



# SCRANTON DISTRICT DENTAL SOCIETY

January 2011

Volume 6, Issue 1

## January's Meeting

Are you having trouble keeping up with today's modern computer systems and technology? Do you currently use dental software programs such as Eaglesoft, Dentrix, or EzDental?

If the answer to these questions is "yes," you will want to attend the SDDS January meeting. Dental IT specialist, Scott Tobin, will explain the important aspects of internet security, data backup, and IT integration within the dental practice; keeping your office operating in a safe and efficient manner. With computers being a vital link in our daily operations, this meeting should be a very valuable resource for SDDS members.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 18, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at the Radisson. If you plan on attending, please contact Dr. Matthew A. Zale by calling 348-5300 or emailing gumdoctor06@yahoo.com.

## 2011 CE Courses

Registration for 2011 Continuing Education Courses is happening now. If you haven't received your flyer in the mail, contact Dr. Charles Potter at (570) 654-6745.

**Wednesday, 1/12/11, "Geriatrics,"**

Dr. Greg Folsy

**Wednesday, 2/16/11, "Composite Bonding and Porcelain Review,"**

Dr. Howard Strassler

**Wednesday, 3/16/11, "Implants: The Restoration of and Mini-Implants,"**

Dr. Steve Kukunas

**Wednesday, 4/6/11, "Nutrition,"**

Dr. Ken Etzel

## February's Meeting

While you're at it, make a note of February's general meeting featuring new SDDS member, Dr. Justin Burns, of Valley Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

It will be held Tuesday, February 15, 2011 at the Raddison at 6:30 p.m. Please be sure to join us!



*Dr. Justin Burns*

## National Children's Dental Health Month

Big plans are underway for this year's National Children's Dental Health Month in February. Under the direction of Co-Chairs Dr. Jessica Falk and Dr. Stephanie Hanyon, the events are designed to attract even more of the area's children.

We will be hosting two McDonald's Days --- one in Scranton on Keyser Avenue and one in Tunkhannock, complete with the widely recognized McDonald's characters. In addition, we will coordinate the traditional "Tooth Fairy Day" at the Scranton Public Children's Library. We are also trying to work with Timmy's Town again to set-up another community education day

there. Please be sure to check out the dates on the "Events" section of the newsletter!

More details will be released as they become available. If you would like to help, there are several ways. Here are a few:

- Be part of the planning
- Be present at one (or all) of the events to hand out bags and answer questions
- Sign up to speak at a local school during the month of February

If you can help, please email Stephanie at shanyondmd@live.com or Jessica at jessicafalk27@yahoo.com.



*This little girl is enjoying National Children's Dental Health Month at the Children's Library last year.*



# NEWS FROM THE ADA/PDA

*All information taken from the American Dental Association and Pennsylvania Dental Association websites.*

## Red Flag Rules

Thank you for your advocacy efforts in response to the ADA's Red Flags Action Alert!

The U.S. Senate unanimously passed Red Flags legislation, offered by Senators John Thune (R-S.D.) and Mark Begich (D-Alaska) to exempt certain businesses including dental practices from the Federal Trade Commission's Red Flags Rule.

Legislative action now heads to the House where dentist/Rep. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho) and Reps. John Adler (D-N.J.) and Paul Broun (R-Ga.), who introduced similar legislation yesterday, are expected to lead the charge in passing the Senate bill during Congress' lame-duck session.

## Regulating Teeth Whitening as the Practice of Dentistry

Due to growing concerns about the preponderance of non-dental professionals offering teeth whitening services to the public, the SBOD drafted a policy statement that would effectively regulate teeth whitening services as the practice of dentistry, to be administered by dental professionals only.

The SBOD's draft policy statement states that tooth whitening may be performed by a licensed dentist, or other

qualified dental staff (under dentists' direct supervision). Tooth whitening is defined as any means or methods used to whiten or bleach teeth, or the dispensing of a tooth-whitening agent to another person. There is an exemption for those products that consumers can purchase over-the-counter. This policy is still in draft form and must be approved by offices in the Governor's Administration before it becomes final.

## Regulating the Administration of Botox and Dermal Fillers

At present, there are no laws or regulations expressing, allowing, or prohibiting dentists to administer botox or dermal fillers to their patients.

The SBOD drafted a policy statement stating that it considers it the practice of dentistry when botox products and dermal fillers are administered to the structures associated with the human teeth or jaws, and other associ-

ated structures. When passed, this policy statement will provide more guidance to licensees and the public about what is acceptable in the dental office.

Dentists who choose to perform this service must be properly trained and obtain informed consent from patients. Stay tuned for more information once this policy statement is approved and enacted.

## ADA Supports Continued Amalgam Regulation and Research

On December 15th the ADA commended an advisory panel's call for continued research while offering support for the Food and Drug Administration's current amalgam regulation. The panel found that the FDA acted appropriately in ruling last year that dental amalgam is a safe and effective treatment option for the general population.

"The panel recommended continuing review of existing and new scientific information as it becomes available," said Dr. Raymond F. Gist, president of the American Dental Association. "As a science-based organization representing a science-based profession, we support this." The dental products panel concluded two days of public hearings on the FDA's regulation of dental amalgam as a medical device.

"As with all clinical issues, our position on amalgam is based on the best available science," Dr. Gist said. "We will continue to maintain or revise our positions on oral health and oral health care issues accordingly. At the end of the day, all treatment decisions should be made by patients with the advice of their dentists. We support the rights of all patients to decide how best to maintain and improve their oral health."

The Association testified at the hearings and offered an update of the scientific literature by ADA's Council on Scientific Affairs covering studies published between Jan. 1, 2004 and June 15, 2010.

## From the President

Greetings, I hope everyone had a wonderful and safe holiday. It is a special honor to serve as President of the Scranton District Dental Society for 2011, as well as an alternative delegate to the PDA. My goal over the following year is to increase member participation and support, and to expand the role of the SDDS within our community.

Along these lines, I am asking each member to make our January 18th meeting a priority. I encourage you to ask members that have not attended a recent meeting to spend the evening with us. The SDDS is the only platform we have as dentists that allows us to voice our concerns on legislative topics, and although we cannot change every bill that is introduced, we can greatly influence the process. The ADA was recently successful in their effort to drop "Red Flag" rules for dental offices. A state

bill (SB1222) that is of concern involves prohibiting insurance companies from capping rates on dental services they do not cover with their plans. This is currently pending review and our support and input is critical to it becoming a law. It is imperative that we take action on these types of topics as they directly influence how we practice.

I also urge members to participate with National Children's Dental Health Month in February. Consider visiting a school, attending a SDDS sponsored event, or handing out information at your office that promotes good oral health. It is an excellent service to our community and continues to promote the SDDS as a valuable source for dental information.

In closing, I would like to thank Mark Giallorenzi for a successful year as President, and I look forward to



*2011 SDDS President,  
Todd M. Angelo, DMD*

working with the board and general members in furthering our profession through the Scranton District Dental Society.

Sincerely,  
*Todd M. Angelo, DMD*

### ADA Review Launches Study on Shade-Matching Instruments

The ADA Professional Product Review is collaborating with three dental schools—Virginia Commonwealth University, University of the Pacific and University of Iowa—and the Togus VA Medical Center in Maine on a new study that evaluates shade-matching instruments.

The study is a follow-up to the 2009 product forum at annual session and will address such questions as to whether digital shade matching instruments agree with the color perceptions of the human eye and if dentists and patients differ in shade selection results.

Dr. Geissberger, professor and chair, Department of Restorative Dentistry at the University of the Pacific in San Francisco, and some of his staff recently visited the ADA Laboratories where they received training in how to operate the devices. The school begins the study in January. The results from all the studies will appear in future issues of the Review. For more information, visit [www.ada.org/ppr](http://www.ada.org/ppr).

## Scranton District Dental Society 2011 Officers

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*Thank You 2010 Officers for a Job Well Done!*

# Upcoming Events

CE Course <i>"Geriatrics"</i>	Inn at Nichols Village	January 12, 2011	8:30 a.m.
General Meeting	Radisson	January 18, 2011	6:30 p.m.
Board Meeting	Jilly's	January 31, 2011	6:30 p.m.
Tooth Fairy Day	Children's Library	February 6, 2011	2:30 p.m.
NCDHM @ McDonald's	Keyser Ave. McD's	February 12, 2011	noon
General Meeting <i>Dr. Justin Burns</i>	Radisson	February 15, 2011	6:30 p.m.
CE Course <i>"Composite Bonding and Porcelain Review"</i>	Inn at Nichols Village	February 16, 2011	8:30 a.m.
NCDHM @ McDonald's	Tunkhannock McD's	February 19, 2011	noon
Board Meeting	Jilly's	February 28, 2011	6:30 p.m.
CE Course <i>"Implants: The Restoration of and Mini-Implants"</i>	Inn at Nichols Village	March 16, 2011	8:30 a.m.
General Meeting <i>Ben Shair Award</i>	University of Scranton	TBA	6:30 p.m.
Board Meeting	Jilly's	March 28, 2011	6:30 p.m.
CE Course <i>"Nutrition"</i>	Inn at Nichols Village	April 6, 2011	8:30 a.m.
President's Dinner	Colonnade	April 16, 2011	7:00 p.m.
Board Meeting	Jilly's	April 25, 2011	6:30 p.m.

Todd M. Angelo, DMD  
327 N. Washington Avenue, Suite 1003  
Scranton, PA 18503-1511



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