



PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Amir Karimi, DDS
President, Maryland AGD

Happy New Year! I'd like to begin with the definition of a meaningful word to me - Legacy. The dictionary defines this as something handed down by a predecessor which may be positive or negative, but is unique depending upon the specific situation. A legacy can represent an edifice constructed of actions that have affected those around us and even our society in general. It is never too early to think about your own legacy, and the start of the new year is a good time to assess what you've accomplished so far and plan for future additions to this edifice.

AGD dentists are some of the greatest, most innovative and committed colleagues I have met. They are always on the lookout for opportunities to help their patients, never giving up when these opportunities are fraught with difficulty. As Maryland AGD members, it is important for us to recognize the value that our membership provides. Through top notch continuing education offerings, we can attain goals which allow us to improve skills and provide excellent service and care to our patients and community. Maryland AGD provides the continuing education courses exclusively tailored towards the needs of the general dentist and backed by AGD's reputable PACE Approval.

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NEWS FROM REGION 5

Eric Morse, DDS
Region 5 Director

As we step into the new year, the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) is gearing up for an exciting and transformative period. One of the key pillars of our organization, the House of Delegates, is set to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of general dentistry. The House of Delegates met in November 2023 and is the heartbeat of AGD, bringing together passionate and dedicated members from across the U.S. and Canada to discuss, deliberate, and decide on matters that impact our profession. This body serves as the voice of the membership, ensuring that the AGD remains at the forefront of advancements in general dentistry.

In November, the House of Delegates elected Dr. Marc Worob of Texas as its new Vice President and Dr. Kim Wright of Oregon as its new Secretary. Our newly elected leaders bring a wealth of experience, expertise, and a shared vision for the growth and success of our organization.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Continued from page 1

These courses cover all the requirements needed for Maryland license renewal, and they are available to you as part of your membership. Our organization offers two prestigious awards - Fellowship and Mastership. Why not pursue them and distinguish yourself, especially if you have already completed the continuing education requirements and qualify for the Fellowship award? Prepare for and take the Fellowship examination and get recognized. You deserve it!

One of the reasons I am a member is because AGD colleagues are so willing to unconditionally share their knowledge and mentor even their next-door neighbors. All we have to do is ask! However, all the knowledge and skills we obtain through continuing education is meaningful only if it is utilized, and through our advocacy efforts can the right to utilize them be secured. Maryland AGD has always been an advocate exclusively on behalf of general dentists, their patients and the profession of dentistry. Advocacy has become a main pillar of the AGD's mission to ensure that the voice of general dentists is effectively heard.

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EDITOR'S CORNER

By Jean Carlson, DDS, MAGD

Happy New Year, MAGD members and friends! I trust that your holidays were filled with warm memories of the season and that you are now comfortably settling in for the chilly months of winter. In addition to responsibilities in our dental practices, that means leisure activities like hitting the slopes, or simply sitting in front of a fire with a hot beverage and a good book.

January is a good time to reflect on where the past year has taken us and what we hope to accomplish in the new year. Our membership in the Academy of General Dentistry affords us many opportunities to pursue challenging goals – Fellowship, Mastership, and Life Long Service Recognition. Focusing on and planning continuing education courses make this even more possible than you may imagine. AGD provides us with those necessary educational experiences in ever increasing areas of our state and the nation.

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Region 5 Update

Continued from page 2

The House of Delegates addressed a range of critical issues facing general dentistry in 2023 and beyond. Some key themes on the agenda included:

Advancements in Technology: Embracing the latest technologies to enhance patient care and streamline dental practice management. AGD adopted its first statement on AI and its use in dentistry.

Education and Training: Ensuring that AGD members have access to cutting-edge education and training opportunities to stay abreast of the latest developments in the field.

Advocacy: Continuing our commitment to advocate for policies that support the interests of general dentists and the oral health of the public.

AGD is a community, and your voice matters. The House of Delegates encourages active participation from all members. If you have thoughts, suggestions, or concerns, we want to hear them. Your input helps shape the policies and initiatives that will define the future of our profession.

There are also many Councils and Committees which allow members to really be involved in the direction of the AGD. We would love to have more MAGD members on these Councils and Committees, so please contact the MAGD if you want to learn more.

The future of the AGD is bright and we are looking forward to a great 2024. 🦷

Save
the
Date!

REGION 5 ANNUAL CE MEETING

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024

Martins Crosswinds | Greenbelt, Maryland

One Baby, One Brush, One Dentist to Protect Us[®]

A PROPOSED MARYLAND MEDICAID HEALTHCARE CAMPAIGN

Every oral health professional and physician colleague enrolled and who will enroll as a Maryland Medicaid provider is to be commended for their commitment to serving the oral health care of Marylanders. The need for oral health care services remains great throughout Maryland and throughout the country. The *One Baby, One Brush, One Dentist to Protect Us[®]* campaign centers on goals to change this narrative to: (1) prevent and reduce tooth decay in infant and toddler patient populations; (2) increase access to care for children and all family members, and (3) increase Medicaid provider enrollment.

The campaign supports the recommendation by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry to have all children seen by the dentist by their first birthday. It is aligned with national efforts to ensure every family has an established dental home. One baby with a toothbrush given to them by one dentist, or dental hygienist, equals one dental home for children and families. This campaign will focus on providing educational techniques and resources to support health caregivers who endear our youngest dental patients. It is a sound initiative aimed at benefiting all of Maryland, from local government to our oral healthcare providers, to the children and families served through our Medicaid benefit. This will be an all-hands-on deck movement developed to be reciprocal between the provider, the patient, and the Maryland Medicaid Program.

Taking our commitment one step further to help prevent early childhood caries and preserve the dentitions of our youngest patients is more important than ever today. Therefore, it is hopeful that this will be more than just, *A Proposed Maryland Medicaid Health Care Campaign*. The intentions that are outlined seek to convey the significance, relevance and usefulness of this collaborative initiative. *One Baby, One Brush, One Dentist to Protect Us[®]* offers practical health care resources that can be a vital part of the comprehensive health care equation.

While the fortitude of our nearly 4,200 dentists is remarkable, we again find ourselves called to rise. The tremendous loss of an innocent Maryland child's life, 12 year-old Deamonte Driver, brought us to our knees in 2008, and then brought us together. This time the call for us to come together follows the 2019 COVID pandemic. The exodus of practicing dentists from the profession, fewer appointment times, poor diet behaviors, and dental neglect is still being deeply felt in Maryland and many other states.

The lack of operating room time being afforded to

dentists who treat Severe Early Childhood Caries (S-ECC) in very young children is a tremendous problem across Maryland and across the country. This fact is further exacerbated by the expensive hourly cost for anesthesiologists, and the compromised availability of these medical specialists. Furthermore, nasotracheal intubation necessary for dental surgeries is more anatomically difficult. This human circumstance may further increase

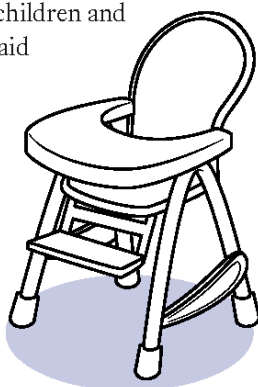
the cost of an already potentially more expensive benefit necessary for comprehensive dental rehabilitation procedures under general anesthesia.

The Pediatric Oral Health Research & Policy Center Policy Brief — Denial of Access to Operating Room Time in Hospitals for Pediatric Dental Care, May 2021¹ further outlines the magnitude of this crisis. In Maryland, the weight of these challenges has increased with the official announcement of the University of Maryland Rehabilitation & Orthopedic Institute now slated to close their operating room suites in 2026. This is a much relied upon community hospital located in Baltimore City that currently provides dental operating room services for hundreds of children annually. This adds dangerously to the burden of this limited access to care modality. These setbacks make it incumbent upon the dental profession to advance practical strategies aimed directly at preventive oral health practices.

The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research documents in the Oral Health in American February 2022 Bulletin, and the Call to Action², the following- "Policies and improved training are needed to reduce oral health inequities by encouraging health providers to focus more on individual and public health approaches to preventing the occurrence of new disease and managing disease earlier." Hence, we cannot risk leaving our toddlers vulnerable to disease. Not when opportunities exist to provide families preventive health care education. Not with the availability of more conservative treatment options.

The track record of dedication of Maryland's oral health care professionals and their responsiveness to patient care has been impressive with approximately 30% of dentists currently participating in public insurance programs. Disease prevention opportunities are increased when our dentists help to ensure our youngest Marylanders are seen by their first birthday. When these professionals are competitively compensated by the Maryland Medicaid program this provides our state the health care support necessary to prevent disease and protect our youngest.

Though the meaningful resources already made available through the Maryland Office of Oral Health offer a wealth of useful patient education and knowledge, the



One Baby, One Brush, One Dentist to Protect Us campaign is just one more potential resource. This proposed campaign offers a practical pathway to support patient care for the disproportionately addressed dental and other health screening needs of infant and toddler Medicaid recipients. Dental professionals, children and adults, and the state of Maryland can all reap invaluable benefits from this and similar “boots-on-the-ground” campaigns.

The potential trifecta impact of this collaboration stands first and foremost to improve access to oral health care across the state, and not just for children. For dentists the list of benefits are quite meaningful, and may include, (1) the acquisition of new patients that can be examined and evaluated in a 30-minute visit, (2) receipt of a minimum \$60 reimbursement for this first anticipatory guidance visit (DO145) in a high chair in the dental operator, (3) competitive reimbursement at subsequent 30-minute, biannual preventive appointments, (4) development of a more prevention-recognized practice reputation, (5) multiple chances to win a brand new, strappingly, good-looking high chair for your practice (while supplies last), and best of all (6) a feather in your scrub cap.

Under the leadership of the Maryland Department of Health, our Medicaid dental fees for both children and adult procedures have been increased through collaboration with Maryland Medicaid providers. These new reimbursement amounts will become effective this month. Additionally, Silver Diamine Fluoride or SDF, the topical medication used to arrest tooth decay and relieve dentinal hypersensitivity was recently assigned fee coverage under our Maryland Medicaid program. These are meaningful steps being made by the Department of Health that support patient care, access to care and Maryland Medicaid provider enrollment. The *One Baby, One Brush, One Dentist to Protect Us* campaign can complement these wellbeing-driven, improvements.

Promotion of a cavity free toddler patient population across the state of Maryland has the potential to conserve resources for the Old-Line State. Investing in the oral health care of infants (up to age-1) and toddlers (age 1–3) to prevent disease is a prudent preservation of state finances. Educating parents, foster parents, guardians, and all caregivers about the necessary preventive measures that must occur as soon as the first teeth erupt could influence disease reduction. It could prove to be a hugely important return on savings secondary to this productive use of dental health benefits. Maryland State Senator, Shelly Hettelman has said, “I was proud to support the expansion of dental care to both children and adult Marylanders enrolled in Medicaid. This kind of investment in prevention provides a double benefit, preventing sickness and saving

the state resources.” Senator Hettelman is a member of the Budget and Taxation Committee, and the Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families. She serves District 11 in Baltimore County.

In fact, Maryland Medicaid has put some progressive protections in place. As previously stated, SDF is now a covered benefit, and other fees will soon increase. In January Maryland expanded adult dental benefits. Thoroughly establishing preventive health care through the Maryland Medicaid program, and through political leadership and other stakeholders, the pathway forward for 1 and 2 year-old children to have the best possible dental and diet education outcomes are made plausible. The anticipation of far fewer emergency room visits, oral sedations and general anesthesia operating room cases is extremely important and especially exciting to forecast.

To further propel prevention, and support of the nation’s state health benefit programs, the American Dental Association (ADA) Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention (CAAP) has multiple assets to assist dental professionals who participate in Medicaid. This Counsel is energized to help make sure dentists around the country are aware of the educational resources available to support hosting an *Age One Dental Visit* event in your practice. They highlight continuing education courses that are offered to support early disease prevention such as *Dental Health for Babies and Kids* and *Highchair Dental Care*. They support documentation of “medically necessary” care and assist states with navigating aspects of the Medicaid credentialing process.

The CAAP Counsel offers opportunities for Medicaid “Boot Camp.” This initiative is designed to provide better clarity about Medicaid benefits. Presentations are geared to empower dental schools, student dentists, state dental associations, legislators and other stakeholders. To learn more, visit the ADA Medicaid Provider Resource Guide at <https://www.ada.org/resources/community-initiatives/action-for-dental-health/medicaid>.

Bianca Dearing, DDS, MPhil, PhD, Associate Professor and Epidemiologist in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry at Howard University proposes, “*The One Baby, One Brush, One Dentist to Protect Us*® campaign is anticipated to provide value in addressing the disparity in availability of dentists to provide oral health care and education to young children who need care the most. This initiative is a step in the right direction to ensure access to quality oral health care for all children. It is a tremendous effort to encourage oral health professionals, to increase access to care, and contribute to public health and oral health equity.”

Maryland is a state that remains visionary and vigilant to meet the oral health care needs of everyone residing in

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TOGETHER, WE THRIVE

JoJo Manato, DDS

Membership Chair

Our Maryland Academy of General Dentistry is distinguished by its dedication to unite and empower general dentists to make a positive impact on the oral health of patients. We highly encourage you to utilize all the AGD resources and membership benefits, as well as to inspire your colleagues to consider membership in MAGD.

As of Fall 2023, the MAGD Constituent Membership Statistics Report indicates a 3.3% increase in members. That's very good news, as we now have 16 new Maryland AGD members. At the Dental Student level, four new members have been recorded as of September 31, 2023. We are growing and still need to grow more.



We can't wait to see you soon! 

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our state. Practicing pediatric dentists, general dentists, and dental hygienists throughout our great state are the respected oral health and oral hygiene care experts. These caregivers are vital to advancing anticipatory guidance efforts that can help to safeguard young Marylanders. They are central to new and promising health care measures designed to help prevent tooth decay in our children, their parents, and grandparents.

The Maryland Office of Oral Health, Maryland Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, Maryland State Dental Association, Maryland Dental Society, Maryland Dental Action Coalition (MDAC), The Children's Oral Health Institute and other stakeholders have all responded to the need to support oral health care for children and adults through our state benefit plans. Mary Backley, Chief Executive Officer for MDAC emphasizes, "This effort is just what MDAC stands for at its core- advocating for oral health care access



for everyone, no matter age." This constitution of service to Maryland families maintains a proud reputation across organizations. It is this content of character that offers much promise to expanding our Medicaid provider enrollment across Maryland.

Maryland and all state Medicaid organizations nationwide are welcomed, in fact they are encouraged to duplicate the *One Baby, One Brush, One Dentist to Protect Us* campaign or to launch similar movements. Every idea, every proposal, every bit of any innovation with the potential to help improve oral health outcomes for families is worth all of our commitment to examination.

Visit the Maryland Department of Health website to get more involved and to learn all about the commitment of Maryland Medicaid to children and families, to the dental profession, and provider reimbursement, and to oral health education resources. Read more about the contributions dental professionals unselfishly make to the health care of our state and to the patients we so proudly serve day after day. 

Maryland Department of Health

www.health.maryland.gov

Maryland Academy of Pediatric Dentistry

www.mdapd.org

Maryland Office of Oral Health

www.health.maryland.gov/oralhealth

Maryland State Dental Association

www.msda.com

Maryland Dental Action Coalition

www.mdac.us

The Children's Oral Health Institute

www.mychi.org

¹ Pediatric Oral Health Research and Policy Center Policy Brief Denial of Access to Operating Room Time in Hospitals for Pediatric Dental Care May 2021 Prepared by a taskforce of the AAPD Pediatric Oral Health Research and Policy Center: Martha Ann Keels, DDS, PhD; Andrew Vo, DDS; Paul Casamassimo, DDS, MS; C. Scott Litch, MA, JD; R Wright, PhD

² The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research documents in the Oral Health in American February 2022 Bulletin, Call to Action

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Winifred J. Booker, DDS, FAAPD is a board-certified pediatric dentist. She has been in private practice for over 25 years. She earned her degree in dental medicine from Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry and a certificate in pediatric dentistry from the Children's National Medical Center. Dr. Booker serves as the Director of Development for The Children's Oral Health Institute where she has led the development of community oral health outreach initiatives for children and families, the most notable being the *Lessons in a Lunch Box*® program. She is a member of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, American College of Dentists, American Dental Association, National Dental Association, and Society of American Indian Dentists. She has held several leadership positions, and currently serves as Immediate Past President of the Maryland State Dental Association.



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

CHARLES DORING, DDS, MAGD

Ready...Set...Go to Dentist Day in Annapolis February 20, 2024

A new year is upon us, which can only mean one thing in the advocacy world – a new legislative session - and a new session means it's time to clear your calendars for Tuesday February 20, 2024, for Dentist Day in Annapolis.

The 446th Maryland Legislative Session convenes at noon on January 10. The 90-day session ends with a rush of activity midnight April 8 ("sine die"). Any bills not passed will need to be reintroduced the next legislative session in 2025 unless a special session is convened. Mid-February is a good time for Dentist Day as February 5 is the last bill introduction date in the Senate and February 9 is the last bill introduction date in the House. By Dentist Day's golden hour on February 20, our lobbying team has had time to review all bills in the hopper, particularly bills dealing with health-related topics. In 2023, 2,275 bills were introduced and 806 of those were signed into law by Governor Moore.

Your support for Dentist Day and the advocacy efforts help bring about positive and systemic change for our profession. Your voice is the greatest way to show policymakers their impact on your work, your profession, and your ability to help patients. Dentist Day is a wonderful way to experience the camaraderie of organized dentistry. By coming together with our colleagues from across the state to advocate for legislation that advances our profession and our work for patients, we make a proverbial statement in Annapolis.

It's invigorating to see new and experienced dentists share their own experiences with legislators and learn from each other as they peruse the halls together. Every member, whether you are still in school or are a veteran participant in Dentist Day, helps to show the breadth of our membership and profession. We all bring different perspectives from our practices and the patients we serve.

We will provide you with every opportunity to learn about the day ahead of time to learn about logistics, our legislative priorities, and the most up-to-date information about the work of the Maryland General Assembly.

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EDITOR'S CORNER

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Almost twenty years ago, when I began thinking about attaining the Fellowship award, a long-time friend and mentor gave me the guidance and support I needed to reach this objective. Whether you are currently pursuing one of AGD's awards and could use the encouragement of a colleague, or you have long ago reached Mastership or LLSR, consider mentorship as an important means of service to each other.

As we begin a new year in our great profession, let's all remember to take care of not only those to whom we provide care, but ourselves and our families as well. Personal and professional goals can exist in harmony if we strive for balance in our lives. We can best serve our patients if we, ourselves, are healthy in body, mind and spirit. Take some time for yourselves and enjoy life! 🦷

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Continued from page 8

There are many legislative topics related to dentistry currently to be discussed. On Dentists Day we try to focus on three to five bills most important to the profession and your dental practice. Current topics for potential consideration:

- 1) Workforce Shortages and license portability.
- 2) Dental Insurance Reform including estimation of benefits and claim denials.
- 3) Early Childhood Dental Exams and operating room dental block shortages.
- 4) Dental Medicaid Improvements including better coverage (dentures & home/long term care visits) and better fee schedule for services provided.
- 5) Enforcement of existing law to have the health department fully fund Student Loan Assistance Program for Dentists and Dental Hygienists (Maryland Dent-Care Loan Assistance Repayment Program (MDC-LARP)).

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

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I have come to admire many other attributes of the AGD. The camaraderie and the humility that accompany our convictions are so inclusive and welcoming. We urge you to constantly extend these gifts to your local community. General dentists are the gatekeepers of oral health. They are the local champions who partner with dental specialists and medical professionals to advocate and care for their patients. It is our responsibility to reach out and bridge these communities, not necessarily vice versa.

As one of the leaders of Maryland Academy of General Dentistry, I look to continue the legacy handed down by my predecessors and I thank them for their service and mentorship along the way. On behalf of the MAGD, I thank you for your continuing support and for giving us the opportunity to represent you. We are here to support YOU. Do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Special note - Our new Board term begins with the close of the AGD House of Delegates which was this past November. We welcome Dr. Steve Feldman as President-elect and Dr. Andrew Martin as Vice President. We also congratulate and thank Dr. Bruce Yuille for serving another term as Secretary. 



Dr. Amir Karimi, President

2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Dr. Amir Karimi
 Immediate Past President: Dr. Larry Katkow
 President-elect: Dr. Steve Feldman
 Vice President: Dr. Andrew Martin
 Secretary: Dr. Bruce Yuille
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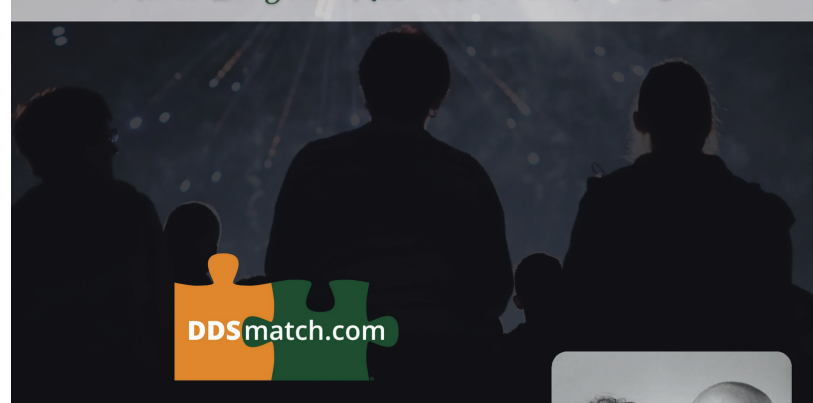
Delegates: Alternate Delegates:

Dr. Steve Feldman	Dr. Amir Karimi
Dr. Larry Katkow	Dr. Brenda Shah
Dr. Gigi Meinecke	Dr. Chuck Young
Dr. John Mohler	Dr. Robert Wilson, Jr.
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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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It is our hope that between where you live and work, we will have Maryland dentists visit with the delegates and senators from all 47 legislative districts. Although you may not have an opportunity to meet with all your legislators in person, interacting with staff and aides is often just as important and rewarding.

We want to make this day as easy and fulfilling as possible. Be sure to register early and take advantage of the discount. If you have any questions, please reach out to Advocacy@msda.com.



 Tuesday, February 20, 2024

 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

 Governor Calvert House Annapolis, MD

Early Bird Registration Fee: \$50
After Jan. 10, 2024 Registration Fee: \$75



For more information, contact Greg Buckler at
410-964-2880 x103
or greg@msda.com

To register online visit: <https://cvent.me/EMW7Wo>

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2024 EVENTS

SPEAKER SERIES

JANUARY 19, 2024

8:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**The Not So Hidden Epidemic:
Periodontitis & Peri-Implantitis**

Speakers: Dr. Larry Page & Dr. Bruce Mandel
Marriott College Park Conference Center

DEA/MATE SEMINAR

MARCH 29, 2024

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Marvin Leventer
Tidewater Inn, Easton

PARTICIPATION SERIES

APRIL 12 & 13, 2024

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Maritime Conference Center

Save the dates!

Topics & Speakers To Be Announced

SPEAKER SERIES

MAY 17, 2024

8:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Creating Smile Design & Emergence
Profile: Extraction & Grafting for Ideal
Surgical Placement of Implants**

Speaker: Dr. Tim Kosinski
Universities at Shady Grove

ANNUAL OSHA & PANDA SEMINAR

SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Maritime Conference Center

PARTICIPATION SERIES

OCTOBER 18 & 19, 2024

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Maritime Conference Center

Save the dates!

Topics & Speakers To Be Announced

SPEAKER SERIES

DECEMBER 6, 2024

8:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Save a Life: Raising the Bar on Oral
Cancer Screening**

Speakers: Eva Grayzel & Dr. Nevin Zablosky
Maritime Conference Center



P.O. Box 1668
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

maryland-agd.org

Questions or comments?
We love to hear from you!

contact@maryland-agd.org
443-221-1188

Maryland Academy of General Dentistry welcomes our newest members!

Andres Alvarez-Deal
Cambridge

Benjamin Hung
Laurel

Connor Lu
Potomac

Janee Stanley
Bowie

Minnu Augustine
Baltimore

Alisha Khan
Ellicott City

Sorina Moniroth Lim
Silver Spring

Kayla Tinio
Baltimore

Felicia Der
Baltimore

Alhassan A. Laith
Chevy Chase

Megan Patterson Poteat
Trappe

Teddy Umo
Baltimore, MD

Liang Fang
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Everett Lee
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David Raden
Baltimore

Andrea B. Valencia
Bethesda

Diana R. Graham
Brunswick

Samuel Lee
Potomac

Pallavi Sinha
Severna Park

Jennifer Yin
Potomac

Marcia A. Gordon
Nottingham

Seoyoon Lee
Finksburg

Cheryl Elise Stanback Fryer
Silver Spring

Yina Yosef
Olney