

The Generalist

YOUR VOICE FOR EXCELLENCE
THROUGH EDUCATION & ADVOCACY



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FROM THE PRESIDENT



ANDREW MARTIN, DDS, FAGD

I hope everyone had a wonderful start to the new year. My name is Andrew Martin, and I am honored to serve as your 2026 President of the Maryland AGD.

I am a 2013 graduate of the University of Maryland, Baltimore College of Dental Surgery and have been practicing in Maryland for approximately eight years. I currently serve as the Clinical Director of iBrush Family Dentalcare, a multi-specialty dental group with offices in the DC Metro and Central Maryland areas.

Commitment to Continuing Education

As general dentists, I believe continuing education is essential to both professional growth and high-quality patient care, and the Maryland AGD is the perfect organization to support that mission. Our CE Committee takes great pride in identifying and securing high-quality educational opportunities for both members and non-members.

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Editor's Corner

Halima Karim, DDS, FAGD, FACD

It is an honor to step into the role of Editor for the Maryland Academy of General Dentistry newsletter. I joined the AGD shortly after graduating from the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve this community in a new way.



As we begin 2026, I am filled with a sense of possibility, momentum, and purpose. Our profession continues to evolve at a remarkable pace, and what inspires me most is how our members rise to meet each challenge—with curiosity, resilience, and a shared commitment to exceptional, patient-centered care.

In the months ahead, my goal is to use this publication to highlight the voices and experiences of Maryland's general dentists, showcase innovations shaping everyday practice, and celebrate the leadership happening in operatories, classrooms, and communities across our state. Whether you are advancing clinical excellence, mentoring the next generation, or strengthening the health of your practice and team, your work matters deeply. I want this newsletter to reflect that impact and serve as a forum for learning, connection, and professional growth.

By way of introduction, I currently serve as Director of Clinic Services and Clinical Instructor at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry's Shady Grove Patient Care Facility on the Universities at Shady Grove campus in Rockville. In this issue, I am pleased to share a feature article about this facility, which serves as a block rotation site for senior dental students, a home for advanced dental hygiene education, and a hub for community-based care.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Editor. I look forward to elevating your stories, recognizing your accomplishments, and fostering conversations that move our profession forward.

Here's to a year of growth, collaboration, and renewed inspiration. 🍷

APRIL 17

PARTICIPATION SERIES

Maritime Conference Center
Linthicum Heights
8:00 am - 4:30 p.m



Holy \$%&@!, I Didn't Know You Could Do That With Composite!

8P CE | AGD 250 Operative (Restorative) Dentistry

Featuring: Dr. John Gammichia

FOR MORE INFORMATION &
TO REGISTER, SCAN THE QR CODE!



FEATURE ARTICLE

Maryland's Future Dentists in Action

Education, Innovation, and Service at Shady Grove Patient Care Facility

BY HALIMA KARIM, DDS, FAGD, FACD



Tucked on the second floor of the state-of-the-art Biomedical Sciences and Engineering Building on the Universities at Shady Grove campus in Rockville, the University of Maryland School of Dentistry's Patient Care Facility is quietly becoming an impactful community-based training site in the state.

For Maryland general dentists, it represents three powerful things at once:

- A high-quality community-based block rotation site where fourth-year pre-doctoral dental students and Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) residents refine real-world clinical skills;
- The home of an innovative two-year Clinical Dental Hygiene Leader (CDHL) master's-level program, and
- A hub for community service, hosting two Mission of Mercy (MoM) events each year to deliver dental care to vulnerable residents.

A Community-Based “Immersive Environment” for Senior Pre-doctoral Dental Students and AEGD Residents

Fourth-year predoctoral dental students and AEGD residents complete dedicated block rotations at the Shady Grove Patient Care Facility, where they perform a wide range of procedures under close faculty supervision.

They routinely provide new-patient exams, extractions, dentures, crowns, bridges, root canals, periodontal therapy, and emergency care in a setting that feels much closer to private practice than to a traditional teaching clinic.

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As Director of Clinical Services and a Clinical Instructor for the Shady Grove Patient Care Facility, I aim to create an environment where our students can treat patients from diverse backgrounds in a community-based setting. We focus on accessibility, affordability, and quality of the patient-centered care we offer.

That focus includes attention to details that help anxious or medically complex patients. Students can offer nitrous oxide, weighted blankets, comforting music or stress balls to patients with dental anxiety—small touches that can make a big difference in the overall patient care experience.

Serving a Diverse, Multilingual Region

The Shady Grove Patient Care Facility provides comprehensive dental care to residents of Montgomery County and the greater Washington, D.C., region, with a strong emphasis on treating underserved and uninsured patients.

Roughly one-third of patients prefer to communicate in Spanish. While we offer interpretation services, our dental team is multi-lingual, speaking Spanish, French, Farsi, Arabic, Tagalog, Hindi, and other languages, which helps build trust and rapport with a culturally diverse patient base.

Through partnerships with the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, local health centers, and community organizations, the clinic serves as a referral site and a true dental home for many who might otherwise go without care. For students, it is a powerful lesson in the realities of access, transportation, and cost that shape patients' decisions and outcomes.

Clinical Dental Hygiene Leader: A 2-Year Master's-Level Model

The Shady Grove Patient Care Facility is also home to the Clinical Dental Hygiene Leader (CDHL) program. This intensive two-year dual-degree pathway allows students with a strong science background to complete both a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science in dental hygiene.

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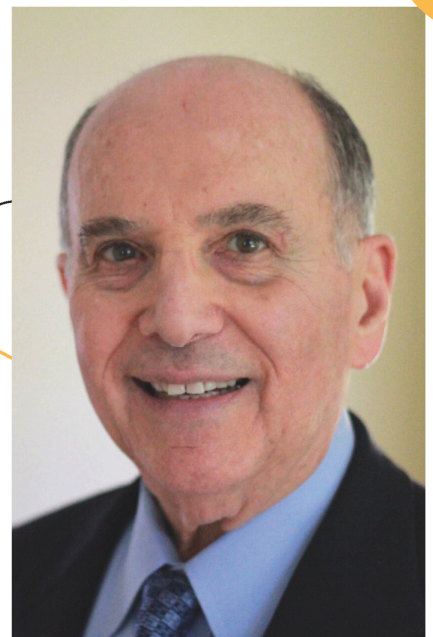
**Maritime Conference Center
Linthicum Heights
8:00 am - 4:30 p.m**

Dental Sleep Medicine: Clinical Screening & Oral Appliance Therapy

8P CE | AGD 730 Oral Medicine, Oral Diagnosis, Oral Pathology

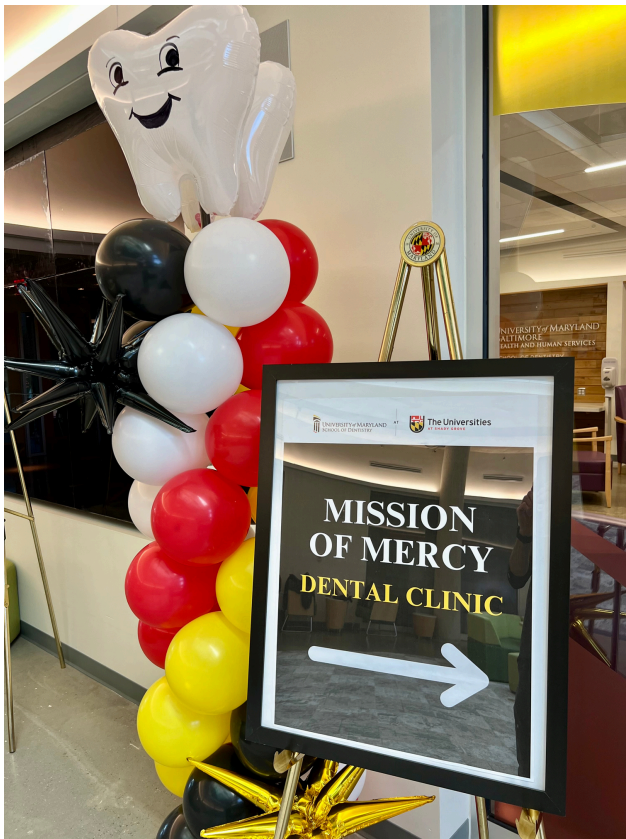
Featuring: Dr. Sylvan Mintz

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CDHL students complete traditional clinical hygiene training while simultaneously engaging in graduate-level coursework in research, communication, and community-based program development. Graduates are prepared not only for clinical excellence, but also to design, implement, and evaluate public health and integrated care programs that bridge oral health with primary and behavioral health—an increasingly vital skill set for Maryland’s evolving health care landscape.

Mission of Mercy: Service Twice a Year, Right in Montgomery County



For many in the community, their first encounter with the Shady Grove Patient Care Facility comes during one of its two Mission of Mercy events each year.

In partnership with organizations such as Catholic Charities and local community groups, the clinic opens its doors to provide a full day of dental care to uninsured and underinsured patients.

These MoM events complement other outreach initiatives such as pediatric sealant events, community screenings, and collaboration with the University of Maryland School of Nursing for blood pressure checks and health education. The result is a truly integrated approach to improving oral and overall health for vulnerable residents.

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Why It Matters to Maryland's General Dentists

For members of the Maryland AGD, the Shady Grove Patient Care Facility is more than just a training site—it is a pipeline for future colleagues who are comfortable working in a fast-paced, problem-solving, patient-centered environment. Graduates rotating through Shady Grove tend to leave with sharpened clinical judgment, greater cultural competency, and a deeper appreciation of access-to-care issues they will continue to encounter in practice.

The site also offers opportunities for practicing dentists to volunteer at Mission of Mercy events, serve as mentors, and collaborate on community-based initiatives that align closely with AGD's commitment to lifelong learning and service.

As the demand for accessible oral health care in Maryland grows, the Universities at Shady Grove Patient Care Facility stands out as a model of how education, service, and innovation intersect to strengthen the future of general dentistry in our state. ❤️

News from REGION5

BY ERIC MORSE, DDS
REGION 5 DIRECTOR

As we move into 2026, I wanted to take a moment to share a few important opportunities coming up for members across Region 5, both locally and nationally. These meetings reflect what I value most about AGD—strong continuing education, meaningful leadership development, and opportunities to stay connected with colleagues across our region.

A promotional banner for the AGD Region 5 29th Annual CDE Meeting. The banner has a teal background. On the left, the AGD logo is above the text "AGD Region 5 Presents". To the right, "29TH ANNUAL CDE MEETING" is written in large, bold, orange letters. Below this, the title "PLEASE DOC, NOT ANOTHER CROWN! MODERN FULL COVERAGE ALTERNATIVES" is in white. Underneath, "featuring Dr. Lauren Rainey" is in teal. At the bottom, "FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026" and "Martin's Crosswinds, Greenbelt" are in white. On the right side of the banner, there is a portrait of Dr. Lauren Rainey and a close-up image of a dental crown on a model.

On the regional level, we will hold the 29th Annual Region 5 Meeting on Friday, March 6, 2026, at Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt, Maryland. The meeting will feature a full-day course presented by Dr. Lauren Rainey, titled "Please Doc, Not Another Crown! Modern Full-Coverage Alternatives." The program will focus on contemporary restorative options that offer alternatives to traditional full-coverage crowns. Following the course, we will hold a Region 5 Caucus for all delegates, providing time to discuss regional matters and ensure continued collaboration and representation locally and nationally. Be sure to register for the meeting [here](#).

Looking ahead nationally, AGD will once again host its Leadership Development Symposium in Chicago on April 24–25, 2026. This day-and-a-half program is designed for AGD members who are interested in leadership and organized dentistry, whether they are currently serving or considering becoming more involved.

Continued on page 16

Greetings from the Membership Committee!

JOJO MANATO, DDS
CHAIR, MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Congratulations, and welcome!

On behalf of the Maryland Academy of General Dentistry (MAGD), it is my pleasure to welcome all new members to our constituent.

What sets Maryland AGD apart is our unwavering commitment to unity and to empowering meaningful, positive impact on patients' oral health care. Together with the Academy of General Dentistry, Maryland AGD is dedicated to elevating your dental career, enriching your professional and personal life, strengthening your momentum, and maximizing the value of your member benefits. These are just a few of the many advantages you enjoy as a MAGD and AGD member.

At the end of 2025, our constituent proudly includes 685 members, with 16 new members joining at the dental student level. As Roy T. Bennett wisely said, *"It's only after you've stepped outside your comfort zone that you begin to change, grow, and transform."*

We encourage our fellow dentists to take that step and join the Maryland Academy of General Dentistry because together, we THRIVE.

PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Bre Becker, Catonsville

Julio Abrahan Bermudez, Baltimore

Esther De Chantal Ngo Bikoi, Silver Spring

Stacie Davis, Silver Spring

Babak Ganjavian, Frederick

Muhammad Hamza, Silver Spring

Nafis Haque, Branchburg, NJ

Rahat Hashmi, Rockville

Hannah Joseph, Olney

Roli Malla Joshi, Rockville

Jonathan Ray Journett, California

Sinhye Lee, Ellicott City

Tyler McKinney, Frostburg

Emily Mills, Annapolis

Danial Mohammed, Hyattsville

Joan Schwartz, Silver Spring

Stefan Toomey, Annapolis

August Weber III, Bel Air

REGION 5 UPDATE (cont)

The symposium brings together AGD leaders and speakers to share insights on leadership trends, organizational effectiveness, and professional growth. This year's program will include a session led by professional leadership coach Chris Failla, who will guide participants through the CliftonStrengths® assessment to help them better understand and leverage their individual leadership strengths. Members interested in attending should connect with their constituent leadership for information on reserving a spot.

I continue to be encouraged by the level of engagement across Region 5 and appreciate the commitment our members show to both clinical excellence and leadership within AGD. I hope many of you will be able to take part in these opportunities in the coming year, and I look forward to seeing you along the way. 🍷

News from the STUDENT CHAPTER

On January 22, our student chapter hosted a highly successful networking event, generously supported by RK Tongue Insurance.



Marina Fileva, UMSOD, Class of 2026

More than 40 students participated, engaging in meaningful conversations with peers and several MAGD board members. The evening offered students valuable insight into career pathways, practice ownership, and life after graduation, while fostering mentorship and strengthening connections between students and the broader dental community. The strong turnout and enthusiastic engagement made the event a resounding success.

"ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE, TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH." - H. KELLER



MSDA



Maryland State Dental Association

2026 Dentist Day

2.18.2026

**GOVERNOR CALVERT HOUSE
HISTORIC INNS OF ANNAPOLIS**

ANNAPOLIS, MD

Legislative Update

STEVE FELDMAN, DDS
CHAIR, MAGD LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Key Highlights and Issues Impacting Dentistry in Maryland

Below is a summary of key legislative and regulatory issues currently being monitored or advanced in the upcoming 2026 Legislative Session.

Dental and Dental Hygienist Compact

Legislation supporting participation in the Dental and Dental Hygienist Compact has secured sponsorship and is currently in the drafting phase. This compact would facilitate interstate licensure while maintaining appropriate regulatory oversight.

Assignment of Benefits

Draft legislation is underway that would require dental insurers to allow patients to assign benefit payments directly to their dentist. Once finalized, the bill will be forwarded to a state senator for sponsorship.

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Prescription Drug Dispensing Requirements

The Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) proposed new reporting requirements for dispensing uncontrolled prescription drugs, including daily reporting to CRISP. Following advocacy letters and meetings, dentists have been fully waived from CRISP reporting requirements for 2025 and 2026. Dentists holding full dispensing licenses will be required to comply beginning in 2027. We will continue working with MHCC and the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners to permanently exempt dentists with limited dispensing licenses.

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs)

CRNAs have begun lobbying to practice in dental offices without a dentist licensed in anesthesia present. This effort conflicts with existing Maryland statutes and regulations. This issue raises serious patient safety concerns and potential malpractice liability for dentists. This remains an active issue, and updates will be provided as developments occur.

Adult Medicaid Dental Funding

Given Maryland's current fiscal challenges, adult Medicaid dental funding may be at risk. We will actively advocate to preserve funding for this essential program.

Fluoride

Discussions with state legislators indicate no current interest in pursuing changes to existing fluoride regulations.

Expanded Function Dental Assistants (EFDA)

Regulations governing Expanded Function Dental Assistants remain under review by the Maryland Department of Health and are pending approval.

Looking Ahead - Attend Dentist Day in Annapolis

With several key legislative and regulatory issues impacting dentistry in Maryland, member engagement is more important than ever. Dentist Day is a valuable opportunity to get directly involved in the legislative process. Each year, members gather in Annapolis to advocate for and against legislation affecting dentistry, meet with elected officials, and represent the profession at the State House. Our goal is to have members meet with delegates and senators from all 47 legislative districts. Clear your calendar and plan to join colleagues from across the state for this important day of advocacy. 🦷

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FROM THE PRESIDENT (cont)

Please be on the lookout for our upcoming 2026 CE courses. In April, we will be offering a hands-on Composite Dentistry course with Dr. Gammaichia, followed by a hands-on sleep medicine workshop with Dr. Mintz.

Looking Ahead to 2026

We owe it to ourselves and to our patients to continually strive to be the best clinicians possible and the Maryland AGD is the perfect organization to help us achieve that. It is truly a pleasure to serve as President of the Maryland AGD, and I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside such a dedicated community of colleagues. We are excited to see what 2026 has in store and look forward to a year filled with growth, learning, and continued excellence in general dentistry. 🍷

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

February 18

Dentist Day in Annapolis

March 6

Region 5 Annual Meeting

April 17 & 18

Participation Series Seminars

May 1

Sepaker Series Seminar

COMING
UP NEXT:

MAY 1
DECEMBER 4

REGISTER TODAY!

2026 SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAM



**CLICK THE PAGE OR SCAN THE QR CODE
TO SEE THE FULL PROGRAM**