

**KENTUCKY DENTAL ASSOCIATION  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

KDA Executive Building  
Louisville, KY  
November 15, 2025  
9:00 A.M.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER.** Dr. Rachel Gold called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The following members of the KDA Board were present:

Dr. Thomas Carroll  
Dr. Ansley Depp  
Dr. Rachel Gold  
Dr. Laura Hancock Jones  
Dean Jill Keaton  
Dr. Paul Lavelle

Dr. Julie McKee  
Dr. Matt Milliner  
Dr. Kaitlyn Patel  
Dr. Jonathan Rich  
Dr. Samantha Shaver  
Dr. Zak Taylor  
Dr. Kate vonLackum

- 2.** Guests included **Dr. Fred Howard, Dr. Gina Davis and Mr. Jeff Allen** of the Kentucky Board of Dentistry. Staff members present were **Dr. Stephen Robertson, Mr. Todd Edwards, and Mr. David Harten.**
- 3. INVOCATION.** Dr. Matt Milliner gave the invocation.
- 4. INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS.** Dr. Rachel Gold introduced the following guests: **Drs. Gina Davis and Fred Howard.**
- 5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST.** Dr Rachel Gold asked everyone in attendance if there were any updates to the conflicts of interest that have been reported previously. No updates were reported.
- 6. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR.** The minutes of the August 14, August 17, September 23, and October 21, 2025, meetings of the Executive Board were approved. Reports from Components and KDPAC were also approved.

**NOTE:** All reports are presented in the minutes as they were submitted by their authors. No editing in the form of spelling or grammar has been attempted.

**7. TREASURER’S REPORT.**

KENTUCKY DENTAL ASSOCIATION  
 GENERAL FUND REVENUE & EXPENSE  
 BUDGET PERFORMANCE REPORT  
 For the Nine Months Ending September 30, 2025

	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget
<b>REVENUES</b>		
<b>Budgeted Revenues</b>		
KDA dues	400,478.15	438,000.00
KDA Assessment	61,900.00	80,000.00
Annual Session net revenue	127,539.05	85,000.00
Interest Income	10,062.00	2,000.00
Rental Income-	42,718.00	62,400.00
Rental Income-LDS	5,410.00	5,410.00
KDAIS	9,000.00	18,000.00
ADA Dues Rebates	0.00	500.00
ADABEI (ADA)	13,849.77	22,000.00
Other Revenue	2,387.89	500.00
Total Budgeted Revenue	673,344.86	713,810.00
 Non-Budgeted Revenues		
Gain/Loss on Investments	1,269.00	0.00
Journal Fund Expenses	0.00	45,000.00
Total Non-Budgeted Revenue	1,269.00	45,000.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 674,613.86</b>	<b>\$ 758,810.00</b>

Year to Date                      Annual

	Actual	Budget
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>Budgeted Expenses</b>		
<b>A. Fixed disbursements over which the HOD has no control but must have approval</b>		
Utilities & Maintenance:		
	\$	\$
Telephone	7,957.96	8,500.00
Gas, Electric & Water	21,257.07	25,000.00
RENT	64,823.04	86,431.00
Maintenance Expense	27,506.40	18,500.00
Janitorial Expenses	9,338.60	11,000.00
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Total Utilities & Maintenance	130,883.07	149,431.00
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Audit & Accounting Services	940.00	21,000.00
Attorney Fees	4,098.00	1,000.00
Insurance	1,522.86	13,000.00
Printing and Postage	1,499.07	2,000.00
Miscellaneous	658.34	500.00
Personal Property taxes	0.00	325.00
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	\$	\$
<b>A. TOTAL</b>	<b>139,601.34</b>	<b>187,256.00</b>
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**B. Items Controlled by the House Of Delegates**

General Administrative Expenses:

	\$	\$
Equipment Maint & Rent	9,300.20	22,000.00
Technological Support	12,424.42	9,204.00
Membership Dues & Subs	445.00	750.00
Support Staff Expense	(75.73)	1,500.00
Office Supplies	1,378.89	3,000.00
KOHC Membership	0.00	300.00
Presidents Expense	0.00	1,500.00
1st Vice President's Expenses	0.00	500.00
Fall Meeting Leadership Conf.	0.00	500.00
Executive Board Expense	600.25	1,500.00
ADA Delegates Expense	0.00	36,500.00
Ex. Dir. Discretionary Expense	0.00	750.00
Secty-Treas. Expense	0.00	3,650.00
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<b>Total Administrative Exp.</b>	<b>24,073.03</b>	<b>81,654.00</b>
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	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget
<b>Council/Work Group Expenses:</b>		
Council on Ethics, Bylaws		
Council on Governmental Affairs		
Budget & Finance Committee		
Long Range Planning Committee		
Membership Steering Work Group	0.00	2,000.00
General Council Expense	0.00	250.00
UK-UL-KSDS Support	6,779.79	5,000.00
<b>Total Council/Committee/Work Group Steer</b>	<b>6,779.79</b>	<b>7,250.00</b>
<b>B. TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 30,852.82</b>	<b>\$ 88,904.00</b>

Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget
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**C. Disbursements Annually Approved and Controlled by the House of Delegates**

	\$	\$
Executive Directors Expense	7,733.65	16,000.00
Salaries-Executive Staff	310,312.51	395,000.00
Retirement Plan Contributions	9,095.00	15,800.00
Executive Staff Benefits	33,327.83	30,000.00
Personal Payroll Taxes	25,292.19	25,000.00

	\$	\$
<b>C. TOTAL</b>	<b>385,761.18</b>	<b>481,800.00</b>

	\$	\$
<b>Total Budgeted Expenses</b>	<b>556,215.34</b>	<b>757,960.00</b>

**D. Fund Contributions**

	\$	\$
<b>D. TOTAL</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

**E. Non-budgeted Expenses**

	\$	\$
Investment Fees	2,988.00	850.00

	\$	\$
<b>E. TOTAL</b>	<b>2,988.00</b>	<b>850.00</b>

	\$	\$
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>559,203.34</b>	<b>758,810.00</b>

**8. PRESIDENT REPORT. Dr. Samantha Shaver** gave the following report.

Reflecting on the last twelve weeks since becoming president of the KDA, I have to say this experience has not been exactly what I expected. As I shared at the HOD in August, I remain hopeful—and committed—to seeing positive changes in our organization.

It is customary for the president to visit as many component societies as possible, and I look forward to doing just that. Please send me your upcoming meeting dates so I can add them to my schedule.

Recently, I had the pleasure of attending a wonderful meeting with the Northern Kentucky Dental Society. Great speaker, strong attendance, and even a bourbon giveaway—though unfortunately, I didn't win. I sat next to a brand-new member who had joined that very day. She had recently relocated from Ohio and was purchasing her first practice. Her enthusiasm was contagious.

Not long after, I attended the LDS meeting. Again, great speaker and excellent turnout—though no bourbon giveaway this time. I sat beside another new member who had spent over 15 years practicing in a corporate setting and had just purchased a practice. Her enthusiasm, however, was much harder to find.

These two chance encounters reaffirmed my belief that the KDA remains deeply relevant. Both dentists were seeking connection—one in a new geographic area, the other in a new professional environment. One was looking to meet like-minded colleagues and share ideas; the other was searching for guidance, inspiration, and support during a major career transition. Their stories highlight our responsibility: we must embrace our new members and actively foster their experience.

To support this effort, I am asking each component to identify one individual who will serve as a membership contact. This person will receive information about new members in their area and take the initiative to invite them to a meeting, introduce them to colleagues, and help them feel welcome. They will also be a point of contact for dentists who have not yet joined the KDA—someone who can help them understand the value of a strong professional network and the many benefits of membership.

We will also be sending welcome packets to new members that highlight many of the benefits the KDA offers. Similar packets will be sent to non-member dentists in hopes of encouraging them to join. In each packet, I would like to include the contact information of a local dentist—someone the recipient can reach out to directly. Dentist-to-dentist connection is essential. It is the most meaningful and effective way to build relationships, strengthen our profession, and grow our membership.

And we cannot forget about our existing members. We must recognize that membership means different things to different people. We must be prepared to foster relationships with new dentists, female dentists, minority dentists, seasoned dentists, associate dentists and dentists who used to elve. Our programs and initiatives should reflect the diversity of our profession and bring us all together. Again, dentist-to-dentist connection is the foundation of a strong and vibrant KDA.

Another positive change I'd like to see is an improvement in our communication. I have spoken many times about the need for greater transparency and clearer communication within our organization. Last year, Matt and I had frequent phone calls just to talk things through, and I found those conversations incredibly helpful. This year, I invited our presidential succession team to join in. Rachel, Kate, Matt, and I have been meeting regularly on Zoom to discuss issues, share updates, and brainstorm ideas.

We still believe that holding board meetings only four times a year is not enough—especially as new situations arise. Formal board meetings such as this one are essential, but we also need

shorter, more frequent touchpoints to ensure we all stay informed. We need to understand the status of our organization on a regular basis. The left hand must know what the right hand is doing. The days when only a select few were “in the loop” must be behind us.

Finally, I know everyone here has already marked February 4th on their calendars for Lobby Day in Frankfort. We still need to spread the word. The next quarter will be a busy one legislatively. Since we have had to place Insurance Transparency/DLR on the back burner, we must make meaningful progress with Medicaid. This will require a true grassroots effort, and it is essential that you communicate to your component members how important their attendance is. We have prepared all the tools—talking points, a handbook, addresses, and scripts. Now we just need bodies. Your engagement, and the engagement of your members, is what will make the difference.

I still believe the KDA can weather the rough seas we are currently facing, but it will take effort—effort to grow our membership, effort to strengthen our communication, effort to engage our members, and effort to engage our legislators. If we commit to this work together, I am confident we can emerge stronger, more connected, and better prepared for the challenges ahead.

Respectfully,  
Samantha Shaver, DMD, FAGD

**9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT. Dr. Stephen Robertson gave the following report.**

**Kentucky Dental Association Executive Board  
Report of Executive Director  
November 15, 2025**

The KDA finds itself at a crossroads. While recent developments have brought scrutiny of the very operation of the Association, it should be understood these are not new issues, but business operational realities we have been dealing with as an organization for a long period of time. Rather than continue to focus of the “how and why,” it is time to allow the process to play out with the ADA and recognize the Budget & Finance Committee had previously met this situation head on by bringing forth to the Board the first balanced budget proposal for the KDA in quite some time. In this process the committee objectively reviewed proposed income and expenses, making the real adjustments necessary to bring forth as accurate a representation of expectations they possibly could, and Board accepted and sent this package to the House, where it was adopted. While discussions with the ADA are ongoing (we do not seem to be the current priority, as it has been communicated they have much larger issues with other states, unfortunately,) we have been given clearance to continue our agreed arrangement with the ADA and have in fact been receiving our SPA grant allocations and were cleared for submission of our 2026 SPA grant application in which we request the maximum allotment, \$180,000.

We will complete our 2025 financial year in the most advantageous way possibly, accepting the reality that the 2025 approved budget for the KDA came with a budgeted \$100,000 shortfall. We have been approved to, for the time being, withhold our 2025 dues payment to ADA, which will greatly facilitate this process. We have already begun to accept dues payment for 2026, and our scheduled mailing of dues invoices will occur within the coming weeks. We hope to get them out before the Thanksgiving Holiday.

We will be establishing repayment parameters with the ADA, when they are ready to move forward in the process. In the meantime, please be aware that we are not on the verge of bankruptcy in any way shape or form, and continue to see small, but incremental increases in our non-dues revenue programs like the Knowledge Hub and KDAP3. But the real pathway to improving our financial standing is to focus on greatly increasing the membership of our organization.

From this point forward, the focus of the Kentucky Dental Association for the next six months needs to Membership and Medicaid. Kentucky is reported at a membership percentage of 40.1% of active licensed dentists, 40.3% of all dentists. These numbers are among the lowest within the ADA. Reversing this, adding members back to ADA/KDA will be the biggest step forward in improving the issues the KDA is currently dealing with on many fronts. Often, all it takes is a person to person contact to ask and discuss. Recently in one day in Bowling Green, I was able to reduce the non-renew list of the Pennyryle by half. I know that sounds impressive, but in reality, it means I was able to facilitate the re-enrolment of 2 members, likely with a third to follow. All will be rejoining through the 15 for 12 promotion available through the end of the year with which current non-members can receive credit for 2025 membership while joining for 2026 at the 2025 dues level. Additionally, the Tanner College of Dental Medicine at Pikeville College will be sponsoring and hosting an upcoming event in Ashland, aimed at recruiting and reorganization of the Eastern Dental Society. Dr. Fred Howard and myself will be attending, and we hope this can be the start of process scheduling localized recruitment events. Thank you, Dr. Keaton!

I am aware that Dr. Shaver is working on a membership initiative, that I am hoping the Board can get behind and start facilitating a commitment to building and maintaining KDA membership for the first time since I have held this position.

Legislatively, our primary focus continues to be on Medicaid. We will also be pursuing the maintenance for fluoridation and closing the identified loophole in our non-covered services bill. However, Medicaid will be the lead project. This has been a roller coaster of a discussion in Frankfort. Currently it appears we have a great likelihood of achieving the carve-out necessary to allow for the appropriation of funds to expand the program. All these discussions are on-going, and we continue to work closely with the chairs of MOAB on our priorities. We will keep you apprised of developments heading into the session and during the session as we proceed. We

are currently on track to have the proposal included in the House appropriation package presented on the floor. This is a big step, as it is obviously easier to push to keep it in than to add it later.

Recently I was asked to testify in front of both the Interim State Government Committee on Fluoridation, and the Medicaid Oversight and Advisory Board (MOAB) on the relationship between low reimbursement levels and provider enrollment. The MOAB presentation was well-received, the SGC presentation not so much. We are in the process of providing written feedback on the day's testimony with the assistance of the ADA.

There will obviously be many other issues that will arise requiring our attention. We plan on beginning the conversation on Dental Loss Ratio (DLR) as part of the ongoing Medicaid conversation. We are aware that the Kentucky Board of dentistry has updated the Dental Practice statutes and will be presenting those for approval. We will be watching that progression closely through the process to attempt to ensure no outside intrusion.

Speaking of the Board of Dentistry, the Board has been extremely busy of late and is addressing many issues currently. Some through the Statute updates mentioned previously, and others through enhanced regulations which will be posted for public comment. Among the topics and proposed actions are expansion of the role of Public Health Hygienists in Kentucky allowing employment or utilization in additional entities beyond rural health departments, to hopefully include access to elder care facilities. All these activities come with increased guardrails and guidelines.

The Dental Board is also looking at the expansion of auxiliary functions for both assistants and hygienists. On the assistant's side under consideration are the addition of supragingival scaling with appropriate education and certification as an expansion of the coronal polishing program and the ability to take final impressions, especially digitally. On the hygienist's side among the proposals are Botox delivery and lengthening of the general supervision exam time period to 13 months. Additionally, they are proposing pathways for licensure of foreign-trained dentists as hygienists.

The well-being program forwarded by the KDA was discussed at length, and need for further contact discussions was noted. It has been suggested that it may function best to be housed within the KDA or the KDA Foundation, rather than the Board, though the Board will be providing funding from licensure fees.

By the time of the Executive Board meeting I will have presented a lunch and learn sessions on advocacy and legislative activity. The students continue to be a vital part of our activities moving forward, and we look forward to continuing this partnership and increasing their involvement in the process.

In closing, The KDA had previously been asked to provide proposals for the Rural Transformational Grant Program made available through the Big Beautiful Bill to the states. Our accepted proposal was for the establishment of a Teledentistry network hubbed at the dental schools to provide a backbone for communications moving forward. This plan was developed by the state and has been filed with the Federal Government as part of the Kentucky package, and we expect to be informed on the acceptance of this initiative by the end of the year.

Stephen W Robertson, DMD  
Executive Director  
Kentucky Dental Association

**10. SIXTH DISTRICT TRUSTEE REPORT. Dr Fred Howard** gave the following report.

**6<sup>th</sup> District Trustee Report to KDA Executive Board**

As I complete my first year on the ADA Board of Trustees (BOT), I want to ensure you that the BOT is focused on the stability of our association both structurally and financially. We are working hard toward a balanced budget for 2026 and with the dues increase passed by the House of Delegates (HOD), this is more attainable. The current dues of \$570 was increased by \$57 to \$627. The \$57 increase includes the \$30 dues decrease from two years ago, an \$18 increase to reflect the 3% COLA for 1 year and \$9 to fund the increased spending approved by the HOD.

The HOD voted to move up the governance study to 2026, adding in a business analysis component, which will help guide the continued evolution of our Association. An outside firm will conduct the evaluation with input from a presidential task force, recently authorized by the BOT during a special meeting on Oct. 28. Members of the task force will include one early career dentist; one past ADA leader and/or president; one state executive director; two members of the HOD and two state dental leaders, with representation from both large states and medium or smaller states; and two members of the BOT.

An interim progress report is to be provided to the HOD in April 2026 with the turnaround plan and evaluation plans submitted to the 2026 House. More information will be shared as this study moves forward.

At its Oct. 28 special meeting, the BOT authorized the Specialty Engagement Task Force to strengthen collaboration and communication between the ADA and the recognized dental specialty organizations.

The work of this task force is to identify opportunities for joint initiatives in areas of mutual interest and to explore strategies to enhance specialist membership in the ADA. Members of the task force will include one representative from each of the ADA-recognized specialty organizations and the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD). Each participating organization will select its own representative.

**Election of New Officers:**

Dr. Thomas Paumier – President-elect

Dr. Ben Youel – Second Vice President

Dr. Debra Schmit Peters – Speaker of the House

**Other Key Actions of 2025 HOD**

Dissolved the Strategic Forecasting Committee

ADA recognizes food insecurity among dental students and recommends collaboration with other stakeholders to address the issue.

Draft model legislation and encourage constituents to pursue legislation that prohibits entities which administer, underwrite, or manage dental benefit plans from owning, controlling, or exercising undue influence over dental practices or dental service organizations (DSO's)

Policies on Bulk Benefit Payment Statements, Non-covered Services Reimbursement, Assignment of Benefits, Third-Party Payment Choices, and Third-Party Payers Overpayment Recovery Practices were amended and strengthened.

Several policies on Fluoridation were amended.

Policy on Transparency in use of AI in Claims Adjudication.

Amended ADA Guidelines for the Use of Sedation and General Anesthesia by Dentists.

Amended Comprehensive Policy on Dental Licensure.

Amended Guidelines for Teaching Pain Control and Sedation to Dentists and Dental Students.

Assist Plaintiff's legal counsel in first case related to the Competitive Health Insurance Reform Act of 2020.

ADA encourages all state dental societies and constituents to advocate for laws to requires state dental boards to require clear and accessible disclosure of dental practice ownership and financial control for the benefit of patients.

Respectively submitted,

H. Fred Howard, DMD  
6<sup>th</sup> District Trustee to the ADA  
[howardf@ada.org](mailto:howardf@ada.org)  
606-273-3999

**11. KENTUCKY BOARD OF DENTISTRY. Mr. Jeff Allen** gave a verbal report.

## **12. UNIVERSITY OF UK REPORT.**

University of Kentucky College of Dentistry  
Kentucky Dental Association Executive Report

**November 2025**

### **College Updates**

- The predoctoral program implemented a major curriculum change to the biomedical science courses with the Class of 2029 in August. The new biomedical science curriculum takes information typically taught in courses like anatomy, histology, and physiology, and converts them into systems-based classes, like endocrine, cardiovascular, and respiratory. Students learn basic science content as it relates to the system with the goal of making the instruction more clinically relevant and applicable to the practice of dentistry.
- In October, D1 dental students in the Seal KY program provided preventative care to over 150 students in Greenup, KY. The program will return with senior dental students to Greenup November-March to offer restorative care to students in need of treatment on our mobile dental clinic. This is the first year that Seal KY has offered comprehensive care.
- UKCD's Division of Orthodontics recently hosted more than 400 orthodontic residents from across the U.S. and Canada for the 36th annual Graduate Orthodontic Residents Program (GORP). Traditionally rotating between St. Louis University and the University of Michigan, GORP returned to UK for only the second time since its founding in 1989.

### **Faculty & Staff Updates**

- The American Dental Association (ADA) has selected **Dr. Craig S. Miller** the winner of the Norton M. Ross Award for Excellence in Clinical Research for his distinguished career as a research leader in clinical investigations that have contributed to the advancement of diagnosis, treatment and prevention of craniofacial and oral diseases. Dr. Miller is currently the Alvin L. Morris Professor of Oral Health Research and Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Development at the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry. He has authored more than 350 peer-reviewed scientific articles, abstracts, and conference proceedings. He was the first to document the recrudescence patterns of all eight herpesviruses in the oral cavity and his lab provided critical evidence that identified the anatomic location of persistent viral infections involving human papillomavirus (HPV) and John Cunningham virus (JCV). Dr. Miller's research efforts also have extensively influenced the field of salivary diagnostics. As a multi-talented dentist-scientist, his discoveries have made a significant impact on dentistry and oral medicine. Dr. Miller was presented the award on October 24 at the Changemakers Celebration during the ADA's SmileCon™ in Washington, D.C.
- Congratulations to **Dr. Julie Tokatlian** for successfully completing her American Board of Periodontology certification.
- The Staff Advisory Council would like to thank Mochi, Davis (handler), and friends for visiting the College. Therapy dogs will return for another visit this fall.

- In May, the Division of Endodontics conferred advanced certificates to its first graduating class since 1977.
- The Division of Orofacial Pain held its 20th Annual TMD, Orofacial Pain, and Dental Sleep Medicine Mini-Residency Program. This five-day didactic program was attended by 38 participants from 17 different US states and 16 countries.
- **Dr. Luciana Shaddox** participated in and co-chaired the NIH-NIDCR CSR study section this week, where 67,000 awards were submitted, with the majority reviewed and discussed during two full-day meetings.
- **Dr Mohamed Bazina** attended the Academy for Advancing Leadership's 2025 Chairs & Academic Administrators Management Program (CAAMP), July 28-30 in Atlanta, GA. CAAMP is a 3-day in-person event to provide a practical, hands-on, interactive leadership development experience for department chairs, program directors, and administrators, including assistant and associate deans, in the academic health professions.
- In July, **Dr. Ian Boggero** began work on a new project with collaborators in Italy to conduct a study looking at real-time muscle activity data of the masseter muscles in people with and without chronic orofacial pain, and test how psychological variables like stress and sleep may be contributing to muscle activity in the jaw and face. This project is funded by a [UKinSPIRE](#) (Seeding Partnerships for International Research Engagement) grant that he was awarded. Dr. Boggero also won the SEC Faculty Travel Award, which will provide funds for me to visit the University of Florida to give a talk at the [Pain Research and Intervention Center of Excellence](#) and meet with Dr. Roger Fillingim to work on research projects and formalize future collaborations.
- **Dr. Luciana Shaddox** graduated as a Fellow of the American College of Dentists this October in recognition of her exceptional contributions to the profession, leadership, and service to the public and the field of dentistry. Dr. Shaddox also represented the American Association of Dental and Craniofacial Research on Capitol Hill this October to advocate for oral health research.
- **Dr. Pratishta Mishra** is the 2025 recipient of the UKCD Class of 1968 Faculty Development Award. Dr. Mishra was also received a diplomate status by the American Board of Dental Sleep Medicine.

## Presentations

- On August 2, **Dr. Jeff Okeson** was the keynote speaker for the first Indian Orofacial Pain Association meeting. He opened the meeting with his thoughts on the history of orofacial pain and emphasized the diagnostic challenges of pain management. He was also recognized as the first Honorary Member of the Indian Orofacial Pain Association.
- **Dr. Luciana Shaddox** and **Dr. Octavio Gonzalez** were both invited to speak at the 7th Penn Periodontal Conference, July 28-August 1. Dr. Gonzalez presented, "The role of Phospholipase A2-IIA in Oral Dysbiosis and Periodontal Disease." Dr. Shaddox presented, "Molar incisor pattern periodontitis: what have we learned so far and where are we going? "
- In late June, **Dr. Ian Boggero** presented a poster at the International Association of Dental Research conference in Barcelona. Additionally, at that meeting, he met with fellow *CRANIO Journal* editorial board members.

- **Dr. James K. Hartsfield** gave the online presentation “Update on Genetics for Orthodontists” to the orthodontic residents and faculty of the University of the Pacific on May 15, 2025.
- **Yasmin das Gracas** presented at IADR 2025, Barcelona. “Does Adjunct Antibiotics’ Timing Affect Periodontal Treatment Clinical Outcomes”
- **das Gracas, Yasmin Teixeira; Miguel, Manuela Maria Viana; Casarin, Renato Corrêa Viana; Santamaria, Mauro Pedrine; Shaddox, Luciana Macchion.** The 7th Penn Periodontal Conference 2025. University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA. July 28, 2025: Grade C Molar-Incisor Pattern Periodontitis Classification and Its Challenges.
- **Jeff Okeson** presented “What every dentist needs to know about TMD” to The Northwest District Dental Society, September 12. 20-25. Lake Charles, Louisiana
- **Dr. Ian Boggero** gave the following research lectures and conference presentations:
  - “Impact and satisfaction of brief psychological telehealth interventions in a multidisciplinary orofacial pain setting.” Presented at the 2025 Kentucky Rural Telehealth Summit. Frankfort, KY.
  - “No Pain, More Gain: Developing and Implementing Brief Psychological Interventions for Chronic Orofacial Pain.” Invited lecture given to the Pain Research Center Intervention Center of Excellence at the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
  - Three lectures over three consecutive days at the 2nd Annual Treat TMD Conference in Las Vegas, NV.
    - “Psychological considerations in the management of TMDs.”
    - “Behavioral interventions for insomnia in patients with TMD.”
    - “Clinical interviewing for patients with TMD and OFP.”
  - A Discussion with Orofacial Pain Residents – “Psychosocial Aspects of Sleep and Health” (October 2025). Moderator on live webinar hosted by the American Academy of Orofacial Pain.
- **Dr. Luciana Shaddox** was an invited speaker at several prestigious events and conferences, representing the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry and advancing awareness of Grade C Molar-Incisor Pattern Periodontitis through her lectures and research presentations:
  - University of Iowa – Graduate Periodontology Program. Virtual Presentation. “Classic Literature Review on Grade C Periodontitis.” September 2025.
  - University of Michigan Dental Hygiene Symposium Speaker - presented on AI for the early diagnosis of Periodontitis. September 18, 2025.
  - UCSF. Research Day Keynote Speaker. Presented on Grade C Molar Incisor Pattern Periodontitis.
  - Europerio 2025, Viena. “Exome Sequencing Profile in Grade C Molar Incisor Pattern Periodontitis.”

- o Task Force on Design & Analysis in Oral Health Research meeting, Newark, NJ - session moderator on Communication of Science on October 14, 2025
- o Presented “What constitutes a good peer-review?” for the American Academy of Periodontology meeting in Toronto, October 15, 2025
- o The 7th Penn Periodontal Conference 2025. University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA. July 28-August 1, 2025. Invited Speaker. “Grade C Molar Incisor Pattern periodontitis: What have we learned so far?”
- **Dr. Octavio Gonzalez** gave the following research lectures and conference presentations:
  - o 103rd IADR General Session & Exhibition of the IADR, IADR Pan European Regional Congress. Barcelona, Spain. June 25-28, 2025. Oral Presentation. “Human Phospholipase A2-IIA enhances alveolar bone loss.”
  - o The 7th Penn Periodontal Conference 2025. University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA. July 28-August 1, 2025. Invited Speaker. “The role of Phospholipase A2-IIA in Oral Dysbiosis and Periodontal Disease.”
  - o Gamma-delta T Cells – Club Webinar Series – Harvard University, New York University, University of Cardiff). September 18, 2025. Invited Speaker. “Effect of Aging on Gingival gamma-delta T cells.”
- **Dr. Mauro Santamaria** gave the following research lectures and conference presentations:
  - o University of São Paulo, Ribeirão Preto School of Dentistry, Bone Research Lab. Invited Speaker. “From Clinical to Translational Science: Making Your Research Internationally Competitive.” September 18, 2025.
  - o Specialization Program in Periodontics and Implantology at IOA Campinas, Brazil. Invited Speaker. “How to manage gingival recession associated with non-carious cervical lesions.” September 2025.
  - o São Paulo State University, Implantology Graduate Program. Invited Speaker. “Peri-implant tissue biology: importance of soft tissue around implants and peri-implant diseases.” August 2025.
  - o UCLA Symposium, Hawaii. Invited Speaker. “How to manage gingival recession associated with non-carious cervical lesions.” June 2025.

## Faculty Research Grants

- **Dr. Pam Stein** (Principal Investigator) and **Dr. Luciana Shaddox** (Co-Investigator)
  - o Merck Grant Total Award: \$233,000
  - o Project Title: Reducing Oral Cancer and Increasing HPV Vaccine Uptake: A Community Engaged Approach to Formative Data Insight and Strategic Campaign Design in Appalachian Kentucky

- o Abstract: A community-engaged approach to designing and evaluating an HPV vaccination campaign against Oral Cancer in Appalachian communities in Kentucky. This will be a prospective observational study aimed to develop focus groups and interviews with key stakeholders from dental facilities and community members from Appalachian Kentucky counties with low HPV vaccination rates to inform the investigative team of key barriers and communication strategies to formulate and test a campaign to increase HPV vaccine uptake in these regions of the state.
- o Duration of Project: 10/24-09/26
- **Dr. Oelisoa Mireille Andriankaja** (Principal Investigator) and **Dr. Luciana Shaddox** (Co-Investigator)
  - o UKinSpire Grant Award: \$11,500
  - o Project Title: Fostering Collaborations with Hispanic Populations to Better Study Population-specific Susceptibility Factors for Periodontal Disease
  - o Abstract: The UKinSpire grant, led by Dr. Andriankaja, builds on an NIH-funded international study led by Dr. Shaddox to investigate aggressive periodontitis, a rapidly progressing gum disease affecting young individuals from underserved populations. The project expands the study to include Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, aiming to uncover genetic, microbial, and immune factors linked to the disease. It also fosters cross-cultural research and training collaborations, enhancing the University of Kentucky's leadership in global oral health research.
  - o Duration of Project: 07/25-06/26
- **Dr. Oelisoa Mireille Andriankaja** (Principal Investigator)
  - o Breakthrough Ideas Grant (BIG) Award: \$125,000/yr for 3 years, funded by the Barnstable Brown Diabetes and Obesity Center and The Bill Gatton Foundation.
  - o Project Title: MODERN-Dental: Pediatric Obesity, Cardiometabolic Risks, And Periodontal Disease: Effects of Semaglutide Treatment
  - o Abstract: This ancillary pilot study (MODERN-Dental) recruits 50 adolescents with extreme obesity from the ongoing MODERN trial at the UK Pediatric High BMI Clinic. The project investigates how semaglutide therapy may affect oral health, including periodontal inflammation, the oral microbiome, and oral/systemic biomarkers. The study also explores whether adjunctive dental cleaning may influence semaglutide's effects on periodontal and metabolic outcomes. Findings from this study will provide early insights into integrated strategies for managing oral and metabolic health in youth with obesity.
  - o Duration of Project: 10/25-10/28
- **Dr. Ian Boggero** (Principal Investigator)
  - o UKinSpire Grant Award: \$8,700
  - o Project Title: The Role of Pain, Parafunctional Habits, and Stress on Masticatory Muscle

## Activity

- o Duration of Project: 07/25-06/26
- **Dr. Ian Boggero** (Principal Investigator) and **Dr. Luciana Shaddox** (Mentor)
  - o National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIH-NIDCR) Grant Award: \$131,298
  - o Project Title: Initial Evidence for a Brief Psychological Telehealth Intervention for Patients with Chronic Masticatory Muscle Pain
  - o Abstract: Chronic masticatory muscle pain disorders (MMPD) affect between 5-12% of the adult population and are the most common cause of chronic non-odontogenic orofacial pain. Combining standard dental care with brief telehealth psychological interventions offers hope for reducing negative pain outcomes and improving quality of life in this population, but few such interventions exist. The proposed submission will generate data to support a future full-scale Phase II efficacy trial of a brief telehealth psychological intervention for MMPD, potentially leading to an efficacious, widely implementable, and disseminatable treatment option for patients with chronic MMPD.
  - o Duration of Project: 9/1/2023–9/31/2028
- **Dr. Octavio Gonzalez** (Principal Investigator)
  - o National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIH-NIDCR) Grant Award: \$549,479
  - o Project Title: Role of Notch-1/PLA2-IIA in oral dysbiosis, inflammation, and periodontal disease
  - o Abstract: The main goals of this project are (i) to determine the role of PLA2-IIA in P. gingivalis-induced oral dysbiosis, inflammation and bone loss, (ii) to determine the role of Notch-1 activation in P. gingivalis-induced PLA2-IIA and periodontitis, and (iii) To identify and mechanistically validate new oral epithelial innate responses modulated by P. gingivalis through Notch-1 activation.
  - o Duration of Project: 08/01/2021–04/30-2026
- **Dr. Octavio Gonzalez** (Co-Investigator)
  - o National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIH-NIDCR) Grant Award: \$69,952
  - o Project Title: Periodontitis as a Comorbidity in SIV Infection and Antiretroviral Therapy
  - o Abstract: The main goals of this Project are: (i) To delineate age effects on the oral microbiome and targeted salivary biomarkers in health, changes that occur with experimental periodontitis, and impact of a subsequent SIV Infection, (ii) To delineate the effect of experimental periodontitis and age on the efficacy of ART treatment for an SIV Infection, and (iii) To delineate the effect of severe periodontitis on the efficacy of existing ART treatment to control an SIV infection.

- o Duration of Project: 09/01/2022–07/31/2026
- **Dr. Maria Rojas** (Principal Investigator)
  - o National Institutes of Health Grant FY2025 Award: \$1,052,391
  - o Project Title: Empowering dentists to reduce opioid prescriptions to young people
  - o Abstract: Dentists are a leading prescriber of opioids to young people, which have a particularly high risk of misusing opioids, developing a substance use disorder, or overdosing. Efforts to reduce dental opioid prescribing commonly use single interventions, do not specifically target young people, and are performed primarily in academic settings. This large study will test whether a bundled intervention of academic detailing, patient education, and non-opioid blister packs for distribution reduces opioid prescriptions to adolescents and young adults after tooth extraction.
  - o Duration of Project: 01/2023-12/2027
- **Dr. Maria Rojas** (Principal Investigator) and **Dr. Luciana Shaddox** (Co-Investigator)
  - o National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research \$625,388 (FY2025 Award)
  - o Project Title: Understanding the Association Between Sublingual Buprenorphine and Oral Health Outcomes
  - o Abstract: Sublingual (SL) buprenorphine is the most common medication used to treat opioid use disorder but FDA data suggests it may be linked to serious oral complications. While the available evidence is compelling, there is a need to develop large, controlled, longitudinal studies to assess if SL buprenorphine is a risk factor for oral disease while accounting for previous history of oral disease and other risk factors. This multidisciplinary prospective cohort study will examine if and how SL buprenorphine influences the extent, onset, and progression of oral disease in patients with opioid use disorder, and will produce data-driven conclusions that will improve our understanding and the implementation of potential treatments to reduce the burden of oral disease in those taking SL buprenorphine.
  - o Duration of Project: 12/2023–11/20/2028
- **Dr. Luciana Shaddox** (Co-Investigator)
  - o National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences Grant Award: \$23,716,314
  - o Project Title: Kentucky Center for Clinical and Translational Science
  - o Abstract: The University of Kentucky (UK) Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) is strategically positioned in Central Appalachia to catalyze efforts to connect the populace of this medically underserved region, with significant health disparities, to the national CTSA network. The UK CCTS is recognized locally and regionally for affecting change and building robust partnerships across the CTSA network, in Central Appalachia and at UK, creating an efficient platform for clinical and translational research and training, all to improve quality of care, health, and well-being for the rural populations of this region.
  - o Duration of Project: 08/2016–06/2026

- Dr. Luciana Shaddox (Principal Investigator)
  - National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIH-NIDCR) Grant Award: \$6,104,256.00
  - Project Title: Susceptibility Patterns for Grade C Periodontitis in Young Individuals
  - Abstract: Aggressive periodontitis, now named Grade C periodontitis (C/MIP), is a group of less frequently, often severe and rapidly progressive form of periodontitis, affecting young individuals at an early age, usually aggregating in families of lower social economic background. The factors that render affected individuals to C/MIP disease are yet to be clearly identified, which affects the proper control of this aggressive disease. This multi-center study will gather clearly-defined cases of C/MIP from different regions of the globe and within families, to evaluate genetic susceptibility variants using whole exome sequencing, host response via epithelial cell transcriptome to pinpoint mechanistic pathways associated with C/MIP and with genetic variants, and microbial community profile via metagenomics as well as specific species strains associated with this disease.
  - Duration of Project: 09/22–06/27

## Research Publications

- **Moreno-Hay, Isabel** et al. How does dental sleep medicine fit into the specialty of orofacial pain? *The Journal of the American Dental Association*, Volume 156, Issue 6, 439 – 446
- **Omami G, Ison J, Yeoh M.** Mandibular destruction with a moth-eaten appearance. *J Am Dent Assoc.* 2025 May 30:S0002-8177(25)00240-5. doi: 10.1016/j.adaj.2025.04.014. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40445160.
- **JK Hartsfield Jr, LA Morford:** Etiology of Malocclusion. Chapter 3, In: *Mosby's Orthodontic Review*, 3rd ed. JD English, S Akyalcin, and T Peltomäki, eds. Elsevier. St. Louis, MO, pages 17-29, July 2025. Paperback ISBN: 9780443118760, eBook ISBN: 9780443118777.
- Smith H, Thomas DT, Vázquez-Morales GN, Puckett L, Del Mar Rodriguez M, Stromberg A, **Shaddox L, Santamaria MP**, Pearce K, **Andriankaja OM.** Cross-sectional association between dietary habits, periodontitis, and uncontrolled diabetes in Hispanics: the LLIPDS study. *Front. Oral Health.* 2025 Jan 08; 6:1468995. doi: 10.3389/froh.2025.1468995.
- Guo K, Joshipura K, Ricart K, Patel R, Gower B, **Andriankaja OM**, Morou-Bermudez E. Association of over-the-counter mouthwash use with markers of nitric oxide metabolism, inflammation, and endothelial function – A cross-sectional study. *Front. Oral Health.* 2025 Jan 07; 6:1488286. doi: 10.3389/froh.2025.1488286.
- Antibiotics in the Treatment of Young Patients with Molar-Incisor Pattern Periodontitis (C-MIP). Miguel MM; **Santamaria M**, Casarin R; Stolf C; Branco-de-Almeida L, **Shaddox LM.** *Periodontology 2000.* Accepted July 2025.
- Metabolites from salivary exosomes as potential biomarkers for alveolar bone and tooth resorption. Rody WJ, **Shaddox LM**, Olli K, Martinez-Porras A, Garrett TJ, Cagmat JG., Holliday LS. *Orthodontics & Craniofacial Research.* Accepted. Sep 2 2025.

- Localized periodontitis in young individuals: Aggregatibacter JP2 clone, immunological dysfunctions and other stories. Nibali L, Alamri MM, Miguel MMV, Shaddox LM.. Accepted October 2025. *Journal of Periodontal Research*.
- **Tokatlian J, Al-Sabbagh M, Dawson DR, Pearce KA, Andriankaja MO, Adatorwovor R, Miguel MMV, Shaddox LM.** The Impact of Periodontal Therapy in Type II Diabetics Clinical and Inflammatory Parameters. *Journal of Periodontology*. Accepted for publication
- Metabolites from salivary exosomes as potential biomarkers for alveolar bone and tooth resorption" has been accepted for publication in *Orthodontics & Craniofacial Research*. W.J. Rody Jr., **L. M. Shaddox**, K. Oll, A. Martinez-Porras, T. J. Garrett, J. G. Cagmat, L.S. Holliday Sep 2 2025.
- Antibiotics in the Treatment of Young Patients with Molar-Incisor Pattern Periodontitis (C-MIP). Miguel, Manuela Maria; **Santamaria, Mauro**; Casarin, Renato; Stolf, Camila; Branco-de-Almeida, Luciana; Shaddox, Luciana. Accepted *Periodontology 2000* Jul 2025.
- Miller, M. E., Bowling, W. R., Borders, T. F., Kim, N., & **Boggero, I. A.** (in press). Patient-reported feasibility, acceptability, and satisfaction of psychological telehealth orofacial pain interventions: A mixed-methods study. *Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine, Oral Pathology and Oral Radiology*.
- Babiloni, A. H., Fonseca Alonso, B., Martel, M. O., **Boggero, I. A.**, Lavigne, G., Goode, A. P., & Kapos, F. P. (in press). The association of sleep-related issues with chronic pain and high-impact chronic pain incidence in U.S. adults: a 1-year representative cohort study. *The Journal of Pain*.
- Ebersole JL, **Kirakodu S, Gonzalez OA.** Transcriptomic Analysis of Gingival Tissues in Resolved Experimental Periodontal Lesions of Nonhuman Primates. *J Periodontology* 2025 (Accepted).
- Nguyen LM, **Gonzalez OA**, Balian A, **Kirakodu SS**, Ebersole JL. Transcriptome Vascular and Endothelial Changes in Experimental Periodontitis in Nonhuman Primates. *Oral Dis*, 2025 May 20, doi: 10.1111/odi.15385.
- Ebersole JL, Novak MJ, Cappeli D, **Dawson DR 3rd, Gonzalez OA.** Use of Nonhuman Primates in Periodontal Disease Research: Contribution of the Caribbean Primate Research Center and Cayo Santiago Rhesus Colony. *Am J Primatol*. 2025 Feb;87(2):e23724.doi:10.1002/ajp.23724.
- Sandoli Arroiteia L, Lopes MP, Réa MT, Vieira E Oliveira TR, Oliveira ML, de Faveri M, **Santamaria MP**, Queiroz LA, Casati MZ, Casarin RCV. Dimensional Changes After Different Alveolar Ridge Preservation Techniques for Posterior Region: A Randomised Controlled Clinical Trial. *J Clin Periodontol*. 2025 Nov;52(11):1584-1594. doi: 10.1111/jcpe.70004. Epub 2025 Aug 5. PMID: 40762250; PMCID: PMC12531358.
- **Santamaria MP**, Miguel MMV, Rossato A, Bonafé ACF, de Souza IV, Martins TM, Nunes MP, **Mathias-Santamaria IF.** Volume-stable collagen matrix to treat gingival recession associated with non-carious cervical lesions: Randomized clinical trial. *J Periodontology*. 2025 Aug 21. doi: 10.1002/jper.11386. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40838330.
- Araujo CF, Andere NMRB, Castro Dos Santos NC, Ferraz LFF, Miguel MMV, **Mathias-Santamaria IF**, Monteiro MF, **Shaddox LM**, Casarin RCV, **Santamaria MP.** Omega-3 and aspirin in the nonsurgical treatment of grade C periodontitis: A randomized clinical trial. *J Periodontology*. 2025 Aug;96(8):881-893. doi: 10.1002/JPER.24-0322. Epub 2025 Feb 14. PMID: 39950354.
- **Mathias-Santamaria IF**, Miguel MMV, Bonafé ACF, Lemos CN, Ramos LP, de Oliveira LD, Casarin RCV, Lopez RFV, **Santamaria MP.** Silk-fibroin chitosan film for palatal wounds: Material development, in vitro study, and pilot clinical trial. *J Periodontology*. 2025 Sep;96(9):1015-1025. doi: 10.1002/JPER.24-0441. Epub 2025 Feb 4. PMID: 39903661.

- **Santamaria MP, Mathias-Santamaria IF, Tavelli L, Barrotchi S, Pini-Prato G.** An updated evidence-based guideline for the treatment of gingival recession associated with non-carious cervical lesions. *J Periodontology*. 2025 Nov 27.
- Paz HES, Monteiro MF, Stolf CS, Araújo CF, Silbereisen A, **Santamaria MP**, Bostanci N, Casarin RCV. Familial Patterns of Oral-Gut Dysbiosis and Systemic Markers in Periodontitis. *J Clin Periodontol*. 2025 Oct 9. doi: 10.1111/jcpe.70047. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41063626.
- Casarin RCV, Bonilha GM, Paz H, Cerquera TB, Stolf CS, Pimentel SP, Fernandes WAM, Noronha MF, Carvalho LM, Casati MZ, **Shaddox LM, Santamaria MP**, Monteiro MF. Unraveling the Microbial Mosaic and Inflammatory Core of Peri-implantitis. *J Dent Res*. 2025 Jul 17:220345251344585. doi: 10.1177/00220345251344585. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40676912.

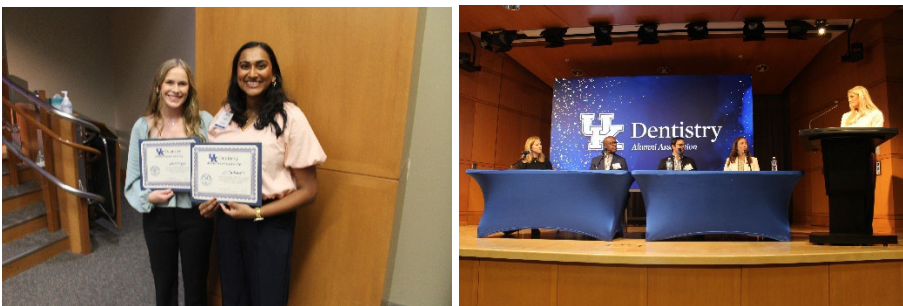
## Research Events

- S3 MEETINGS: Salads, Science & Support at UKCD
  - o August: Joel Thompson – “The New CCTS Pilot Program”
  - o September: Trey Conatser and Jill Abney – “Part II Generative AI and Research: Current Issues and Emerging Practices”
  - o October: Dr. Hawk from the Department of Statistics – “From Data to Discovery: How Statistics and the UK PADAS Hub Can Elevate Your Research”
- March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, UK Center for Clinical and Translational Science Spring Conference
  - o Theme: AI: Bridging Clinical Care, Innovation, Research, and Technology

## Philanthropy/Alumni Relations

- UK College of Dentistry has continued its efforts to raise funds to renovate its Orthodontic Graduate Clinic. The College received a \$1 million gift from Dr. Tom Lawton in Winter Park, Florida. With his gift, Dr. Lawton has chosen to name the Orthodontic Graduate Clinic for Dr. William R. Proffit, the first Division Chief for the UKCD Orthodontic Graduate Program. Drs. Gordon and Thomas Handy from Winston-Salem, NC, also named the consultation room with a \$100,000 gift. In addition, Dr. Tom Kluemper and Linda Epling met with UKCD Ortho alumni in Colorado.
- UKCD rolled out a new project, Empower Northeast Kentucky, to its Advisory Board. This project will incorporate three focus areas: education, prevention/treatment and workforce development, in a targeted geographic area. The Board was enthusiastic about the project and wants to be involved. Follow-up conversations have been held with United Healthcare and United Concordia Dental, with more scheduled with other members of the Advisory Board.
- Dean Okeson held a lunch for Emeritus Faculty to provide a college update and to engage in the College.
- Four different alumni visited the College for a campus tour and meeting with the Dean and various faculty.
- The Director of Philanthropy made visits to alumni and friends of the College to share a college update in Ohio and Georgia.

- The Dean and Director of Philanthropy invited four different alumni to share a meal and hear a college update.
- Brad Drew in Delta Dental of Kentucky visited campus to learn more about the Delta Dental Plan of Kentucky Clinical Research Center. He heard about the research and wellness activities being undertaken in the Center, along with planned new research projects.
- On May 28, 2025, the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD), the leading authority on children's oral health, installed new board officers and trustees during the recent AAPD 2025 General Assembly meeting in Denver.
- UKCD Alum Robert S. Clark '87 was introduced as the 2025-26 President of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) during its Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., in September 2025.
- UKCD alums and Pediatric Residency classmates Dr. Thomas G. Ison '89/'94 and Dr. Carlos "Charlie" Bertot '94 are among the members assuming new appointments for the 2025-2026 Academy year. Dr. Ison (right) will serve as President, and Dr. Bertot (left) will serve as President-Elect.
- The UK College of Dentistry hosted alumni, friends, and students for the Fall Symposium and Alumni Weekend, sponsored by the UKCD Alumni Association on October 17-18, 2025. The gathering started on a Friday with the awarding of two UKCD Alumni Association Scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 each to Class of 2026 members Jovita Devasia and Jobeth Hopper, followed by a morning program that featured an update from UKCD Dean Jeff Okeson '72; an alumni panel (Drs. Rhonda Hogan '99, Frank Kendrick '90, Jacob Sword '15 and Kala Green '16) moderated by Class of 2026 student board representative Hallea Imel; and a continuing education course on the impact of digital dentistry on curriculum led by UKCD Assistant Dean for Digital Dentistry, Dr. Rodrigo Fuentealba. The class of 2026 was invited by the UKCD Alumni Association to attend the morning program alongside alumni participants.



- Later in the day, over 100 of our alumni and their guests enjoyed Big Blue Day at the Races in Keeneland's Phoenix Room.



- During an evening reception at Spindletop Hall attended by more than 150 people, Dr. Judson M. Knight '67, Dr. Zindell Richardson '83 and Dr. Pam Sparks Stein ('90) were honored as UKCD Distinguished Alumni of the Year. The reunion year for the classes of 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2020 were also celebrated at the reception.



- On Saturday, Dean Okeson hosted a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Brunch for the class of 1975 with tours of the college, highlighting updates to the building. Later that day, many alumni gathered at a tailgate and watched the UK Wildcats' Homecoming game against the University of Texas.

- The UKCD Alumni Association would like to invite alumni and friends of the College to save the dates for these upcoming alumni events/activities:

- February 6, 2026 – Barrels & Kegs Tasting and Silent Auction



### **13. UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY.**

## **University of Louisville School of Dentistry (ULSD) Kentucky Dental Association Executive Board Report Meeting Date: November 15, 2025 Submitted: November 4, 2025**

#### **Leadership Announcement**

- Dr. Margaret Hill, who previously served as interim dean at the University of Louisville School of Dentistry, was appointed to the dean position permanently as of July 1, 2025. A native of Estill County, Kentucky, Dr. Hill obtained her bachelor's degree at Eastern Kentucky University and attended the UofL School of Dentistry, earning her DMD in 1987. She then earned a certificate in general practice residency at the UofL School of Dentistry and completed her residency in periodontics at the University of Kentucky. Before joining the UofL School of Dentistry full-time, Hill worked in private practice in Elizabethtown, Kentucky.

#### **Alumni Fellow Announcement**

- This year's School of Dentistry Alumni Fellow is Julie Watts McKee, DMD '83. Dr. McKee has served as the Commonwealth of Kentucky's chief dental officer since July 2007. During her tenure, she expanded the public health nursing application of dental varnish, provided training for dentists to treat young children, developed many local oral health coalitions, significantly reduced decay in Appalachian children, established a loan repayment program for dental school graduates, oversaw the development of a strategic plan for Public Health, and established the Public Health Registered Dental Hygiene program.

#### **Student Activities**

- Our newest postgraduate residents and interns began their programs on July 1, 2025. We welcomed approximately 30 residents and interns across ULSD's seven advanced education programs – General Practice Residency, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Endodontics, Orthodontics, Pediatric Dentistry, Periodontics, and Prosthodontics – including several DMD program graduates who chose to continue their education at the University of Louisville.
- Dental students from the DMD class of 2029 students arrived on campus July 31, 2025. The 120 members of the class came to us from 68 colleges and universities in 20 states. The average undergraduate GPA for class members is 3.69/4.00 and the average DAT is 20.
- Upper division dental hygiene students from the class of 2027 arrived at the School of Dentistry on August 14, 2025. There are 30 members in the class, of which 13 were participants in the University of Louisville's UP Program, which guarantees admission to the upper division for those who maintain high academic metrics in the lower division.

#### **Faculty & Staff News**

- Three of our Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery department faculty were honored this fall at the AAOMS Annual Meeting in Washington DC:
  - Dr. Robert Flint was the sole delegate representing the state of Kentucky. The House of Delegates is responsible for running the business of AAOMS. These critical meetings ensure the specialty continues to run and all business affairs are in order.
  - Dr. Suzanne Barnes was awarded the coveted Faculty Education Development Award (FEDA). This year 5 FEDA awards were given by AAOMS to promising young faculty to keep them in academics. The competition for the awards is significant. Dr. Barnes was recognized as a young faculty member with a commitment to education and a promising future.
  - Dr. George Kushner was awarded the Donald B. Osbon award for outstanding educator in oral and maxillofacial surgery.
- Since the June KDA Executive Committee meeting, the UofL School of Dentistry has welcomed the following full-time faculty:
  - Ms. Sara Smith – Dental Hygiene/Radiology
- Since the June KDA Executive Committee meeting, one full-time faculty member has retired:
  - Dr. Joe Haake – Department of Comprehensive Dentistry
- Dr. Kristen Eguren has returned to ULSD after completing a one-year maxillofacial prosthetics fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

- The following School of Dentistry faculty members were approved for promotions/tenure at the June 27, 2025, UofL Board of Trustees meeting. Changes were effective on July 1:
  - Michelle Baxter - promotion to Associate Professor (Term)
  - Dr. Abbie Beacham - promotion to Professor and award of tenure
  - Dr. Kathleen Fischer – promotion to Associate Professor and award of tenure
  - Adam Hall - promotion to Associate Professor (Term)
  - Dr. Justin Whitney - promotion to Associate Professor (Term)

### Alumni Affairs & Continuing Education

- ULSD Continuing Education’s last KASPER session of the year is scheduled for Saturday, November 15. This interactive webinar via Teams meets the requirements of HB1. To find out more and register, go to the CE website: [KASPER November 15](#)
- Our last Medical Emergencies in the Dental Office session of the year is scheduled for Saturday, December 6. This will be an in-person class at ULSD. To find out more and register, go to the CE website: [Medical Emergencies in the Dental Office December 6](#)

### Selected Faculty Publications

- Dobosz E, Golda A, Kanoza M, Kowalczyk W, Potempa B, **Potempa J**, Gasiorek A, Madeja N, Budziaszek J, Mizgalska D, Yucel-Lindberg T, Koziol J. Lys-specific gingipain (Kgp) of *P. gingivalis* promotes viral infection by disabling the interferon pathway. *mBio*0:e00298-25. <https://doi.org/10.1128/mbio.00298-25>
- Felizardo HMA, Chang M, Tirapelli C, **Oliveira-Santos C**, Gaêta-Araujo H. Diagnostic Performance of Cone-beam Computed Tomography Low Dose Protocol on the Assessment of Bone Graft Loss Around Dental Implants - An Ex Vivo Study. *Int J Oral Maxillofac Implants*. 2025 Jul 30;0(0):1-20. <https://doi.org/10.11607/jomi.11489>
- **Fischer KM, Metz M, Sekula M**, Katwal D. Faculty Perspective on Physical Symptoms and Signs Wearing Personal Protective Equipment During COVID-19 Pandemic. *Eur J Dent Educ*. Published online June 18, 2025. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/eje.13143>
- Gandhi V, **Gudhimella S, Bradley GT, Silveira A, Deguchi T**, Yadav S, **Chandiramani S**, Janakiraman N. Salivary hormonal analysis as a tool for skeletal maturity assessment. *Sci Rep* 15, 33538 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-025-18182-9>
- **Flint RL**, Sadr-Eshkevari P, Ackman A, Ziegler C (2025). Should Reuse of Filtering Facepiece Respirators Be the New Norm Beyond Pandemic? A National Survey of American Academic Outpatient Oral Surgery Clinics Oral Surgery <https://doi.org/10.1111/ors.70017>
- Hirohata M, Naiki Y, Oishi A, Nishikawa K, **Lamont RJ**, Persson K, Hasegawa Y. Journal of Oral Biosciences Proteolytic N-terminal processing of Mfa proteins in the periodontal pathogen *Porphyromonas gingivalis*. *Journal of Oral Biosciences* (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.job.2025.100678>
- Liu X, Perpich JD, Song L, Cambillau C, Doan T, Zheng L, **Lamont RJ**, Cascales E, Hu B. 0. Structure of the T9SS PorKN ring complex reveals conformational plasticity based on the repurposed FGE fold. *mBio* 0:e01799-25. <https://doi.org/10.1128/mbio.01799-25>
- Meyer BD, Ritwik P, Star J, **Followell T**, Jones M, Royston L, Bohaty B, Majstorovic M, Da Silva AMG, Chin K, Boynton JR, Fosse C. (2025). The Current Status of Infant Oral Health Instruction Within Predoctoral Dental Education. *Journal of Dental Education*, 10.1002/jdd.70002. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jdd.70002>
- Roza ALOC, de Freitas SV, Smit C, Rocha AC, Agostini M, Cortezzi EB, Abrahão AC, **Shumway BS**, Shrestha M, Cabido LF, Woo V, Martínez-Rondanelli B, Mosqueda-Taylor A, van Heerden WFP, Wright JM, Vargas PA, Romañach MJ. Odontogenic Sarcomas: Clinicopathologic Analysis and Immunohistochemical Expression of BRAF and SOX9 in a Multicenter Series of 10 Cases. *Head and Neck Pathol* 19, 99 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12105-025-01817-8>
- Ruiz DC, **Oliveira-Santos C**, Réa MT, Silva TP, Santaella GM, Scarfe WC, Freitas DQ. Comparison of image quality between intraoral radiographic images using wall-mounted and handheld dental X-ray units. *Oral Radiol* (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11282-025-00837-y>
- Silva TP, Puntigam GS, Andrade-Bortoletto MF, Takeshita WM, **Oliveira-Santos C**, Freitas DQ. Populational influence on cephalometric landmark identification: performance of two AI-driven software programs in Brazilian and Korean images. *BMC Oral Health* 25, 1596 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12903-025-06807-4>
- Woods LT, **Jasmer KJ**, Forti KM, Kearns A, Weisman GA. Salivary gland transcriptomic analysis and immunophenotyping in the IL-14 $\alpha$  transgenic mouse model of Sjögren's disease. *Front. Dent. Med. Sec. Oral-Systemic Immunology* 2025:6.

**Recommendations to the Executive Board:**

- None

## 14. UNIVERSITY OF PIKEVILLE.

### College Updates:

- August 2025: Official Notification of Initial Accreditation received from the Commission on Dental Accreditation.
- September 2025: Utilization of the ADEA AADSAS portal initiated for applicants to the DMD program beginning in June 2026.
- September 2025: In-person interviews began and will be continued throughout 2025 and early 2026.
- August 2025: UPIKE obtained key funding (\$53,210,000) from the USDA to support the construction of the building to house the Tanner College of Dental Medicine.
- The new building (102,000 square feet) is scheduled to be completed in December 2027.
- Faculty recruitment is active, with multiple positions posted. Hiring is anticipated for a start date in early 2026. Recruitment efforts have included participation in professional dental meetings to attract qualified educators, including the annual meeting of the Kentucky Dental Association.
- Locally, TCDM partnered with the Pike County Health Department to create the BearCare Public Health Dental Clinic, supported by the Pallottine Foundation, to deliver pediatric dental services for children without private insurance. Additional partnerships are being developed with Federally Qualified Health Centers and community-based clinics throughout Central Appalachia.
- Dr. Amna Hasan, Dr. Iquebal Hasan, and Dr. Jill Keaton provided continuing education courses to the attendees at the Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Dental Association in Louisville, KY, on August 15 and 16, 2025. Dr. EJ Newness provided a continuing education course to the Kentucky Mountain Dental Society in July 2025.



*Tanner College of Dental Medicine (View from Hambley Boulevard)*

### Local Partnerships:

The University of Pikeville partnered with the Pike County Health Department (PCHD) to establish the BearCare Public Health Dental Clinic at the PCHD to provide much-needed dental care to pediatric

patients. This activity is supported by grant funding through the Pallottine Foundation of Huntington to provide general dental services to pediatric patients without private insurance. Operating two to four days per month, UPIKE employee Dr. Anita Hale provides much-needed dental care to pediatric patients. Additional information can be found here: <https://kyoralhealthcoalition.org/bearcare-public-health-dental-clinic-a-beacon-of-oral-health-and-partnership-in-pike-county/>



Many other partnerships are in development with Federally Qualified Health Centers throughout the region, as well as Community-Based Clinics in Central Appalachia.

**Recommendations to the Executive Board:**

- None

## 15. COMPONENT REPORTS.

### Southeastern Dental Society: Component Report

The Southeastern Dental Society met on September 25, 2025 at Gondolier Restaurant in London, KY. We had Dr. Jennie Ison from UK pathology lead a CE class on how to perform biopsies. The meeting was very well attended, with one of the highest attended meetings in the past two years. The meeting was open to dentists and hygienists and spouses. Participants enjoyed the meeting. All attendees were encouraged to join the KDA for advocacy day in Frankfort. The next meeting date has not been scheduled yet but most likely will be in the spring of 2026.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kaitlyn S. Patel, DMD

LDS report for KDA Meeting November 15,2025

The October 16th meeting was attended by **Dr. Samantha Shaver**, President of the Kentucky Dental Association (KDA), who provided an update on the current state of the KDA and its ongoing initiatives. At the same meeting **Dr. Glen Blincoe** presented an informative **continuing education course on Obstructive Sleep Apnea**, offering valuable insights into diagnosis and management strategies for dental professionals. The **next meeting** will be held on **November 20, 2025**, and will feature a **continuing education course on KASPER** presented by **Dr. Rebecca Merke**.

Additionally, the **Free Smiles Dental Clinics** will be conducted on the following dates:

- **November 15, 2025**
- **December 6, 2025**

These clinics continue to provide essential dental care to community members in need.

Louisville Dental Society is sponsoring a student luncheon for the UofL School of Dentistry who will be participating in Advocacy Month. KDA Executive Director is speaking at this meeting on Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>

### Purchase Area Report

Greetings,

The Purchase Area Dental Society is having a busy end to the year. Below are the continuing education opportunities presented to our members:

Sept 12th - Medical emergency at Murray State's Paducah Campus

Nov. 20th, 6-9 PM – President Shaver is visiting

Dec 5th – Annual Osha/Hipaa meeting at Murray State University (main campus)

We hope all your societies have a wonderful end to 2025. Hard to believe the year is almost over. I look forward to our in-person meeting in November.

Enthusiastically,

Zak Taylor D.M.D.

**24. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE.** Dr Ansley Depp announced members of the committee consisted of Drs. Fred Howard, Darren Greenwell, Jonathan Rich, Matt Johnson, Neil Rush and Ansley Depp.

**25. ANNUAL SESSION COUNCIL.** Dr. Gina Davis gave a verbal report.

**26. GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS.** Dr. Darren Greenwell provided the report below.

Continue supporting legislators for advancing dental issues. Protect fluoride, clean up non-covered service, Medicaid reform, DLR. Need to decide what the Board wants as the model on DLR. Massachusetts, in my opinion, is the best model. The NCOIL model is flawed regarding DD able to exclude its donations costs. It's important that the entire Board should be at Hill Day and get the Deans to allow as many students as possible to participate.

**27. NON DUES REVENUE.** Dr. Stephen Robertson gave a verbal report on behalf of Dr. Matt Johnson.

**28. WELL BEING COMMITTEE.** Dr. Kate vonLackum gave a verbal report.

**29. OLD BUSINESS.** Dr. Samantha Shaver made the following motion.

**MOTION:** Dr. Samantha Shaver moved to make a work group of the KDA Board to make plan to repay the ADA dues for 2025.

**ACTION:** the motion failed since there was no second.

**30. NEW BUSINESS.**

**Lease of the KDA Building/Dr Rachel Gold**

Currently the KDA is engaged in a triple net lease agreement with the Foundation that requires that the association cover all utilities and maintenance expenses for the building- which equates to just under \$70K/year (based on YE 2024 and the 2025 budget). The suggestion is to change the lease terms to shift some, or all, of those expenses back to the foundation in the short term (1 or 2 years is the thought). Per the lease document that I reviewed, the lease should/would need to be reevaluated/renewed in 2026.

With appreciation of the legal sensitivity that comes with the foundation, I reached out to a friend who specializes in counsel for 501(c)(3) organizations and she suggested that there are two main considerations:

1. Does the precedent set by the existing lease present a problem that could be perceived as "preferential" treatment to the KDA if, moving forward, we renegotiated the lease terms? With this in mind, is it reasonable that the KDA would be able to negotiate a commercial lease within the Louisville metro area (or an appropriate radius) with the kind of terms we are discussing? If the answer is YES- then this could protect the foundation from the optics that they are negotiating a more favorable lease than is customary or standard due to the relationship with the association.

2. Since the foundation is essentially housed within the building on Nelson Pkwy (per the most recent tax return) it is completely appropriate to expect that the foundation would have SOME level of

expense associated with the property that it owns or occupies. Based on what I have reviewed- it is unclear to me if that is the case. If the foundation is not paying the mortgage, the taxes, or the utilities/maintenance on the building- it would be reasonable (and expected) for a 501(c)(3) to have liabilities related to the property.

My plan is to reach out to someone with a better understanding of the commercial property market in Louisville to find out what is standard and reasonable.

**Dr. Rachel Gold** discussed the lease between the Kentucky Dental Foundation and the Kentucky Dental Association. KDA staff will ask the attorney as to how to proceed with KDF possibly paying some of the expenses concerning building maintenance.

#### **AGD ADVERTISEMENT FOR AN UPCOMING EVENT.**

**Dr. Samantha Shaver** requested the KDA send an email blast to the membership about an upcoming legislative advocacy event of the AGD.

**MOTION: Dr. Samantha Shaver** moved to send the AGD advertisement for their upcoming event to the KDA membership and continue to do so with other specialty groups that are aligned with KDA interests.

**Dr. Kaitlyn Patel** seconded the motion.

**ACTION: PASSED.**

**KDA WOMENS FORUM.** Discussions about a KDA Women's Forum was discussed. The KDA Board requested KDA's Meeting Planner look into locations and times the event could be held.

**31. FUTURE KDA BOARD MEETINGS.** The next KDA Board meeting will be January 20, 2026 at 7:30pm (ZOOM) and March 7, 2026 at 9:00am (ZOOM).

**30. ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Dr. Kevin Wall**  
**Secretary/Treasurer**