

**MISSION STATEMENT**

*To maintain a cohesive organization that serves its membership by promoting the art, science and professionalism of dentistry, and by communicating the value of optimal oral health to the community.*

**VOL. 62 SUMMER '24 NO. 06**

# NODA News

## President's Message . . . by Linda T. Cao, D.D.S. – NODA President

Dear NODA members,



I hope everyone is having a wonderful and busy jumpstart to their summer schedule!

Our New Orleans Dental Conference & Louisiana Dental Association's Committee Chair, Dr. James Burns, along with many committee members, have been working diligently to line up a great host of events for next year's Conference. The Conference will be held April

10-11, 2025 at the downtown New Orleans Astor Crowne Plaza located at Bourbon and Canal. We can't wait to share the details with you all! French Quarter fest will be held on April 10-13, 2025 celebrating the music, food, history and people that make New Orleans the destination location with its rich heritage.

Our next General Membership meeting with a two-hour CE will be September 18th at the Ridgeway of Old Metairie. Earl Peter Park, DMD, MD is a board-certified surgeon with specific focus on treating patients with oral cancer and pathology. The lecture is intended to provide a better understanding of the comprehensive management of oral cancer patients including: screening, biopsy, ablation-reconstructive surgery, and rehabilitation. Be on the lookout for the announcements!

ADA's SmileCon®, opened registration beginning on May 8, 2024! Join dental professionals from around the nation on October 17-19, 2024 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. Please make sure to register for this annual meeting offering continuing education, networking opportunities, hundreds of exhibitors, social events and fun! Thank you to all of our local and state component members and leaders that have graciously volunteered for ADA's SmileCon®! I hope you all have a wonderful summer and looking forward to seeing you all at our next General Membership meeting! As always, we are here to support and to provide our members with any questions and concerns relating to our organization.



**Send your school news to:  
The Tiger's Tooth Probe!**

...Where students, faculty and administration can submit a photo, news, and/or announcements relating to organized dentistry and charity events at LSUSD! Please submit your entry to both [kmsperio@gmail.com](mailto:kmsperio@gmail.com) and [info@nodental.org](mailto:info@nodental.org).

## NODA NEWS NOW A PART OF THE ADA COMMONS

**N**ODA News is now included on the ADA's new publishing and archival repository, *ADA Commons*. The development of ADA Commons was voted on by the House of Delegates and specifically created for the State and Local affiliates to facilitate the publishing, disseminating, and archiving of association publications and

scientific materials. This growing resource features materials from associations across the United States, as well as archival content from ADA. NODA members can search and browse content from NODA News going back to 1997, as well as explore the publications of *fellow ADA societies!*

## LDA Strategic Planning Session



*ADA staff, Claire and John, facilitate the forward-thinking strategic planning process and present the Health Policy Institute's Economic Outlook Data presentation, and how Louisiana compares to the rest of the Nation.*

*ADA Strategic Planning leader John Kasper, LDA Executive Director Annette Droddy, ADA Strategic Planning leader Claire Griffith, past LDA President Dr. Vincent DiLeo, Jr.*

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*Congratulations go to Dr. Louie Lamendola and Dr. Caroline Black for transitioning LAM Dentistry in Prairieville to Dr. Kim Thuy Dinh*

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# Nine States enact dental benefit legislation

## 16 new laws passed in 9 states

by Olivia Anderson

Sixteen new dental benefit laws have been enacted in nine states, most of which have been supported by the ADA's State Public Affairs program.

The states passed legislation addressing issues like assignment of benefits, claims review transparency, downcoding and bundling, medical loss ratios, prior authorization, provider network leasing, virtual credit card payments and insurer business practices review.

The eight states enacting dental insurance reform so far this year using SPA grants to support their campaigns are Indiana, Arizona, Tennessee, Virginia, Florida, Louisiana, Iowa and Maryland. Wisconsin did not apply for a grant in their successful insurance reform effort this year. The SPA Program was founded by the ADA in 2006 to help state societies manage specific public affairs issues and opportunities. It has since evolved into a national program which has helped state dental societies bolster their communications and public affairs capabilities.

**In Louisiana,** Senate Bill 463,

enacted this year, provides transparency of patient premium expenditures for dental health care services. Leaning into the model adopted earlier this year by the National Council of Insurance Legislators, the law requires insurers to file a dental loss ratio report annually where the information is to be posted in a searchable format on the state's department of insurance website. It sets reasonable limits on data that is included in calculating the dental loss ratio. Dental insurers also must provide the number of enrollees in their plans, the plan cost sharing figures, deductible amounts, annual maximum coverage limits, and the number of enrollees who meet or exceed the annual coverage limits.

Insurance coverage for health care services is an important aspect of care delivery, the ADA said, but through careful analysis of the market and constant tracking



Sixteen new dental benefit laws have been enacted in Indiana, Arizona, Tennessee, Virginia, Florida, Louisiana, Iowa, Maryland and Wisconsin.

of trends, the dental profession is identifying steady declines in value for patients and progressive increases in insurers' efforts limit their financial exposure by reducing investments in care.

The ADA and state dental societies continue to advocate for the patients and dentists who care for them through laws that hold insurers accountable and reduce their influence on the dentist-patient relationship.

Follow all of the ADA's advocacy efforts at [ADA.org/Advocacy](http://ADA.org/Advocacy).

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## LSUSD D3 Students on 3rd Floor



*LDA members and LSU Faculty, Dr. James Burns and Dr. A.C. Liles are seen here with the LSUSD 3rd year class. This was the last day of clinic on the third floor, before its multi-million dollar renovation. "Oh, the memories we all have from that floor."*



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# NODA Crawfish Party – The Kamp

Photos courtesy of NODA Staff



Jane Edwards, Sara Dawson, Keyoni Mbroh, Dr. Gregory Guerra, Sterling Green, Madison Newman, Ariana Mehrabani.



Robin Hoffmeister, Dayna Morvant, Lauren Schmidt, Dr. Brant Schmidt, Lindsay Tefft, Rebecca Wells.



Dr. Byron Ganucheau, Courtney Ganucheau-Williams, Arsante Williams.



Dr. Laurie Moeller, Dr. Jeffrey Leeson.



Linda Tufton, Dr. Peter Tufton.



Dr. James Burns, Blackburn Dental Lab sponsor representative, Randy Blackburn.



Dr. James Burns, Brown & Brown sponsor representative Stormy Blair.



Dexis sponsor representative Patrick McKinney, Dr. Gregory Guerra, KaVo Dental sponsor representative Michelle Helmke, prize drawing winner Dr. George Cerniglia.



Dr. Vincent DiLeo, Jr., Dr. Donald Bennett, Dr. Mark Chaney.

(Continued on page 7)





*Dr. Michael McCombs, Lydia McCombs, Dr. Dennis Henry.*



*NODA President-Elect Dr. Gregory Guerra, Hancock Whitney sponsor representative Patrick McKenna, Hancock Whitney sponsor representative, Tiffany Ebersole.*



*Dr. Ronald Leggio, Mary Ellen Leggio.*



*Carestream Dental representatives Steve Kent, Zhanna Buckley, NODA President-Elect Dr. Gregory Guerra.*



*Dr. James Burns, Jr., Nancy Burns, Dr. James Burns, Sr.*



*Dr. Gregory Guerra, prize drawing winner Dr. Vincent DiLeo, Jr., Dexis sponsor representative Patrick McKinney, KaVo Dental sponsor representative Michelle Helmke.*



*Prize drawing winner Dr. Dennis Henry, Dr. Gregory Guerra, Dexis sponsor representative Patrick McKinney, KaVo Dental sponsor representative Michelle Helmke.*



*Prize drawing winner Dr. Darrell Bourg, Jr., Dr. Gregory Guerra, KaVo Dental sponsor representative Michelle Helmke, Dexis sponsor representative Patrick McKinney.*



*Dr. Gregory Guerra, prize drawing winner Dr. James Burns, KaVo Dental sponsor representative Michelle Helmke, Dexis sponsor representative Patrick McKinney.*



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# Cholesterol drugs may improve periodontal disease

## *A review of findings*

*Submitted by Kaethe Callan, Pre-dental student*

Statins are the group of lipid-lowering drugs commonly used to control cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases. Statins have potential anti-inflammatory effects by blocking the intermediate metabolites of the mevalonate pathway [1]. Because periodontitis is a multifactorial chronic inflammatory disease characterized by destruction of tooth-supporting tissues, the progression of periodontal destruction involves complex interaction between periodontal bacteria and cells of the immune system [2]. This complex cytokine network mediates the immune response, and includes proinflammatory cytokines, anti-inflammatory cytokines, and specific cytokine receptors [3]. Cytokines play an important role in the initiation, progression, and the host modulation of periodontal disease [4]. The effectiveness of statin medications is based on their capacity to reduce serum cholesterol levels, primarily low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol, as statins inhibit HMG-CoA reductase and decrease the production of mevalonate, geranyl pyrophosphate, and farnesyl phosphate, and subsequent products on the way to the production of the cholesterol molecule [5]. Statins also have shown to have an anti-inflammatory effect [6].

In one study, thirty patients between 40 and 60 years of age were grouped into two: Group I consisted of subjects with generalized chronic periodontitis and on statin medication and Group II consisted of subjects with generalized chronic

periodontitis but who were not on statin medication. All patients' GCF samples were analyzed for IL-1 $\beta$ , an indicator of inflammation, using commercially available enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). In this study, the mean GCF IL-1 $\beta$  levels were lower in chronic periodontitis patients on statin medication than patients not on statin medication [1]. Another study that evaluated the effects of statins looked at GCF levels of other markers, including IL-1 $\beta$ , as well as IL-10 and myeloperoxidase (MPO) in periodontal disease [7]. MPO is released by neutrophils, providing defense against pathogens [8].

Additionally, MPO levels have been shown to be elevated in inflammatory periodontal sites [9]. IL-10 is an anti-inflammatory cytokine, which can suppress monocytic cytokines including IL-1, tumor necrosis factor, and IL-6 [10, 11]. Further, IL-10 can inhibit matrix metalloproteinase (MMP) production while stimulating macrophages to produce MMP inhibitors [12]. IL-1 $\beta$  and MPO levels were found to diminish, while IL-10 levels increased in patients using statin medication [7].

Yet a review of articles between 2004-2014 evaluated whether oral statin therapy could improve periodontal clinical and radiographic parameters. They found similar results, showing lower alveolar bone loss and reduction of clinical signs of inflammation. The authors stated that further studies are needed to evaluate the clinical applicability of statins in the routine treatment of chronic periodontitis [13].



Notably, however, a more long-term review was evaluated, studying 169,381 statin-using patients from the Korean National Health database (2002-2015). The occurrence of chronic periodontitis was actually significantly higher in patients who had long term use (between 1-5 years or greater than 5 years) than with short-term use (less than 1 year). While most previous studies focused on the relatively short-term effects of statins on the inflammatory parameters of pre-existing periodontitis, this study concluded that longer-term statin users had low rates of pre-existing periodontitis but high rates of newly occurring periodontitis. This indicates the necessity for careful prescribing of statins, especially for long-term use, in patients at high risk for developing periodontitis [14].

Recently, statin treatment applied locally into tissues during both surgical and nonsurgical procedures exhibiting a positive effect on various parameters of periodontal tissue health. When looking at this novel, not yet commonly utilized approach to the local application of statins as an adjunct to periodontal treatment, early studies have shown significant improvement in clinical parameters, such as probing depth

*(Continued on page 10)*

## ADA SmileCon® New Orleans needs Hospitality Volunteers

Dr. Glenn C. Dubroc, Jr., Local Arrangements Chair

ADA's SmileCon® will be in New Orleans from October 17 – 19, 2024. The local arrangements committee is seeking volunteers to serve as directional guides throughout the Morial Convention Center. Dentists, hygienists, staff, and dental students are eligible to serve as hospitality volunteers, who will be stationed throughout the convention center to welcome SmileCon® attendees, answer questions, and provide directions. Three-hour shifts are available on Thursday and Friday of the convention and some two-hour shifts are available for Saturday. Volunteers must be comfortable standing in one location for their full shift.

Confirmed hospitality volunteers will be eligible for a complimentary Dental Central Pass registration (estimated value of \$199). They will also receive a SmileCon® t-shirt and

complimentary meal vouchers (for use inside the Dental Central exhibit hall) and parking for the day of their assignment. You may volunteer for more than one shift. If desired, the value of the Dental Central Pass may be applied toward an upgrade to a Smile Pass or Platinum Smile Pass registration.

### HOW TO REGISTER

Registration is open now and can be accessed at smilecon.org. Please read these instructions carefully to ensure you receive the hospitality volunteer discount on your registration pass.

### REGISTRATION STEPS:

When you reach the Profile page of your registration, you will enter the Promotional Code HOS2024 and select Apply Code. Please note that this will not alter the fee displayed on the Registration Pass Selection

page; however, the discount will be applied in your cart when you reach the payment section.

Once the HOS2024 promotional code is applied, the Volunteer Assignment section of registration will be available to you. You may then pick the day, time slot, and location of your choice for your hospitality volunteer assignment. You may select more than one time slot if you are available to serve more than one shift.

At the Registration Pass Selection page, select your preferred pass (Dental Central Pass, Smile Pass, or Platinum Smile Pass). If you choose to upgrade your pass to Smile Pass or Platinum Smile Pass, you will receive a discount equal to the current value of the Dental Central Pass. Again, the discount will NOT show until you reach the payment section of your registration.

You will then complete the remainder of your registration. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Glenn Dubroc at ituth@aol.com.

## Cholesterol drugs may improve periodontal disease . . . (Continued from page 9)

and clinical attachment levels [15]. Another article, also emphasizing the potential of statins in surgical periodontal treatment, concluded that the local application of statins in surgery showed significant improvements in probing depth and clinical attachment levels [16]. One study evaluated 28 articles and found that the use of local application of statins as adjuvants to scaling and root planing in non-surgical periodontal treatment may be supported by the collective evidence within the limitations of the study [17]. This method of local statin delivery into the tissue shows

promise, and should be explored by further research.

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## How I (we!) got involved with treating those with special needs

by Frank Martello, D.D.S. & Kathy Martello

### Frank

It all started with me deciding to pursue a career in dentistry. I have no family members with special needs, but my parents taught me lessons in compassion. In my freshman year at Loyola University, Fr. John Mullahy, SJ, told the class that we were all given a special talent and it was our duty to recognize that talent and use it to help others. After getting a BS in biology at Loyola, I earned my DDS at LSU School of Dentistry in 1979.

It was at a play at Tulane Summer Lyric Theatre that Dr. Ralph Diaz, a friend's father, asked me if I would visit him the next week at the Dr. Hy Soboloff Center for Special Needs at Touro Infirmary. The Soboloff Center staff consisted of several orthopedists, a neurologist, and a pediatrician, as well as occupational and physical therapists. It was a one-stop shop for children with special needs and their families. I began volunteering there every Thursday morning in

1984. After several moves and the complete disruption of Hurricane Katrina, the physician members of the Soboloff Group disbanded. At this point I moved the dental clinic portion to the offices of United Cerebral Palsy of Greater New Orleans, in Kenner, LA, and have continued to treat patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) there ever since.

In 2021, we established an endowment of \$100,000 at LSUSD, named "The United Cerebral Palsy of Geater New Orleans and Dr. Frank Martello Conference and Education in Dentistry Fund." This is dedicated to educating dental students in the treatment of patients with special needs. I've also been blessed with my wife Kathy, who I met when I was a junior at LSUSD. She has assisted me at the UCPGNO clinic for many years now. We invite dental and hygiene students of all years as well as pre-dental students to visit and assist at the Clinic.

Other good news in 2021 – as

members of the Louisiana Dental Task Force, we rejoiced that Gov. John Bel Edwards signed Act 450 into law. The Act provides Medicaid dental coverage for adults 21 and over with I/DD. Before this, patients received *no* coverage until they turned 65, and then only for dentures. Patients with I/DD no longer need suffer 44 years of neglect.

Kathy and I give an annual lecture to first year dental students on the various ways that dental professionals can give back to society with those special talents we've been given. To me, the greatest gift we can give is not money or possessions but the gift of ourselves in helping others.

So many of our special needs patients have rewarded us with smiles – smiles that are free from pain, decay, and the discomfort caused by massive calculus build-up. (One patient thanked us for clearing out "the barnacles" from

*(Continued on page 12*



*Pan Bellone, Cathy Hart, and Kathy Reed (later Martello) in the Ortho lab at LSUSD.*



*Kathy & Dr. Frank Martello with Kenny, the most effective non-verbal patient ever. And one of the cheeriest!*

## How I (we!) got involved with treating those with specials needs . . .

*(Continued from page 11)*

her lower anteriors. What an image!) Please consider giving some of your time and talents to help this often-neglected part of our community.

### **Kathy**

I actually started at LSUSD a few years before Frank – well, okay, as a patient in 1971. My mom would drive me to the campus, ending up in the old faculty parking lot. One day she pulled up in the corner spot, closest to the entrance, marked with a wooden sign that said RESERVED FOR THE DEAN. I was aghast. “MoTHERRR – this is for the dean! He’s like . . . the principal!” My mom, one of the shyest, most non-assertive women on earth, replied “Well, where is he? He should be here running things!”

Despite this possible offense, I was hired in 1975 by Dr. J.M. Chadha as an orthodontic assistant. I had zero dental experience beyond brushing my own teeth, so I was handed over to our radiologic tech, Shannon Duplantis, to learn all about x-rays: periapicals, panorex, lateral cephs, and the occasional hand-wrist image. One day during a lull, Shannon sat me down with a stack of Kodak Radiology magazines to study. The first one was a special issue on x-raying orofacial clefts. Every imaginable kind. I was vaguely familiar with

cleft palates but I’ll admit it was unnerving to see clefts that ran from the lip all the way to the eye and other extreme types. With time, though, I learned to accept these all as variations on the theme of facial development.

The Orthodontic department also served as headquarters for the Oral Facial Anomalies Group. We coordinated scheduling and record keeping for patients with an incredible array of facial development issues. The idea was to help parents and caregivers with a central location for dental and ortho treatment, speech therapy, plastic surgery, prosthetics, physical and occupational therapy, and more. I met a boy with no external ears, a young woman who’d been dropped on her face in infancy and never had treatment for the fractures, and a toddler who’d fallen onto the stickshift in his mom’s car, artificially cleaving his palate. This was my early introduction to special needs patients.

From Ortho I went to the Best Job Ever, as a medical artist in LSU’s Learning Resources. Raymond Calvert was my boss, mentor, and friend for thirteen years there. I left only because we needed a family member to help at Frank’s office. (Those who’ve heard our lecture on Embezzlement in the Dental Office

will know why.) A few years after leaving I learned about an opening in Continuing Education, and I had the joy of working with Dr. Vincent Liberto, learning all about event planning, web marketing, and brewing vats of coffee at 5 am for course attendees.

After 13 years in CE and a total of 31 years at LSUSD, it was time to retire. After a short break, I realized I could brush up on my rusty chairside skills and assist Frank at his UCPGNO clinic. This has been 90% joy, and 10% heartbreak. The heartbreak comes when parents hug you, saying they couldn’t find anyone to treat their severely disabled daughter. It comes when a mom talks about asking her dentist’s staff if she can get an appointment for her Down Syndrome son, and overhears the doctor say “I don’t treat those people.” The joy comes when patients smile at you, parents and caregivers smile, and everyone is glad to be there. When a non-verbal young woman runs into the clinic and hops in the chair, showing you her pink nail polish and squealing with delight at her new pink toothbrush.

You know that old, tiresome line we hear so often? “Nothing personal, but I hate dentists.” We never hear that at the clinic.

### **WE WANT YOUR NEWS!!**

**Anyone knowing of any dentist who has made a significant contribution, gained an elective or appointive office, written an article, delivered a paper, or rendered unusual public service, please let us know! [info@nodental.org](mailto:info@nodental.org)**



# The Newly Formed ADA Forsyth Institute

by Emily Tran, B.S.

## History of the Forsyth Institute

Forsyth Institute was first started by James Forsyth, also known as the “father of the rubber industry” due to his work at his father’s Boston Belting Company making rubber hoses. Late one night, he overheard a child crying due to pain from a toothache from his hotel room. After a visit to his own dentist, he found that this was a common occurrence for children who are unable to afford dental care and must simply withstand the pain. When he passed away, he dedicated \$500,000 in his will to his brothers Thomas and John Forsyth to establish a dental infirmary for children whose families cannot afford treatment. Thomas and John Forsyth each both further contributed \$1.5 million of their own wealth.

In 1914, James Forsyth’s vision came true, and The Forsyth Dental Infirmary for Children was created, having to date treated hundreds of thousands of children. The Infirmary then shifted its focus and branched in time, such as during World War I when they offered their facility and supplies to the U.S. Government. Forsyth is still heavily involved in training dental officers to work in the Reserve Corps today. In 1915, the first research department was created and led by Dr. Percy R. Howe. The Forsyth School of Dental Hygiene, also created in 1915, is now the longest continuously operating hygiene school in the nation. Following these larger shifts to research and a broadening purpose, the first name change from Forsyth Dental Infirmary for Children to Forsyth

Dental Center was made. From there on, more advances in research and innovation were made, which resulted in yet another name change in 1999 to its present-day name: Forsyth Institute.<sup>1</sup>

## ADA Ups Its Science Focus in 2020

The American Dental Association Science and Research Institute was established in 2020, and its formation was to narrow the focus of the ADA and dedicate resources and funds to evidence-based dentistry and the health of the public at large. It consisted of five different departments: Innovation and Technology Research, Research and Laboratories, Evidence Synthesis and Translation Research, Science Governance, and Science Projects. These were all thought necessary to properly align and join people of diverse work backgrounds with the ADA’s core value of being a science-and-evidence based organization.<sup>2</sup> At its incipiency, it was said that collaboration is the key to the ADASRI’s vision and to enable more in-depth research. Dr. Raymond Cohlma, current executive director of ADASRI, stated that the future of the Institute will in large part depend on establishing long-lasting connections with other research leaders all working towards improving dental patients’ lives by advancing research in the oral health sciences.<sup>3</sup>

## The New Merger

The exciting news is that just recently, in October of 2023, the announcement was made that the American Dental Association Science and Research Institute was to combine forces with Forsyth Institute to forge the ADA Forsyth



Institute. Along with this came a new Board of Directors conjoining three members of the previous Forsyth Institute Board with three former members of the ADASRI Board, which is said to bring the greatest innovators and thought leaders of this field together.<sup>4</sup> The ADA Forsyth Institute is a top-tier NIH-funded research institute, wherein its scientists are looking beyond dentistry to understand how what happens in the mouth impacts the overall health of the body. The current research at ADA Forsyth Institute aims to transform public health, towards its mission to improve oral and overall health through a combination of innovative research and community outreach, accelerating the delivery of wellness solutions locally and globally.<sup>5</sup>

## Start-Up Progress

Already, ADA Forsyth Institute has just been ranked #4 in the country in NIDCR 2023 grants, receiving just under \$10 million dollars in funding. They are hosting two conferences in the near future: Dentech 2024 and the International Orthodontic Symposium, both in October of 2024. Thus far, ADA Forsyth has been quite productive, as they have been researching such topics as phage resistance mechanisms, tissue regeneration in

*(Continued on page 14)*

## Two Good Friends of Our Conference Return

by James Burns, D.D.S. – NODC/LDA Annual Session Committee Chair



The 2025 New Orleans Dental Conference / LDA Annual Session has wonderful news! We would like to announce that amongst our lineup of great speakers we have two valuable friends of the Conference speaking. First, we are proud to



**Gerard J. Chiche, D.D.S.**

reveal that Dr. Gerard Chiche has agreed to speak at our Conference. Many of us reading this has had the privilege of being instructed by him at LSUSD. For those of you that don't know him, he is presently Clinical and Emeritus Professor at Louisiana State University School of Dentistry. He is the author of two

textbooks in Esthetic Dentistry. He has spoken on Esthetic Dentistry in 35 countries. He is the 2020 recipient of the Icon Award for Lifetime Achievement in Dentistry of the Seattle Study Club. These are just a few of his long list of accomplishments. Dr. Chiche's two topics will be (1) "Smile Design - How to Achieve Predictability" and (2) "Management of Zirconia Restorations".



**Corky Willhite, D.D.S.**

The next speaker is Dr. Corky Willhite. He has spoken at our conference numerous times and is a local dentist that has made his name in Cosmetic Dentistry nationally and internationally. He is one of only 84 Accredited Fellows in the AACD of over 5,000 members worldwide. Dr. Willhite's two topics

will be (1) "Transitional Bonding" and (2) "The Ultimate Esthetics Course". Because of his dedication to our conference over the years, we would like to announce that he will be the recipient of the Normalee Ward Distinguished Speaker award, which is the highest award given to a speaker at our Conference. Congratulations Dr. Willhite. It is truly deserved.

Just a reminder about the 2025 New Orleans Dental Conference/ LDA Annual Session. The Conference is April 10th and 11th at the Astor Crowne Plaza. This hotel is in the heart of the French Quarter during French Quarter Fest. As usual, as said before, we have an exceptional lineup of speakers at a great price. Just as in the past, we will also have a full exhibit hall filled with ample deals for all registrants. Remember, this is our Conference and I'm extremely proud of the product that we will present to you. Like I've said before, My NODA Family deserves the best and that's what me and my Board intends to give you! Have a wonderful day.

## The Newly Formed ADA Forsyth Institute . . . (Continued from page 13)

endodontic therapy, novel treatment for Sjögren's Disease, and 3D printing of bone for grafting to address bone loss due to periodontal disease. They are also currently studying the impact of race and ethnicity on inflammation, as well as the social determinants of health in pediatric dentistry.<sup>6</sup>

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### SATURDAY GENERAL DENTISTS

Louisiana Dental Center is seeking General Dentists interested in working Saturdays at its locations throughout South Louisiana. If you're interested in joining our team of professionals, please contact Terry Ernst at 985/893-2240 or [ternst@LaDentalCenter.com](mailto:ternst@LaDentalCenter.com).

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