

# THE Generalist

Spring 2021



Your voice for excellence through education and advocacy.



## President's Report

LARRY KATKOW, DDS, MAGD

President, Maryland AGD



Thank you for being an AGD member! There are many benefits to membership, but the one that Maryland AGD stresses

most is providing quality continuing education. Our goal is to help you in your commitment to lifelong learning, from dental school through retirement. You have access to high-quality CE both locally and nationally, and now more than ever, we must thoroughly vet our course providers. The AGD PACE program relies on 13 rigorous standards that must be maintained by those organizations approved to deliver CE under the PACE logo. Not all of the courses you may see online or in person deliver unbiased education. I encourage you to join Maryland AGD for one of our upcoming courses. Our first in-person lecture will be May 21st at the Maritime Conference Center near BWI airport. Dr. Fiona Collins is a world-class speaker

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## Calendar of Events

### SPEAKER SERIES

#### Infection Prevention: Keeping You and Your Patients Safe

Speaker: Fiona Collins, DDS

Maritime Conference Center with Virtual Option  
Friday, May 21

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### MASTER TRACK PROGRAM

#### Fixed Prosthodontics

Speaker: Flavio Rasetto, DDS

College Park Marriott Conference Center  
Friday, September 17

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### SPEAKER SERIES

#### Occlusion and Case Planning for Everyday Practice

Speaker: Michael Melkers, DDS

Maritime Conference Center  
Friday, October 22

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### MASTER TRACK PROGRAM

#### Pediatric Dentistry

Speaker: Carla Cohn, DMD

Maritime Conference Center  
Friday, November 12

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### MASTER TRACK PROGRAM

#### Orthodontics

Speaker: Carla Cohn, DMD

Maritime Conference Center  
Saturday, November 13

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### AGD ANNUAL MEETING

Austin Convention Center  
Austin, Texas

June 9 – 12

Visit [www.maryland-agd.org](http://www.maryland-agd.org) to learn more and register!

and author and will deliver a timely update on infection control in the age of COVID. I also encourage you to consider working towards Fellowship and Mastership in the AGD. The journey will help you to stay on top of your profession, and the course offerings and learning opportunities geared towards the general dentist will

pay off in your practice. Our CE committee is constantly working to improve our course offerings, and we plan to offer courses in more locations in MD in the near future. If you have any suggestions, please contact me. Have a wonderful spring and summer, and I hope to see you in person at one of our upcoming events!

## Maryland Legislative Update

CHARLES DORING, DDS AND STEVE FELDMAN, DDS

The 2021 session of the Maryland General Assembly closed on April 12, 2021, without any COVID interruptions. The assembly adjourned sine die, without a definitive date to assemble again during this particular legislative session. *Sine Die* occurred without any fanfare or last-minute theatrics as legislators passed much of the controversial legislation early on in case of a COVID shutdown. The General Assembly has already overridden several of the governor's vetoes on the much talked-about police reform.

Now we wait and watch for the bill signings. Bills not passed by both the House of Delegates and the Senate by sine die, must be reintroduced in the next session if future consideration is desired. Bills passed by both legislative bodies must be presented to the Governor's office within 20 days of sine die. From presentation, the Governor has 30 days to sign or veto the passed legislation. If legislation is not acted upon in this timeframe, the legislation becomes law.

Several of our top priorities are headed to the governor. The governor held one bill signing this past week and we are eagerly awaiting his decision on several pieces of legislation that we worked to pass. These bills are important to our efforts to ensure all Marylanders have access to oral health care.

### Oral Health Task Force, SB 100/HB 368

Sponsored by Senator Delores Kelley and Delegate Heather Bagnall. This bill would create a two-year task force to perform an extensive study on the barriers to dental care with a particular focus on the socioeconomic status, implicit bias, race, ethnicity, age, and disability of residents as factors impacting dental services and barriers to care.

### Dental Prophylaxis & Exams, SB 485/HB547

Sponsored by Senator Malcolm Augustine and Delegate Robbyn Lewis. This bill prohibits, beginning January 1, 2022, Medicaid from requiring more than 120 days between treatments. The bill corrects a loophole that exempted Medicaid patients and allows flexibility when scheduling preventive services.

### Maryland Medical Assistance Program Eligibility, SB 923

Sponsored by Senator Mary Washington. This bill, among other things, expands Medicaid postpartum coverage for medical, dental and other health care services. This expands coverage we recently worked to pass from 60 days to one-year.

# Federal Legislative Update

CHARLES DORING, DDS AND STEVE FELDMAN, DDS

## PPP Extension Act

The PPP Extension Act passed the Senate by a vote of 92-7 and passed the House by a vote of 415-3. AGD signed on to a coalition letter led by the International Franchise Association in support of the PPP Extension Act. The bipartisan Paycheck Protection Program Extension Act extends the termination deadline of the PPP program by two months (3/31 to 5/31) and provides an additional 30 days for the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to process loans submitted prior to the new May 31, 2021, deadline.

## Repeal of McCarran-Ferguson

The Competitive Health Insurance Reform Act of 2019 (HR 1418/S 350) was introduced by Sens. Daines (R-MT) and Leahy (D-VT) in the Senate and by Reps. DeFazio (D-OR) and Gosar (R-AZ) in the House. The legislation passed at the end of the 116th Congress and repeals the antiquated antitrust exemption granted to the health insurance industry over 70 years ago. It will no longer be legal for insurance companies to engage in anti-competitive practices such as price fixing and collusion, helping to level the playing field between dentists and third-party payers. This legislation will not interfere with states' abilities to maintain and enforce their own insurance regulations, antitrust statutes, and consumer protection laws.

## Oral Health Literacy and Awareness Act of 2019 (HR 4678)

Introduced by Representatives Tony Cárdenas (D-CA), Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), and Nanette Diaz Barragán (D-CA), this legislation was developed in partnership with the AGD and directs the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to create a five-year public health education campaign across the various HRSA programs to help develop and implement evidence-based strategies to increase oral health literacy within specific at-risk populations, including children, pregnant women, elderly, individuals with disabilities, and ethnic and racial minority groups. In an AGD-led effort, members of the Organized Dentistry Coalition (ODC) sent a letter to Reps. Cárdenas and Bilirakis in support of HR 4678.

## Health Professional Shortage Areas

AGD submitted comments to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) regarding a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) Scoring Criteria Request for Information (RFI). HRSA designates geographic areas, population groups within geographic areas, and certain facilities as HPSAs under a specific discipline, one of which is dental health. However, the current selection criteria do not adequately reflect the actual supply of dentists or demand for services within a given area, leading to inappropriate designation of certain areas as Dental HPSA's and misallocation of resources.

## ERISA Reform – Dental and Optometric Care (DOC) Access Act (HR 3762)

Representatives Dave Loebsack (IA-2) and Buddy Carter (GA-1) have sponsored HR 3762, the DOC Access Act. Similar legislation (S. 4894) has been introduced in the Senate by Senators Manchin (D-WV) and Cramer (R-ND). The legislation aims to ensure fairness in contracts between doctors and dental insurers. It would allow dentists to charge an amount that is usual and customary for services not covered under an insurance plan rather than adhere to the insurer's mandated fee schedule. Additionally, it will limit plan contracts to two years unless a dentist chooses to extend the contract for another term and includes a private right of action provision that allows individual doctors to take offending plans directly to court.

## Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act (S560/HR 1379)

This bipartisan legislation would ensure patients with congenital craniofacial anomalies have the necessary coverage to restore their ability to function. AGD, along with 28 other allied health organizations, including AAOMS and ADA, sent a letter to the House Education & Labor Committee on October 15, voicing support for HR 1379, the Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act (ELSA). The letter was sent following the legislation's approval by the House Energy & Commerce Committee. The letter urged the Education & Labor Committee, which also has jurisdiction over the bill, to advance the legislation to the floor for a full vote in the House.

## Veterans Early Treatment for Chronic Ailment Resurgence through Examinations (VET CARE) Act

The VET CARE Act would establish a four-year pilot program to provide no-cost dental services and treatment to a group of eligible veterans. The pilot seeks to demonstrate whether delivering dental care to veterans yields fewer complications related to chronic ailments, thereby resulting in a lower cost of overall care. The legislation was passed by the House Veterans Affairs Committee 26 and is pending a vote in the House.

## Coverage for Medically Necessary Oral Health Care

There continues to be congressional interest to expand Medicare coverage for medically necessary oral health care. "Medically necessary would be defined to include oral health care for individuals with chronic conditions, such as diabetes.

## Region 5 Update

ERIC MORSE, DDS



Over the last year, there have been many changes to the way we practice dentistry and many of those changes have carried over to 2021. The AGD is undergoing many changes as well and I would like to highlight a couple of those for you.

First, we are excited about the hiring of a new national AGD executive director. After the retirement of the previous executive director, Max Moses, AGD completed an extensive nationwide search for his successor. The AGD announced last month that Colleen Lawler, CAE, IOM would be the new executive director. Ms. Lawler has been a leader in healthcare and membership organizations for 25 years. Most recently she was the executive director for the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists and prior to that she was the vice president of Membership, Business Operations, and Strategy for the American Medical Association (AMA). She created innovative membership programs and initiatives that led to five consecutive years of membership growth with the AMA. She is a graduate of Robert Morris University and is a certified association executive (CAE) from the American Society of Association Executives. We are excited about the AGD's future with Ms. Lawler as the new executive director.

The other important item to be aware of is the new Alternative Membership Model (AMM) that will be rolled out in October 2021 for the 2022 renewal cycle. After years of researching different membership models at the request of the members, the national AGD will be introducing two categories of membership for 2022, Premium and Premium Plus.

Premium Membership is designed for the new dentist, associate dentist, or members that wish to maintain the same great AGD benefits that they currently have.

Premium Plus is designed for the practice owner, engaged AGD member, member seeking great value on CE, or member in the process of acquiring Fellowship or Mastership. This membership will include additional benefits like free registration to the AGD Scientific Session (\$199 value), discount on Fellowship study materials and courses (\$139 value), and access to additional free Premium Plus continuing education opportunities, just to name a few.

The future of the AGD is bright and I look forward to working with all of you.

## MAGD Student Award

2021 Maryland AGD Student Award Recipient:

**Yasmin Shahkarami**



Throughout her time at University of Maryland School of Dentistry, Yasmin has found her greatest joy to be working with others to improve the educational experience for students and faculty alike; she is passionate about learning and hopes to work in academia in the future. Yasmin graduated from James Madison University with a B.S. degree in Biology. She is the first person in her family to become a dentist.

### WHAT HER PROFESSORS SAY:

*"She is highly passionate about every aspect of general dentistry. I believe she thinks of general dentistry and comprehensive family care as part of her human fabric and it will never be a job to her. She will be a superior provider and an ambassador of the profession to all."*



**A FELLOW**  
ACADEMY OF GENERAL DENTISTRY

*Congratulations*  
2021 FELLOWS

Only 6% of general dentists have done it and you are one!

2021

**2021 FAGD AWARDEES:**

Kelly-Marie T. Betts, DDS	Stephanie Dennison, DDS
Aswini Kumar Jagadeesh, DDS	Sheila L. Brush, DDS
Yasmin Sarah Adams, DDS	Rebecca Walter, DDS
Denise Halliburton, DDS	

**Fellows and Masters of the Academy of General Dentistry**  
The Fellowship and Mastership designations are two of the most rigorous continuing dental education programs today. A general dentist who is a “Fellow” in the Academy of General Dentistry (FAGD) has been recognized by other general dentists as a leader and example to other dentists of the importance of quality continuing dental education to patient care. A general dentist who has earned the designation “Master” of the Academy of General Dentistry (MAGD) has completed a structured and demanding set of requirements involving all the dental disciplines.

**The Academy of General Dentistry**

The Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) is a professional association of more than 40,000 general dentists from the United States and Canada. Founded in 1952, the AGD has grown to become the world’s second largest dental association and it is the only association that exclusively represents and lobbies for the needs and interests of general dentists. AGD’s headquarters office is located in Chicago, Ill.

**Fellowship**

To earn a Fellowship Award, a dentist must earn a minimum of 500 approved continuing dental education credits and pass a comprehensive 400-question examination. The dentist is required to be an AGD member for three continuous years. While attaining Fellowship is a challenge, it allows dentists to remain current with what is new in dentistry, and to incorporate the latest research techniques into their practices.

**Mastership**

To attain Mastership, members must first be Fellows in the AGD. Then dentists must earn an additional 600 approved continuing

education credits, meeting minimum requirements in certain dental disciplines, of which 400 hours are hands-on courses. Thus, a Master of the AGD has taken a total of 1,100 hours of continuing education. A Master has studied 16 disciplines in dentistry, such as periodontics, orthodontics and implants.

**How FAGD or MAGD Benefits Patients**

Fellows and Masters of the AGD follow a lifelong pursuit of continuing education to provide the highest quality of dental care to patients. The award symbolizes the professional responsibility of general dentists to remain current in their profession and reminds each member of the dental profession to continue to learn new techniques for their dental practice. These are awards, however and should not be confused with post-graduate degrees or certification. Every dentist who applies for the Fellowship or Mastership Award has their application reviewed by the AGD Council on Dental Education to assure that the high standards of the AGD are met.

**How AGD Membership Benefits Patients**

When a dentist has achieved the Fellowship or Mastership Award, patients can be assured that their dentist is dedicated to providing the finest care in general dentistry. To date, more than 17,000 members of the AGD have become Fellows and over 3,500 have gone on to receive Mastership. The AGD is proud of all of its members who must take at least 75 hours of continuing dental education every three years, and especially proud of its members who have made the commitment to pursue these awards.



**A MASTER**  
ACADEMY OF GENERAL DENTISTRY

*Congratulations*  
2021 MASTERS

You achieved the highest honor awarded to general dentists!

2021

**2021 MASTER AWARDEES:**

Mohammad A. Tabatabaeei-Fatemi, DDS, FAGD  
Michael E. Rudmann, DMD, FAGD, ABGD

## Presenting your 2021 Board of Directors

**Dr. Emma Galvan**  
*Immediate Past President*

**Dr. Larry Katkow**  
*President*

**Dr. Amir Karimi**  
*Vice President*

**Dr. Bruce Yuille**  
*Secretary*

**Dr. Eric Morse**  
*Treasurer*

**Dr. Amir Karimi**  
*Editor*

**Dr. Harvey Levy**  
*Parliamentarian*

**Dr. Jean Carlson**  
*Member-at-Large*

**Dr. JoJo Manato**  
*Member-at-Large*

**Dr. Brenda Shah**  
*Member-at-Large*

**Dr. Bill LeBoe**  
*Member-at-Large*

## Committee Chairs

**Dr. John Mohler**  
*Continuing Education Chair*

**Dr. Emma Galvan**  
*Membership Chair*

**Dr. Chuck Young**  
*PACE Chair*

**Legislative Co-Chairs:**  
Dr. Charles Doring &  
Dr. Stephen Feldman

**Shayla Butler**  
*Student Chapter*

## Delegates

**Dr. Eric Morse**

**Dr. John Mohler**

**Dr. Gigi Meinecke**

**Dr. Steve Feldman**

**Dr. Bruce Yuille**

**Dr. Chuck Young**

**Dr. Amir Karimi**

## Maryland Academy of General Dentistry welcomes our newest members:

**Waleed Ahmed**  
*Owings Mills*

**Jessica Bolus Alignay**  
*Middle River*

**Andrew Aziz**  
*Columbia*

**Amna Choudhary**  
*Clarksville*

**Elizabeth Anne Davis**  
*Baltimore*

**Troy David Furimsky**  
*Baltimore*

**Brian P. Garner**  
*Baltimore*

**Mariela Gaughan**  
*Prince Frederick*

**Hafeeza Hassan**  
*Brentwood*

**Min Seong Kim**  
*Baltimore*

**Marketa Kletetschkova**  
*Laurel*

**Lazokat Komilova**  
*Springfield*

**Marie Celeste Maher**  
*Towson*

**Reeves Manikat**  
*Laurel*

**Gloria J. McMenamin**  
*Towson*

**Michelle D. Mulligan**  
*Baltimore*

**Bethany Paige Leedy, DDS**  
*Baltimore*

**Leila Navab**  
*Potomac*

**Katherine Ong**  
*Wilmington*

**Christopher Rahimi**  
*Baltimore*

**Min Hwa Seok**  
*Ellicott City*

**Dawn Annmarie Shaw**  
*Hyattsville*

**Kenneth Demetric Shumate**  
*Waldorf*

**Corey Sparkes**  
*Jarrettsville*

**Ryan Strum**  
*Baltimore*

**Matthew Winter**  
*Forest Hill*

**Seung J. Yoon**  
*Rockville*

**Erfan Zarger**  
*Baltimore*



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Questions or comments?  
We love to hear from you!  
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443-221-1188