



IAGD

# Advisor

Spring 2008

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
THE ILLINOIS ACADEMY OF GENERAL DENTISTRY

## Editor's Column

Dr. William Wax

*We all get various stories via e-mail. I thought the following one might be food for thought, even when we, as dentists, know of its improbability.*

The sharing of marriage...

The old man placed an order for one hamburger, French fries and a drink.

He unwrapped the plain hamburger and carefully cut it in half, placing one half in front of his wife. He then carefully counted out the French fries, dividing them into two piles and neatly placed one pile in front of his wife. He took a sip of the drink, his wife took a sip and then set the cup down between them. As he began to eat his few bites of hamburger, the people around them were looking over and whispering.

Obviously they were thinking, "That poor old couple. All they can afford is one meal for the two of them."

As the man began to eat his fries, a young man came to the table and politely offered to buy another meal for the old couple. The old man said, they were just fine—they were used to sharing everything.

People closer to the table noticed the little old lady hadn't eaten a bite. She sat there watching her husband eat and occasionally taking turns sipping the drink.

Again, the young man came over and begged them to let him buy another meal for them. This time the old woman said, "No, thank you. We are used to sharing everything."

Finally, as the old man finished and was wiping his face neatly with the napkin, the young man again came over to the little old lady who had yet to eat a single bite of food and asked,

"What is it you are waiting for?"

She answered,

"THE TEETH."

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# 2008 Directory

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When I graduated from Dental School, I knew how to perform dentistry. It was from Dr. Bill Towner a past president of IAGD and officer at the National AGD level, my mentor, that I learned his six basic rules for being a good dentist.

1. Continuing Dental Education - Nothing stays constant. Dentistry is an evolving field, so as your practice grows so should your wisdom and way of treating your patients grow.
2. Know the other dentists in town - Join the study clubs, the hospital staff, and the local dental society. Get to know your fellow dentists. For, as you know, some patients don't stay the distance. They jump from dentist to dentist. If you can communicate with your fellow dentists there won't be misunderstandings.
3. Know your patients' community - Join a civic organization such as Kiwanis, Rotary, United Way. Know what is going on in the community that could affect your patients. Find out what services

are in place for your patients. Meet other business people in your community. Network.

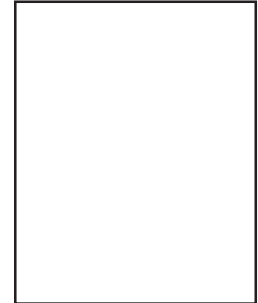
4. Get involved with organized dentistry - Whether its just membership so you can read the newsletters and journals to keep up to date on issues affecting the practice of dentistry, or to take a leadership role in the organization. One needs to keep informed.
5. Volunteerism - There are many opportunities to help out from Donated Dental Services, Give Kids a Smile, Doctors with a Heart, to Special Olympics...The giving makes you feel good inside.
6. Down time - Sometime you just have to get away from dentistry, so that you don't get burned-out. Spend time with your hobbies, on vacation, and with your family.

Just thought that I would like to share.

Dawn

## *Dr. Bill Towner's Six Basic Rules*

**Dr. Dawn Silfies,  
Past President of IAGD**



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Glenview, IL

# AGD Response to an ADA Editorial

Dr. Vincent Mayher, DMD,  
MAGD



March 21, 2008

Dr. Michael Glick, DMD

Editor, *JADA*

211 E. Chicago Avenue

Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Dr. Glick:

Upon reading the title of the **Commentary/Editorial** “*Lessons Learned – Implications for Workforce Change,*” (March, 2008 *JADA*), the reader must assume that that “lesson” which was learned was from the Alaska DHAT situation. Since there was no disclaimer that this opinion is that of the authors, and not that of the American Dental Association, this editorial could be construed as the authors’, (Drs. Wendel and Glick), offering an official “mea culpa” on behalf of the ADA.

The opening sentence states: “*We should not be threatened by emerging groups of oral health providers but invite them into our midst....*” I would respectfully ask, who are the authors referring to when they use the word “we?” Is it the dental education community? Is it the specialist community? Or, is it the general dentist-private practitioner, community; those of us “in the trenches?” As a general dentist who has spent the past twenty seven years in those hallowed trenches, I would also ask the question: Will these mid level providers be performing specialty services, such as endodontic therapy, periodontal surgery, fixed orthodontics, surgical extractions? Or, will they be performing restorative dentistry, the mainstay of those of us in general practice?

The authors repeat the warning that “*demand for oral health care is forecasted to increase dramatically over the next decade,....*” While this may or may not be the case, those of us in the trenches still have holes in our schedules. If you call my office, chances are you will be able to get an appointment for tomorrow.

With respect to disparities in service delivery, this is definitely a problem that needs to be addressed. But, essential to this is the need to EDUCATE the public, especially those in the vulnerable segments of society who not only need to be made aware of the importance of good oral health, but of the importance of good general health in an environment that is conducive to such learning.

We were all saddened to read of the totally avoidable and tragic loss of two children a year ago, due to complications of dental disease. Questions continue to be asked. Were these situations where the patients went from dental office to dental office and were repeatedly turned away? Or, are these situations where dental treatment was not prioritized because the patients and their families were not educated to understand the importance of optimal dental health?

The issue is not whether the provider of dental services is a dentist or a so called, “mid level provider.” Creating and enhancing social services that will ensure that those in need of treatment will understand the value of dental care is THE much-needed first step. And if you disagree, ask any general practitioner who treats Medicaid patients how much higher the “no show” rate is among this patient population.

Clearly, many of these individuals are dealing with severe economic, cultural and social problems that hamper their ability to address their dental needs. This is where applicable social services could augment access to care. Private dental offices are simply not equipped to deal with the social circumstances surrounding Medicaid patients’ lack of prioritization for dental treatment. To offer up as “the solution” to this disparity, the CDHC and the ADHP is a “Band Aid” approach, at best.

Towards this effort, the authors argue that academic institutions need to immediately assume a

*continued on page 9...*



## *A Great Dentist Goes to Washington*

### *The 10 Greatest Highlights from Our Capitol Hill Conference*

The AGD's second annual advocacy conference, *A Great Dentist Goes to Washington*, coincided with the week before a two-week Congressional recess, an opportune time to lobby legislators and their staffs.



A Great Dentist Goes to Washington

1. **58 AGD members from 30 states** traveled to Washington, DC for a day-long session of advocacy training on Mon., March 10, followed by visits to their Congressmen and Senators on Capitol Hill scheduled for Tues., March 11, 2008.
2. Together, the interests of general dentists were communicated to **over 100 legislators and their staff!**



Working Together



3. AGD dentists are multi-talented, with “Oscar” like talent - something discovered during role-playing session testing members’ lobbying skills on *Deamonte’s Law*; *Children’s Dental Health Improvement Act*, and the meth mouth bills. A number of different, but possible, circumstances were rehearsed. At the end of the program, it seemed as if these AGD dentists had been on Capitol Hill hundreds of times before.



On stage



Drs. Mayher, Arteaga, Grant, and Fletcher

4. Knowing the importance of working together within the dental community, the AGD was honored to have AGD member and president of the **Hispanic Dental Association**, **Dr. Sarita Arteaga**, and president of the **National Dental Association**, **Dr. Nathan Fletcher**, participate in this event.

5. **Keynote speaker L. Jackson Brown, DDS, PhD**, a prominent statistician and former ADA staffer, took the general contemporary topic of health care reform and brought it home to dentistry. Reviewing the choices between possible “solutions,” attendees came away with a different perspective of how the 2008 presidential election would impact their profession.



Dr. Brown



Dr. Bromberg, LGA Chair, delivers the  
*State of General Dentistry*

6. “The State of General Dentistry,” given by Legislative and Governmental Affairs Chair, Myron (“Mike”) J. Bromberg, DDS directed attention to the most critical issues facing general dentists, making it clear in no uncertain terms that unless organized general dentistry uses its voice, the profession as it is known today will evolve into something entirely different. What had been the purview of general dentists would either become the “expanded duties” of mid-level providers or the sole purview of a specialist.

7. Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA-2) received an **appreciation award** for his work on behalf of oral health initiatives.
8. Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD-7), who represents the congressional district where 12 year old Deamonte Driver’s death from an untreated tooth infection became tragic national news, received an appreciation award for sponsoring one of the AGD’s top legislative goals, *Deamonte’s Law*. A representative from the Congressman’s staff received the award proudly on his behalf.



Rep. Larsen’s staff accepts his award



Rep. Simpson and Dr. Mayher

9. Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID-2), a dentist himself, addressed AGD members the morning of Tuesday, March 11, 2008 and was presented with the AGD’s Legislator of the Year Award from Dr. Vinny Mayher, president.



9. The most important result of this conference:

**Bringing advocacy home to you.** Attendees have returned home with skills to share and need your help in being the eyes, ears and voice of the general dentist. The state and local levels, as seen with the attempted advancement of the Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner legislation for instance, is where changes happen that affect your practice and your patients the most. Please lend us your voice!

**For more information, please email:**  
[advocacy@agd.org](mailto:advocacy@agd.org).



AGD lobbies in Rep. Larsen's office



Drs. Bromberg and Jones



Drs. Sue Bishop, Paula Jones and Leslie Grant (LGA Council member from Maryland) during the Washington trip.

...continued from page 4

leadership role in reshaping a new system of oral health care education and delivery modeled after the medical model where, ***“physician assistants and nurse practitioners assume greater responsibility for primary medical care.”*** And, where opportunities would be created for ***“practicing dentists to learn how to incorporate and coordinate oral health care services for their patients together with other allied health professionals who will be given the opportunity to carry out many of the procedures that today can be performed only by dentists.”*** Again, I respectfully ask; will these include those procedures which are many times referred to as “specialty” procedures?

The dental community has long been subjected to the warning that we need to take proactive steps to address health care disparities before ***“we are told what to do.”*** The ADA delegates heard this in 2006 in the much remembered “freight train coming your way” speech that was presented to them. If this federal “freight train” is to gain momentum, it will need money to fuel it. Additional funding for dental care is something the federal government has been reluctant to ante up for many years. In fact, the trend is quite the opposite. We have seen decreased Medicaid funding and have been fighting a continued battle to increase funding for Title VII, General Practice Residencies back to their 2005 levels, before they were mercilessly slashed to prehistoric levels. These are the same GPRs that brought dental care to the underserved communities with a proven record of retaining graduates of these programs in those communities. With less and less fuel to sustain it, I wouldn’t be looking for that freight train to be arriving any time soon.

Remember, while the authors write that ***“the academic institutions are in the driver’s seat,”*** the problem we face is much bigger than the DHAT issue, and presents a more complex set of economic, cultural and social hurdles than can be solved with the wave of a magic wand and the creation of mid level providers, while, at the same time, meddling with state dental practice acts.

All of the communities of interest need to be at the table to address the future of dental care. And, the predominant force needs to be that of the general practitioner in the trenches who historically has been on the outside looking in when it comes to having a say in changing trends in the delivery of dental care.

And, while open discussion is essential, it should NOT move quickly to planning, not until the barriers to equitable delivery of oral health care are painstakingly identified. Then, and only then, can objective, apolitical and realistic remedies be presented to the dental community and to the patients who, so very much are in need of our services.

Vincent C. Mayher, DMD

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vincent C. Mayher DMD". The signature is written in a cursive style.

President,  
Academy of General Dentistry

CC: Dr. Mark Feldman, DMD  
Dr. John Findley, DDS  
AGD Board of Trustees  
AGD LGA and Dental Care Councils  
Ms. Christie A. Tarantino, CAE, AGD Executive Director



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**CDS** Installation of officers (Dr. Dave Kumomoto as President) Hilton & Towers -  
720 S. Michigan - Chicago-3:00 pm.  
**Midwinter Meetings** (All meetings at McCormick Place – Chicago, IL)

2009 Feb. 26-Mar. 1

**Regional Meetings** (All meetings at Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace)

2008 Sept. 24 **Forensic Odontology**-Edwin Parks, DDS, MS  
Nov. 5 **The Passion-Driven Practice**- Gary Zelesky

## SAVE THE DATE!!!



# July 16-20, 2008

**This year's Annual Meeting & Exhibits will take place July 16-20, 2008  
at the beautiful Walt Disney World Dolphin Hotel and Resort.**

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*Vincent C. Mayher* Vincent C. Mayher DMD, MAGD, President - Academy of  
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**DDS Dentist Profile**  
 Doctor: Dr. Joseph Hagenbruch, MAGD Past President, DDS volunteer  
 Patient: Mr. G.  
 Notes: Health and hope restored!  
 Before Dr. Hagenbruch assisted him, DDS patient Mr. G. was, "so embarrassed by my teeth I shied away from people."  
 With strong conviction, Dr. Hagenbruch believes, "commitment and selfless efforts to increase access to dental care for the underserved deserve our dedication. Please join us in volunteering for DDS."

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# Make Time for Meetings

**See details about upcoming meetings inside!**

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP (Please type or print)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ ADA No. (if available) \_\_\_\_\_  
Bus. Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Res. Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**DENTAL SCHOOL ATTENDED:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_  
Are you a general dentist? Yes No Do you limit your practice? Yes No  
If yes, what specialty? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you in private practice? Yes No  
If not, explain (Armed Services, Public Health, Education, Etc.)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of a state dental association? Yes No  
If so, which association? \_\_\_\_\_

I promise to abide by the Constitution and By-laws as well as the Principles of Ethics of the Academy of General Dentistry.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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An investment in the Academy of General Dentistry is an investment in the future of family dentistry!

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- Annual National Dues \$334.00
- State Dues \$ 29.00
- Component Dues: \$5.00

- 2nd Yr. Graduate \$112.00
- 3rd Yr. Graduate \$167.00

*Return application and remittance to:*



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