

LSU Health

NEW ORLEANS

School of Dentistry

MAY 2024

This newsletter is published by the LSU Health School of Dentistry's Office of Alumni Affairs. If you have an event or article you'd like published, please email ds-alumni@lsuhsc.edu for more information.

Table of Contents

Dentists' Day - **Page 2**

Students Service Health Fair; Endodontics at AAE Annual Meeting, Wellness - **Page 3**

LSUSD ASDA Philanthropy - **Page 4 & 5**

From the LDA - **Page 6**



Dentists' Day at the Legislature

The components of effective dental education are fluid and dynamic, often occurring outside of classrooms and clinic. As the primary advocates of Louisiana oral health education and practices, LSUSD faculty and students attended Dentists' Day at the Legislature on April 24, 2024. Dentists' Day is a grassroots event celebrating the dental profession that offers dentists the opportunity to meet their lawmakers.

Organized by the Louisiana Dental Association (LDA), LSU dental students and faculty came together with other dental professionals in the state and assisted the LDA in advocating for important dental policies that have an impact on the future of dentistry, dental education, and the practice of dentistry.

After working to support current LDA legislation, a reception was held with music, food, and drinks. This time also offered students the chance to talk and meet other dentists and local representatives.



(L-R; State Representative, Jay Galle and Dr. Glen Corcoran)



Students Service Health Fair at Louisiana State Capitol

In addition to advocating for dental policy at Dentists' Day, on April 24th, students also had the opportunity to participate in the 2024 President's & Speaker's Health Fair at the Louisiana State Capitol in Baton Rouge. Students performed oral cancer screening on 36 people, including 9 legislators, and shared dental advice.



(Annie Bonis (Class of 2025) and Olivia Orfanello (Class of 2025) perform oral cancer screenings)

LSUSD Winners in Wellness!



(Left to Right: Kathy Hansel, Sue Bagley, Lisa Kayser, Kellie Bourgeois, Karen Kanzig, and Penne Cortez)

LSUSD "Gallo's Girls" wellness group has been recognized as a winner of the LSUHSC 3rd Annual Spring into Wellness Challenge! This 3-week challenge focused on areas of hydration, sleep hygiene, physical activity, self-care, and nutrition. Well done, LSUSD!

LSUSD Endodontics at AAE Annual Meeting

Current residents of the LSUSD Endodontics program have returned from their annual endodontic meeting (AAE '24) in Los Angeles which was from April 17- 20, 2024. LSU Endodontics was represented by Doctors Carolina Becerra, Haley Kessler, Nick Sanders, Dijana Elmejdoubi, Tyce Hebert, Austin White, Iryna Yelisetty, Shane Fowler, Fred McMullen, and Mark Odom.

Doctors Sanders, Elmejdoubi, Hebert, and Yelisetty presented Table Clinics on their research projects. An LSU Endodontics reception was held at the JW Marriott in which many LSU Endodontics Alumni attended. Residents and Alumni networked and got to know one another in a great social setting.

Last year at the AAE '23, three residents presented Table clinics also (Drs. Bains, Ko, and White). Forecasting for future years on involvement with the AAE, Dr. Albert (Fred) McMullen shares, "We plan for our "presentations" to continue to stay at such a high level of participation, increasing the national exposure of the department".



LSUSD ASDA Philanthropy

Autism Acceptance Month

By actively dismantling barriers and enhancing accessibility, we reaffirm the value of every individual in our community.

As per the CDC, in the USA, 1 in 36 children have been identified with Autism Spectrum Disorder. As dentists, it is imperative to wholeheartedly embrace patients across all spectrums of abilities as we deliver essential oral healthcare services.

In a concerted effort to promote autism acceptance and cultivate inclusivity, LSUSD ASDA Philanthropy, Special Care Dentistry Association (SCDA) and LSUSD American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD) collaborated to commemorate Autism Acceptance Month.

On April 15, 2024, Dana Karkoutli and Jyoti Prajapati, presidents of Special Care Dentistry Association, offered insights to a community of dental students, faculty and staff on the challenges encountered by patients with autism during dental appointments due to sensory sensitivities, difficult communication or inability to follow preventive or domiciliary dental hygiene routines. They presented a repertoire of strategies to encourage cooperation among neuro diverse patients during dental treatments. Gradual introduction to the operatory, utilization of visual supports, positive reinforcement and modelling were some of the approaches mentioned.

On April 17, 2024, a partnership was formed with the Autism Society of Greater New Orleans (ASGNO) to distribute thoughtfully curated sensory kits to dental students, faculty, and staff. These kits serve as holistic aids comprising noise cancelling headphones, fidget spinners, stress balls, fuzzy bands as well as an injection blocker to alleviate any perceived pain during immunizations or anesthesia administration. Healthcare communication boards in different languages including English, Arabic, Vietnamese, Chinese and Spanish as well as informational flyers helped heighten awareness and acceptance of autism. With involvement by all members of the school, 200 sensory kits were successfully distributed.

On April 20, 2024, LSUSD ASDA held an Oral Health booth at the Autism Festival, organized by ASGNO. The objective was to increase awareness of good oral hygiene practices across all age groups and abilities which was successfully accomplished through the dedicated efforts of two dental school student volunteers. Shared at the booth was information about the significance of flossing, proper toothbrushing technique and optimal timing for oral care routines. Furthermore, the volunteers underscored the importance of regular dental visits to adult attendees. Complimentary oral hygiene kits were distributed to all festival visitors, solidifying our commitment to proactive oral health advocacy.

In essence, our collective endeavour sought to advocate for patients with Autism, enlighten dentists about the oral health and behavioural ramifications associated with Autism and empower the community with resources and information on Autism – a mission accomplished with resounding success!

Sakshie Alreja.

BDS, MPH, (IEDP) DDS'25

ASDA Philanthropy Chair 2023-2024.

LSUSD ASDA Philanthropy

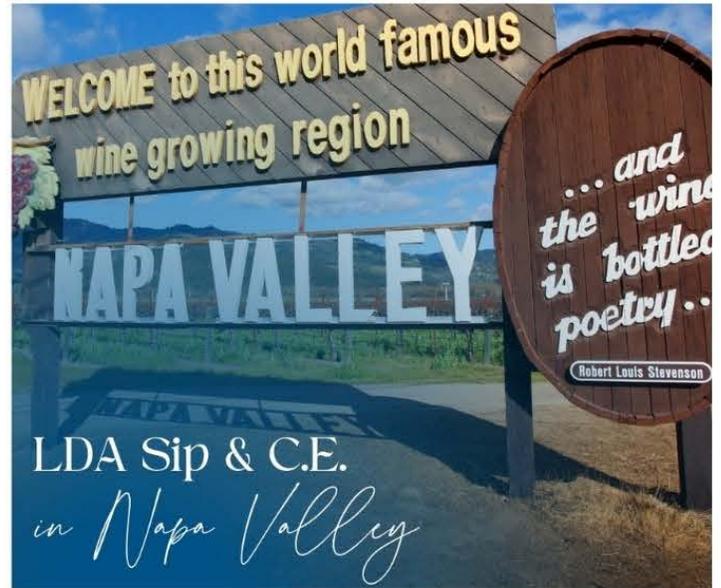
Autism Acceptance Month



Create Your 2024-2025 C.E. Itinerary with the LDA



(Annette B. Droddy
Executive Director, Louisiana
Dental Association)



The LDA has an assortment of upcoming events that offer C.E., fun travel experiences, or both. Our newest event is an exciting C.E. opportunity in Napa Valley, CA! Create your 2024/2025 C.E. itinerary with the list of LDA events below. Remember, LDA members save \$\$\$ on each registration. Read below to find out more or visit our website at www.ladental.org/events. Bon Voyage!

- Catch some big fish while you also catch up with friends at the LDA Foundation Fishing Rodeo, July 19-20, 2024, in Grand Isle, La.
- Participate in our first-ever, 6-hour Pediatric Sedation Renewal Course, August 23, 2024, live via Zoom, with Dr. Priyanshi Ritwik. This course counts towards your in-person, clinical hours and your pediatric sedation license renewal.
- Kick off the fall with the LDA's live via Zoom Kick-Off C.E. on September 20, 2024. This course counts for in-person C.E. and will be 4 clinical hours with Dr. Timothy Bizga.
- Network with dentists from across the nation at the ADA SmileCon®, October 17-19, 2024, in New Orleans.
- Get last-minute C.E. before your license renewal at the Last Chance Seminar, December 13, 2024, in Baton Rouge. There are 8 clinical C.E. hours up for grabs!
- Experience the magic of a Disney vacation with built-in C.E. at our Winter C.E. with Character, March 2-4, 2025, Walt Disney World, Florida. Attendees can get up to 10.5 clinical hours of C.E. from speakers Dr. Mark Koups, Dr. Glenn Kidder, and Dr. Tony Tomaro.
- The New Orleans Dental Conference/LDA Annual Session will be back April 10-11, 2025, in New Orleans. Explore New Orleans and earn C.E. with friends and fellow LSUSD alums.
- The brand new C.E. offering for 2025 is the Sip & C.E. in Napa Valley, California. The courses will be held in the morning September 17-19, 2025, then attendees can spend their afternoons touring and wine tasting on their own. There will be 9 clinical hours available during this seminar.
- And last, but certainly not least, the LDA's Expanded Dental Duty Assistant Course that trains dental assistants for EDDA certification will continue on throughout 2025. There are still several courses left in 2024. The LDA hosted/will be hosting a series of 9 courses over 2024 so there is plenty opportunity for your assistants to sign up. However, sign up early because courses do fill up fast.

For more information and ALL upcoming events, visit www.ladental.org/events.