



Dental Category Newsletter

Spring 2023

Volume XX, Issue 1

ADA "SmileCon" 2022

By: **CAPT Renee Joskow**

USPHS Delegate to the ADA

Greetings United States Public Health Service (USPHS) dental colleagues! Time passes so quickly - it feels like just yesterday that we were in Houston, Texas representing you at the 2022 American Dental Association (ADA) House of Delegates (HOD). Following the ADA SmileCon, the opening session of the HOD was held on October 15, 2022, at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in Houston, TX.

The HOD is the governing body of the ADA with delegates from 53 constituent societies and the federal dental services - it represents more than 161,000 active licensed dentist members and more than 22,000 dental student members. The federal dental services are part of the ADA's Fourth District ("the fighting fourth") encompassing Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware, District of Columbia, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. Dr. Frank Graham of Teaneck, NJ is the ADA Trustee for the Fourth District.

At the HOD meeting, the 158th ADA president, Dr. Cesar R. Sabates received a warm reception from the members of the HOD as he gave an emotional and impassioned ADA President's address. Dr. Sabates spoke about the ADA Science and Research Institute publishing 17 peer-reviewed papers this year and their receiving a \$2.4 million dollar NIH grant (along with the University of Texas Health Science Center) to study the responsible use of antibiotics in the treatment of periodontal disease. Dr. Sabates also mentioned ADA efforts related to health equity with the launch of a new ADA Health Equity Action Team to promote disease prevention and education through collaboration with our medical colleagues. Dr. Sabates emphasized the importance of policies and the ADA efforts over the last year advocating in service to public health, stating "on behalf of all patients, the ADA supports reasonable enhancements to the Medicare and Medicaid programs that will make it possible for more patients to receive the essential dental care they need." Certainly, that is a goal that reflects the work and services that PHS dentists perform every day.



American Dental Association Federal Dental Services' House of Delegates Representation at 2022 "SmileCon"

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Chief Professional Officer Remarks

RDML Michael Johnson

Salutations fellow officers and federal dentists,

I am honored to serve the dental category as your Chief Professional Officer. I have received numerous phone calls and congratulatory email messages since the initial announcement was made public February 1, 2023. Thank you all who have reached out to me! The experience has been dreamlike yet sobering at the same time. Without question, the bar has been set extremely high by my predecessor RDML Timothy Ricks. Although at first glance the road appears daunting, I am eager to carry the torch and work long and hard with you to advance the health of our nation and fortify our category.

Tremendous progress has been made in identifying shared opportunities for forming strategic partnerships in large part by RDML Ricks, the Oral Health Coordinating Committee, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Dental Professional Advisory Committee (DePAC) and Agency Leads. As I commence my tenure, I look forward to working with you to improve the oral health of individuals and communities.

I am going to capitalize on my introduction and acknowledge the outgoing 2022 DePAC Chair, CDR Darnell Thomas for his leadership and welcome the current 2023 DePAC Chair, CDR Dane McClurg. A special thanks to CAPT Nathan Mork for stepping in to serve the dental category as the Interim Chief Professional Officer for five months. CAPT Mork filled in the gaps where needed and ensured a smooth transition for me to follow. Thank you CAPT Mork for holding down the fort!

My vision for both the Commissioned Corps and the Dental Category is to continue to promote and advance healthcare and safety nationwide. This will be accomplished by highlighting the 2021 Oral Health in America Advances and Challenges report facilitated by the National Institutes of Health NIDCR where it underscores the mouth as the center of vital tissues critical to total health and overall well-being throughout life.

As CPO, my proposed goal is to advocate for proven effective interventions strategies directed at our communities, schools, and health care settings nationwide such as dental sealants placement and oral cancer screenings. A second goal will be to increase the Dental Corps visibility by cultivating interest early in a student's career both at the secondary and tertiary level by creating a mechanism for students to rotate through agency clinics as part of their required curriculum. My third goal is to drive the flow of information on oral health with the objective of integrating it into primary care. Finally, I will work to improve oral health literacy and ensure pertinent information is delivered in clear and consistent messaging.

Equally important, during my twenty-three years as a commissioned officer, I have observed a continual decline in the number of officers in the USPHS Dental Corps. This is a challenge for our category. Identifying barriers and putting forth solutions is a top priority. Recruiting quality candidates that can meet the Corps mission is likewise a major objective. Promoting the culture of excellence and developing our officers to be future leaders is paramount. In closing, I see opportunity for our category in furthering the advancement of oral health initiatives. I am excited and grateful to represent you as the 21st USPHS Chief Dental Officer.



RDML Johnson



CDR Thomas

Dental Professional Advisory Committee

Outgoing Chair Remarks

CDR Darnell Thomas

I hope that everyone had a happy and safe holiday season and a Happy New Year! My experience as the 2022 Dental Professional Advisory Committee (DePAC) Chair has been challenging and rewarding. The past year has brought new and unexpected trials to our category, and we have been adaptable and flexible to these challenges. I applaud our officers in their ability to be resilient and for the sacrifices they have made to meet the mission and goals of the category and the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS).

As 2022 DePAC Chair, I was honored and fortunate to have served with a great cadre of talented and remarkable colleagues and friends. The DePAC Subcommittees (SC) and Workgroups (WG) have worked tirelessly to improve our category and profession with numerous accomplishments throughout the year. A sample of these accomplishment are included below.

- Awards WG created two new awards for tribal hire/civil service dentists that will show recognition to these important members of our category and reflect the category composition.
- Communications WG published and distributed two issues of the Dental Category Newsletter informing the category of current activities and future events.
- Membership WG developed and presented a DePAC webinar to increase awareness of DePAC activities of different WG/SC for entire Dental Category.
- Mentoring and Retention WG created the Tips & Tricks documents that were distributed to the category and archived on the DePAC Website as a readily available resource.
- Minority Initiatives SC created and presented multiple webinars communicating important minority initiatives.
- Public Health WG hosted four webinars and created six publications that highlighted significant public and oral health issues.
- Recruiting WG created monthly dental vacancy announcements distributed on multiple platforms and interviewed new call to active-duty applicants to assess recruitment strategies.
- Readiness and Deployment WG created the Dental Readiness Guide that educated officers on basic readiness requirements and the importance of maintaining basic readiness.
- Women's Initiatives SC collaborated with the Commissioned Corps Women's Issues Advisory Board (CCWIAB) on priority topics for discussion and action.

I would like to personally thank the DePAC voting members and volunteers for their hard work and dedication to improving our category and the USPHS. I also want to thank our past DePAC Chair, CDR Jason Single, for his advice and mentoring during this past year. I am pleased to welcome CDR Dane Mcclurg as the 2023 DePAC Chair and CDR Joseph Collins as the 2023 Vice Chair. These officers began their new roles starting January 1, 2023, and I am confident in their abilities to lead our category. I am honored to have served as the DePAC Chair and look forward to the direction and accomplishments of DePAC in 2023.



**Committed to the Mission of the Commissioned Corps of the USPHS:
Protecting, promoting, and advancing the health and safety of the Nation**



CDR McClurg

Dental Professional Advisory Committee Incoming Chair Remarks

CDR Dane McClurg

I am honored to assume the role of DePAC Chair for a one-year term starting in January 2023. First, I would like to acknowledge the terrific job that my predecessor, CDR Thomas has done leading us. During his term, he has guided us through many challenges including being without a Chief Professional Officer. I look forward to continuing to serve with him in DePAC as he transitions into his new role.

Please join me in welcoming CDR Joseph Collins as DePAC Vice-Chair and LCDR Kindel Kaelke as Executive Secretary. They both bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the Executive Committee.

I would also like to welcome our new voting members. Thank you for your dedication to our category and your willingness to step up and take an active role. To our returning voting members, thank you for all the talent and hard work you have put in. I hope to continue the

progress we have made in DePAC.

There are many priorities that I hope to focus on this year and one of our biggest challenges we face is recruitment. It is undeniable that our numbers are shrinking, and we are losing more officers to retirement than we are bringing in. We all serve in the USPHS for different reasons. I ask that you reflect on them and share your passion with new dentists looking at career opportunities.

It is a given that we will face adversity and challenges while we serve in the corps. However, I feel confident that we will rise to the occasion and work together to build a strong future. Thank you for this opportunity to serve the Dental category!

2023 DePAC Voting Members

CDR Dane McClurg (IHSC) - Chair

Joseph Collins (BOP) - Vice-Chair

- CAPT Brian Talley (IHS)
- CDR Stacey Barkauskas (BOP)
- CDR Joseph Collins (BOP)
- CDR Amber Foster (IHS)
- CDR Britany Satini (IHS)
- CDR Laura Hain (USCG)
- CDR Benjamin Warren (IHS)
- CDR Joseph Grant (USCG)
- LCDR G. "Lee" Wright (CDC)
- LCDR Cam-Van Huynh (CDC)
- LCDR Tara Van Orden (IHS)
- LCDR Emily Ikahihifo (IHS)
- LCDR David Lam (USCG)
- LCDR Vy Vy Vu (IHS)

ADA SmileCON 2022 (cont.)

On October 18, 2022, Dr. George R. Shepley of Baltimore, Maryland was installed as the 159th President of The American Dental Association (ADA) after previously serving as the President-Elect and Fourth District Trustee of the ADA. Dr. Shepley has represented the Fourth District well and is a strong supporter of the federal dental services (FDS). During his term, Dr. Shepley goals are to prioritize giving back to the dental community, improving the oral health of others, and ensuring that our young dentists can enjoy long, fulfilling careers. We look forward to working with Dr. Shepley throughout his term as ADA president and Dr. Linda J. Edgar who was elected as ADA president-elect at the HOD this year.



CAPT Ottmers and Dr. Linda Edgar, President-Elect

As the COVID pandemic has altered so many lives over the past three years, we have become even more resilient and have learned to adapt to changing situations. This year's HOD was no different with several "firsts"; the Fourth District Pre-Caucus meeting was held at the Hotel DuPont in Wilmington, DE. September 24th and started out as a brisk, yet sunny Saturday, and the meeting began promptly at 0830 with the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call, and robust discussion of proposed resolutions soon to be before the HOD. But just a couple hours into our deliberations, the lights went out in the ballroom (reminds me of a Billy Joel song). Soon a recording directed us to evacuate the building, where we stood outside the hotel on the streets of downtown Wilmington for nearly an hour. We heard from hotel staff that the power was out, and it may take anywhere from four hours to two days to restore. The meeting was adjourned and rescheduled for the one week later via zoom since most of the Fourth District members had driven several hours to attend the meeting. That

was the quickest up and back drive I've ever taken to Delaware!

For the first time in recent memory, we did not have a dental Chief Professional Officer in place to attend the HOD meeting and lead our delegation. Furthermore, due to an ADA delegate reallocation/market share calculation implemented in 2021, the USPHS' ADA Delegate allocation was diminished from two to one delegate for our constituency. As a result, this was the first year the USPHS had one Delegate and one vote instead of two as is observed in other federal services. Nevertheless, with the support of the Fourth District, Resolution 516 - Fair Delegate Allocation for Federal Dental Services, was voted on and adopted by the 2022 HOD to reinstate the second Delegate to the USPHS for the 2023 HOD. This resolution (details below) ensures that each of the Federal Dental Services will have a minimum of two Delegates (two votes) going forward with the opportunity to increase the number of Delegates as market share increases.



CAPT Ottmers, April Kates-Ellison (ADA Staff), CAPT Joskow

It was an honor to represent USPHS this year as our one Delegate to the HOD, but I was not alone. A HUGE thank you and shout out to CAPT Vicki Ottmers (IHSC) who stepped up on very short notice to serve as the USPHS' Alternate Delegate. CAPT Ottmers helped to not only cover the actions of HOD, but also assisted in tracking the activity of four, reference committee meetings: 1) Budget, Business, Membership and Administrative Matters 2) Dental Benefits, Practice and Related Matters 3) Dental Education, Science and Related Matters 4) Legislative, Health, Governance and Related Matters. Thank you CAPT Ottmers for your service!

The work of the ADA HOD includes deliberation, debate, and testimony presented on the floor of the HOD and in the four Reference Committees cited above. In addition, I was humbled to serve this year as the Fourth District's monitor assigned to report back on the proceedings of Reference Committee D (Legislative, Health, Governance and Related Matters). This assignment was particularly meaningful given there were several resolutions under consideration related to the Federal Dental Services (FDS). Typically, we have at least four USPHS officers attending the HOD to cover all the Reference Committee meetings, but CAPT Ottmers and I managed to work together and cover all the Reference Committee and HOD sessions.

ADA full active member dues were approved by the HOD (Board of Trustees Resolution 202-as amended)- Effective January 1, 2023, the dues of the ADA active members shall be \$600.00. It is important to know that as federal dental service members, we can join the ADA as direct members and thus, do *not* have to pay any additional tripartite dues to state and local components - a significant savings. The Federal Dental Services' USPHS members include Commissioned Corps dental officers, federal civil service, tribal, and contract dentists.

[Information for Federal Dentists | American Dental Association \(ada.org\)](https://www.ada.org)

All ADA members have the right to attend and participate in discussions or provide testimony during the reference committees. Members with an ADA conference badge may attend the meetings of the HOD as a guest. I encourage everyone to participate so you can see the intricacies of the governing body of organized dentistry at work.

Highlights of 2022 ADA resolutions of special interest to USPHS dentists:

Reference Committee A (Budget, Business, Membership and Administrative Matters)

- **Resolution 207:** Proposed Policy, Retirement Account Distributions for Educational Expenses
Resolved, that the American Dental Association supports allowing early withdrawals from tax-favored retirement savings accounts to be exempt from taxes and/or penalties when the funds are used to pay for an individual's dental education

Reference Committee B (Dental Benefits, Practice and Related Matters)

- **Resolution 303RC:** Advocacy for Dentists to Refer to Tobacco and Vaping Cessation Quitlines
Resolved, that the appropriate ADA Agency:
 1. Establish relationships with each state's Quitline to gather accurate data on Quitline referrals by dentists and other dental team members.
 2. Facilitate a survey by state associations to understand Quitline referrals by their members.
 3. Increase tobacco and vaping cessation counseling and referral to Quitlines, and be it further**Resolved**, that the ADA Agency report back to the 2023 ADA House of Delegates.

Reference Committee C (Dental Education, Science and Related Matters)

- **Resolution 403RC:** Amendment of the Policy, Acceptance of Formal Continuing Medical Education Courses Offered by ACCME Accredited Providers
Resolved, that the ADA Policy on Acceptance of Formal Continuing Medical Education Courses Offered by ACCME Accredited Providers (Trans.2010:576) be amended as follows:
Acceptance of Formal Continuing Medical Education Courses Offered by ACCME or IPCE Accredited Providers
Resolved, that the American Dental Association urges state boards of dentistry to accept for licensure renewal purposes dentists' participation in formal continuing education courses offered by continuing education providers accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) or Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education {IPCE}.
- **Resolution 404RC:** Amendment of the Policy on Use of Amalgam as Restorative Material
Resolved, that the ADA recommends that clinicians review the risks and benefits of all restorative options with their patients, and that dental amalgam restorations continue to be used when appropriate for patient care, and be it further
Resolved, that the ADA supports the globally recognized need to reduce environmental mercury as set

forth in the Minamata Convention on Mercury (September 2019) as a common good, and recognizes the responsibility of dentists to care for their patients' well-being, in keeping with the ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct, and be it further

Resolved, that to advocate to a patient or the public the removal of clinically serviceable dental amalgam restorations solely to substitute a material that does not contain mercury is unwarranted and violates the ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct.

- **Resolution 405:** Amendment of the Policy on Scientific Assessment of Dental Restorative Materials

Scientific Assessment of Dental Restorative Materials

Resolved, that although the safety and efficacy of dental restorative materials has been extensively researched, the Association, consistent with its Research Agenda Priorities and evidence-based practice, will continue to actively promote such research to ensure that the profession and the public have the most current, scientifically valid information on which to make choices about dental treatment requiring restorative materials, and be it further

Resolved, that the Association use its existing communications vehicles to educate opinion leaders, and policy makers, government agencies, and other communities of interest about the scientific methods used to assess the safety and efficacy of dental restorative materials, and be it further

Resolved, that the Association continue to promptly inform the public and the profession of any new scientific information that contributes significantly to the current understanding of dental restorative materials.

- **Resolution 407:** Amendment of the Policy, Research Funds

Resolved, that the following policy titled *Advancing Equity in Dental Research Funding* be adopted:

Resolved, that the American Dental Association supports sustained, robust funding for basic, translational, and clinical oral and craniofacial health research to improve health outcomes in diverse populations across the lifespan, and be it further

Resolved, that the ADA supports robust efforts to create a diverse, equitable and inclusive dental research workforce that reflects the diversity of the nation and embodies dentistry's values of diversity, equity and inclusion, and be it further

Resolved, that the policy titled Policy Statement on Research Funding Advocacy (Trans.1984:519; 1999:974; 2016:302; 2021:XXX) be rescinded.

- **Resolution 408:** Amendment of the Policy on Precapsulated Amalgam Alloy **Resolved**, that the ADA Policy on Precapsulated Amalgam Alloy (Trans. 1994:676) be amended as follows:

Resolved, that the ADA strongly recommends that when using amalgam, dentists use precapsulated amalgam alloy, also referred to as encapsulated amalgam alloy, in their dental practices

Reference Committee D (Legislative, Health, Governance and Related Matters)

- **Resolution 505:** Supporting Increased Resources for Department of Veterans Affairs Dental Care

Resolved, that the American Dental Association supports the Veteran Administration Dental Services' endeavors to achieve optimal oral health for veterans through an increase in funding, specifically dedicated to Veteran Administration dental services, that is sufficiently funded by Congress and administered to ensure access to care and improving the oral health of veterans.

- **Resolution 506:** Proposed Policy, Federal Student Loan Forgiveness

Resolved, that it is the position of the American Dental Association (ADA) that dentists should not be excluded from government relief of public and commercial student loan debt without obligation or condition, and be it further

Resolved, that the following principles guide the ADA efforts to shape specific student loan forgiveness proposals:

1. Education debt associated with graduate and professional programs should be eligible.
2. Any means testing should account for regional differences in cost of living and purchasing power.
3. The consideration for eligibility and amount of forgiveness should account for the cost, length and rigor of dental education programs.

- **Resolution 507RC as amended:** Proposed Policy, Oral-Systemic Health Integration
Resolved, that the ADA supports and encourages treatment to optimize a patient's oral health status prior to organ transplants, joint replacements, cardiac surgery and other medical procedures and be it further
Resolved, that the ADA supports and encourages research, collaboration and appropriate treatment discussions between dentists and other health care providers to help identify systemic diseases which are suspected to have a relationship to a patient's oral health.
- **Resolution 516: Fair Delegate Allocation for Federal Dental Services**
Resolved, that the ADA Manual of the House of Delegates be amended as follows to allocate a minimum of two delegates to each of the Federal Dental Services.
Privilege of Representation.

Delegates. Each state constituent, the District of Columbia Dental Society and each federal dental service shall be entitled to a minimum of two (2) delegates in the House of Delegates. Each territorial constituent shall be entitled to a minimum of two (2) delegates in the House of Delegates if its total membership is equal to or greater than the size of the smallest state constituent; otherwise the territorial constituent shall receive one (1) delegate. The remaining number of delegates shall be allocated as set forth in the *Manual of the House of Delegates {House Manual}*.

Federal Dental Services

Finally, as the longest serving PHS officer/Delegate in attendance, I was asked to join the Chiefs of the other dental services to provide remarks at the FDS reception. On behalf of the USPHS delegation, I shared congratulations to Dr. Shepley on his presidency and appreciation to the other dental service chiefs for their leadership, support, and collaboration. I also thanked the ADA staff for their support of the FDS through ADA resources and benefits. I expressed my gratitude to the FDS for the many years we worked together with the closing remark: "To all my fellow dentists, all of you who are dedicated to caring for veterans, beneficiaries, and other servicemembers-thank you so very much for your dedication to our profession and service to our country, I am truly honored to serve beside you."

I have greatly enjoyed this year's HOD and am honored by your faith and confidence in me to serve as your delegate to the ADA. I would like to once again thank CAPT Vicki Ottmers for her support, tireless efforts, and her willingness to jump right into the complex work of the 2022 ADA House of Delegates. To RDML (ret) Ricks, although you did not attend this year's meeting, thank you for your work both behind the scenes and on the podium to make sure that USPHS received ADA Delegate parity with the other uniformed services.

In closing, the American Dental Association promotes advocacy goals on behalf of federal dentists, provides scientific, clinical and professional information through the Journal of the American Dental Association (JADA), ADA News, and the Federal Dental News publication. Thank you for your service and wishing you a happy and healthy 2023! The next annual ADA SmileCon meeting is scheduled for October 5-7, 2023 in Orlando, FL at the Orange County Convention Center. The next meeting of the ADA HOD convenes from Oct 7-10, 2023.

Upcoming SmileCon meetings:

2024 - Oct. 17-19, 2024 in New Orleans, LA at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

2025 - Oct. 23-25, 2025 in Washington, DC at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.

2026 - Oct. 08-10, 2026 in Indianapolis, IN at the Indiana Convention Center.



CAPT Jaskow preparing to speak at Federal Dental Services reception

Representing and Recruiting at the SmileCon

The American Dental Association held its annual dental meeting, "SmileCon", at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas. This event, held on October 13-15, 2022, hosted dentists, hygienists, and dental assistants from all over the nation and around the globe. The meeting provided attendees with cutting edge continuing education lectures, workshops, best practice discourse, networking events and a world-class exhibit hall.

Eleven dentists volunteered their time for recruitment activities at the USPHS Booth in the exhibit hall during the meeting. The dentists talked with prospective USPHS dentists and dental hygienists. Over the three days of the event, there was a lot of interest generated at the booth. Volunteers included nine Commissioned Corps dental officers from a variety of agencies-BOP (1), IHS (2), USCG (3), IHSC (2), CDC (1), one Ready Reservist dentist, and one Civil Service dentist from IHS. The members enjoyed sharing their stories and paths about how they got to where they're at now.



From left to right: LCDR Sarduy, LCDR Wright, CAPT Talley, CDR Nascimento pose for photo at the USPHS Recruitment Booth on the Exhibit Hall Floor.



From left to right: LCDR Perez-Almazan, and CDR Nascimento at the USPHS Recruitment Booth



LCDR Kim talking with SmileCon attendees about a career with the United States Public Health Service.

Thank you to the officers who volunteered:

CCOs:

CAPT Brian Talley (IHS)
 CDR Lucia Nascimento (IHS)
 CDR Cara Ortega (IHSC)
 LCDR Raynel "Ray" Sarduy (USCG)
 LCDR Elizabeth Perez-Almazan (IHSC)

CDR Stacey Barkauskas (BOP)
 CDR Titania Brownlee (USCG)
 LCDR Gary "Lee" Wright (CDC)
 LCDR Sarah Kim (USCG)

Ready Reserve:

LCDR Ajikwaga Felli (HHS)

Civil Service:

Dr. Jenna Lotz (IHS)

Your dedication is remarkable...Let's hope we have more dental recruits join our PHS team!



SmileCon concluded with the Street Festival. There were live performances (above) and car display (on the left).

Are you looking to play a role in organized dentistry?

Do you have ideas or concerns that leaders in the profession should know about?

Do you have stories and experiences to share that can potentially help other new dentists?

Your voice is important, and here are some ways to impact your dental community.

Contact Tera Lovick, ADA New Dentist Committee Director, at 1-800-621-8099 ext. 2386 or newdentist@ada.org

Interim Chief Professional Officer for the Dental Category

CAPT Nathan Mork

Captain Nathan Mork stepped up to serve as Interim Chief Professional Officer for the USPHS Dental Category from October 24, 2022 - January 31, 2023. During that time he represented the Dental Category as the Acting Chair of the [USPHS Oral Health Coordinating Committee](#) and served on the USPHS Chief Professional Officer Board. CAPT Mork also assisted DePAC leadership with DePAC appointments and awards, shared tributes with retiring PHS Dentists, prepared monthly CPO reports, and advised several dental officers.

During his tenure as Interim CPO, CAPT Nathan Mark's service has been greatly appreciated in leading our Dental Category.



CAPT Mork

DePAC Workgroup Updates and Bulletins:

DePAC Mentoring & Retention Workgroup

CDR Joseph Collins, LCDR Cam-Van Huynh

The purpose of the Mentoring & Retention Workgroup is to provide resources to USPHS Dental Officers throughout their career and connect them to senior officers through the mentorship program. At the start of 2022, our workgroup finalized the new [CV Formats](#) now posted on the DePAC website.

Our workgroup has been busy working to better serve fellow dental officers. Some of the items we have planned or have already completed include:

- COA Dental Category Day 2022 Glendale, AZ: Mentoring Booth with senior dental officers to review CVs
- Retirement Calculator: Guides officers' understanding of achievement goals including years of service and promotion to accomplish their desired retirement. Completed, ongoing updates.
- Celebrate retiring dental officers with bias and Letter of Appreciation
- Mentoring Program: pairing proteges with mentors
- June 2022: After-hour call for officers with senior dental officers to discuss improving promotion benchmarks
- Promotion Counseling
- Tips and Tricks posted via Dental Bulletin Board and uploaded to the DePAC website: Variety of topics to include benefits, COER elements, and work/life balance
- Mentoring Guide and Quick Reference Guide: Revised
- Supervisor's Guide (aimed at civilian supervisors) Conference Call

With all the changes and the pandemic in the last few years, we would like to thank all officers for your resiliency and service! Our workgroup is trying to find ways to promote retention of our officers and we would love it if more senior officers are willing to share their reasons for staying in the Corps.

2023 USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium

Cox Business Convention Center

Tulsa Oklahoma

May 8-11, 2023

For more information on about registration, cost and lodging, [click here](#).

"In the Service of Health: Boots on the Ground for a Healthy Nation"

USPHS DENTAL CATEGORY NEWSLETTER TEAM

CDR Titania Brownlee, *Editor*

CDR Grant Abernathy, *Co-Editor*

CDR Joseph Collins, *Staff*

LCDR Kindel Kelke, *Staff*

CDR Amber Foster, *DePAC Communications Chair*

LCDR David Lam, *DePAC Communications Co-Chair*

CDR Ryan Gard, *Staff*

LCDR Rachel Rachuba, *Staff*

The USPHS Dental Category Newsletter is published two to three times a year and distributed electronically through the USPHS Dental Bulletin Board and agency distribution lists. If you have suggestions or comments about the newsletter, or would like to submit an article, please contact the co-editors [CDR Titania Brownlee](#) or [CDR Grant Abernathy](#). This newsletter is for informational purposes only and does not reflect official views of the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps or USPHS leadership.

Senior Officer Spotlight: Q & A

CAPT Reginald Ballard

How did you learn about the Commissioned Corps?

I was completely unaware of the United States Public Health Service until my last semester of dental school when I was advised by a friend of the family to "take a look" at the Corps as a career option. He was a prominent oral surgeon who just happened to have a relative, also a dentist, who was an officer in the Corps. A meeting was arranged for me with an officer at Rockville Headquarters. I was intrigued by the information I received on serving underserved populations. I have always wanted to make a difference in the world and serving those in need as a Corps officer would allow me to serve both my country and the populations most in need of my services.



CAPT Ballard

When did you join the Commissioned Corps? Where have you served?

I became a Commissioned Corps officer in June of 1997 with my first duty station being Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, Bureau of Prisons. I spent over six memorable years at Lewisburg learning from excellent mentors and sharpening my dental skills. It was an amazing experience for which I will always be grateful. Following Lewisburg, I transferred to ICE Health Service Corps (IHSC), in Batavia, NY. I was Batavia's first dentist, which afforded me the opportunity to open a clinic from scratch. Two years into the position, I became Eastern Regional Dental Consultant for IHSC while maintaining my role as solo dentist at Batavia, NY.

Where are you currently stationed and what are your favorite aspects of your duty station?

After an almost four-year stint at Batavia, I was again ready to expand my professional horizons when the IHSC decided to open a family residential facility in Taylor, TX. At this juncture, I had very little pediatric dental experience, so I could not pass up the opportunity to grow my pediatric skills. In my 15-year tenure at the Taylor Facility, it has seen many changes. It has morphed from a family facility to an all-female facility, and now all males. I am honored to say that I have proudly served throughout these challenging transitions.

My time with IHSC has afforded me many gratifying roles and opportunities for growth. In addition to being a solo dentist, I have served two years as an IHSC Regional Dental Consultant, four years as the IHSC Dental Program Deputy Chief and five years as the IHSC Dental Program Chief. Currently, I am maintaining my role as a solo dentist with IHSC at Taylor, TX.

Do you have any professional advice for junior dental officers?

My advice for junior dental officers is to enjoy each moment and take advantage of opportunities. Time flies! Don't be afraid to take advantage when opportunity knocks. Heck, don't wait for a knock, go out and start knocking!

What are your most memorable moments serving in the Commissioned Corps?

My most memorable moments, past, present, and future, occur when my patients benefit from my care and express their gratitude for how I have changed their oral health for the better.

Do you have any suggestions for future issues of the Dental Category Newsletter?

Please contact the Editors [CDR Titania Brownlee](#) or [CDR Grant Abernathy](#)

Online Oral Health Resources & Continuing Education Opportunities

[American College of Dentists Dental Ethics Course](#)

[American Dental Association Continuing Education](#)

[Academy of General Dentistry Continuing Education & Events](#)

[American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine](#)

[American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry](#)

[American Association of Public Health Dentistry](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Oral Health Resources](#)

[Colgate Continuing Education](#)

[Health Resources and Services Administration \(HRSA\)](#)

[Hu-Friedy Continuing Education](#)

IHS Division of Oral Health

[Early Childhood Caries Initiative](#)

[Online CE opportunities](#)

[Inside Dentistry Continuing Education](#)

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research

[Dental Providers Oncology Pocket Guide](#)

[Practical oral health care for patients w/ developmental disabilities](#)

[National Maternal & Child Oral Health Resource Center](#)

Naval Postgraduate Dental School

[Clinical updates archives](#)

[Correspondence Course Program](#)

Northwest Center for Public Health Practice

[Basic Public Health principles study modules](#)

Ohio Department of Health, the Indian Health Service, and the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors

[Safety Net Dental Clinic Manual](#)

Oral Cancer Foundation

[Oral cancer photos](#)

[Proctor & Gamble Continuing Education](#)