



ALABAMA
ACADEMY of
GENERAL DENTISTRY

COMPOSITE

Newsletter of the Alabama Academy of General Dentistry

Editor: Bill Chesser, D.M.D., MAGD

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Greetings From Alabama AGD President Toni Neumeier, D.M.D.

With 2017 having come and gone, we now are looking forward to the new year of 2018. Alabama AGD wishes all of you a prosperous year and good health. At this moment, let us review what has happened at national AGD and Alabama AGD in 2017. The goal for AGD is “Whatever your passion, we cater to your unique needs.” There are several implications of the new branding of AGD that was released at the annual scientific meeting in July 2017. The national AGD website is now more user friendly and efforts are being made to further enrich the content found on it. It has five different categories to cater to the various types of members we have: dental students, young dentists, mid-career dentists, experienced dentists and Fellows/Masters; the goal is to address the needs of each member and to encourage more members to be actively involved with the AGD organization. It’s also important to note that multiple CE webinars are offered to members at no charge, and members are given access *General Dentistry* (AGD’s peer-reviewed journal) & *AGD Impact* (monthly news magazine).



Pictured: Dr. Toni Neumeier



Pictured: Dr. Toni Neumeier leading student luncheon

Another important impact of the new national website is that it is much easier to link to the Alabama AGD website to search for the current events in our local constituency. I'd like to give thanks to Dr. Derrick Mendez, our president-elect, who has helped relaunch our the Alabama AGD website and helped us earn the Public Information Award for being the first constituent to implement the new AGD branding on our website and other media.

Aside from the rebranding efforts, the other major change at national level is the split of scientific meeting from the governance meeting. Because our constituent has less than 700 members, we only have 3 delegates at the governance meeting. However, it is important to note that for 2017 we have won the **Constituent of the Year** award for our constituent size category, plus the **Academy Constituent Editor's** award and 3 honorable mentions in **Membership**,

Public Information, and **Continuing Education**. This is the result of teamwork from all Alabama AGD members to make us stand out among other constituents. Overall, we have to admit that 2017 was a good year for us.

The annual meeting in Destin this past year was a success; it incorporated changes of location, date, and format of events. We also have received two grants from national AGD to help us initiate our student chapter at UAB dental school. We have 51 D1 new student members. However, due to the increase of member fee from \$ 17.00 to \$ 20.00, which will add some strain to our current financial situation, the board of directors have decided that Alabama AGD will not subsidize D2, D3, D4 student member fee starting in 2018. Currently the student chapter plans to offer free CE courses to students in order to encourage them to participate all AGD sponsored activities and renew their memberships. Whenever you encounter dental students at the upcoming Alumni meeting or other social events please encourage them to renew their memberships.

To continue our success Alabama AGD needs your support; more importantly, we also want to hear your voice. Please get involved and plan to attend our next Alabama AGD general assembly meeting to welcome new officers during the School of Dentistry Alumni meeting on February 4th 2018.

Wishing you the best,
Toni Neumeier, D.M.D.

Important Dates in 2018

June 7-9

National AGD Scientific Meeting
Hyatt Regency – New Orleans, LA

September 6-8

45th Annual Review of Dentistry
Hilton Sandestin – Destin, FL

Required Reading: To Accept the OSCE or Not

Notes from the Editor: Bill Chesser, D.M.D

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Alabama AGD or any other board or organization which with the author may be affiliated.

In March, 2017, the ADA announced the desire to create a national licensure exam to assess a candidate's entry-level clinical skills and competency. The intention was, at the same time, to **avert** the potential ethical issues in **using live patients** for licensure exams.

The exam would be patterned after the example in **Canada**, the **Objective Structured Clinical Exam (OSCE)**. This exam evaluates clinical and critical thinking skills.

Details of the exam—content, structure, and staffing—remain in the works. A steering committee has been created by the Board of Trustees to work out the specifics of content and structure, and to identify the first states or regions for the **“field test.”**

This Board decision came more than a year after the **Council on Dental Education and Licensure** had **recommended** the development of a licensure exam which would **eliminate live patients** from this process.



Pictured: Editor Bill Chesser, D.M.D.

Currently, only **Colorado** accepts an OSCE for initial licensure, with no restrictions. **Minnesota** has an OSCE administered by the Examining Board of Canada, for the University of Minnesota graduates only.

In the Canadian model, candidates rotate through various stations, answering multiple choice questions, using simulated clinical scenarios and patient situations. The exam is based on “Competency of a beginning dental practitioner in Canada”. It lists approximately **50 skills and procedures** a graduate practitioner must be competent in doing.

Dr. Gary Roberts, ADA President, states, **“The OSCE is simply a new option for dental boards to consider.”** The ADA hopes to have a “Pilot Exam” in states which will accept the OSCE by **2019**. Once the ADA has created the exam, the ADA will license it to states by **2020**.

Your Editor admits a bias on this subject. Having been a General Practitioner in Dentistry for **50 years**, and having served as an Examiner for the Council on Interstate Testing Agency (CITA) for **five years**, I have witnessed a few dental school graduates who are NOT yet competent in performing the two operative procedures required. The Class II and Class III restorations are basic tasks for a practitioner entering the profession.

The American Student Dental Association (ASDA) has been “preaching” the unethical practice of using live patients for licensure exams for years. However, clinical dental education requires that students learn their skills with live patients. I see no other way to do this.

A good friend from Mississippi recently told me, at ADA Board Meeting, that he had never had a manikin come to him for treatment!

The current method used by most regional testing agencies is the **“Buffalo Method”** exam. The patients are selected from the schools’ patient pools, and faculty members are on hand to render further treatment if needed. Each patient also must submit information for follow-up care.

Ultimately, individual state boards will have the option to accept the OSCE model or not. Right now, I do not foresee that the Alabama Board of Dental Examiners will jump on board with this type of exam. Time will tell, as it always does.

To each of you, Happy New Year!
Bill Chesser, D.M.D.

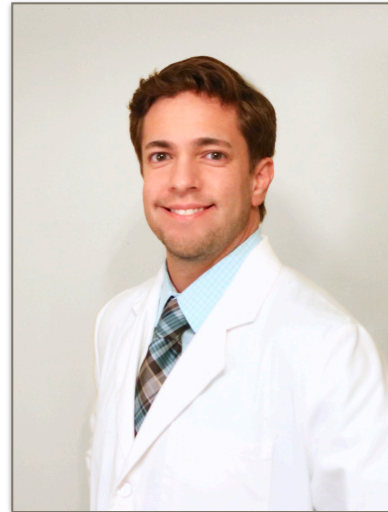
Alabama AGD Recognized at the 2017 House of Delegates



Meet Our President-elect

Derrick Mendez, D.M.D.

Dr. Derrick Mendez practices in Brierfield, Alabama (a few miles south of Montevallo) at the former practice of Dr. Stanley “Mike” Mahan. Dr. Mendez is an Alabama native and graduated from the University of Alabama School of Dentistry. Before he began his career in dentistry, Dr. Mendez attended Auburn University and graduated in 2008 with a degree in software engineering. He completed a second major in biology at UAB in 2010. Though he enjoys working with technology and the software behind it, Dr. Mendez realized during his time in Auburn that his true passion lay in his childhood dream of becoming a dentist.



Pictured: Dr. Derrick Mendez

As a student dentist at UAB, Dr. Mendez served as a class officer and was very active in the American Student Dental Association. In his fourth year of training, he was selected as a recipient of the Joseph F. Volker award; this is an honor that is bestowed annually on a student dentist who



Pictured: Dr. Derrick Mendez (left) practices at the office originally founded by Dr. Mike Mahan (right)



Pictured: Dr. Derrick Mendez with his family at the last Alabama AGD annual meeting

has “epitomized the team concept by selflessly helping classmates through their dental education and working for the good of the school and student body.”

In just his first years of practice, Dr. Mendez has shown a high level of involvement within the dental community. He is a member of the University of Alabama School of Dentistry Alumni Association and the American Dental Association, and he currently serves on the Alabama Dental Association’s Council on the New Dentist.

After attending his first Annual Review of Dentistry meeting in 2012, Dr. Mendez began helping out with the technical and A/V aspects of the meeting and gradually became a leader within the organization. In addition to his current role as president-elect, he continues to serve as the organization’s webmaster as he has done for the past two

years. Having logged over 200 hours of continuing education in just the last four years, Dr. Mendez is well on his way to earning Fellowship status within the Academy of General Dentistry.

Dr. Mendez grew up in McCalla, Alabama and attended McAdory High School. He now lives in Clanton with his wife Erin and their son Ian, who just had his second birthday. They love dogs and have a heart for animal rescue; their family includes Avery, a yellow lab, and Henry, a black shih tzu. Dr. Mendez enjoys many outdoor activities, especially running. He has participated in Birmingham’s Mercedes Half-Marathon in past years and plans to run it again in 2018.

National AGD Welcomes New Executive Director



AGD welcomed its new executive director, Max G. Moses, JD, CPA, MBA, who joined the team on January 2. An experienced executive, lawyer and CPA with a strong association management and dental industry background, Moses brings a broad range of skills to this role. [Click to learn more about Max Moses.](#)

2017 in Review

Installation of Alabama AGD Officers in February



Pictured (left from to right): Dr. Gary Myers (Executive Director), Dr. Bill Chessier (editor), Dr. Toni Neumeier (president), Dr. Derrick Mendez (president-elect), Dr. Ross Isbell (vice-president), Dr. Rachel Osborne (immediate past president)

Passing on the ALDA Presidency



Pictured (left to right): Dr. Gary Myers & Dr. Gordon Isbell, both AGD members; Dr. Myers passes on the office of Alabama Dental Association president to Dr. Isbell

New AGD Fellow for 2017



Pictured: Dr. Tim Smith of Hanceville, AL and Joycelyn McClelland of Alabaster, AL receive Fellowship awards in Las Vegas

Region 19 Attending the AGD Scientific Meeting in Las Vegas - July 2017



Annual Review of Dentistry - Sandestin FL - September 2017



Pictured: Dr. John Comisi, Mrs. Linda Cole, & Dr. Jeff Cole on the Oral Arts yacht at the Annual Review of Dentistry

Alabama AGD Past-presidents & Other AGD Dignitaries



Past-president Rachel Osborne Receives President's Gavel



President Toni Neumeier Congratulated by Dean Michael Reddy



Bill Chesser Accepts Constituent Editor's Award



Pictured: National AGD President Maria Smith presents the award to Editor Bill Chesser at the 2017 House of Delegates

Toni Neumeier Accepts Constituent of the Year Award



Pictured: National AGD President Maria Smith presents the award to Alabama AGD President Toni Neumeier at the 2017 House of Delegates

2017 AGD House of Delegates - The Alabama Delegation



Pictured (left to right): Dr. Bill Chesser, Dr. Gary Myers, Dr. Toni Neumeier, Dr. Derrick Mendez, & Dr. Ross Isbell

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