

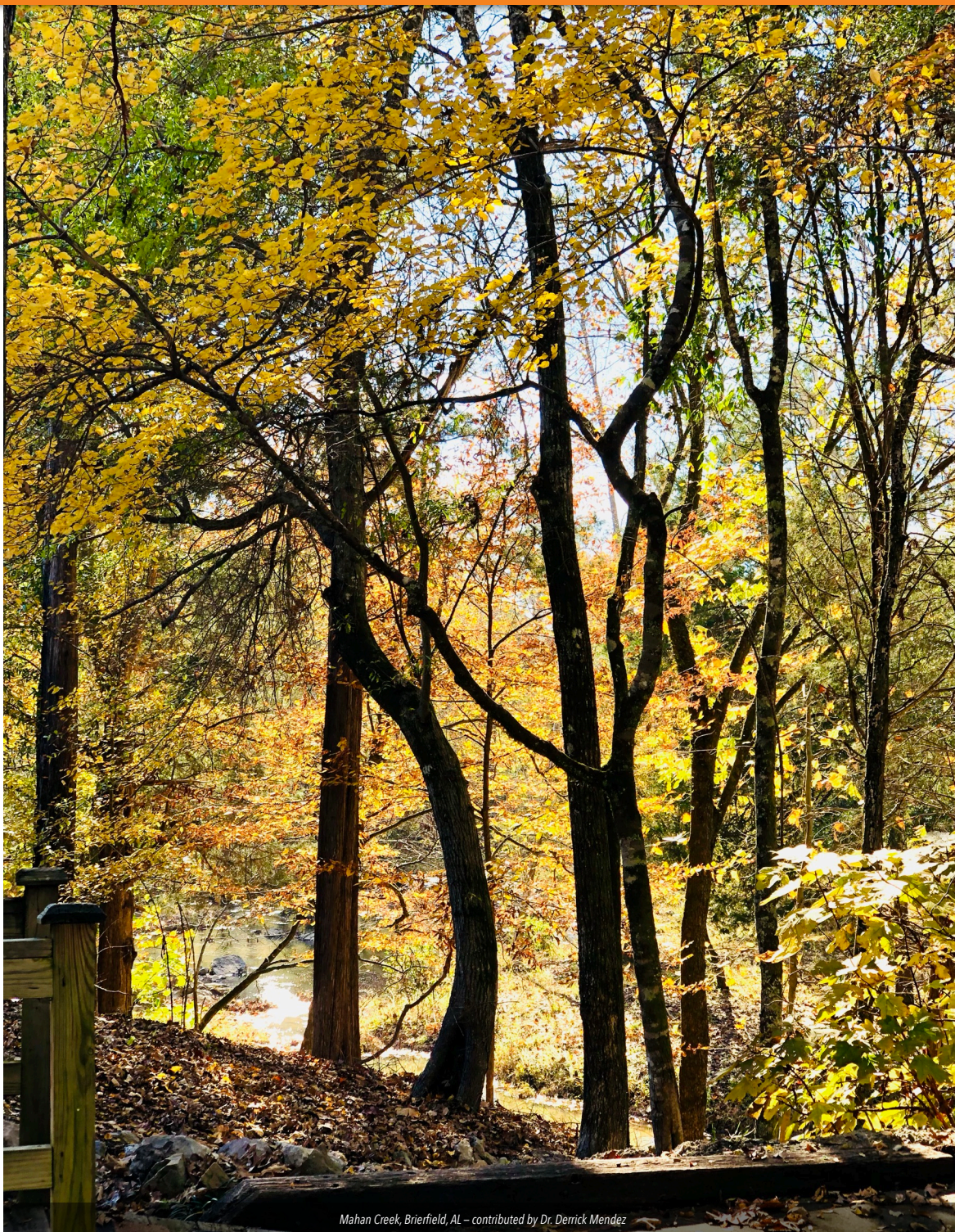
# THE ALABAMA COMPOSITE



ALABAMA  
ACADEMY of  
GENERAL DENTISTRY

The Newsletter of the Alabama AGD

Editor: Bill Chesser, DMD, MAGD



*Mahan Creek, Brierfield, AL – contributed by Dr. Derrick Mendez*

Fall 2024, Electronic Edition



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## 2024 Executive Council

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*Immediate Past President*

## President's Message

written by: Dr. Wendy Holder

As we wrap up the 2024 Emerald Coast Regional AGD Conference, it makes sense to look back at the event and our accomplishments. First, our silent auction raised \$6184 to fund equipment for our future Master Track Classes and other participation courses. Thank you to all who donated items and who bid while at the conference.

Our classes ranged from nutrition to communication to leading edge dental innovations. Attendees invested in their future and in their patients' care. Our nutrition class with Dr. Uche Odiatu offered life changing strategies to live healthier lives ourselves and offered excellent information to share with patients. How often has a patient complained to you about coping with diabetes or GERD? Dr. Odiatu's class provided practical tips I



Drs. Toni Neumeier & Wendy Holder (far right) with a group of students and recent graduates



Dr. Wendy Holder at welcome reception

can share with my patients. When Dr. Odiatu shared the Eubie Blak quote, "if I had known I was going to live this long, I would have taken better care of myself," it really struck home.

Learning about innovative technology from professionals like Dr. Karen Anderson and Dr. Bill Harrell excites me about the future of our profession. Who dreamed that we would be able to measure the nasal airway flow and analyze the data to help our pediatric and adult patients who have trouble breathing? Just from reading the graph, Dr. Anderson can diagnose and treat problematic breathing or recommend follow-up by other professionals. How many of our pediatric patients have those raccoon eyes and dry lips from allergies and mouth breathing? This small device provides concrete evidence that the child needs to be seen by an ENT or an orthodontist and should be a standard feature in all dental practices in the future.

So many people helped behind the scenes. We saw over 421 participants who used the time to learn, network and discuss trends in our industry. This meeting reinforced my belief that no virtual meeting can take the pace of face-to-face discussion at an event like this. As I walked



*Dr. Wendy Holder (center) with her dental team at the Emerald Coast AGD Annual Review of Dentistry*



*The beautiful view from our annual meeting venue at the Hilton Sandestin*

through the crowd, I overheard colleagues sharing their latest go-to for grafting material or brainstorming better solutions for difficult cases. That interaction is simply invaluable.

Over forty-one of our UAB Student Chapter members attended. In addition to volunteering to help with classes, they also brought energy and a connection with the latest dental trends. Our students are our future, and our future looks bright.

If you missed this event, plan now to join us on January 24, 2025, ALAGD in Huntsville. Your AGD Board is working hard to schedule Continuing Education events throughout our state to make attendance convenient and cost effective. We know your practice is important to you and we are committed to providing you with the tools and resources to help you succeed.

# Annual Review of Dentistry

written by: Bill Chesser, DMD, MAGD

Organizing our Annual Alabama AGD Review of Dentistry is a daunting task. The planning falls entirely on our Constituent Leaders.

AIDA has a sizable paid staff to help put their annual meeting together, based in Montgomery. Our SOD Alumni Association also employs an efficient staff, in Birmingham, to help with production of their excellent annual meetings.

**Alabama AGD does it all!** Our organization has one employee, Executive Secretary **Amber Dodd** (who was preceded in this position by her mom, **Angie Gilliver**; and before her, **Martha Junkin**). Each of these ladies has provided super-human efforts to make our annual meetings happen.

It is the duty of Alabama AGD to manage hotel contracts; in addition, there are food and beverage requirements; contracts for our prestigious



*Editor of the Alabama Composite, Dr. Bill Chesser*

speakers; exhibitor arrangements; buying and transporting the awesome door prizes; printing and setting up all the necessary signage; organizing accommodations for clinicians; setting up registration and individual packets; and last, but not least, handling the headaches!

This year, **President Wendy Holder** had planned to have Dr. John Burgess as one of our headline speakers. He was to present the latest updates on Dental Materials. Sadly, Dr. Burgess died unexpectedly not long before the meeting.



*National AGD officers Dr. Merlin Ohmer (President), Dr. Hans Gunter (Immediate Past-President), and Dr. Chethan Chetty, (President-Elect) join Dr. Gary Myers (Alabama AGD Executive Director) and a group of students at our annual meeting*

Then, on Opening day, one of our speakers cancelled due to a family emergency. Seventy people had signed up for this event, and had to be informed of the unexpected changes, then redistributed. **Stuff happens, but we handle it!**

In spite of everything, we had a magnificent meeting!



Dr. Holder's message in this issue gives a definitive report of our achievements.

The **Thursday Welcome Reception** was a delightful kickoff to our conference. As the sun set in the western sky, over the beautiful Gulf, attendees enjoyed a seafood feast while dancing under the stars and visiting with old friends from near and far. We gambled and won with the fickle weather, cashing in on the most stunning view in the South!

Several dignitaries joined us, including Dr. Merlin Ohmer, national AGD President; Dr. Hans Gunter, Immediate Past-President; and Dr. Chethan Chetty, President-Elect of AGD.

The **Exhibit Hall Party** has become, over the years, a highlight of our annual gathering. Food and drinks are plentiful, and Dentists & families, Staff

Members, and Exhibitors themselves eagerly await, as names are called for prize winners. Dr. Bob DeShazer always does an excellent job with this task. He not only purchases the gifts and brings them down to the beach; he also has the honor of announcing the names as they are drawn, to award the prizes.

**Dr. Harrell Bullard**, of Montgomery, will be our President next year. He already has selected several noted clinicians as speakers for his event, which should be the first week of September, 2025, after Labor Day. Yet another date for you to place on your calendars will be a special seminar, to be held January 24, 2025, in Huntsville. Dr. Jeffery Osborne will speak on "Aligner Therapy" and "Sleep Dentistry." Don't miss anything in 2025. Lots to look forward to!

## September 4-6, 2025 Emerald Coast AGD Annual Review of Dentistry

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THE MOST BEAUTIFUL  
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FOR 3 DAYS OF  
WORLD-CLASS CE**



**REGISTRATION OPENS  
THIS SPRING**

Visit our website in the spring to see the full course and speaker lineup. We hope to see you in Destin!

[www.alagd.com](http://www.alagd.com)



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# Alabama AGD "Around the State" Meeting

written by: Harrell Bullard DMD, MAGD

Alabama AGD is proud to announce that we will be reviving the "Around the State" meeting in 2025.

We plan **a full day CE lecture in Huntsville on January 24 at Campus 805, 2620 Clinton AVE W.**

The speaker will be **Dr. Jeffrey Osborne on Aligner Therapy and Sleep Dentistry.** Dr. Osborne operates three dental practices in the Dallas, Texas area. In addition to a DDS, he holds a MBA in Healthcare Administration from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. He has served as a Dental

Director for Cigna

Dental and was the Texas Dental Director for United Concordia Dental Insurance. While at United Concordia, he oversaw the administration of the dental portion of the Texas Children's Health Insurance Program. He was also



Alabama AGD President-elect  
Dr. Harrell Bullard

employed as the Director of Quality Assurance for South Texas Dental. He is now the Director of Sleep and Orthodontic Services for Smile Source, a group dedicated to preserving the elite business of independent dental care, as well as the Chief Dental Officer for First Pacific Corporation.

Smile Source Private Practice Network ([www.smilesourcel.com](http://www.smilesourcel.com)) is partnering with state constituents of AGD across the country to bring CE

opportunities and educate dentists on their efforts to strengthen the private practice of dentistry. Smile Source has over 1000 member dentists in over 800 locations nationally with approximately 30 members in Alabama. **AGD proudly supports all dentists regardless of the practice model they choose and all dentists are always welcome and encouraged to attend.** By the time of the January Alabama meeting, meetings from this partnership will have occurred in Mississippi, Louisiana, Kentucky, and Missouri will follow in March.

Smile Source will provide the speaker and the costs associated with the meeting. **A full day of CE (6 hours) will be offered with lunch. The cost of the meeting will be \$199.00 per person.** Smile Source will split the tuition with Alabama AGD, so this would be a helpful income to our group provided we gain good attendance. These events have been structured so that Alabama AGD can make a 10-15 minute appeal to non-member attendees on the value of joining AGD and Smile Source will make a 10-15 minute educational announcement about their group and mission statement during breaks.

The Mississippi AGD\Smile Source meeting was held in July of this year and had 50 attendees. Five attendees joined AGD from attending that meeting. Our hope is, our Huntsville as well as many other AGD members will attend this meeting and encourage their non-AGD member friends and colleagues to attend as well.



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# ELEVATE YOUR PRACTICE

AI, SLEEP DENTISTRY & ALIGNERS



**January 24, 2025 | 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM**  
**Campus No. 805**  
2620 Clinton Ave. W, Huntsville, AL 35805

Are you ready to transform your dental practice?  
Join us for an all-day event about empowering  
dentists with the latest in dental technology.



Our keynote speaker, **Dr. Jeffrey Osborne**, has a wealth of clinical experience. He will share his insights and provide practical advice on taking your practice to the next level by incorporating new technology.

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## What You'll Learn

### AI Technology in Dentistry

AI tools make diagnostics quicker and more accurate, treatment planning more personalized, and patient follow-ups more efficient. Dr. Osborne will show you how to harness the power of AI to enhance every aspect of your practice.

### Clear Aligner Therapy

Learn about the latest advancements in materials and design, how to choose the right cases, and manage your patients effectively. This session will give you the tools to integrate clear aligners seamlessly into your practice.

### Treatment of Sleep Apnea

Did you know that as a dentist, you can play a crucial role in diagnosing and treating sleep apnea? Discover the latest diagnostic tools and treatment options, and learn how to identify patients at risk. Treating sleep apnea not only saves marriages, but you could be adding years onto your patients' lives.

### Seamless Digital Workflow

Delve into the cutting-edge technologies transforming dentistry. Get practical insights on incorporating intraoral scanners and 3D printing into your practice. Learn how you can revolutionize your practice efficiency, boost patient satisfaction, and set yourself apart as a leader in modern dental care.



## Did You Know? Origins of the Golf Tee

written by: Bill Chesser DMD, MAGD

The next time you Golfers out there tee up that little ball, you can thank **Dr. George F. Grant**, an African American dentist from Boston, for the clever **invention of the Golf Tee!** Before Dr. Grant's invention, Golfers had to tee off on a pinched mound of damp sod.

Grant was born in Oswego, NY, in 1847, and worked for his hometown dentist, Dr. Albert Smith, as a dental assistant. At the age of 19, he left Oswego and headed to Boston, where he found work, again, as a dental assistant.

At 21, he was admitted to Harvard Dental School, the first university-based dental program in the

nation. Dr. Grant graduated with honors from this prestigious program in 1870. Harvard hired him immediately in their Mechanical Dentistry Department. He gained international fame for some of his dental designs, especially inserts for Cleft Palate patients.

Later, Dr Grant opened his own private practice in dentistry there in Boston, enjoying the sport of Golf in his spare time. At the age of 52, on December 12, 1899, he received a Patent for the world's first Golf Tee. His unique invention was actually a wooden spike with a flexible rubber peg on which the Golf ball rested.

Our clever fellow dentist, it seems, was an inventor, but not a marketer, for he never reaped the benefits of his history-changing invention. He simply shared his handy spikes with friends and Golf partners. When Dr. Grant died, in 1910, of liver disease, his invention died with him.

Another dentist, **Dr. William Lowell**, from New Jersey, also invented a **Golf Tee made of Gutta Percha**. In 1991, the United States Golf Association recognized Dr. George Grant as the original inventor of the wooden Golf Tee.



*Dr. George F. Grant: Boston dentist and original inventor of the golf tee*

## IMPORTANT DATES

**July 9-12, 2025**

National AGD Scientific Meeting  
Montreal, QC

**January 24, 2025**

Alabama AGD "Around the State" CE Meeting  
Huntsville, AL

**September 4-6, 2025**

Emerald Coast AGD Annual Review of Dentistry  
Destin, FL

# Photo Review of the 2024 Emerald Coast AGD Annual Review of Dentistry

Hilton Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort - Destin, FL



*Dr. Harold Neumeier , Dr. Toni Neumeier, Mrs. Rita Essig, and Dr. Milton Essig (left to right)*



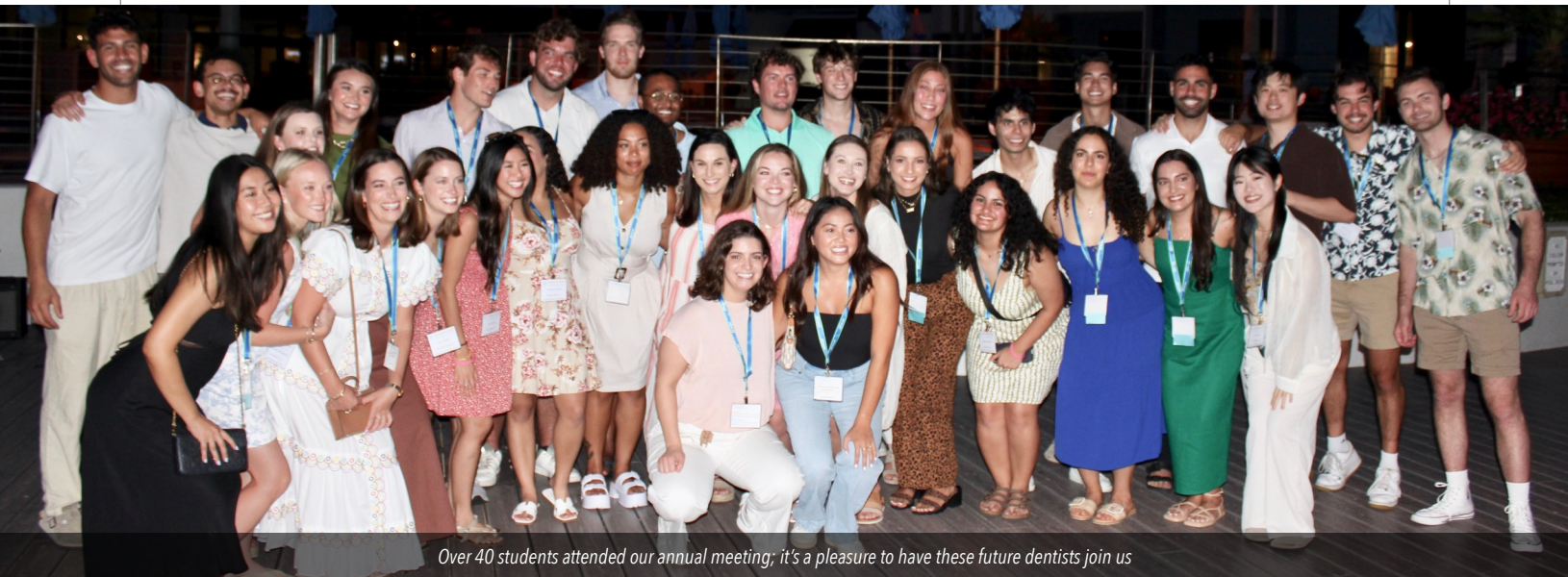
*A group of students and with the former Alabama AGD student chapter president*



*Angie Gilliver is honored for her many years of service as the former Alabama AGD Executive Secretary*



*Alabama AGD President Wendy Holder and Executive Director Gary Myers address the attendees at the welcome reception*

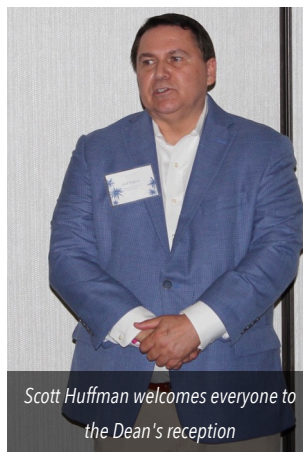
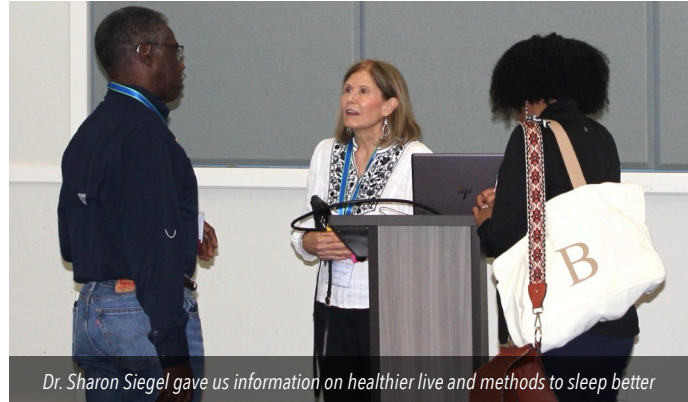


*Over 40 students attended our annual meeting; it's a pleasure to have these future dentists join us*



# Photo Review of the 2024 Emerald Coast AGD Annual Review of Dentistry

Hilton Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort - Destin, FL



**EMERALD COAST**  
AGD ANNUAL REVIEW OF DENTISTRY





# Photo Review of the 2024 Emerald Coast AGD Annual Review of Dentistry

Hilton Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort - Destin, FL



*Dr Bob DeShazer gets ready to give it all away at the Exhibit Hall Party*



*Dr. Charles Betts wins the big prize*



*Happy dental team member wins guitar at Exhibit Hall Party*



*Group of dental students relaxing between courses*



*Great team! Drs. Bob DeShazer & Bill Ingram*



*National AGD President Dr. Merlin Ohmer & President-Elect Dr. Chethan Chetty attend the Alabama AGD board meeting on Saturday*



*Alabama AGD President Dr. Wendy Holder presides over the Alabama AGD board meeting*





# EMERALD COAST

AGD ANNUAL REVIEW OF DENTISTRY

## 2025 SPEAKER LINEUP

SEPTEMBER 4-6, 2025  
HILTON SANDESTIN

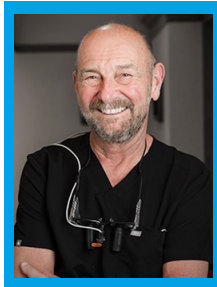


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The Fine Line  
Between Pleasure &  
Pain: Opioids & Pain  
Management



### Save the Date!

online registration, along with the  
final lineup of speakers and courses  
will be announced soon



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# MasterTrack Report

report originally presented on September 7, 2024

## Alabama MasterTrack Report

MasterTrack currently has a roster of twelve active members. In 2025 we will have our first Fellow to receive her FAGD degree. We have two others who have their hours completed but need to take the exam. It is possible that two of our members will complete their required hours in time for 2025 to earn their MAGD at the AGD Scientific session. We should have two LLSR recipients.

We have now participants from Mississippi, North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida added to our roster. The courses are available for any who wish to work on their LLSR for those hard to get participation hours.

April 2025, we will join with UAB School of Dentistry for our Esthetics discipline with Dr. David Carroll. September of 2025, Dr. Warren Jesek will be leading our occlusion class. We will be needing portable dental chairs for this event. If anyone knows of a source, please let me know.

Electric dental motors and other options are being explored for the use in our ALAGD courses and our MasterTrack sessions. As a part of this process, we have a Silent Auction this weekend. Donations are willing accepted. Dr. Hillel has offered free admission to his sedation course. We would appreciate your support also. Our ability to offer robust and cutting edge technology is essential for both the MasterTrack program and the sustainability of our ALGD conferences.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Holder

Program Director



Dr. Wendy Holder, Alabama AGD President & MasterTrack Director



Dr. Shivani Pandit gives her MasterTrack oral surgery presentation



# Trustee Report for Region 19

report originally presented on September 7, 2024

## Trustee Report for Region 19

Thank you to all who serve the AGD. Leadership, whether at the local, constituent, or national level requires many things, but I feel commitment is paramount. Anyone who volunteers or is elected to a position needs to commit to any and all necessary meetings (in person or Zoom), meeting deadlines, requests, etc. And have the discipline to follow through to the best of your ability.

The AGD Executive Director, Colleen Lawler, is doing an absolute superb job directing this organization. She is well known in the "Executive Director World" and is constantly in contact with her peers to help her make the best decisions for the AGD.

The three P's (President, President elect, and Vice President) have been really busy across the nation, attending state/regional meetings, at the table with various other organizations, and are doing a great job.

Membership is always a challenge. The best way to help the AGD is at the grass roots level - asking people to join, to renew, and to maintain their membership. We know that if people achieve Fellowship, and certainly Mastership, they are in a very high percentage of remaining members for their careers.

The scientific session was in Minneapolis this year. It was a great meeting, had a ton of CE opportunities, very good speakers, and a nice convocation ceremony. I would encourage you to attend these annual events. The next meeting will be in Montreal, Canada, Jul 9 - 12, 2025. It promises to be outstanding, based on the Scientific Meeting Council's efforts thus far.

Region 19 PreCaucus will be in Atlanta this year, on Nov 2, 2024. You should have received info from Jeff and Tri about this. The HOD will be in Chicago Nov 22-24, 2024. The Regional Director meeting will be Nov 21 and the Board of Trustees meeting I will be on Nov 25. Please insure all your delegates and alternates know and attend both meetings (it's that commitment thing I stated earlier). There will be much to discuss at this HOD - 2025 budget, the Project Governance proposal, and plenty of AIRs to contemplate. Do your homework and be prepared to hit the mike! (Regarding Project Governance, please insure you respond to the survey which is being sent out from national so they can gather further input from the members prior to the HOD.)

Ensure delegates/alternates understand the expectations of their attendance at all required functions so that reimbursement by state or national will not be questioned.

Elections for this year at HOD will be for Vice President (currently George Schmidt is unopposed - he is an awesome person), Treasurer (current treasurer Joe Picone is running unopposed), and House Speaker (current speaker Robert Peskin is unopposed).

As you plan state meetings, if you would like to invite any of the P's or Trustee, do so through national AGD.

Again, thank you for service the AGD and your states. It is my privilege to serve you on the Board, and I am always available by text, calls, or email.

William A. Bum, III, DMD, MAGD



William A. Bum, III, DMD, MAGD

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