, had already passed the House and will be voted on in the Senate during the fall session.

Have a voice in improving oral health in our state and ask your Senator to support HB 1588 today!

From the President

Hello everyone. I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer with friends and family. The Society was working behind the scenes this summer so we could hit the ground running after our summer break.

The society's September meeting was held on the 19th with speakers from the PDA: Mary Donlin-Quinn, Director of Membership, Marisa Fenice, Director of Legislative Affairs, and Steven Swarney Director, of Government Affairs.

An update was given to members concerning the PDA, the PDA's web site, issues before the house such as the hygiene and amalgam waste, etc. The SDDS thanks the

National Provider Identifier Compliance

According to the ADA, misinformation about the National Provider Identifier (NPI) compliance is spreading. The 2006 compliance deadline for the NPI is May 23, 2007. NPI enumeration is free to all eligible health care providers.

Dentists are required to have NPI's. In the technical sense, it is dentists who use HIPAA standard electronic health care transactions that will be required to use NPI's.

However, there is not much certainty about how much a paper based dentist will need to use NPI's. Some health plans may require the NPI for paper claims but many may not for now.

It is a real possibility that claims submitted electronically without an NPI on or after May 23, 2007 will not be paid. More information about the NPI is on ADA.org or scrantondental.org.

The Compliance Deadline for the National Provider Identifier is May 23, 2007.

staff from the PDA for taking time out of their busy schedules. Meetings like this are important to keep the local societies and its members abreast of current affairs in our profession.

Our October meeting will be on the 18th and the slate of officers for 2007 will be presented. I would like to thank those members who served the SDDS in 2006 and those who will serve in 2007. The society depends on its members to keep it healthy and viable. Any time you can give to the society is time well spent toward our profession.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian C. Kerr DMD



President,
Dr. Brian Kerr

Because we wanted to bring you relevant articles concerning important dentistry topics in this issue, we will print the September general meeting minutes in next month's edition.