



SCRANTON DISTRICT DENTAL SOCIETY

August 2007

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September's Kick-Off Meeting

Get ready for one of the most informative, interesting, and fun general meetings ever on Tuesday, September 18, 2007. Because this is our special kick-off meeting, Penn Security Bank will be sponsoring complimentary cocktails and hors d'oeuvres during the evening.

The featured speaker is Andrew Kettel, Jr., Executive Vice President and Manager of Private Banking. He will be highlighting the various financial services that are available to dentists and their families.

Mr. Kettel has 36 years of service at Penn Security Bank & Trust Company. He is a graduate of the University of Scranton with a Bachelors of Science degree in Accounting.

He taught undergraduate and continuing education courses in Accounting Principles, Consumer Lending, Commercial Lending, and Real Estate Finance at Lackawanna College, University of Scranton, and Penn State in Dunmore, PA. Mr. Kettel presently holds a Series 7 and 63 Security Representative License and a Pennsylvania Life Insurance License. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Greater Scranton YMCA for 17 years. He is a Past President and currently is serving as the Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Please make every effort to attend this instructional meeting. See you there!



Andrew Kettel, Jr., Executive Vice President and Manager of Private Banking, Penn Security Bank

Pennsylvania Dental Association News

Dr. Jon J. Johnston, President of the Pennsylvania Dental Association (PDA), issued the following statement regarding the House passage of Senate Bill 455 that would allow dental hygienists to offer basic dental services at nursing homes, correctional institutions and schools:

“The Pennsylvania Dental Association has made access to oral health care a top priority of the organization. This legislation is a step in the right direction, but there is more that can be done to improve access to dental health care in Pennsylvania.

We worked with Senator Pat Vance on this legislation to expand access to basic dental services for those in public settings while guarding patient safety. And we look forward to working with state lawmakers to expand access to

dental services and improve oral health care for all Pennsylvanians.”

Specifically, Johnston said the PDA would like state lawmakers to pass legislation that would allow trained dental assistants to perform routine, preventative dental services, such as polishing. Johnston said this expansion would free dentists and dental hygienists to see more patients, increasing access to dental services for all Pennsylvanians.

In addition, the PDA is calling on the General Assembly to pass legislation that would require fluoridation for public water supply systems. More than 60 years of scientific study overwhelmingly proves the safety and effectiveness of water fluoridation.

“If lawmakers truly want to improve access to proven oral health services, they would push for fluoridation in

public water systems across the Commonwealth,” Johnston said.

Johnston said PDA officials worked with Senator Vance to improve patient safety standards in SB455 by:

- Requiring that dental hygienists serving as public health dental hygiene practitioners have the proper training, experience and insurance.
- Requiring that dental hygienists serving as public health dental hygiene practitioners receive continuing education.
- And, requiring that the patients seen in a public setting are referred to a dentist once a year to ensure there are no serious dental or oral illnesses that would need detection and treatment from a dentist.

The preceding is a reprint of a news release sent by the PDA.

American Dental Association News

For decades, the American Heart Association (AHA) recommended that patients with certain heart conditions take antibiotics shortly before dental treatment. This was done with the belief that antibiotics would prevent infective endocarditis (IE), previously referred to as bacterial endocarditis.

The AHA's latest guidelines were published in its scientific journal, *Circulation*, in April 2007 and there is good news: the AHA recommends that most of these patients no longer need short-term antibiotics as a preventive measure before their dental treatment.

The American Dental Association participated in the development of the new guidelines and has approved those portions relevant to dentistry. The guidelines were also endorsed by the Infectious Diseases Society of America and by the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society.

The guidelines are based on a growing body of scientific evidence that shows the risks of taking preventive antibiotics outweigh the benefits for most patients. The risks include adverse reactions to antibiotics that range from mild to potentially severe and, in very rare cases, death. Inappropriate use of antibiotics can also lead to the development of drug-resistant bacteria.

Scientists also found no compelling evidence that taking antibiotics prior to a dental procedure prevents IE in patients who are at risk of developing a heart infection. Their hearts are already often exposed to bacteria from the mouth, which can enter their bloodstream during basic daily activities such as brushing or flossing. The new guidelines are based on a comprehensive review of published studies that suggests IE is more likely to occur as a result of these everyday activities than from a dental procedure.

The guidelines say patients who have taken prophylactic antibiotics routinely in the past but no longer need them include people with:

- mitral valve prolapse
- rheumatic heart disease
- bicuspid valve disease
- calcified aortic stenosis
- congenital heart conditions

such as ventricular septal defect, atrial septal defect and hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

The new guidelines are aimed at patients who would have the greatest danger of a bad outcome if they developed a heart infection.

Preventive antibiotics prior to a dental procedure are advised for patients with:

1. artificial heart valves

2. a history of infective endocarditis
3. certain specific, serious congenital (present from birth) heart conditions, including:

- unrepaired or incompletely repaired cyanotic congenital heart disease, including those with palliative shunts and conduits
- a completely repaired congenital heart defect with prosthetic material or device, whether placed by surgery or by catheter intervention, during the first six months after the procedure

- any repaired congenital heart defect with residual defect at the site or adjacent to the site of a prosthetic patch or a prosthetic device

4. a cardiac transplant that develops a problem in a heart valve.

The new recommendations apply to many dental procedures, including teeth cleaning and extractions. Patients with congenital heart disease can have complicated circumstances. They should check with their cardiologist if there is any question at all as to the category that best fits their needs.

If you have any questions about these guidelines, please feel free to contact the ADA Division of Science via e-mail or by calling 312-440-2878. ADA members may use the Association's toll-free number and ask for x2878.

The preceding is a reprint of an article on the ADA's website (ada.org).



Night Out at PNC Stadium!

The SDDS annual baseball game was a huge success. Approximately 90 people (many of them kids!) headed to PNC Stadium on Wednesday, May 30th to see the Yankees play the

Toledo Mud Hens. A special thank you goes out to doctors Steve Solfanelli, Matt Zale, and Jack Ehrhardt for providing all the food. It was delicious!



Health Fairs a Success

As part of our mission to provide our community with pertinent, timely, educational information, our participation in two, local health fairs was welcomed.

Doctors Matt Zale, Pat Hayes, Miriam O'Malley, Chris Kotchick,

Mark Giallorenzi, Kristin Paoli, and Chris Berezniak donated their time to "man" our booths, distribute information, and answer questions. The fairs, held at the Steamtown Mall and Nay Aug Park, were well attended by the public.

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June Golf Outing

A great time was had by all at our annual golf outing on Wednesday, June 20th at the Scranton Country Club. Dr. Perotti will provide more details on winners in the next edition!

From The President

I hope everyone has enjoyed the summer. It is time to set ourselves to the fall meetings.

The PDA has worked closely with the state legislation to make recommendations for the new hygiene bill. The bill has passed in the Senate and we will have independent hygiene practice in this state if this passes in the House. Hygienists practicing independently will require additional education. The PDA is asking for three years of experience in an institutional setting; completing a 6 month preceptorship/internship under a community dental health coordinator, and completing an additional 6 hours of CE in each biennial renewal cycle.

Marisa Fenice has written to us in the PDA journal (March/April 2007) for us to participate on the PDA Lobby Day on October 16 to express our concerns about

independent hygiene practice. The legislators' greatest strength is our apathy.

Also, if you have not read the June ADA newsletter, there is counterfeit Colgate toothpaste circulating which has been pulled from the market. Patients using it have had various side effects. The FDA and Colgate have phone numbers to report problems. Please be aware of any strange or unusual complaints that your patients may have and be sure to inquire about the toothpaste brand.

Please make time for our meetings in the fall. There have been excellent lecturers in the past that few have come to see. With new legislation and changes in insurances, open discussion is necessary. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,
 Miriam O'Malley



Dr. Miriam C. O'Malley

Upcoming Events

Board Meeting	La Trattoria	August 27, 2007
General Meeting featuring Andrew Kettel of Penn Security Bank	Hilton	Sept. 18, 2007
Board Meeting	La Trattoria	Sept. 24, 2007
ADA Annual Session	San Francisco	Sept. 27-30, 2007
General Meeting featuring Dean Tansy of Temple University	To be announced	Oct. 16, 2007
Board Meeting	La Trattoria	Oct. 29, 2007
Third District Meeting <i>"Street Drugs: How their abuse impacts you & your dental practice"</i>	Woodlands	Nov. 9, 2007

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