

The Generalist

YOUR VOICE FOR EXCELLENCE
THROUGH EDUCATION & ADVOCACY



Protecting Smiles, Preserving Standards

Table of Contents

03

EDITOR'S CORNER

05

FROM THE PRESIDENT

06

FEATURE ARTICLE

*Maintaining Best Practices
Staying in Step with MSBDE*

10

STUDENT CHAPTER

12

REGION 5

14

LEGACY OF A SMILE

17

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Copyright and Publication Notice

This newsletter is published by the Maryland Academy of General Dentistry (MAGD). All content, including articles, images, and graphics, is protected under copyright law and is the property of the MAGD unless otherwise noted. Unauthorized use, reproduction, or distribution of any material without prior written consent is strictly prohibited. The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the MAGD. For inquiries regarding publication or permissions, please contact us at contact@maryland-agd.org.

www.maryland-agd.org



Editor's Corner

A Time for Transitions

I hope you have had a wonderful summer and enjoyed relaxing times with your families. It's hard to believe that Fall is here again, and with it all the changes that this time of year brings. The leaves turning to their beautiful fall colors, the chill in the air, and all things "pumpkin and spice" remind us of the predictability of seasonal change, as time marches onward.

And speaking of change, this is my last submission as Editor of your newsletter, as our officers will be transitioning in a few weeks. It has certainly been a privilege to fulfill this role for the past few years, and I look forward to continuing to serve in the upcoming year as your President-Elect of MAGD. Dr. Steven Feldman has done an outstanding job as President this year, and he deserves our utmost appreciation. Well done, Steve, and we have been fortunate to have your leadership as a role model for us all!

We'd like for each of you to consider taking advantage of our excellent continuing education program. There really is something for everyone, and the committee works hard to obtain the very best topics and speakers for you. Some events are even free to MAGD members, so keep an eye out for that, as well.

In closing, I'd like to ask you and your staff members to consider volunteering for the Eastern Shore Mission of Mercy, which will be held March 27 and 28, 2026, at the Wicomico Youth and Civic Center in Salisbury, Maryland. It takes many hands to put together an event such as this, as I'm sure many of you know. Sign-ups are available at easternshoremom.org. Please consider helping – up to 8 hours of CE credit are available to dentists, with credit also possible for hygienists and assistants. 💛

Jean J. Carlson, DDS, MAGD



2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

DR. STEVE FELDMAN

PRESIDENT-ELECT

DR. ANDREW MARTIN

VICE PRESIDENT

DR. JEAN CARLSON

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

DR. AMIR KARIMI

SECRETARY

DR. BRUCE YUILLE

TREASURER

DR. BRENDA SHAH

PARLIMENTARIAN

DR. HARVEY LEVY

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

DR. ABIODUN ADESANAY

DR. LAVANYA CHADARAM

DR. HALIMA KARIM

DR. DOUGLAS RISK

DR. SHEETAL SOLANKI

DR. AMRITA SINGH

DR. DOUG TAVENNER

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

MEMBERSHIP

DR. JOJO MANATO

CONTINUING EDUCATION

DR. JOHN MOHLER

MASTERTRACK PROGRAM

DR. VANESSA BENAVENT

PACE PROGRAM

DR. CHUCK YOUNG

DELEGATES/ALTERNATES

DR. STEVE FELDMAN

DR. LARRY KATKOW

DR. GIGI MEINEKE

DR. JOHN MOHLER

DR. BRUCE YUILLE

DR. CHUCK YOUNG

DR. ROBERT WILSON, JR

DR. AMIR KARIMI

DR. JEAN CARLSON

FROM THE PRESIDENT



STEVEN G. FELDMAN, DDS

As my year as President of the Maryland Academy of General Dentistry comes to a close, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve our community of dedicated general dentists. It has been an honor to work alongside colleagues who are committed to lifelong learning, advocacy, and service to our patients.

Continuing education has remained our top priority, and Maryland AGD has been proud to offer a strong lineup of programs this year. We still have many excellent opportunities ahead.

Our 2025 Speaker Series will conclude with Keys to Esthetic & Prosthetic Success with Dental Implants, and we are pleased to announce our 2026 Speaker Series Program. I encourage you to join us for these courses of the year and take advantage of the chance to learn alongside your peers.

Advocacy has also remained central to our mission. Through active involvement at both the state and national level, we continue to ensure that the voices of general dentists are represented in the policies that shape our profession.

Continued on page 16

FEATURE ARTICLE

Maintaining Best Practices

*Staying in Step with the
Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners*

BY MAGD STAFF WRITER



Whether you've been practicing dentistry in Maryland for thirty years or you've just hung your first shingle, one thing is constant: staying in compliance with the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners (MSBDE) is essential. The Board's role is straightforward—it protects the public while helping ensure that dentistry in Maryland is practiced safely, ethically, and to the highest professional standard. So, what does that look like in everyday practice? And just as importantly, what happens when dentists fall out of step? Let's break it down.

Licensure & Education: Keeping Your Credentials Current

The first and most obvious requirement is keeping your license active. The Board requires proof of graduation from an accredited program, passage of national and clinical exams, and demonstration of professional character. Once you're licensed, you're not done—continuing education (CE) is non-negotiable.

Each renewal cycle brings CE requirements (published annually on the Board's website), and dentists are expected to complete those hours on time. Falling behind here is one of the easiest compliance missteps, and one of the easiest to prevent. A good rule of thumb: schedule CE throughout the year rather than waiting until renewal season.



3 Easy Steps to Stay Ahead of Compliance

Log Your CE Hours Today

Even if you've only completed one course, enter it into your tracking system now. Small steps prevent big headaches.

Check Your Sterilization Records

Make sure spore testing logs are complete and up-to-date—this is one of the first things auditors look for.

Review One Patient Chart

Randomly select a recent case and ask yourself: Would this record stand up if reviewed by the Board? If not, adjust your process going forward.

Think of compliance as preventive care for your practice. It's routine and it saves you trouble later.

Continued on page 09

**SPEAKER
SERIES**

DECEMBER 5



KEYS TO ESTHETIC & PROSTHETIC SUCCESS WITH DENTAL IMPLANTS

7L CE | AGD 670 FIXED PROSTHODONTICS

WITH BRIAN GOODACRE, DDS

MARITIME CONFERENCE CENTER

WWW.MARYLAND-AGD.ORG/2025SPEAKERSERIES

REGISTER

Infection Control: More Than Just Gloves and Masks

Maryland law incorporates the CDC's guidelines on infection control. That means universal precautions aren't "best practice"—they're required practice. Hand hygiene, sterilization logs, and staff training all fall under this umbrella. The Board has disciplined dentists in the past for lapses ranging from needle-stick violations to inconsistent sterilization practices.

Pro tip: treat infection control like you would a clinical procedure—systematic, documented, and never skipped. Many practices find it helpful to schedule a quarterly "infection control check-up" led by a staff member.

Records & Billing: Protecting Patients and Yourself

Detailed records are not only a courtesy to the next provider—they're a shield for you in the event of a complaint. Treatment notes, anesthesia details, medications prescribed, and documented alternatives all belong in the chart.

On the financial side, the Board also looks closely at billing practices. Fraudulent or misleading claims (even if unintentional) can trigger discipline. Routine internal audits of charts and billing statements help catch small mistakes before they become big problems.

When Things Go Wrong: How the Board Responds

Complaints to the MSBDE can come from patients, other providers, insurers, or the Board itself. Once filed, complaints are reviewed and, if warranted, investigated. Outcomes range widely depending on the severity:

- **Reprimand or probation** for correctable issues.
- **Suspension or revocation** for serious or repeated violations.
- **Summary suspension** if there's an immediate threat to patient safety.

Dentists are entitled to due process, including hearings before an administrative law judge. But even if a case is dismissed, non-cooperation with the Board (for example, ignoring subpoenas or delaying record requests) can add to your troubles.

Continued on page 10

News from the STUDENT CHAPTER

Hello MAGD Community,

My name is Marina Fileva, and I am a fourth-year student at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry. I was born in Bulgaria, raised in Rockville, and I am honored to serve as President of our AGD student chapter this year! I am passionate about the sense of community AGD creates and hope to strengthen the bridge between students and general dentists, providing opportunities to network, learn, and grow together. Outside of dentistry, I enjoy photography and painting, and I love exploring new cultures through food and travel. I look forward to a year of collaboration, connection, and growth with all of you!



Marina Fileva
UMSOD, Class of 2026

FEATURE ARTICLE - Maintaining Best Practices (cont)

Top Compliance Pitfalls Dentists Face in Maryland

- **Late CE Credits:** The Board has disciplined dentists for incomplete or late continuing education hours, one of the easiest mistakes to avoid.
- **Infection Control Lapses:** Failure to follow CDC sterilization standards, such as reusing disposable items or skipping spore testing, is a common cause of complaints.
- **Recordkeeping Errors:** Missing treatment details, lack of informed consent notes, or incomplete anesthesia logs can raise red flags in an investigation.
- **Unethical Billing:** Even unintentional errors in insurance claims can result in disciplinary review.
- **Non-Response to the Board:** Ignoring subpoenas or delaying responses is itself a violation, regardless of the complaint's outcome.

***Pro Tip:** Consider assigning a staff member as your office's "compliance coordinator" to oversee CE tracking, infection control logs, and Board correspondence.*

Maintaining Best Practices: A Practical Checklist

Here are strategies that work equally well for seasoned dentists and those just starting out:

- **Track CE early.** Don't wait until the last quarter—spread it out and log hours as you go.
- **Audit your infection control.** Quarterly internal reviews help keep the entire team aligned with CDC standards.
- **Document thoroughly.** If it isn't written, it didn't happen. Simple rule, lifelong protection.
- **Review billing regularly.** Ethical billing protects patients and your license.
- Stay responsive. Always reply promptly to Board communications. Silence is never your friend.
- **Engage your team.** Compliance is not a solo effort—your staff should know the protocols as well as you do.
- **Check Board updates.** Requirements change—make the MSBDE website part of your regular reading.

Final Word

Dentistry is both art and science, but compliance is its framework. By weaving best practices into the rhythm of your daily operations, you not only stay in good standing with the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners, you also strengthen the trust patients place in you.

Whether you're just beginning your career or you've spent decades in the operatory, "maintaining best practices" is less about avoiding penalties and more about ensuring excellence in care. And that's a standard worth keeping. 

Resources & Links

For more information and official updates, visit:

Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners (MSBDE) – health.maryland.gov/dental

MSBDE Complaint Form – health.maryland.gov/dental/Documents/Applications/Complaint%20Form.pdf

Maryland CE Requirements – [MSBDE CE Information](#)

CDC Infection Control Guidelines for Dentistry – cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol

News from REGION5

BY ERIC MORSE, DDS
REGION 5 DIRECTOR

I hope everyone had a great summer and start to the fall. I had the pleasure of seeing many of our Maryland dentists at the AGD 2025 Scientific Session in Montreal. The meeting was a great success with excellent courses and fun events for all AGD attendees and families.

If you missed the meeting this year, please plan on coming in 2026 when the Scientific Session is in Las Vegas (June 24-27).



With November just around the corner, the Academy of General Dentistry will hold its annual House of Delegates on November 14–16, 2025, in Chicago. This is an important opportunity for us as members to help guide the policies and leadership direction of our organization.

This year, several leadership positions will be decided:

- Dr. Robert Peskin unopposed for reelection as Speaker of the House
- Dr. Joseph Battaglia unopposed for Secretary
- Dr. Kim Wright for Vice President
- Dr. Richard Hout for Vice President

These elections reflect a strong lineup of committed leaders who are prepared to continue serving AGD and advancing the profession of general dentistry. [Click here](#) to learn more about the candidates

Continued on page 13

AGD Advocacy Efforts

AGD continues to be an active voice for general dentists at the national level. Most recently, the organization sent letters of support for H.R. 4556, the Protect Our Treatment for Enamel, Erosion, and Tooth Health (TEETH) Act.

This bill would require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to commission an independent, rapid-response evidence review from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine before proposing updates to drinking water regulations that could impact community water fluoridation.

Community water fluoridation remains a critical and proven public health measure to protect oral health nationwide, and AGD is standing firmly in support of this legislation to ensure decisions are guided by sound, evidence-based science.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2025 MARYLAND AGD FELLOW AWARDEES

Christopher W. Anderson, DDS, Annapolis

Jessica S. Brunnett, DDS, Lutherville

John P. Seisman, Jr., DDS, California

Ishita Rahman, DMD, Annapolis



**DISTINGUISH YOURSELF
PROFESSIONALLY!**



Get Involved

The strength of AGD comes from its members. I want to encourage all Maryland AGD members to consider getting involved at the national level. Opportunities exist to serve on national councils and committees where you can contribute your expertise and shape the future of general dentistry.

If you are interested, please reach out to Maryland AGD and we will be happy to help guide you through the process of applying and getting connected.

Together, we can continue advancing the mission of AGD, strengthening our professional voice, and ensuring the future of general dentistry remains strong. ❤️



The Legacy of a Smile

BY JANET YELLOWITZ, DMD
PRESIDENT, MARYLAND FOUNDATION OF DENTISTRY

More than three decades ago, Dr. Murray Sykes and a handful of colleagues looked at a troubling reality in Maryland: low-income adults with intellectual, physical, and developmental disabilities often had nowhere to turn for dental care. Many could not afford treatment, and many practices were not equipped to navigate the unique barriers these patients faced.



Rather than accept that gap, Dr. Sykes helped launch the Maryland Foundation of Dentistry (MFD) to create a solution rooted in generosity, compassion, and professional excellence.

From those early beginnings, MFD has grown into a statewide network of volunteer dentists, hygienists, and laboratories who together provide essential oral health care to some of Maryland's most vulnerable residents. The goal remains simple yet powerful: to honor the dignity of every patient and to make it possible for every dentist who wishes to help, to do so with ease and support.

Designed With the Dentist in Mind

MFD has always strived to respect the time and commitment of its volunteers. That's why the system is designed to be straightforward and supportive:

- **Patient Care Coordinators** are with you every step of the way—matching patients, confirming appointments, and following up so that your staff isn't burdened with extra logistics.

Continued on page 15

- **All lab fees are covered**, so you never need to weigh the cost of generosity against the financial realities of running a practice.
- **Continuing Education Credits** (up to 8 per renewal cycle) recognize your contributions to professional and community well-being.
- **Flexibility** allows you to decide how many patients to see each year, so your involvement fits your practice and personal capacity.

The Dentist's Perspective

For many volunteers, the experience of treating an MFD patient is a reminder of why they entered dentistry in the first place. The patients seen through MFD are not just grateful, their lives are changed. Dentists often share that these appointments rekindle their sense of purpose and bring an extra layer of meaning to their professional lives. With MFD handling the behind-the-scenes details, dentists are able to focus entirely on what they do best: delivering quality care that restores health, function, and confidence.

A Living Legacy

The Maryland Foundation of Dentistry is more than an organization; it is a legacy. Every volunteer dentist who opens their chair to an MFD patient carries forward the vision Dr. Sykes had more than 35 years ago: that compassion and expertise combined can change lives. Each smile restored is a testament to that legacy, and to the Maryland dental community that continues to uphold it.

By the Numbers:

- **14,157 patients served statewide**
- **\$26.6 million in donated dental care**

As we celebrate the progress of today and look to the needs of tomorrow, we invite every Maryland dentist to consider joining in this work. Together, we ensure that Dr. Sykes's vision is not only remembered but lived —patient by patient, smile by smile. 

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I hand leadership to our next President, Dr. Andrew Martin, I am confident that we are in good hands. I encourage each of you to stay engaged with Maryland AGD, attend CE programs, and consider pursuing Fellowship or Mastership in AGD. Your commitment to growth is what strengthens our profession and enhances the care we provide to patients. Thank you again for the privilege of serving as your President. I look forward to seeing Maryland AGD continue to grow in the years ahead. 🍷

Greetings from the Membership Committee!

JOJO MANATO, DDS
CHAIR, MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Thank you, members of Maryland AGD! We are doing well in our recruitment efforts this year. Based on our Constituent Membership statistics, we have a total membership of 678 members. At the dental student level, there are a total of 51 members. Please help us continue to grow our membership by inviting a friend to one of our CE courses with you, or by letting a colleague know how AGD has helped you grow and flourish in our profession. It's up to us to keep AGD strong! 🍷

PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Sarah Abdelwahab, Laurel
Michael Abromovage, Baltimore
Lauren Allen, Berlin
Madeleine August, Baltimore
Kelly-Marie T. Betts, Baltimore
Manisha K. Chawla, Fulton
Abigail Disman, Pasadena
Erica Dobrochowski, Westminster
Bo Dong, Clarksburg
Zijuan Fan, Burtonsville
Ameer Hadi, Chantilly, VA
Janell Hadid, Waldorf
Dorsa Haftsavar, Baltimore
Jasmine Jones, Dunkirk
Haasya Kanamarlapudi, Waldorf
Leuel Kebde, Silver Spring

Anabel J. Kelso, Bethesda
Brian Kupchak, Bethesda
Christine Lee, Hagerstown
Olivia Lee, Frederick
Brett Manlucu, Laurel
Loveleen Kaur Mehta, Olney
Keon Manesh, Chevy Chase
Charuta Modak, Timonium
Etsegenet Molla, Clarksville
Natalie Portillo, Elizabeth, NJ
Shemika Sample, Camp Springs
Roman Shimonov, Baltimore
Danielle Smart-Wiley, Brandywine
Isaac S. Taddessee, Alexandria, VA
Michelle Tolbert, La Plata
Charles Yun, Ellicott City



Legislative Update

THOMAS A'BECKET, DDS
CHAIR, MSDA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Key Highlights and Issues Impacting Dentistry in Maryland

Recent legislative developments are shaping the delivery of dental care across the state. This fall's report outlines important issues for dental professionals and patients alike.

Insurance Reform and Reimbursement

- **Dental Benefits Transparency** – Legislation requires insurers to provide clearer information on covered services, network participation, and reimbursement policies. This change reduces administrative burdens and strengthens patient decision-making.
- **Network Leasing Concerns** – Policymakers are examining the regulation of third-party leasing of dental provider networks, a practice that can erode provider choice and confuse patients.

Continued on page 18

Workforce and Access to Care

- **Dental Hygienist Scope of Practice** – Bills were introduced to expand hygienists' authority in community settings, particularly schools and long-term care facilities. Stakeholders are emphasizing the importance of proper oversight, patient safety, and collaborative care models.
- **Student Loan Relief** – Targeted loan repayment programs are under consideration for dental professionals who commit to practicing in underserved communities. These incentives aim to address workforce shortages and improve equity in access to oral health care.

Public Health and Community Programs

- **Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits** – Efforts continue to expand and strengthen adult dental coverage under Medicaid. Incremental progress has been made, but broader, sustainable funding is still needed to ensure low-income adults can access preventive and restorative care.
- **School-Based Oral Health Programs** – Proposals advanced to expand preventive screenings and sealant programs in Maryland schools, with an emphasis on integration with community providers.

Regulation and Professional Issues

- **Licensure Portability** – Maryland is exploring participation in interstate compacts that would allow dentists to practice more easily across state lines. While potentially beneficial for both practitioners and patients, implications for quality assurance remain under review.
- **Infection Control and Office Safety** – Updated regulations on infection control and emergency preparedness are under consideration. The goal is to balance safety with practical implementation in dental offices.
- **Dental Laboratory Standards** – Lawmakers are focusing on the oversight of out-of-state dental labs supplying appliances to Maryland practices, with new attention to quality, transparency, and traceability.

Looking Ahead

The 2026 legislative session is expected to revisit several of these priorities, especially Medicaid adult benefits, loan repayment incentives, and insurer accountability. Ongoing collaboration among policymakers, providers, and community organizations will be essential to advancing policies that strengthen oral health outcomes for Marylanders. 

And the MAGD 2025 Student Award goes to,... **Bryan Andrew**

Bryan Andrew is a fourth-year dental student at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry. Faculty describe him as a wonderful student doctor and highly skilled in general dentistry. He is a great clinician, humble and extremely teachable. Bryan treats the patient as a whole, not just focusing in on the dentition.

Bryan has been active while in dental school and was selected by the Division Director of General Practice to serve as a student representative on both the Quality Assurance and Biosafety Committees. He is also an active member of the Cosmetic Dentistry Club.



The Right Choice for Maryland Dentists!

Dentists Choice
The next generation of insurance coverage for Maryland Dentists!



Visit dentistschoice.insure

(410) 752-4008

WWW.RKTONGUE.COM

Professional Liability



General Liability



Commercial Property



Surplus Lines



Protecting your present and future



REGISTER FOR ONE OR ALL THREE!

JANUARY 23
MAY 1
DECEMBER 4

2026 SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAM



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

