

THE GREAT HIV-TEST DEBATE: One dentist's opinion..... page 2

NEW ORLEANS DENTAL ASSOCIATION



News of Dental Activities

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FOOD, FUN AND CAJUN STORIES

Staff Appreciation Dinner set for October 16

Names accepted for Honor Dentist

Nominations are being accepted for the NODA Honor Dentist Award.

Dr. Donald R. Toso, chairman of the Honor Dentist Committee, said nominations should be submitted in writing, signed by a NODA member, and forwarded to the Honor Dentist Committee chairman no later than December 30, 1991.

He said the committee will meet in January at which time all nominations will be considered.

The award was established by NODA several years ago to provide recognition for dentists for especially meritorious service.

Nominees must be members of NODA, LDA and ADA (active or life). They must have conducted themselves in an ethical manner during their dental careers and should have been active in community or professional services.

Nominations should be sent to Dr. Donald R. Toso, 4614 Veterans Blvd., Metairie, LA 70006.



MADAME MARIE

THIRD TERM FOR DR. BARSLEY

Dr. Robert Barsley, a NODA member and LSUSD faculty member, has been elected to a three year term on the board of governors of the American Society of Forensic Odontology.

Once again the Southern Yacht Club will be the venue for NODA's popular Staff Appreciation Dinner Wednesday, October 16, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Plan to attend with your staff for an evening of good food and fun.

This year's featured speaker will be Madame Marie, better known as Lottie Mary Cefalu. Mrs. Cefalu is married to a dentist, Dr. Thomas Cefalu, and has a son and a daughter. Her son is also a dentist.

Mrs. Cefalu has been featured at numerous civic groups and conventions. She has also appeared in local dramatic productions and on radio and television. Her Cajun stories promise to be highly entertaining.

The cocktail hour will begin at 6:30 p.m. with dinner being served at 7:00 p.m.

The menu will be:

Turtle Soup

Tossed Green Salad

**Choice of: Red Snapper Oscar
or 8 oz. Sirloin Steak**

Strawberries Romanoff

Rolls and Butter

Coffee and Tea

The cost for dinner will be \$21.00 per person. There will be a cash bar.

Please call Mona at the NODA Central Office, 834-6449, to make your reservations. Space is limited, so call early to avoid disappointment.

Dental Auxiliary Resources, 653 Melody Drive in Metairie, is sponsor of the event. Representatives of the company will be on hand to meet members and explain its services.

DR. BOOZER ELECTED

Dr. Charles H. Boozer of the LSUSD faculty, a NODA member, has been elected to his fourth term as secretary of the American Board of Oral Medicine.

Nominations invited for '91 - '92 officers

Dr. Emmett L. Zimmerman III, NODA president-elect, has been appointed chairman of the Nominating Committee for 1991-92 officers.

Committee members are Dr. Debra Arnold, board member, and Dr. Tony Miranda, Dr. Kristi Soileau and Dr. Joseph D. Kirn, non-board members.

Nominations may be submitted to any member of the committee or may be sent to the Central Office, Suite 119, 3101 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, LA 70001.

Nominations should be in writing and signed by two active, life or retired members in good standing. The committee's nominations will be announced at the December general membership meeting. At that time additional nominations may be made from the floor or by vote.

The January meeting will be for debate only, if there are multiple candidates for any offices. The February general membership meeting is the election meeting. The new officers will be installed in March.

THE GREAT HIV-TEST DEBATE: ONE DENTIST'S OPINION

By James Cassidy, DMD
Editor, *Granite State Dentist* (NH)

Old question: Should doctors be allowed to require HIV-testing of patients before undertaking invasive treatment procedures which, in their professional judgment, may put the doctor at risk?

Old answer: No. The use of "universal precautions" by doctors is considered adequate protection. Priority is given not to the health worker's safety, but to the sensibility and confidentiality of the patient – a unique and novel approach to addressing a communicable disease. Whatever the unknown risk may be, doctors and health workers are mandated to accept it in the cause of protecting the "civil rights" of the patient.

New question: On the basis of one, highly suspect but not conclusively proven, instance of a dentist having infected patients with AIDS, should all health care workers be tested before being allowed to continue to practice?

New answer: Yes. It is outrageous for the public to be put at risk by an irresponsible and unscrupulous health community run amuck. Good and decent citizens should not be abused in this way.

Such is the conventional wisdom of the times.

In my role as editor, I have read just about everything available on the subject of AIDS. I have examined all the various opinions offered on testing and have come to one firm conclusion: **The proposal for routine and repeated HIV-testing of all health care workers is an absurdity.**

The suggestion that physicians and dentists represent a significant threat to the general public because of widespread, latent, and hidden HIV infection within the health community, and the further assumption health workers lack both common decency and concern for proper procedure protocol is a preposterous notion that could only have taken root as a result of sustained and pernicious media distortion.

Thanks to one notorious Florida dentist, who will live in infamy, and a media-induced feeding-frenzy, the public is aroused and wants testing of all health workers to relieve its anxiety. You will note John Q. Public was willing to go along with the "confidentiality" approach so long as it only involved risk to health workers. Now that he (incorrectly) perceives the danger may become personal, he wants to make sure no AIDS doctor gets near him. Legislators, always looking for a "cause," appear happy to comply. There are, after all, more votes to be counted among a frightened public than among the totality of physicians and dentists.

The case of the Florida dentist who is purported to have infected five patients is simply beyond the pale. Consider the facts: not a single other case of a doctor-to-patient transmission is documented. Any logical analyst must conclude this situation in Florida is a statistical aberration. For one practitioner to have infected five patients begs for another explanation. Obviously something unconventional

was happening in Dr. Acer's Florida office. The large number of suspected infections, in itself, goes a long way to support the argument this simply could not be a matter of the operator's blood accidentally contaminating patients on at least five separate occasions. With virtually nothing known about the mode of transmission, the possibility of diabolical or intentional acts cannot be dismissed out of hand. Who knows, maybe the whole problem was caused by something patently irresponsible, like not bothering to change needles between patients. It is unlikely we will ever find out. Furthermore, if the explanation were to involve the contamination of instruments and the transmission of the virus from patient-to-patient in this manner, the HIV status of the dentist is irrelevant.

There is every reason to believe the actual risk of a doctor-to-patient infection is infinitesimal. Of course, this is of no consequence as long as the perceived risk remains high. *People magazine*, *Sixty Minutes*, and other irresponsible pop media types are doing their best to perpetuate this myth. Television shows like *Home* are conducting telephone polls on loaded questions like: Should all health workers be HIV-tested to protect the public? This, of course, immediately follows a sensationalized interview with the mother of a Dr. Acer infected patient. Big surprise! The poll shows 94% of the respondents want the testing of all health workers. The hosts of the show promise to submit the results to Congress.

Dr. Acer's patients/victims are angry. They want revenge; they want vindication and satisfaction. Who can blame them? But Dr. Acer is no longer around and it is not reasonable for the profession or the public to allow them to manifest their revenge against the profession of dentistry. Dr. Acer may be worthy of condemnation, but the profession is not.

On the other hand, the suggestion that the HIV patient represents a significant risk to a health worker cannot be so easily dismissed. It is a comparison of apples and oranges. After all, putting it bluntly, it is the *patient* who is bleeding all over the doctor. It is the *patient* whose blood contaminates used needles and sharps. These represent the biggest risk of all. If one is looking for legitimate danger, this is where it is. It is, by definition, the *patient's* tissues that are laid wide and bleeding and not vice versa. One would have to stretch the imagination to even think of circumstances where the doctor would "bleed" on the patient. This defies credibility. It is not inconceivable, but it surely is not in the realm of being worthy of labored consideration. And somewhere in here (I hope I am not being too presumptuous) there would seem to be a place for a continued belief in a doctor's professional rectitude and character. **Or is this the point at which we scrap one of the basic tenets of our society, namely that health workers do routinely proceed with the patient's interest in mind?**

The latest word from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) on this subject is particularly distressing. Being very influential in setting policy, they had the opportunity to squelch this public hysteria. Instead, their weak-kneed and hypocritical pronouncements are infuriating. They have but stirred the pot a little more. They have just released guidelines calling for all health workers who do invasive procedures to be routinely tested on a voluntary basis, the results to be released to patients. This, despite the absence of any logical or scientific basis for such an injudicious conclusion.

I, for one, cannot forget how they have consistently hamstrung our efforts to retain the right to test patients at our own discretion, insisting there was no danger and no need for us to have the knowledge. (There have been numerous accidental infections of health workers forced to work under these conditions.) For CDC to now bring this outrage upon the health care workers of this country is an act worthy of our fullest contempt.

If this were not enough, CDC director William Roper, under interview pressure from Roger Mudd, coyly suggests these guide-

(Continued on page 3)

Mark your calender for '91 - '92 NODA meetings

OCTOBER 16, 1991

STAFF APPRECIATION DINNER
After Dinner Speaker: Mrs. Lottie Cefalu
6:30 p.m. Cocktails, 7:00 p.m. Dinner
Southern Yacht Club, \$21 per person.
Sponsor: Dental Auxiliary Resources

NOVEMBER 20, 1991

SPECIAL AFTERNOON-DINNER MEETING
"Becoming A Hardy Dentist: Moving From Stress To Success"
Clifford Katz, D.D.S., Ph.D.
The Katz Company, Management and Organizational Consultants.
3:30-5:45 p.m. Seminar, 5:45-6:00 p.m. NODA Meeting, 6:00-7:00 p.m. Dinner, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Seminar
LSUSD, Auditorium C, Fee (Dinner Included): \$25.
Sponsor: Hill Dental Company

DECEMBER 18, 1991

"The Hygiene-Driven Practice"
Dr. Peter Glaser
SNEAK PREVIEW: "Keeping Busy, Productive, and Profitable in the '90's"
Dr. Peter Glaser and Dr. Emmett Zimmerman (See February 21, 1992)
7:00 p.m., LSUSD, Auditorium A.

Sponsor: Healthco-Auderer Dental Supply

JANUARY 15, 1992

"New Armamentarium in Endodontics - What's Really New?"
Dr. Billie Jeansonne
7:00 p.m., LSUSD, Auditorium A.
Sponsor: First National Bank of Commerce

FEBRUARY 19, 1992

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME DINNER
After Dinner Speaker: Mr. Donald Bollinger
"The Making of a Cajun Entrepreneur"
6:30 p.m. Cocktails, 7:00 p.m. Dinner.
Masson's Restaurant, \$25 for members (Free to 1991 new members).
Sponsor: The Medical Protective Company

FEBRUARY 21, 1992

SPECIAL ALL DAY SEMINAR
"Keeping Busy, Productive, and Profitable in the '90's"
Dr. Emmett Zimmerman and Dr. Peter Glaser
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Luncheon Served.
LSUSD, Auditorium C, Fee (Lunch Included): \$25 for NODA members,

\$125 for non-members.
Sponsor: Gilsbar, Inc.

MARCH, 1992

PRESIDENT'S INSTALLATION DINNER
DR. EMMETT ZIMMERMAN
Time, Date, Place, and Cost to be announced.

APRIL 8, 1992

NODA-LSUSD TABLE CLINIC COMPETITION
7:00 p.m., Vista Shores Country Club.
Free Hors D'oeuvres.

APRIL 24, 1992

NODA ANNUAL CRAWFISH BOIL
Entertainment and After-Dinner Dancing Music by Dan McKay and His Oldies
Mobile Sound Show
7:00-11:00 p.m., American Legion Home, 3001 River Road at Causeway
\$10 per couple, FREE TO THOSE WHO MAKE RESERVATIONS.
Sponsor: Swift Collections, Inc.

MAY 20, 1992

"Bonding Systems For All Applications"
Dr. Anthea Grogono
7:00 p.m., LSUSD, Auditorium A.
Sponsor: The Glapion Group

HIV - TEST DEBATE: ONE DENTIST'S OPINION... continued from preceding page

lines will likely serve as an incentive for state boards to make them "mandatory." This whole scenario is so obviously a continuation of the previously set precedent of letting all decisions about AIDS be driven by politics, it is downright sickening.

It is time to get real. It is time to return to basic common sense. The only justifiable testing is the testing of patients by physicians and dentists who have reason to want the knowledge to proceed with their work. Notwithstanding the argument that most HIV patients may not even know they have the disease, and notwithstanding the general agreement calling for universal precautions for all patients as the norm (with which we completely agree), health workers should be entitled to require the test, at their discretion. Patients are equally free to refuse this request and go elsewhere for treatment. This is the way a free society should work. This is the way it has always been and should be. Only the AIDS phenomenon has been handled differently. Medical protocol is simply not the proper arena to test out sociological and political agendas.

It is time to put the role of the health professional back in perspective. For a society to remain coherent, it is necessary to allow for certain confidences. Such as the presupposition that this society's health professionals still have a modicum of integrity. Recent revelations remind us that society must accept the possibility of occasional venality in unexpected places. Some clergy are corrupt and seduce their young parishioners. Some policemen are vicious, occasionally known to gang up and reduce an errant traffic offender to a bloody pulp. Some judges are bribable, unfit to serve. Some legislators, who a year ago were authorizing laws on what dentists should and shouldn't do, are this year facing jail terms due to their own indiscre-

tions. Alas, even an occasional dentist is capable of perfidy, but are we to trust no one and demand tests for all health workers as a result? Are we prepared as a society to spend the estimated one-half billion dollars every six weeks it will take to test the pertinent workers? Are those of us with scientific backgrounds, and know better, going to stand and watch as lawmakers pour these precious AIDS allocated funds down a rathole?

To allow doctors the discretion to call for a medical test and demand knowledge of their patient's full medical condition is a basic precept of medical and dental practice. The call for wholesale testing of all health workers is a product of whipped-up hysteria, devoid of any merit and completely lacking in scientific justification. Moreover, the day society's policy makers can make the case for mandatory testing of all workers is the day dentists should conclude the AIDS patient is simply too risky to be treated in the private office.

As a society, we made a grievous error initially in allowing AIDS to become a political disease. Hopefully we won't compound that error by buying a second pig in a poke - the fallacious argument that the testing of health workers is reasonable, sensible or practical.

It is encouraging to know the delegates to the recent American Medical Association greeted the proposal to support the mandatory HIV-testing of all physicians with a resounding defeat. Hopefully our own delegates to the ADA convention in Seattle this October will do likewise. Throughout the history of the AIDS epidemic, we in the health professions have been patsies. It is time to take a strong and united stand and not let the politicians put another one over on us. The world has been turned on its head for long enough.

DENTAL DATA

ENROLLMENTS RISING IN ALLIED FIELDS

Enrollments in allied dental education programs are on the rise, according to an article in the July-August *Dental Teamwork*.

A report recently released by the ADA Department of Educational Surveys shows that first-year enrollments in accredited dental hygiene programs has risen each of the last two years, up 7.5 percent in 1989-90 and 3.2 percent in 1990-91, after a decade of slow decline.

The report also shows that 1990-91 first-year enrollments in all three allied dental educa-

tion programs—hygiene, assisting and laboratory technology—were up for the first time since 1975-76.

NEW TAX CREDIT AVAILABLE TO DENTISTS

Dentists are eligible for a new tax credit, even in the current year, if they renovate their offices to increase access for disabled people, writes Phillip Bonner, DDS, in the August *Dentistry Today*.

The "disabled access credit" allows a credit for half of the costs of eligible renovations exceeding \$250, but not more than \$10,250 during any tax year.

The law defines eligible expenditures to include amounts paid or incurred for architectural modifications and materials or equipment used to remove barriers preventing a business from being accessible to or usable by people with disabilities. The law also requires the Internal Revenue Service to issue regulations.

It is the error of youth to believe that intelligence is a substitute for experience, and it is the error of age to believe that experience is a substitute for intelligence.

Old Saying

HIV INFECTION AND AIDS IN CHILDREN INCREASE

The problem of HIV infection and AIDS in children is increasing as more children become infected each year, according to an item in the July-August *Journal of Dentistry For Children*.

With an estimated 1,500 to 2,000 HIV-infected children born in 1989, the impact of HIV on mortality in children will become more severe, reports S.Y. Chu in "The Impact of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus Epidemic on Mortality in Children."

While certain therapies under evaluation may slow the course of HIV disease, HIV infection is likely to remain a highly fatal condition. Prevention of most AIDS cases in children requires prevention of infection in women.

Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers, build up its institutions, promote all its great interests, and see whether we also, in our day and generation, may not perform something worthy to be remembered.

Daniel Webster

NEWS 'N NOTES FROM THE CONFERENCE

- Attendance at the 43rd Conference by NODA members was up by 48 dentists over last year. There was a decline in out-of-town dentists of 150 dentists. These statistics tend to vary from year to year.

- The Exhibit Hall was a sell-out... with a waiting list.

- Dr. Louis Mason of Port Allen, Louisiana was the lucky winner of the Delta "Dream Trip for Two." The Conference pitched in with \$500 for expenses.

- The Parade of Prizes in the Exhibit Hall amounted to 105 prizes totaling more than \$10,000 in value.

- Dentists came from far and near. The visiting contingent included Dr. Jean Romerowski, dental professor at the University of Paris, and his physician-wife Louise.

- Winner of the \$1,000 cash award drawn at the close of the exhibits on Saturday was Dr. Pat Eck. Winner of the \$500 prize was Dr. Charles Crooke of Peusacola.

- Dates of the 1992 Conference are August 6, 7, 8, 1992.

Conference general chairman is Dr. Randy Green. Theme of the 44th annual Conference is "Renaissance on the River."

ADHA INSTALLS NEW PRESIDENT

Virginia L. Woodward, RDH, of Louisville, Kentucky, was installed as president of the Chicago-based American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) during the organization's 68th annual session in Orlando.

She was the first registered dental hygienist to be appointed to the Kentucky Board of Dentistry, on which she served for eight years.

INFORMED CONSENT FROM DIVORCED PARENTS

Obtaining an informed consent from most patients is generally straightforward, but obtaining the consent for treatment of a child of divorced parents may require more, according to an article in the *Contra Costa (CA) Dental Society Newsletter*.

The Dentists Insurance Company (TDIC), a company of the California Dental Association, says dentists may need to ask

more questions, verify patient information records more often and document in the patient's charts any disputes between the parents over the recommended treatment.

The patient information sheet should identify the child's custodial parent because that parent will be asked to make treatment decisions for the child. TDIC recommends that dentists obtain both parents' signatures acknowledging the custodial parent and that this information be reconfirmed each time the patient's health history is updated.

The article states that when parents share custody they must speak with one voice concerning their child's dental care; divorced parents must understand that this is in their child's best interest.

On occasions where the parents' disagreement has compromised a dentist's ability to treat a child, the dentist should carefully document these incidents.

ADA LAUNCHES MEDIA TOUR

The ADA's multi-dimensional communications program continues to address the three major issues facing dentistry today - fluoride safety, amalgam use and issues surrounding HIV/infection control.

Known as the Oral Health Issues Education Campaign, the program includes a source book for state and local dental societies, new patient education brochures and a 30-city media tour. The Board of Trustees approved the campaign in March.



Rosita wows 'em at opening session



Big crowd viewed exhibits



Another view of Exhibit Hall



Picking the lucky prize winners

**NODA NEWS
GOES TO THE
CONFERENCE**



Passing the baton



LSU party was popular



Marcy Celino speaks at luncheon

MEMBERS RETIRE FROM TEACHING

Two NODA members, longtime faculty members at LSU Dental School, were feted on the occasion of their retirement from full-time teaching.

After 22 years in the department of oral diagnosis/medicine/radiology, Dr. Peter Fortier will teach one day a week, continue his dental radiology practice in Metairie, and

work at few chores around the house.

Dr. Alejandro Acevedo of the department of oral and maxillofacial surgery is retiring for the second time. He served 20 years in the Army and 11 years at LSUSD. He will lecture in Mexico, Panama and Argentina, while settling down in Guadalajara, Mexico.

NODA News is published every month with the exception of June, July and August. Deadline for ads and editorial material is the 10th of the month preceding publication. Ads and news should be sent to D.: Kristi Soileau, 3600 Prytania St., 55 Lister Court, New Orleans, LA 70115.

Dr. Soileau is editor and chairman of the NODA News Committee. Members are Drs. Joseph Asercion, George Cerniglia, Frank Herbert, David De Genova, Peggy Walsh and Duane

Coming in November!

**“BECOMING A HARDY DENTIST:
MOVING FROM STRESS TO SUCCESS”**

Speaker: Clifford Katz, D.D.S., Ph.D
The Katz Company, Management & Organizational Consultants

Wednesday, November 20, 1991 • LSUSD
Seminar: 3:30-5:45 p.m. • NODA Meeting: 5:45 - 6:00 p.m.
Dinner: 6:00-7:00 p.m. • Seminar: 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Fee (dinner included): \$25

BULLETIN BOARD

WANTED: To purchase or merge a small general dental practice in the Metairie area. Please contact Dr. Briggs at 887-5161.

FOR LEASE: 1,500-square foot dental suite consisting of business office, 2 large operatories, private office and small lab. Equipped with central compressed air, suction and nitrous oxide. Group solo setting with completely furnished reception room. Call 486-0677.

(Classified ads are \$25 each. Send to Dr. Kristi Saileau, 3600 Prytania, 55 Lister Court, New Orleans, LA 70115)

NODA WON'T CHANGE DUES STRUCTURE

The New Orleans Dental Association Board of Governors has voted not to implement the ADA's new dues equity program "at this time."

Under the program, made effective by the ADA in 1991 and by the LDA in 1992, waiver of dues for certain categories of members was ended. For example, life members, if they continue working, will no longer be fully excused from dues by the ADA and LDA.

NODA's board, however, stated: "Although NODA supports the ADA and LDA dues equity program, the board has decided not to follow suit in implementing the program in 1992."

ATTENTION, NODA MEMBERS

The NODA Central Office has moved!

The Central Office is now located in new and larger offices at 2121 N. Causeway Blvd., Suite 153, Metairie, LA 70001. The telephone number remains the same, 834-6449.



Continuing Education Corner

In an effort to keep the membership attuned to available C.E. opportunities at the L.S.U. School of Dentistry, this area will be devoted to informational updates.

DATE	COURSE TITLE	COST
Oct. 18 & 19	"Comprehensive Management of Craniomandibular Patients" by Drs. Desonier, Mohamed and others. This course is designed to present a comprehensive overview of the management of acute and chronic craniomandibular pain and dysfunction patients. A participation course.	\$345.00
Oct. 19	Radiology for Dental Auxiliaries	\$ 85.00
Nov. 8	"Successful Direct Posterior Composite Restorations" by Ron Maitland, D.M.D. Creating long-lasting, comfortable and functionally-sound esthetic restorations requires a knowledge of the factors for success and an attention to detail. This course combines lecture, demonstration and hands-on.	\$135.00
Nov. 16-22	17th. Annual Comprehensive Course in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Review & Recent Advances	
Nov. 22-24	Comprehensive Course in Cosmetic Maxillofacial Surgery Review and Recent Advances	
Dec. 7	Radiology for Dental Auxiliaries	\$85.00
	1992	
Jan. 22-26	15th Annual Comprehensive Review Course in Periodontics	

For information, call (504) 948-8584.

DENTISTS ALERTED TO SCAM

Attention, doctors.

There is a scam going around involving supplies.

According to several reports, a caller informs the dentist by phone that "your order of gloves (or other supplies) is in. How would you like to pay for it?"

The problem is that the order may never

have been placed by the office. According to one dentist, the caller may even obtain and invoke the name of a staff member.

If such calls occur, the dentist or staff member should try to obtain the name of the caller and the firm, and call the Better Business Bureau at 581-6222.



Suite 153
2121 N. Causeway Blvd.
Metairie, LA 70001
834-6449

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE

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New Orleans, La.

Kristi Soileau, Editor

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