

**KENTUCKY DENTAL ASSOCIATION  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

ZOOM  
March 7, 2026  
9:00 A.M.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER.** **Dr. Samantha Shaver** 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. Tony Distler for Dr. Paul Lavelle  
Dr. Stetson Earl  
Dr. Andy Elliott  
Dr. Rachel Gold  
Dean Margaret Hill  
Dr. Matt Johnson  
Dean Jill Keaton

Dr. Justin Kolasa  
Dr. Julie McKee  
Dr. Matt Milliner  
Dr. BJ Millay  
Dr. Kaitlyn Patel  
Dr. Jonathan Rich  
Dr. Samantha Shaver  
Ms. Olivia Hamilton (student)

- 2.** Guests included **Dr. Gina Davis**. **Mr. William Amshoff** with Welenken CPAS was also present. Staff members present were **Dr. Stephen Robertson and Mr. Todd Edwards**.
- 3. INVOCATION.** **Dr. Andy Elliott** gave the invocation.
- 4. MINUTES.** The minutes of the January 20, 2026 meeting of the Executive Board were 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.

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

Report to the KDA Board  
7 March 2026

Since we last met Darren Greenwell, Steve Robertson and I met with mid-leadership at Mortenson Dental to discuss ways we could build a mutually beneficial relationship. We requested whatever help they could offer in our legislation, both physically (Lobby Day) and financially. We are still waiting to hear back from them. Our Lobby Day on February 4 was a success despite the weather and the construction at the Capitol. We had several students join us as well as a number of non-member dentists. We were helped by the Pepperpoint contingent.

Steve, David and I attended the ULSD ASDA day. Great opportunity to speak with students. A few dental vendors but a lot of DSO's recruiting.

Recently attended the Women in Dentistry event put on by Patterson Dental. Spoke with Liz Hall the new KY rep for Patterson. She expressed an interest in our July event. I also encouraged her to rethink about having a Patterson booth at our annual session in August.

Our women's event received a \$3000 ARC grant from the ADA.

Darren and I attended the RPK's Leadership Dinner last night. We were able to network with state and federal legislators.

Since my first board meeting as president and at everyone since I have requested each component to give me a name of a touchpoint in their area for membership. No one has done that. We need to reach out to our non-renews and cultivate more members. These efforts will be more effective if they start at the local level. I ask again for a member from each component to aid us in local membership recruitment and retention.

Congratulations to the LDS for obtaining a \$5000 grant from the ADA to aid in their membership efforts. They are using this money to help fund the **Member-Guest Program**.

Congratulations to Drs. Randy Ransdell and Joe Jacobi who were honored by Louisville Business First as "Healthcare Heroes" for their work with the Free Smiles Dental Clinic.

Respectfully submitted,  
Samantha Shaver, DMD, FAGD  
KDA President

**6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT. Dr. Stephen Robertson** gave a verbal report.

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

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

The ADA Board of Trustees continues to move forward more slowly; not only because of our financial situation, but because we are putting more thought into strategy. Deciding what we need to be doing and what we ought to quit doing. We are striving for better alignment within the ADA and with the tripartite.

The BOT passed the 2026 fiscal year budget in November with a 4-million-dollar deficit with the intent to continue making necessary adjustment in 2026 to get as close as possible to a balanced budget by the end of the year.

The new ADA Credit Union powered by Baxter Credit Union (BCU) continues to grow and should provide many other opportunities in the future. I encourage each of you to join the credit union and look at the rates they offer for loans and savings.

The BOT Governance Committee and the Governance and Organization Health Evaluation Task Force have reviewed RFPs for the Governance and Organization Health Evaluation as passed by the ADA HOD. The final selection to engage a company for this evaluation has been made and the contract is being finalized. There will be continual communications with the HOD and other stakeholders throughout the process.

The Oral Health 2050 Task Force on the Future of Dentistry in collaboration with the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) are moving forward with consumer surveys that are being conducted by BCG without cost to the ADA.

5 areas are being targeted:

- 1). Payment Model (how will care be paid for)
- 2). Delivery Model (how will care be delivered)
- 3). Wellness (patients and providers)
- 4). Education
- 5). AI/ Technology

Lobby Day will be March 22-24, 2026, in Washington, DC. This year's lobby day attendance will be directed toward dentists and designated state association participants. Funded student participation will be focused on current ASDA Board members. Dental students may still participate, but only through and at the approval of their respective state dental associations, which may choose to have a student be the designated attendee for a particular congressional office. Individuals who attend outside these parameters will not be eligible for travel reimbursement by the ADA. The ADA is launching a local Lobby Day initiative for dental students to implement at their respective dental schools. This program will be supported by ADA federal and state advocacy staff with training, planning tools and other resources to assist in implementing this initiative.

The ADA Scientific Session will be held October 8-10, 2026, in Indianapolis and the ADA HOD will be held October 10-13, 2026, in Indianapolis.

I will be in Chicago for a Board of Trustees meeting from March 6-8, 2026 and will not be participating in the KDA Executive Board Meeting.

Respectively submitted,

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

## **8. UK COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY.**

University of Kentucky College of Dentistry  
Kentucky Dental Association Executive Report

February 2026

### **College Updates**

- **Myranda Elliott (D2)** was named the American Student Dental Association's (ASDA) National

Legislative Liaison of the Year, a national honor recognizing outstanding leadership in organizing and advancing student advocacy efforts. Recipients are selected by ASDA's National Council on Advocacy. In addition, the **UK ASDA chapter** earned the Chapter Advocacy Challenge Award for Districts 6 and 7 in recognition of exceptional engagement during Advocacy Month. These achievements reflect a strong year of advocacy and continued leadership by UK College of Dentistry students at the national level.

## Faculty & Staff Updates

- **Dr. Fred Howard** received the 2025 Distinguished Service Award from the Kentucky Dental Association in recognition of a Lifelong commitment to the betterment of the Profession of Dentistry in the Commonwealth and a legacy of Leadership and Service to the Kentucky Dental Association.
- We're proud to recognize **Dr. James Hartsfield Jr.** of the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry, who is among 125 current UK scientists and scholars named to Stanford University and Elsevier's database of the world's top 2% most-cited researchers across 22 disciplines.
- The University of Kentucky College of Dentistry is pleased to welcome **Ivan Squire** as its new Assistant Dean of Finance & Administration, bringing more than two decades of financial leadership experience across multiple industries to support the College's mission of education, service, and patient care.
- In November, **Dr. Rodrigo Fuentealba** was appointed Interim Chief of the Division of Prosthodontics.

## Presentations

- **Dr. Jeff Okeson** presented at the 36th Annual Orofacial Pain Symposium, University of Kentucky Orofacial Pain Program, "The Journey from Gnathology to an Orofacial Pain Specialty" November 2025". Lexington Kentucky (virtual).
- **Dr. Jeff Okeson** presented to the "Hidden Sources of Pain: Understanding Referred Orofacial Pain" The Harvard Interdisciplinary Pain and Headache Rounds, 42 North Dental, AAOP (zoom meeting).
- **Dr. Jeff Okeson** presented a two-day program on "What every dentist needs to know about TMD" OHIs, Vienna, Austria.
- **Dr. Mauro Santamaria**, DDS, served as an invited speaker for the Study Club of the Palm Beaches on November 7, 2025, where he presented the lecture titled "The Importance of Soft Tissue Management for Implant Dentistry."
- **Dr. Mauro Santamaria** served as an invited speaker at the IV Congreso Internacional de Odontología UCC in Bogotá, Colombia, held November 13–14, 2025, where he delivered the lecture titled "What we need to know on the management of gingival recessions."
- **Dr. James Hartfield** served as an invited speaker on genetics and orthodontics at the World Federation of Orthodontists International Orthodontic Congress (IOC) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on October 23, 2025. Held every five years, the IOC took place in Latin America for the first time this year.
- **Dr. James Hartsfield** became a member of the Honorary Scholars College at the University of Western Australia, Perth. Additionally, Dr. Hartsfield lectured on "Genetics Update for Orthodontists" to the first-year orthodontic residents at the Augusta University Dental College of Georgia Department of Orthodontics on February 12, 2026.

- In November 2025, **Dr. Ian A. Boggero** delivered an invited guest lecture titled “Psychological Approaches for Improving Oral Appliance Therapy and Sleep Outcomes” via a live national webinar for the American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine.

## Faculty Research Grants

- **Dr. Pam Stein** (Principal Investigator) and **Dr. Luciana Shaddox** (Co-Investigator)
  - Merck Grant Total Award: \$233,000
  - 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
  - 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.
  - Duration of Project: 10/24-09/26
- **Dr. Oelisoa Mireille Andriankaja** (Principal Investigator) and **Dr. Luciana Shaddox** (Co-Investigator)
  - UKinSpire Grant Award: \$11,500
  - Project Title: Fostering Collaborations with Hispanic Populations to Better Study Population-specific Susceptibility Factors for Periodontal Disease
  - 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.
  - Duration of Project: 07/25-06/26
- **Dr. Oelisoa Mireille Andriankaja** (Principal Investigator)
  - 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.
  - Project Title: MODERN-Dental: Pediatric Obesity, Cardiometabolic Risks, And Periodontal Disease: Effects of Semaglutide Treatment
  - 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)**
  - National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIH-NIDCR) Grant Award: \$69,952
  - Project Title: Periodontitis as a Comorbidity in SIV Infection and Antiretroviral Therapy
  - 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.
  - Duration of Project: 09/01/2022–07/31/2026
- **Dr. Maria Rojas (Principal Investigator)**
  - National Institutes of Health Grant FY2025 Award: \$1,052,391
  - Project Title: Empowering dentists to reduce opioid prescriptions to young people
  - 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.
  - Duration of Project: 01/2023-12/2027
- **Dr. Maria Rojas (Principal Investigator) and Dr. Luciana Shaddox (Co-Investigator)**
  - National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research \$625,388 (FY2025 Award)
  - Project Title: Understanding the Association Between Sublingual Buprenorphine and Oral Health Outcomes
  - 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.
  - 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)
  - o National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIH-NIDCR) Grant Award: \$6,104,256.00
  - o Project Title: Susceptibility Patterns for Grade C Periodontitis in Young Individuals
  - o 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.
  - o Duration of Project: 09/22–06/27

## Publications

- **Dr. Jeff Okeson** has published the 9th Edition of his Textbook “The Clinical Management of Temporomandibular Disorders and Occlusion. Elsevier Publishers, 2026.
- Sim, E. S., Ison, J., & Windon, M. J. (2026). Mouth Ulcers. JAMA Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, 152(1), 107. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamaoto.2025.3753>
- **Omami G**, Bateman C, Wiggins R. Imaging of the Suprahyoid Spaces of the Head and Neck. Oral Maxillofac Surg Clin North Am. 2026 Feb;38(1):83-95. [doi: 10.1016/j.coms.2025.08.009](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.coms.2025.08.009).
- 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. 2026 Feb;53(2):222-231. [doi: 10.1111/jcpe.70047](https://doi.org/10.1111/jcpe.70047).

- **Santamaria MP, Mathias-Santamaria IF**, Tavelli L, Barootchi S, Prato GPP. An updated evidence-based recommendation for the treatment of gingival recession associated with non-carious cervical lesions. *J Periodontol.* 2026 Jan 7. [doi: 10.1002/jper.70049](https://doi.org/10.1002/jper.70049).
- Rody WJ Jr, **Shaddox LM**, Olli K, Martinez-Porras A, Garrett TJ, Cagmat JG, Holliday LS. Metabolites From Salivary Exosomes as Potential Biomarkers for Alveolar Bone and Tooth Resorption. *Orthod Craniofac Res.* 2025 Dec;28 Suppl 1(Suppl 1):S186-S193. [doi: 10.1111/ocr.70024](https://doi.org/10.1111/ocr.70024).
- Nibali L, Alamri MM, **Miguel MMV, Shaddox L**. Localized Periodontitis in Young Individuals: Aggregatibacter JP2 Clone, Immunological Dysfunctions and Other Stories. *J Periodontal Res.* 2026 Feb 3. [doi: 10.1111/jre.70067](https://doi.org/10.1111/jre.70067).
- Herrero Babiloni A, Fonseca Alonso B, Martel MO, **Boggero IA**, Lavigne GJ, Goode AP, Kapos FP. 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. *J Pain.* 2025 Nov;36:105541. [doi: 10.1016/j.jpain.2025.105541](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpain.2025.105541).
- **Omami G**, Branstetter BF. Imaging of the Cervical Lymph Nodes: Anatomy and Pathology. *Oral Maxillofacial Surg Clin North Am.* 2026 Feb;38(1):107-118. [doi: 10.1016/j.coms.2025.08.011](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.coms.2025.08.011).
- Rachel Esposito, Linda Sangalli, Ian A. Boggero, Flavia P. Kapos, "Geographic and rural health care resource gaps in orofacial pain provider distribution across the United States", *The Journal of the American Dental Association*, 2026, ISSN 0002-8177, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.adaj.2025.12.021>.
- Sangalli L, Bolch C, **Rojas-Ramirez MV**. Trend in Opioid Analgesic Prescriptions and High-Risk Prescribing in the State of Illinois: An Eight-Year Descriptive Analysis. *J Public Health Dent.* 2026 Jan 30. [doi: 10.1111/jphd.70039](https://doi.org/10.1111/jphd.70039).
- Eisa E, Yanez-Regonesi F, **Okeson JP**, Carlson C, Moreno Hay I, Danov Z, Weber T, Perez, C: "Sleep bruxism and pediatric obstructive sleep apnea: exploring their chronological overlap and clinical significance." *Sleep and Breathing*, 29:352, 2025. [doi: 10.1007/s11325-025-03518-6](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11325-025-03518-6).
- **Okeson JP**: "Temporomandibular Disorders," *Conn's Current Therapy* 2026 Edition, Kellerman RD, Heidelbaugh JJ and Lee, EM: Elsevier Publishers, St Louis, MO.
- RAG Khammissa and **OM Andriankaja**. (2026). Editorial: Deepening the relationship between diabetes, oral health and periodontal disease. *Front. Oral Health. Sec. Cardiometabolic Health.* Volume 6 - 2025 | [doi.org/10.3389/froh.2025.1752592](https://doi.org/10.3389/froh.2025.1752592).
- **Andriankaja OM**, Whiteheart S, **Mattos MBA**. Biological Plausibility Between Long-COVID and Periodontal Disease Development or Progression. *Biomedicines.* 2025 Dec 10;13(12):3023. [doi: 10.3390/biomedicines13123023](https://doi.org/10.3390/biomedicines13123023).
- **Boggero, I. A.**, Peugh, J, & King, C. D. (2025). Preliminary data examining associations of fatigue subtypes with pain, pain interference, sleep quality, and affect across 14 days in adolescents with chronic musculoskeletal pain and pain-free controls. *Journal of Pediatric Psychology*, 50(3), 297-306. [doi: 10.1093/jpepsy/jsaf007](https://doi.org/10.1093/jpepsy/jsaf007).
- **Miguel MMV, Santamaria MP**, Casarin RCV, Stolf CS, Branco-de-Almeida LS, **Shaddox LM**. Antibiotics in the treatment of young patients with molar-incisor pattern periodontitis (C-

MIP). *Periodontol* 2000. 2025 Nov 3. [doi: 10.1111/prd.70004](https://doi.org/10.1111/prd.70004).

- Stolf CS, Paz HES, Paraluppi MC, **Miguel MMV**, **Santamaria MP**, Monteiro MF, Amgarten DE, Franco RRA, Branco-de-Almeida LS, **Shaddox LM**, Casarin RCV. Molar-Incisor and Generalized Grade C Periodontitis: Distinct Microbiome-Immune Interactions Suggest Divergent Pathogenesis. *J Periodontal Res*. 2026 Feb 10. [doi: 10.1111/jre.70077](https://doi.org/10.1111/jre.70077).
- Di Profio B, Lotto M, **das Graças YT**, Aguirre PEA, Villar CC, Romito GA, Cruvinel T, Pannuti CM. Decoding the Web for Quality Insights on Mouthwash Information in Brazilian Websites. *Int J Dent Hyg*. 2025 Dec 4. [doi: 10.1111/idh.70023](https://doi.org/10.1111/idh.70023).

### Past Research Events

- S3 MEETINGS: Salads, Science & Support at UKCD
  - November 6: Gill Diamond, UoL, Novel Therapeutic Approaches to Treat and Prevent Infectious Diseases
  - January 27: Laura Jacox, DMD, PhD, MS, Assistant Professor of Research and Orthodontics at the University of North Carolina (UNC) Chapel Hill, Innovations in Orthognathic Speech Pathology ”
  - February 24: Phil Kern, MD, Professor of Medicine, Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Oral Care Integration

### Upcoming Research Events

- S3 MEETINGS: Salads, Science & Support at UKCD
  - March 17: Student presentations for IADR/AADOCR
  - April 28: Courtney Brown, MSW, Research Coordinator, Center for Oral Health Research – “ED Data”
  - May 26: “How to Write a Specific Aims Page and How to Communicate with PO’s”
- March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, UK Center for Clinical and Translational Science Spring Conference
  - Theme: AI: Bridging Clinical Care, Innovation, Research, and Technology

### Philanthropy/Alumni Relations

- The alumni board continues to hold quarterly board meetings and everyone is invited to attend. The most recent meeting was held on December 9, 2025, the Dean provided an update on the college and the board voted to confirm the dates for our signature 2026 events.
- On February 6, the UKCD Alumni Association held the 15th Annual Barrels and Kegs and Silent Auction raising funds for the UKCD Alumni Association Scholarship and student and alumni activities.

- We are currently planning the following activities:
  - March 18, 2026 – UKCD Alumni Association Dinner for the Class of 2026
  - August 15, 2026 – UKCD Alumni Association Golf Scramble
  - August 21, 2026 – Alumni Reception at the KDA
  - October 9-10, 2026 – 42nd Annual Fall Symposium and Alumni Weekend

## **Philanthropy**

- Through the collaboration between Dr. Okeson, two alumni and Philanthropy, a new scholarship for rural Kentucky applicants has been established. This scholarship will be available to incoming students from Kentucky counties, identified as rural or partially rural by HRSA. A mailing will be sent out soon to seek additional support for this scholarship.
- Delta Dental of Kentucky Foundation awarded 2026 support for Saturday Morning Clinic, Seal Kentucky and the Delta Dental of Kentucky Scholarship.
- Kentucky Dental Foundation also provided financial support for Saturday Morning Clinic during 2026.
- Two UK alumni visited the College to meet with the Dean and members of the Pathways to Dentistry Taskforce. Their discussion included the need for dentists in rural Kentucky.
- Drs. Betty Barr and Don Kleier continued their support for scholarships that honored Dr. Vincent Barr and Dr. Milton Gellin, along with underwriting the Dr. Vincent Barr Visiting Presenter who lectured at ASDA Day.
- The Director of Philanthropy made visits to alumni and friends of the College to share a college update in Kansas, Arkansas, Tennessee (Nashville) and Kentucky cities – Bowling Green, Ashland, Lexington, Grayson and Frankfort.
- Drs. Nusbacher, Fuentealba and Linda Epling visit Kwane Watson to learn more about his mobile units and the operations for KARE Mobile.

## **Pathways to Dentistry**

- Members of the Pathways to Dentistry Taskforce visited Murray State University to meet with the dental advisors, the director of the new dental hygiene program, and the Purchase Area Health Education Center (AHEC) based at MSU. The members also visited Fulton County Schools, including the Four River Academy and attended a meeting of Healthy Paducah.

## 9. UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE.

### University of Louisville School of Dentistry (ULSD) Kentucky Dental Association Executive Board Report Meeting Date: March 7, 2026 Submitted: February 26, 2026

## Facility Updates

As part of our commitment to maintaining a modern, high-quality environment for learning and work, the UofL School of Dentistry continues to make significant investments in our facilities and technology. These updates include:

- Expanded 3D printing lab – Completed in the fall of 2025, this project more than doubled the original facility's size and capacity, creating a comprehensive, purpose-built digital dentistry environment designed to support advanced technology and growing student demand.
- Reconfiguration of the basement level – This project began in December 2025. It involves creating additional space for student accommodations, student support services, and faculty offices.

Construction begins this spring for the new Health Sciences Center building at the corner of Preston Street and Chestnut Street. The new building will be a space that not only educates the next generation of health professionals but also fuels economic growth and fosters groundbreaking innovation.

## New Websites

From September 2025 through February 2026, the School of Dentistry launched three new websites that replace our previous website at [louisville.edu/dentistry](http://louisville.edu/dentistry):

- [dentalcare.louisville.edu](http://dentalcare.louisville.edu) – Contains all content directed at patients, plus consolidated and expanded information for doctors and dentists referring patients to ULSD
- [dentistry.louisville.edu](http://dentistry.louisville.edu) – Contains all content directed at prospective students/residents, alumni, and the general public, including an updated faculty directory and expanded content for advanced education program graduates
- [my.louisville.edu/dentistry](http://my.louisville.edu/dentistry) – Contains all content directed at current students/residents/employees

## Student Activities

The following ULSD students received awards at Research!Louisville in October 2025:

### Clinical / Translational Research

1. Short-term comparison of coronal discoloration caused by four intra-orifice barrier materials in endodontically treated teeth. Judy Alatassi<sup>1</sup>; Luiz Carlos de Lima Dias<sup>1</sup>; Gabriela Gavilan Hadid<sup>1</sup>; Adriana Pinto Bezerra<sup>1</sup>; Bruna Venzke Fischer<sup>1</sup>; Cleonice da Silveira Teixeira<sup>1</sup>; Eduardo Antunes Bortoluzzi<sup>1</sup>. Comprehensive Dentistry<sup>1</sup>.
2. Maxillary Labial Frenulum Attachment in Pediatric Patients: Assessing Attachment and Soft Tissue Anatomy. Ashley Gearlds<sup>1</sup>; Hector Martinez<sup>1</sup>; Jared Worthington<sup>1</sup>. Comprehensive Dentistry<sup>1</sup>.
3. Effect of Thermoadaptation on Fit Accuracy of 3D-printed Thermoplastic Occlusal Guards from PVS and Alginate Impressions. Rachel Pan<sup>1</sup>; Omar Moustafa<sup>1</sup>. Comprehensive Dentistry<sup>1</sup>.

### Basic Science Research

1. Assessing the Role of Retinoids in Vascular and Salivary Organoid Systems for Insight into Implantation and Damage Repair. Abigail Hacker<sup>1</sup>; Kimberly Jasmer<sup>1</sup>; Lisa Sandell<sup>1</sup> Oral Immunology & Infectious Diseases<sup>1</sup>.
2. The Effects of Vitamin D on Inflammatory Cytokines in Osteosarcoma Cells of the Periodontal Ligament

Space. [Autumn Pipkin](#)<sup>1</sup>; Nathan Anderson<sup>1</sup>; Gill Diamond<sup>2</sup>; Toru Deguchi<sup>1</sup> Oral Immunology & Infectious Diseases<sup>2</sup>, and Rehabilitative & Reconstructive Dentistry<sup>1</sup>.

3. Impact of Combined Chemoradiation on Salivary Gland Epithelial Cells and Organoid Morphology. [Vanessa Weisshaupt](#)<sup>1</sup>; Dr. Kimberly Jasmer<sup>1</sup>; Dr. Lisa Sandell<sup>1</sup>; Dr. Veerupaxagouda Patil<sup>1</sup> Oral Immunology & Infectious Diseases<sup>1</sup>.

#### Social / Behavioral / Educational Research

1. Dental Students' Attitudes Regarding Mental Health and Illness: A Comparison Among Health Professions Trainees. [Rebecca Counts](#)<sup>1</sup>; Abbie Beacham<sup>1</sup> Comprehensive Dentistry<sup>1</sup>.
2. Perception of Dental Students and Professionals on Minimally Invasive Dentistry Concepts. [Venkat Hemant Akurati](#)<sup>1</sup>; Lara Christie Monteiro<sup>1</sup>; Liliani Vieira<sup>1</sup>; Manoelito Ferreira Silva Junior<sup>2</sup>; Natália Bastos Bitencourt<sup>1</sup> Comprehensive Dentistry<sup>1</sup>, and UESB – Universidade Estadual do Sudoeste da Bahia<sup>2</sup>.
3. Health Professions Training and Hypothetical Case Disposition Decisions Regarding Patients with Mental Health Concerns. [Marciana Castillo](#)<sup>1</sup>; Abbie Beacham<sup>1</sup> Comprehensive Dentistry<sup>1</sup>.

In January 2026, our Louisville ASDA chapter sent 32 students to the District 6 & 7 Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. Student Engagement Co-Chair Riya Patel won a Certificate of Achievement and LASDA won Chapter of the Year for 2025-26.

In February 2026, more than a dozen of our DMD students represented the University of Louisville at KDA Lobby Day in Frankfort.

Student Doctor Regan Clark was selected to represent ULSD this year as our Hinman Scholar. The Hinman Board of Trustees has awarded this prestigious scholarship since 1986, and we are proud to see this tradition continue with such an outstanding representative.

Louisville ASDA will host the “Molar Open” golf tournament on Saturday April 18 at Quail Chase Golf Course. All students, faculty, staff, alumni, family, and friends are invited to [register](#). The tournament style is a 4-person scramble, playing 18 holes with carts and range balls included. Prizes will be awarded to the winning team at the award ceremony when play concludes.

## Faculty & Staff News

Dr. David A. Scott, who has served as Associate Dean for Research and Enterprise since 2021, transitioned to part-time in January 2026. Dr. Richard Lamont now serves as the Interim Associate Dean for Research and Enterprise in addition to his roles as Delta Dental Endowed Professor and Chair of the Department of Oral Immunology & Infectious Diseases.

Along with a colleague from UofL's College of Arts & Sciences, Dr. Donald R. Demuth (emeritus professor and university scholar from the Department of Oral Immunology & Infectious Diseases) has received a U.S. Patent award for the development and testing of antibiofilm compounds useful for the treatment of oral bacterial infections causing dental plaque and eroding of gums and bone. This technology is currently under development for clinical trials as an effective oral anti-infective treatment.

Dr. Abbie O. Beacham served as a Visiting Professor at the University of Florida College of Dentistry on December 8 and 9, 2025. Dr. Beacham presented “Social and Behavioral Determinants and Medical-Dental Integration in Oral Healthcare: Lessons from Primary Care” as part of the Distinguished Scientist Lecture Series.

According to a newly updated list from a Stanford University researcher using data from Elsevier, six ULSD faculty members were among the top 2% most-cited in their fields in 2024:

- Dr. Toru Deguchi
- Dr. Gill Diamond
- Dr. Allan Farman (Emeritus)
- Dr. Richard Lamont
- Dr. Jan Potempa
- Dr. William Scarfe

## Alumni Affairs & Continuing Education

Alumni and friends are invited to join us for a reception held in conjunction with the Thomas P. Hinman Dental Meeting in Atlanta. The reception will take place March 13, 2026, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Skylounge at the Glenn (110 Marietta Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30303).

Registration is now open for the 2026 School of Dentistry Reunion on June 12-13, 2026. We will celebrate graduates of the Doctor of Medicine in Dentistry and Dental Hygiene programs from classes ending in 1 and 6. We are especially proud to honor this year's Golden Reunion class – the Class of 1976 – as they celebrate 50 years.

The 43rd Annual William J. Mansfield Alumni Day continuing education program will take place on Saturday, June 13. Dr. Thomas Viola will present “Weed Will...Weed Will...Rock You! The Fall and Rise of Cannabis, Cannabinoids and Terpenes and their Dental Considerations.” Attendance is complimentary for reunion celebrants.

Other upcoming CE courses at the UofL School of Dentistry include:

- March 28/29 and April 11/12, 2026: Expanded Duties Dental Assistant (EDDA) – In-person training course at ULSD
- April 24, 2026: Radiation Safety for the Dental Auxiliary
- April 25, 2026: Coronal Polishing for the Dental Auxiliary

## Selected Faculty Publications

- de Araújo L, da Silva Magalhães K, Goulart TS, Fischer BV, Rosetto BSC, Vieira-Schuldt DP, Sabino-Silva R, Teixeira CS, **Bortoluzzi EA**, Garcia LFR, de Almeida J. Disinfection and bacterial extrusion in mesial canals of mandibular molars prepared with intentional foraminal enlargement: an in vitro study. *Gen Dent*. 2026 Jan-Feb;74(1):55-61. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41418060/>
- Leon E, Nakamura S, Shindo S, Pastore MR, Kumagai T, Heidari A, Abdolahinia ED, Ueda T, Memida T, Duran-Pinedo A, Frias-Lopez J, Han X, Chen X, Huang S, Cao G, Ruiz S, **Potempa J**, Kawai T. Porphyromonas gingivalis Vesicles Control Osteoclast–Macrophage Lineage Fate. *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*. 2026; 27(2):831. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms27020831>
- Mieszkowska A, Marcinkowska M, Widziolek M, **Potempa J**, Chadzinska M. Porphyromonas gingivalis infection induces gingipain-dependent changes in the brain vasculature of zebrafish larvae. *Cell Commun Signal* (2025). <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s12964-025-02557-6>
- Minamisako M, Machado R, Henriques BPDC, Rodrigues P, Garcia LDFR, **Dias-Júnior LC**, Cábía N, CDST, **Bortoluzzi E**, Savaris J, Costa Serique A, Ribeiro L (2026). Dose-Dependent Effects of Simulated Clinical Radiotherapy on the Structure and Properties of Root Dentine. *Australian Endodontic Journal*. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/aej.70053>
- **Moustafa OHMS**, McLaren EA. Optimizing esthetic contouring of presintered zirconia: An expanded cast technique. *The Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry*, 2025. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0022391325009345>
- Nieboga E, Drzazga K, Plonczynska A, Drapala DM, Schuster A, Melnykova M, Skawska J, Zajdel M, Kantorowicz M, Roffel S, Cichy J, Czesnikiewicz-Guzik M, Kaczmarzyk T, Gibbs S, **Potempa J**, Grabiec AM. Diminished osteoprotegerin production by gingival fibroblasts from periodontitis patients is associated with their reduced ability to suppress osteoclastogenesis. *Sci Rep* (2025). <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-025-29944-w>
- **Scott DA**, **Lamont GJ**, **Tan J**, **Patel AP**, **Guffey JT**, Thomas SC, Xu F, **Diamond G**, Saxena D. Identification of cannabinoid-sensitive and -resistant oral bacteria. *Front Microbiol* Vol. 16 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmicb.2025.1709243>
- Silva TP, Rea MT, **Hadid GG**, de Azevedo Vaz SL, Freitas DQ, **Santaella GM**, **Scarfe WC**, **Oliveira-Santos C**. Image distortion in stationary Intraoral Tomosynthesis from different high-density materials. *Oral Surgery, Oral*

Medicine, Oral Pathology and Oral

Radiology (2026). <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2212440326000520>

- Srivastava S, **Lamont RJ**, **Uriarte S**. From defense to demise: autophagy-induced neutrophil death after peptoanaerobacter stomatis challenge 3834, The Journal of Immunology, Volume 214, Issue Supplement\_1, November 2025, vkaf283.1589, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jimmun/vkaf283.1589>
- Tjaden NEB, Shannon SR, Truong THK, Seidel CW, Childers M, Aoto K, **Sandell LL**, Trainor PA. Retinol dehydrogenase 10-mediated retinoic acid signaling regulates the neural crest cell microenvironment during enteric nervous system formation. Human Molecular Genetics (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1093/hmg/ddaf197>
- Waligórska I, Żak KM, Mikrut N, Budziaszek J, Medviediev V, Bielecka E, Kantyka T, Kozieł J, Thøgersen IB, Enghild JJ, Grudnik P, **Potempa J**, Książek M. Periodontopathogens degrade angiotensin I from the human renin–angiotensin system through surface-attached proteases. Sci Rep (2025). <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-025-27891-0>
- Widziolek M, Mieszkowska A, Marcinkowska M, Domagalska A, Zawisza M, Soltys Z, **Potempa J**, Chadzinska M. Porphyromonas gingivalis induces neuroinflammation in a gingipain-dependent manner in zebrafish larvae. Brain, Behavior, and Immunity Vol 132 (2026). <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0889159125004763>

### **Recommendations to the Executive Board:**

- None

## **10. UNIVERSITY PF PIKEVILLE.**

### **College Updates:**

- Construction of the building to house the Tanner College of Dental Medicine is ongoing, with Phase I scheduled for completion in May 2027 and Phase II in December 2027.
- Orientation for the first cohort of TCDM students will begin on June 1, 2026, with courses beginning on June 8, 2026.
- Faculty and staff recruitment is actively ongoing with the following full-time positions filled this quarter: Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Director of Student Affairs and Academic Excellence, Professor of Pharmacology, Assistant Professor of Prosthodontics/Director of the Center for Research and Education in Technology, Assistant Professor of Public Health Dentistry, and Professor of Dental Hygiene.
- Recruitment efforts for the Advanced Placement International Dental Program are planned with ten students to be admitted in April 2027.
- The Director of Student Affairs and Academic Excellence met with the leadership of ASDA in February to establish a chapter at UPIKE.
- The University of Pikeville (UPIKE) Tanner College of Dental Medicine (TCDM) has been awarded a \$30,000 grant from the National Association of Dental Plans (NADP) to support a research initiative to improve access to pediatric dental care in Central Appalachia through innovative teledentistry solutions.
- UPIKE hosted a continuing education course on December 4, 2025, for the Eastern Mountain Dental Society. Representatives from the University of Pikeville, KDA/ADA included: Dr. Jill Keaton, Dr. Stephen Robertson, Dr. Fred Howard, and Dr. Samantha Shafer.

### **Recommendations to the Executive Board:**

- None

**11. ANNUAL SESSIONS. Dr. Gina Davis gave the following report.**

**COUNCIL ON ANNUAL SESSION**  
Monday, March 3, 2026 – Zoom Meeting  
7:00 P.M.

Chairman Gina Davis called the meeting to order at 7:30pm

Council members present: Drs. Gina Davis, Chairman, Michelle Story, Randy Ransdell, John Lowe, Kate von Lackum, and Kaitlyn Patel

Guests present: Drs. Brooke Shelton, Samantha Shaver, and Matt Milliner. Staff present: Dr. Stephen Robertson, David Harten and Todd Edwards.

**REVIEW OF THE 2025 KDA MEETING.** The 2025 KDA Annual Meeting financial results were reviewed.

**REPORT OF THE 2026 KDA MEETING. Dr. Brooke Shleton** reported she has some of the speakers lined up for the meeting. **Dr. Kate vonLackum** offered some speakers that she has experienced and may be interested in speaking, she will follow up on their availability.

**EVENT MANAGEMENT. Dr Matt Milliner** discussed his research with companies that help with the planning and execution for meetings like the KDA Annual Meeting.

**Engineerica Systems** presented a proposal.

**The council by consensus recommends the KDA Board of Directors adopted the items 1, 2 and 5.**

It is suggested that approximately 200 copies of the 2026 KDA Annual Meeting Program be printed and mailed as needed.

*The Council on Annual Session is an advisory body. Accordingly, all motions, including budgetary implications, must be reviewed by the KDA Executive Board and approved and appropriate discussion and deliberation.*

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Gina Davis, Chairman

A draft of the meeting's schedule follows



## 12. NON DUES WORK GROUP. Dr Matt Jonson gave the following report.

I spoke with Carlos at TSI again as a follow-up. He is eager to develop a relationship with the KDA. However, not to do a patron agreement. He isn't looking for us to give him a true "endorsement" and be the sole collection agency service that we have. He just wants to have a little bit of stature to be able to talk with dentists. I told him I would report back to the board, but he's not looking to enter a patron agreement.

I also emailed with Ashley at North. They are a credit card/payment processor. This followed very much the same path as the conversation with TSI. They aren't looking to become a patron. They actually even sent me a "leveled" structure as to how much information we give them and how often they can reach members, etc. They would give us a % in perpetuity, but nothing endorsed or sole processor. Again, they don't want to be a patron.

This brings me to my final point. We (as a work group) honestly can't imagine many businesses entering into our traditional patron agreement which is essentially an advertising contract. We don't want to farm out our membership, but there is no value of an ad and a booth at a meeting, both with continually dwindling numbers. We have talked with 3 different vendors (the above two and UofL's sterilization monitoring program), that want to do business with us but not a patron agreement.

We know the reluctance to "endorsing" products. That's not what these places are looking for. They simply want the backing of the KDA to prove to a dentist they're reaching on a cold call that they're not a scam, spammer, or just a POS trying to get money for nothing. They want help getting in the door and give us back money in perpetuity. We're proposing that we create a "APPROVED VENDOR CONTRACT" with such companies. The name and actual contract is definitely TBD, but the idea is that we put their logo on our webpage with a link. They can contact offices and say they are an approved vendor and hopefully make their pitch. We get money back and in the contract we set a floor that they have to reach or pay the difference at the end of the year. Obviously details can be worked out and each contract can be different (different floors, different %, etc). We feel like we are leaving potential money on the table by choosing to only have patron agreements.

Respectfully,  
Dr. Matt Johnson

**9. NEW BUSINESS.**

**Dr. Matt Johnson** moved to set up an interest bearing account to receive monies realized from the savings the Kentucky Dental Foundation is paying for the building upkeep. The Budget and Finance Committee will make a recommendation to the KDA Board for further deposits in the account to repay the ADA for 2025 dues.

**Dr. Andy Elliott** second the motion.

**MOTION: ACCEPTED.**

**10. FUTURE KDA BOARD MEETINGS.** The next KDA Board meeting will be May 30, 2026 9:00am (in person).

**11. ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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