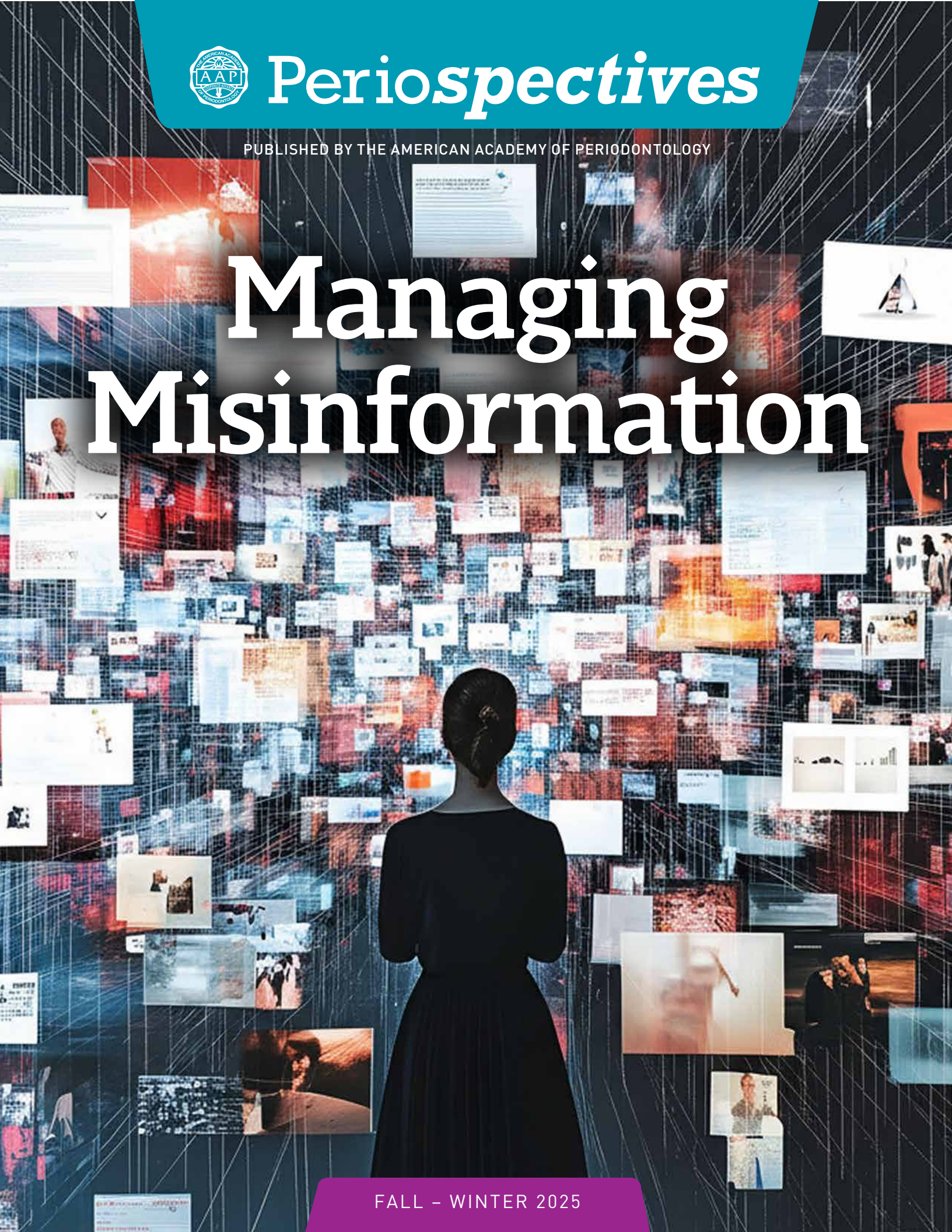
Periospectives

PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PERIODONTOLOGY

Managing Misinformation



FALL – WINTER 2025

Join us in the Pacific Northwest!

112th Annual Meeting

SEATTLE

Oct. 29 - Nov. 1, 2026

Held with the Japanese Society of Periodontology and Japanese Academy of Clinical Periodontology

Register today at am2026.perio.org

Periospectives

COVER STORY

Beyond the Practice: Managing Misinformation.

Beyond treating and caring for patients, our members take on the responsibility of being educators and trusted sources of information. In a world where information is distributed constantly through a multitude of channels, periodontists are increasingly finding themselves not only clinicians, but interpreters and guides.

Learn more beginning on page 6.

Mission

To champion member success and professional partnerships for optimal patient health and quality of life.

Periospectives is published four times per year by the American Academy of Periodontology.

Located at: 737 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60611-6660
Telephone toll free: **800-282-4867 • 312-787-5518**
Fax: **312-787-3670** Web: **Perio.org**

Publication Agreement No. 14-899992
©Copyright 2025 the American Academy of Periodontology

All advertising appearing in *Periospectives* must be reviewed and accepted prior to publication. The publication of an advertisement in *Periospectives* is not to be construed as constituting an endorsement or approval of the product or its claims by the American Academy of Periodontology.

PRESIDENT
Ana Becil Giglio

PRESIDENT-ELECT
Kristi Soileau

VICE PRESIDENT
Richard Nagy

SECRETARY/TREASURER
Brad Crump

PAST PRESIDENT
Mia L. Geisinger

CHIEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Erin O'Donnell Dotzler
email: **erin@perio.org**

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Meg Dempsey
email: **meg@perio.org**

SENIOR MANAGER, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS
Adam Natali
email: **adam@perio.org**

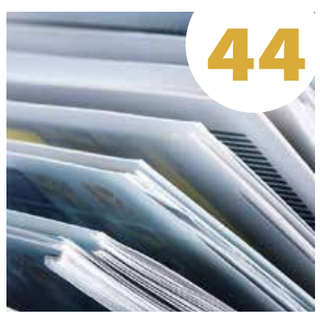
COORDINATOR, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS
Alba Sahatqija
email: **alba@perio.org**

Contents

Have Something Innovative to Share?

Meet Dr. Ana Becil Giglio

Ask the Coding Coach



AAP Journals Roundup

In this issue

5 President's message
6 Managing misinformation
10 Annual Meeting recap
12 Social media superstars
14 Congratulations to the AAP's 2025 Annual Meeting Scholarship Recipients
19 Call for award nominations
21 Leadership and volunteer activities
22 AAP 2025 sponsors and educational partners
23 Ask the Board
24 AAP and LifeNet health modules
25 2026 Virtual insurance workshops
26 Business property insurance for dentists & medical professionals:
30 Dental Hygiene Engagement Initiative
32 Gen You
34 Education updates
36 Welcome new members
39 2025 LEAD program
40 60+ years of member recognition
42 Advocating for Perio
43 International periodontics
46 AAP's saving teeth webinar series continues
47 AO/AAP Consensus conference flowcharts
48 ABP diplomate interview
50 ABP update
52 AAPF announces 2 new awards
53 AAP Foundation Annual Meeting Recap
54 PerioDash Recap

President's message

BY DR. ANA BECIL GIGLIO

I am truly honored to begin my term as President of the AAP. As a community of dedicated specialists, we share a responsibility to stay informed, remain engaged, and nurture an enduring curiosity. One of the most effective ways to uphold these values is through active engagement in professional organizations like our Academy. Together, we hold ourselves to high standards, learn from each other's expertise, and support one another. This unity is especially important now, as we confront the widespread propagation of misinformation across various platforms, particularly on social media. In light of these challenges, and our vital role in addressing them, the theme of this issue of *Periospectives* is both timely and essential: **Managing Misinformation**.

When patients turn to us for guidance, we have a responsibility to meet them with empathy and understanding. When they have been given false or harmful information, we carry an equally important duty to educate them with patience and grace. To explore how clinicians navigate these moments, the Academy spoke with three members about their experiences managing misinformation: how often they encounter it, how they approach conversations with patients who have been influenced by online sources, and what guidance they can offer their colleagues. Read more in our Beyond the Practice section.

Much has happened over the last few months, and one of the true highlights was our 111th AAP Annual Meeting in Toronto. I want to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who joined us for four days of connection, collaboration, and camaraderie! Seeing so many of you in person, reconnecting with longtime colleagues, and forming new relationships was incredibly meaningful. That sense of community is what makes our Annual Meeting so special. It is not only a time to strengthen bonds with fellow members, but also an opportunity to engage with our dedicated AAP staff. If you would like to revisit some of the moments we shared, or if you were unable to join us, I encourage you to read the Annual Meeting Recap section in this issue. We have also included a segment highlighting our Social Media Superstars, attendees who were especially active online throughout the meeting, sharing stories, tagging the AAP, and posting to their pages, as well as our Annual Meeting Scholarship recipients.

Looking ahead, we are excited to host the 112th AAP Annual Meeting in Seattle and we would love to see you there. We encourage you to review the 2026 Call for Innovations in Periodontics Abstracts and Call for 2026 Awards so that your hard work can be recognized and celebrated by our Academy community.

I look forward to all that 2026 will bring and am genuinely grateful for the opportunity to serve as AAP President. Wishing everyone a productive, inspiring year ahead! ■

Sincerely,

Dr. Ana Becil Giglio
President
American Academy of Periodontology

> "When patients turn to us for guidance, we have a responsibility to meet them with empathy and understanding.

Dr. Miles Madison

Dr. Pricilla Sosa

Dr. Jake Zellner

Beyond the Practice: Managing Misinformation

In a world where information is distributed constantly through a multitude of channels, periodontists are increasingly finding themselves not only clinicians, but interpreters and guides. Online platforms that are filled with mixed-quality advice and trending treatments have reshaped the kinds of questions patients bring to the table. Curiosity and engagement can be positive, but misinformation can create confusion and hesitation, and even mistrust if not approached thoughtfully.

For this issue's theme of Managing Misinformation, we spoke with three AAP members about how they navigate these conversations with their patients. They shared how often misinformation surfaces in their practices, the communication approaches that help keep discussions constructive, the strategies they use to break down complex periodontal science into patient-friendly language, how misinformation has changed how they communicate within their practice, and what advice they would give to other periodontists facing similar challenges.

Dr. Madison Miles:

This is a daily occurrence in our practice. We have a highly educated patient population who do their "homework" before they come in.

I start by listening without interrupting. I acknowledge what they've heard and try to understand where the information came from. Then I offer a clear, evidence-based explanation of the topic, framed in a positive way. I never dismiss their source or beliefs. Instead, I give them a more accurate perspective and explain the reasoning behind it, so they feel supported and informed rather than corrected or challenged.

My "super-power" is taking complex concepts and translating them into everyday language. I rely heavily on models, visuals, and analogies so patients can see what I'm describing rather than just hearing it. I walk them through each step, check in frequently to make sure I'm not moving too quickly, and ask them to tell me in their own words what they're understanding. That way, the conversation stays interactive, and they feel confident and informed about the care we're discussing.

Misinformation has influenced the way I communicate during consultations. I'm more proactive now in addressing common myths before they have a chance to take hold. If I know a topic is something patients often read conflicting or misleading information about, I'll bring it up directly and provide a clear, evidence-based explanation. This way, if they do further research later, they're already grounded in accurate context and less likely to be confused by misinformation they might encounter online.

A piece of advice I would give periodontists facing similar challenges is to stay familiar with the misinformation that's circulating, so you know what your patients may be hearing. Be transparent and straightforward in your discussions. And make sure you're consistently up to date with current literature and clinical guidelines. When patients sense that you're informed, confident, and grounded in evidence, you naturally become the trusted source they turn to — the authority who can help them navigate the noise.

Dr. Priscilla Sosa:

Patients today are exposed to an overwhelming amount of dental content on TikTok, Instagram, Google, and online forums, and they bring it into the dental office almost daily! Much of the information that they see online is either oversimplified, taken out of context, or based on trends or pseudoscience rather than evidence.

I start by validating their efforts to learn about their health. In general, our patients seek out online information because they are trying to make the right decisions. Next, I gently ask questions to understand exactly what they heard or read and what their underlying initial concerns were that sparked them to seek out answers online. This opens the door for me to clarify the science without dismissing their concerns. I try to focus on reinforcing evidence-based answers to their primary concerns, using relatable, accessible language.

I use CBCT images, intraoral photographs, models, and simple illustrations to break down concepts like bone loss, periodontal phenotype and modification therapy, graft integration, and why biologics are indicated. I also use relatable analogies, like comparing bone graft maturation to healing after planting a seed, or describing keratinized tissue like the "protective tissue barrier" around implants. Simplifying the language, avoiding jargon, and repeating key points helps reinforce understanding and builds rapport. I always encourage questions so the patient feels included in the decision-making process.

The spread of misinformation has made me much more proactive during consultations. I now anticipate common myths, such as "gum disease can be reversed with oil pulling" or "implants never get infections," and I address these early before they influence treatment decisions. I've also become more structured in my explanations, providing step-by-step guidance and ensuring patients understand the rationale behind surgical or regenerative procedures. This approach has strengthened patient trust and improved adherence to treatment and maintenance recommendations.

My biggest advice is to stay patient and empathetic. Meeting patients where they are, acknowledging their fears and the sources they trust, opens the door for meaningful dialogue. Consider the tools available to you—including resources from the AAP to aid in your explanations. Use visuals, simple explanations, and transparent reasoning to anchor the conversation in credible science. When patients feel their periodontist is approachable and trustworthy, they'll start coming to you first instead of the internet. Over time, this creates a stronger, more informed patient community and reduces the influence of misinformation altogether.

Dr. Jake Zellner:

Unfortunately, misinformation about periodontal and dental care is extremely common. Many patients arrive for their evaluations having already formed opinions based on what they've seen online.

In recent years, I've noticed a significant increase in patients referencing videos from TikTok and Instagram. These platforms often oversimplify or sensationalize dental treatments, which can lead patients to misunderstand what's appropriate or evidence-based.

Clear, respectful, and direct communication is essential—not only with patients, but also with referring dentists who may themselves have incomplete or inaccurate information.My approach is to first acknowledge the patient's concerns or beliefs to show that I'm listening. I then clearly explain the correct information, outline the evidence behind it, and provide treatment options that best fit their diagnosis. In most cases, patients are receptive once they understand the rationale behind the recommendation.

Occasionally, a patient may still disagree after receiving accurate information. When that happens, I gently encourage them to seek a second opinion. It's important for clinicians to avoid feeling pressured into performing treatments that are not appropriate.

When discussing periodontal research or clinical decision-making, I focus on summarizing key evidence such as prognosis, success rates, and realistic treatment expectations—whether we're discussing saving teeth with endodontic or periodontal therapy, or replacing them with implants.

Complex concepts can be challenging for patients to grasp, so I avoid technical jargon, use visual aids whenever possible, and provide credible resources for further reading. The goal is not to overwhelm patients with data but to offer a clear rationale for the recommended treatment.

The prevalence of dental myths and misconceptions has made me more intentional, patient, and empathetic in how I communicate. Understanding the volume of misleading "clickbait" content online helps me approach these conversations with more compassion.

Instead of reacting with frustration, I view these interactions as opportunities to identify knowledge gaps and tailor my communication to support clearer understanding. This approach not only improves the patient's experience but also strengthens trust

I recommend that all periodontists—especially residents—familiarize themselves with the most common myths and debated topics that patients frequently encounter.

Preparing quick, evidence-based, patient-friendly explanations for these topics can significantly improve confidence and communication during challenging conversations.

Equally important is maintaining patience. At the end of the day, patients will make decisions they feel are best for themselves—even when those decisions differ from what we, as clinicians, believe is ideal. Recognizing this helps protect the provider-patient relationship and leads to more constructive discussions overall. ■

"My "super-power" is taking complex concepts and translating them into everyday language. I rely heavily on models, visuals, and analogies so patients can see what I'm describing rather than just hearing it.

ANNUAL MEETING

2026 Annual Meeting: *Call for Innovations* in Periodontics abstracts

The Continuing Education Oversight Committee (CEOC) is soliciting presentations that address advances in clinical periodontics, basic sciences, or related subjects for the Innovations in Periodontics program for the 112th Annual Meeting to be held Oct. 29 – Nov. 1, 2026, in Seattle at the Seattle Convention Center (Arch). These sessions will consist of 15-minute presentations. A five-minute question-and-answer period will follow each lecture.

Have something innovative to share?

There will be three sessions offered:

Advances in Periodontics: These two sessions are intended to showcase clinical advances and/or translational research with direct application to patient care. The target speaker is anyone who has a validated innovation to share. Individual and team-based presentations are welcome for this session.

Rising Stars: This session is intended for speakers in practice for ten years or less following post-graduate training. The selected candidates will receive training to present their material in a brief live or virtual platform showcase.

Individual presentation abstract submission procedure:

- Abstracts will be subjected to a blind review and scoring by members of the CEOC.
- Presenters will be informed of the committee's decision in summer 2026.
- Presenters can submit as many abstracts as they would like. However, no one can present more than once.

You will need to provide the following information about your presentation:

- The title, which should be ten words or fewer, and not include brand names or acronyms.
- Why this presentation is innovative.
- How your presentation impacts practicing periodontists.
- Which of the following topics it covers:
  - Emerging Concepts and Innovative Therapies
  - Implant Surgery and Prosthetic Rehabilitation
  - Interdisciplinary Therapy (ortho, endo, restorative)
  - Leadership, Personal and Practice Development
  - Oral Pathology, Oral Medicine and Oral Diagnosis
  - Periodontal and Systemic Interrelationships
  - Periodontal Plastic and Soft Tissue Surgery
  - Sedation and Anxiety Management
  - Tissue Engineering and Hard Tissue Reconstruction
  - Treatment of Periodontal Diseases and Peri-Implant Diseases

Team-based presentation abstract submission for Advances in Periodontics procedure:

- The team-based presentation will consist of presenting a case and then describing the treatment and rationale for therapy, or an etiopathogenetic mechanism or pathway.
- Teams are limited to two speakers.

Teams will need to submit one of the following cases:

- Periodontal-restorative dentate aesthetic
- Complex periodontal-restorative aesthetic implant
- Complex periodontal-orthodontic demonstrating Periodontally Accelerated Osteogenic Orthodontics (PAOO) or orthodontic site development for implants
- Correct aesthetic implant complication with interdisciplinary therapy

Interested parties should submit abstracts and cases for committee consideration by **Feb. 27, 2026**, via the Abstract Manager website. General submission information and directions for accessing the site can be found at **perio.org/ce-meetings/abstract-submissions/** or contact the Continuing Education department at **continuingeducation@perio.org** or 312-787-5518. ■

Please note that as an Innovations in Periodontics speaker, complimentary meeting registration is not extended by the Academy. Speakers must take care of their registration fees and related travel accommodations and expenses for the meeting if they wish to present.

CEOC Update

The Continuing Education Oversight Committee (CEOC) will meet at the AAP office on Feb. 20–22, 2026, to develop the educational programming for the 113th Annual Meeting, to be held on Sept. 16-19, 2027, in Boston, Massachusetts. Continuing education is a fundamental component of the Academy's mission, reflecting the ongoing commitment to advancing the science and practice of periodontology. Through high-quality educational offerings, the AAP ensures that its members remain at the forefront of clinical excellence, scientific discovery, and professional growth.

Thank you to our 2023-2024 Continuing Education Oversight Committee for planning the 111th AAP Annual Meeting!

Dr. Caitlin Darcey, Co-Chair
Dr. Sejal Thacker, Co-Chair
Dr. Mia L. Geisinger, President-Elect
Dr. Liliana Aranguren
Dr. Shayan Barootchi
Dr. Suheil Boutros, Consultant
Dr. Janie Lee Boyesen, Consultant
Dr. Jennifer Doobrow
Dr. Bryan Frantz
Dr. Purnima Kumar, Consultant
Dr. Joan Otomo-Corgel
Dr. Constantine (Gus) Pavlakos, Board Liaison
Dr. Lorenzo Tavelli

2025 Annual Meeting Recap

In 2025, the AAP went international for the 111th AAP Annual Meeting! The meeting was held in collaboration with the Canadian Academy of Periodontology in one of North America's most vibrant and multicultural cities: Toronto. Here, collaboration, innovation, and international connection took center stage. Held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, the meeting gathered professionals for four days of advanced education, learning, and shared inspiration.

Thank you to all of those who attended the 2025 AAP Annual Meeting. It was truly one for the books, and it would not have been possible without the Academy's members, speakers, moderators, presenters, guests, partners, and every single meeting attendee. Join us in looking back at our time in Toronto!

Wednesday, Oct. 15

Prior to the official Annual Meeting kickoff, a variety of sessions including the AAP/AAP Foundation/Osteology Foundation Regeneration Symposium: Tissue Is the Issue, eased members into what was about to be an eventful four days. Other session topics included laser regeneration and soft tissue management, ridge preservation and ridge augmentation, AI and its role in transforming diagnosis and treatment, and so much more. The Balint Orban Memorial Competition finalists presented their Basic Science and Clinical Science research to a curious crowd. Attendees also explored the latest scientific and clinical innovations in the field of periodontology at the Corporate Forum in the afternoon.

Thursday, Oct. 16

The 111th AAP Annual Meeting officially kicked off with the Opening General Session. Guest speaker Tiffany Dufu shared powerful strategies for professional growth and personal development, and Dr. Mia L. Geisinger gave her Presidential Address. The Exhibit Hall officially opened, showcasing the latest periodontal products, services, and technologies. In the Exhibit Hall, speakers also spoke at the Global Speaker Pavilion, AAP staff answered questions at the Member Resource Center, attendees took their professional headshots and met the JOP and CAP editors, and so much more. The meeting continued with a wide variety of educational sessions held throughout the day and the second general session on regeneration held in the afternoon. In the evening, the AAP and AAP Foundation Awards Ceremony celebrated distinguished individuals in the field of periodontics, while students and new periodontists enjoyed a reception just for them.

Friday, Oct. 17

Friday opened with the third general session, Say Hi to AI: Deep Learning Applications in Periodontics, stimulating attendees' minds bright and early! The day's schedule was jam-packed with more invigorating sessions, and Research Forum Poster Session finalists presented their Basic Science and Clinical Science research. Attendees enjoyed their final day in the exhibit hall, visiting more booths, listening to speakers present at the Speaker Studio, and interacting with their fellow peers and AAP staff. The Dental Coding Workshop and fourth general session, Single Implant in the Esthetic Zone: Lessons Learned and Unlearned, took place in the afternoon, followed by the General Assembly. At the General Assembly, participants got the chance to vote on important Academy initiatives and make sure their voice was heard.

Saturday, Oct. 18

On the final day of the meeting, the energy was still alive and well. The day was shorter for most attendees, but not any less meaningful. The fifth and final general session, Ask the Experts: Oral Pathology, Oral Medicine, and Oral Radiology, kicked off the day, and was followed by more educational sessions. Hygienists enjoyed the all-day Dental Hygiene Symposium, while educators took part in the Educator Symposium, and other attendees attended the Medical Coding Workshop. Guests began to say their goodbyes after spending the last few days learning, connecting, and making lasting memories.

Social Media Superstars

With the 2025 AAP Annual Meeting having wrapped up, the time has come to crown our top three Social Media Superstars: **Dr. Saynur Vardar** (@drsaynurvardar), **Dr. Teresa Chanting Sun** (@drsunperiolove), and **Dr. David T. Wu** (@davidwu.dmd).

These three individuals were the most active on social media throughout the meeting in Toronto, sharing their educational experiences, fun selfies, and allowing folks at home to get a glimpse into the live action from the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

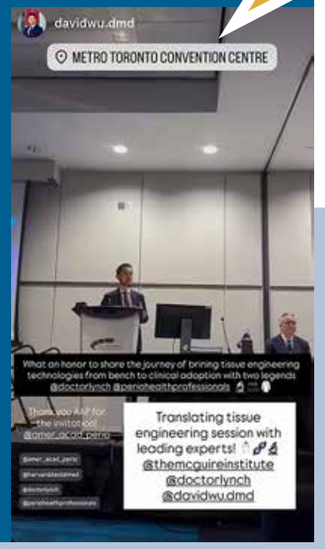
As we often say, the AAP Annual Meeting is the hub for learning, networking, and connection. It allows face-to-face connections to blossom, but the Academy also wants to open the door for further connections to be built once the meeting is over. Whether you couldn't be there or you were there (but of course could not meet everybody), social media platforms provide the opportunity to find a face you may have missed and connect with somebody new. We recognize these individuals for not only their activeness on social media, but their courage to put themselves out there in front of the world.

Thank you to everyone else who shared their experiences during the Annual Meeting and used the **#PerioAM25** hashtag with their story posts and regular posts. We enjoyed seeing your creativity, and we look forward to seeing more at next year's 112th AAP Annual Meeting in Seattle.

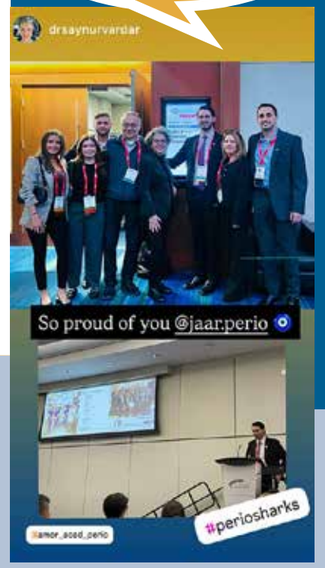
You can find some of the 2025 Social Media Superstars' post highlights below. ■

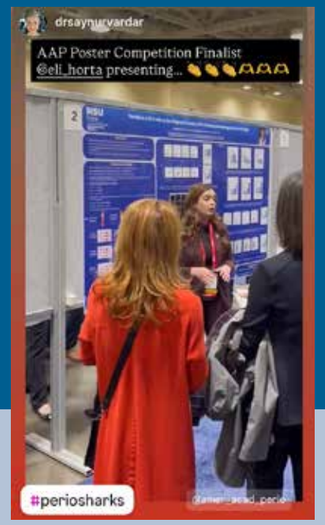
drsunperiolove

davidwu.dmd



drsaynurvardar





Congratulations to the AAP's 2025 Annual Meeting Scholarship Recipients

Nobel Biocare

Through the generous support of Nobel Biocare, the AAP awarded scholarships to the following AAP students and new periodontists:

Stephanie Dye
Shane Endres
Katherine Flynn
Anahat Khehra
Jinnu Kim
Yun Lee
Ethan Madison
Rodrigo Rangel
David Sabbah
Evelyn Spencer

SPECIALTY 1 Partners

Through the generous support of Specialty1 Partners, the AAP awarded scholarships to the following AAP students and new periodontists:

Divya Acharya
Natalia Acosta-Farhadi
Shalom Benzaquen
Zack Bradshaw
Jackie Chalmers
Jen Chen
Sandrine Couldwell
Laura Cavallari
Hanfrey Deng
Leila Gholami
Ryan Higgins
Pedram Kajeh
Justin Kim
Rachel Koh
Yu Kubota
Pin-Ying Li
Joseph Montesano
Maxwell Perelgut
Kristen Richey
Mahya Sabour
Jaclyn Smollett
Negin Taghizadeh
Alvin Zad

straumann

Through the generous support of Straumann, the AAP awarded scholarships to the following AAP students and new periodontists:

Ryan Booth
Alexis Brito
Courtney Williams Hughes
Aditya Kakkar
Choon Hye Kang
Nina Karnuta
Julia Kishanie
Persaud-Richmond
Hieu Pham
Abigail Raymond
Maryam Tarar

Treloar & Heisel
AN EPIC COMPANY

Through the generous support of Treloar & Heisel, the AAP awarded scholarships to the following AAP students and new periodontists:

Hailey Hildenbrandt
Eric MacFadden
Elsy Orellana

1990 35 2025 AAP FOUNDATION

In 2026, administration of the Annual Meeting scholarship program will transition to the AAP Foundation. Eligible student and recent-graduate members will be contacted with application instructions in advance of the **June 1 deadline**. Individuals and corporations interested in sponsoring scholarships are encouraged to contact the Foundation's executive director, Kyle Gorden, at **kyle@perio.org**.

Meet Dr. Ana Becil Giglio

As the American Academy of Periodontology welcomes its new president, we are proud to spotlight Dr. Ana Becil Giglio. Dr. Giglio is a leader whose career has been shaped by a deep commitment to patient care, education, and service to the profession. She enters this role with a strong vision for the Academy's growth. Below, she reflects on her journey, her priorities for the year ahead, and the values that guide her leadership.

Q: You've been involved with organized dentistry for many years. What originally inspired you to take on leadership roles within professional organizations like the AAP?

A: My inspiration to take on leadership roles within organized dentistry came from an early appreciation of how essential our specialty is to the overall health and function of every patient we treat. I was fortunate to learn from periodontal mentors who not only taught me the surgical and diagnostic skills that define our field but also modeled how involvement in professional organizations can advance research, education, and patient treatment.

Stepping into leadership allowed me to contribute to that shared mission. Periodontics is constantly evolving, and I wanted to play an active role in strengthening the dialogue between clinicians, educators, and researchers. Whether it's advocating for evidence-based standards, supporting residents and new specialists, or promoting public awareness of periodontal health, leadership gives me the opportunity to influence the specialty in meaningful and practical ways.

Ultimately, I felt a responsibility to give back to a field that has given me a fulfilling career. Serving in leadership roles within periodontal organizations, first with the Northeastern Society of Periodontists and now at the AAP, has been my way of helping ensure that our specialty continues to grow, innovate, and provide exceptional care, both for our patients and for the next generation of periodontists.

Q: What initially drew you to periodontics, and how has your passion evolved over time?

A: From a young age I was drawn to medicine. My father was an internist, and I grew up watching him build deep, meaningful relationships with his patients, very *Marcus Welby, MD* in the best sense. I admired the trust his patients placed in him, the continuity of care he provided, and I knew I wanted a career where I could cultivate those same long-term connections while helping people in a tangible way.

As a pre-med student, I realized in my third year that while I loved the clinical and procedural aspects of medicine, the lifestyle, particularly the hospital demands, would make it difficult to achieve the work–life balance I valued. That reflection led me to dentistry, and ultimately to periodontics - one of the best decisions I ever made. It seamlessly blends my interest in surgery with my desire to form lasting relationships with patients, while also allowing me to maintain the balance needed for a fulfilling family life.

In addition to private practice, I channeled my passion into teaching, volunteering at NYU College of Dentistry for 27 years to give back to a community and profession that have given me so much. Guiding the next generation of clinicians feels like a meaningful way to contribute, and it reminds me of the dedicated teachers who profoundly shaped my own path.

Teaching also pushed me to stay current. Dentistry evolves quickly, and working with students keeps me sharp, curious, and engaged with the latest techniques and evidence. The camaraderie with fellow instructors is another part of what makes this work so rewarding; we learn from each other, challenge each other, and grow together through the constant exchange of ideas.

Most of all, I hope I have been able to pass on a core value: that there is always a human being attached to that mouth. Technical skill is essential, but empathy and respect are what define a truly great clinician. If I have helped students hold onto that perspective, then my time as an educator has been well spent.

Q: As the new president, what are your primary goals for the Academy?

A: As the new president, I am committed to advancing our Academy with clarity, purpose, and vision. My responsibility is to provide leadership in carrying forward the Academy's long-range strategic vision as approved by the Board. I will build upon our strategic plan, make thoughtful pivots when appropriate, and ensure that the organization continues to grow, adapt, and lead. Central to this work is enhancing our support for members through high-quality continuing education, strong scientific journals, and a steadfast commitment to evidence-based practice.

I am equally dedicated to elevating the role of periodontists within collaborative care and emphasizing our critical contribution to overall health. Together, we will broaden public awareness of the essential work we do and underscore the well-established periodontal-systemic connection, reinforcing the need for even greater collaboration with the medical community to advance comprehensive patient care.

Q: In your opinion, what are some of the biggest challenges facing periodontics today? How do you hope we can address these challenges?

A: This could not be a more critical time for our Academy, our profession, and for our patients. Every day, we are all facing questions we never thought we would be asked. Misinformation is everywhere and peer-reviewed science is under attack. Understandably, our patients are confused, and they look to us for clarification. They trust us, not only to care for their health, but to help them make informed decisions for themselves and their families. That trust is sacred, and it's a responsibility we all carry.

This is where your Academy excels. We are your gateway to science, to data, and ultimately, to elevated patient care. Whether it is through our journals, our continuing education offerings, or the passionate conversations we all have at our meetings - the AAP grounds us in facts and connects us to each other. The AAP is our periodontal home-a true community and a family of trusted colleagues.

Another challenge facing periodontists today is the diminishing utilization of a true team-based approach to patient care. Too often, by the time a patient reaches our chair, opportunities for early intervention have passed, sometimes resulting in preventable tooth loss. The Academy must continue to champion collaborative care, underscoring the unique expertise that periodontists bring to the table and reinforcing this message among our dental and medical colleagues for the benefit of both oral and overall health.

Q: How often do you encounter patients who come in with information they've read online about periodontal care, treatment, or oral health? When a patient shares misinformation, how do you handle it? What's your approach to correcting it while keeping the conversation positive and productive?

A: Questions from patients about misinformation related to periodontal care, oral health, and

Continued on page 18

Meet Dr. Ana Becil Giglio
Continued from page 17

treatment have become increasingly common. When addressing these concerns, I begin by acknowledging how confusing it can be when differing opinions come from so many voices. I explain that, as a healthcare professional, my recommendations are grounded in scientific evidence and peer-reviewed research rather than speculation or personal views.

I then provide clear, evidence-based answers to their specific question, many of which recently have focused on the safety of fluoride or acetaminophen, and I offer to share reputable sources if they're interested. I also encourage patients to speak with their physician, and to consider the quality of the data behind any information they encounter. Ultimately, I emphasize the importance of relying on sound science and avoiding the influence of misinformation or political bias.

Q: How do you plan to engage younger periodontists and new members of the Academy? What role do you think mentorship plays in the periodontal community?

A: Engaging our younger members is essential for the vitality and long-term success of our Academy. They are, quite literally, our future. This commitment was powerfully reflected in the inaugural Resident Retreat, ARRive, launched in August in San Antonio. With generous support from the Academy and its educational partners and corporate sponsors, the event brought together 144 third-year residents from 53 periodontal residency programs. This investment in our up-and-coming members is designed to promote lasting connection, engagement, and loyalty to the AAP.

Equally important is our ongoing effort to demonstrate value to all members, at every stage of their careers. In September, the Academy held its eighth Leadership, Engagement, Action, and Development (LEAD) Program. With more than 120 alumni to date, LEAD continues to serve as a vital pipeline of emerging leaders - individuals who bring fresh perspectives and help shape the future direction of our Academy.

Mentorship remains one of the most meaningful threads that connect us as periodontists. It is through mentorship that skills are passed down, confidence is built, and leadership is nurtured. I am profoundly grateful for the extraordinary mentors who shaped my own career. Dr. Dennis Tarnow encouraged me to practice alongside my husband, Dr. Graz Giglio, a prosthodontist, at a time when multispecialty practices were far from common. I owe my surgical skills to many, but especially to Dr. Kambiz Mohajer and Dr. Michael Bral, whose patience and dedication profoundly shaped my training. I am also deeply grateful to Dr. Barry Wagenberg for encouraging and supporting my journey into leadership.

Their examples remind us that mentorship not only strengthens individual clinicians but also fortifies the future of our profession. As we continue to invest in younger members and cultivate leadership at every level, we honor the legacy of those who guided us and ensure a thriving Academy for generations to come.

Q: Looking back on your career so far, is there a lesson or philosophy that continues to guide you in your work?

A: I am guided by a quote from Eleanor Roosevelt: "*Do what you feel in your heart to be right - for you'll be criticized anyway.*" To me, it is a reminder that integrity must outweigh approval. No matter the decision, someone will disagree, but that cannot be the compass. What matters is aligning my choices with my values, even when the path is uncomfortable or unpopular. We may never please everyone, but we can honor what we believe to be right, and that is the kind of principle that endures.

Q: What do you hope AAP members take away from your term as president?

A: What I hope members take away from my year as president is that I have approached this role as a servant leader, making decisions with one guiding principle: what is best for you, the members, and for the public. As a clinician in private practice myself, I understand the day-to-day struggles, the frustrations, and the challenges that come with balancing patient care, business pressures, and professional growth.

For our new periodontists, I know the future can feel uncertain, especially when facing significant student debt and the pressures of building a practice. For those approaching the later stages of their careers, the exit strategy may look very different than what you imagined. Whatever stage you are in, I want you to know that our Academy is your periodontics home: we see you and we are truly listening to what is happening in your unique worlds. My hope is that every member feels supported, valued, and confident that the AAP is here to guide you through every stage of your professional journey. ■

Call for Award
Nominations

American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) awards recognize individuals for contributions to the Academy and the profession of periodontics. Awards are given in several areas: education and mentoring, scientific and clinical research, and service to the AAP and periodontics. A full description of all awards and eligibility criteria is on the AAP website at **https://www.perio.org/for-members/aap-organizational-information/academy-awards/**. The Academy's objective is to recognize and honor those who move our profession forward.

The Awards Committee reviews all the nominations submitted and nominates members for service awards; the AAP Board of Trustees selects recipients.

The Education Committee selects the Outstanding Periodontal Educator, and the Research Submissions Committee selects published articles for research awards.

Please take a moment to nominate a colleague, teacher, scientist, or humanitarian for an AAP award. You can find the award nomination form at **https://www.perio.org/for-members/aap-organizational-information/academy-awards/award-nomination-form/.** The deadline for award nominations is **Jan. 31, 2026.**

Questions relating to Academy awards may be directed to Maureen Gallagher, Governance Specialist, or e-mail **volunteer@perio.org**. ■

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PERIODONTOLOGY

What is the value of AAP membership?

RESOURCES AND TOOLS

- On-demand continuing education
- Clinical, scientific, and practice resources
- Insurance coding and third-party reimbursement assistance
- Dental Hygiene Study Club resources
- AAP Connect online member community
- Online member directory

Value: $5,000+*

PUBLICATIONS

- Online/print editions of the JOP and CAP
- Subscription to *Periospectives*, the quarterly member magazine
- Proceedings from scientific symposia and collaborations including the best evidence consensus
- This Week in Perio newsletter

Value: $5,000+*

DISCOUNTS

- Annual Meeting registration discounts
- Discounts on AAP Career Center listings
- Perio Store merchandise discounts
- Perio Perks program featuring exclusive discounts and offers

Value: $1,200+*

Renew your 2026 dues today at **perio.org/renew**

Total Value: $11,200*

AAP Annual Dues:
$145 (student) to $1,129 (active)

The estimated value of AAP membership is based on a comparison of non-member pricing and the market value of external resources/benefits. This estimate is for informational purposes only and may not reflect the actual savings or benefits realizedby individual members. prices and values are subject to change, and individual experiences may vary. The estimate does not account for intangible benefits such as networking opportunities or industry exposure.

Leadership and Volunteer Activities

Committee Updates:

- The Research Submissions Committee met at the 2025 Annual Meeting in Toronto to judge the final presentations of the Balint Orban Memorial Competition and the Research Forum Poster Competition.
- The Saving Teeth Workgroup hosted three Saving Teeth webinars. Recordings can be found in the AAP's e-Learning Center.
- The Education Committee hosted the 2025 Educators' Symposium on Entrustable Professional Activities.
- The In-Service Examination Committee met twice to start the development of the 2026 In-Service Exam.

Volunteer to Serve on an AAP Committee or Task Force Today!

Each year, the Academy conducts its work through the dedicated efforts of volunteer members who serve on AAP Committees and Task Forces. Many positions are open to Active or Life Active members.

There are limited openings for members who have the qualifications, experience, and time that match the committee's needs. If you are interested in serving on a committee, Task Force or Workgroup, please complete an application at **https://www.perio.org/for-members/aap-organizational-information/aap-committees-and-task-forces/.** Applications for the In-Service Examination Committee are due Feb. 28, 2026, and all other committees April 30, 2026.

We appreciate all you do to support the work of the Academy. For more information, contact Maureen Gallagher, Governance Specialist, at **volunteer@perio.org**.

AAP 2025 sponsors and educational partners

Thanks to the following sponsors and educational partners for their generous financial support of one or more AAP priorities, including the Annual Meeting, science agenda, and resident/leadership development programming

Educational Partners

Signature Diamond

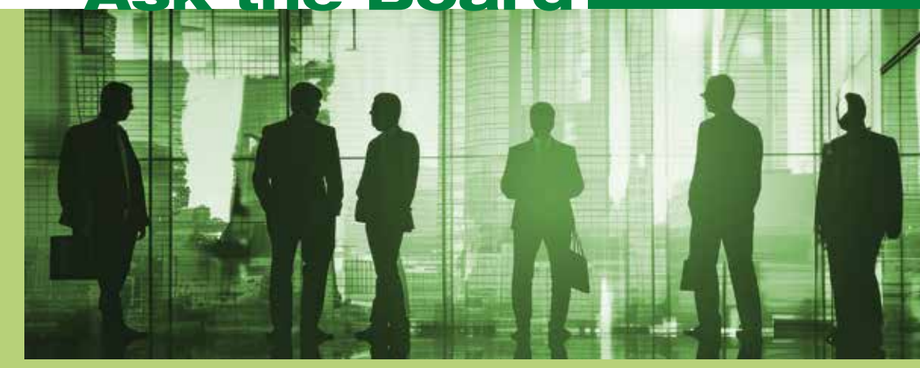
Platinum

Gold

Silver

Bronze

Ask the Board



With rising costs both at home and in my practice, I'm looking for things to cut from my budget. Why should I remain a member of the AAP?

-Active Member, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Let me start by saying that I empathize with you as I am facing similar hardships. I think we all are. But those challenges are the exact reason we need an organization like the AAP.

On a granular level, the Academy provides resources like patient forms and downloads, an insurance coding consultant you can call or email at any time, a Career Center for hiring talent, as well as social media templates you can use in your own practice marketing.

With AI being incorporated into every aspect of our lives, things are changing faster than ever before. The Academy's scientific journals and education sessions keep you informed on cutting-edge research and clinical techniques. In an age of misinformation, these resources make you the expert when patients are looking for someone they can trust.

In 2025 we published the papers from our joint consensus with the Academy of Osseointegration on the Prevention and Management of Peri-Implant Diseases and Conditions. In 2026 we are hosting a new Best Evidence Consensus.

On a national level, the AAP is a part of the Organized Dentistry Coalition. We are the periodontist's voice in Washington D.C. on topics ranging from student loan debt to water fluoridization.

Now more than ever, periodontal professionals need one another. This Academy is your home and community, and I would encourage you to not only remain a part of it, but to remain an active contributor. The AAP is the only place where you can find everything perio!

Thank you for your timely question, and as always thank you for your membership in the AAP! ■

Sincerely,

Dr. Catherine A. Bishop
District 4
AAP Board of Trustees

AAP and LifeNet Health Modules

LifeNet Health® | Give Healing Every Advantage

AAP, in partnership with LifeNet Health, presents expert-led educational modules to guide your evidence-based clinical practice and elevate patient care. Visit **perio.org/for-members/partner-content/** to view these new modules.

LifeNet Health is a global leader in regenerative medicine committed to empowering periodontists through education and trusted allograft solutions.

The Use of Cellular Bone Allografts to Optimize Regenerative Outcomes

Presented in collaboration with LifeNet Health.

Presented by: **Bradley S. McAllister, DDS, PhD**

Learning objectives:

- Review current literature and characterization of cellular allografts.
- Review cellular allograft clinical insights for optimizing regenerative outcomes.
- Demonstrate clinical applications for cellular allografts.

Maximizing Success: Allograft Applications in Everyday Practice

Presented in collaboration with LifeNet Health.

Presented by: **Edgard El Chaar, DDS, MS, EMBA**

Learning objectives:

- Review guided bone regeneration principles & clinical applications.
- Review bone graft material.
- Understanding allograft versus xenograft.

These educational modules were made possible by the support from LifeNet Health.

Sponsored content does not constitute nor imply endorsement, agreement, recommendation, or favoring by the American Academy of Periodontology of such information or the entities mentioned or promoted herein. Factual or typographical errors are the responsibility of the sponsoring company. ■

2026 Virtual Insurance Workshops

Looking to expand your coding expertise? Join the AAP's Third-Party Specialist, Michelle Flesch, for the AAP's virtual Insurance Workshops! These live workshops teach attendees how to correctly submit and manage both dental and medical insurance claims. Workshops are intended for office staff and members in private practice.

The workshops are held live via Zoom and are offered on the following dates from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Central Time:

Dental Insurance Workshop	Registration Deadline
Friday, April 17	Thursday, April 9
Friday, Aug. 14	Thursday, Aug. 6
Thursday, Dec. 10	Wednesday, Dec. 2

Medical Insurance Workshop	Registration Deadline
Friday, April 24	Thursday, March 20
Friday, Aug. 21	Thursday, Aug. 13
Friday, Dec. 11	Thursday, Dec. 3

The American Academy of Periodontology designates this activity for **2.75** continuing education credits.

Visit perio.org > For Members > Insurance and Third-Party Issues for more information about the workshops and how to register! ■

Business Property Insurance for Dentists & Medical Professionals:

Business Property Protection vs. Improvements & Betterments Explained

Contributed by

Luke Fehrs
Account Executive
Treloar & Heisel, LLC
domiciled in PA
CA Insurance Lic. #4241270
AR Insurance Lic. #19348887

If the title of this piece has your head spinning already, you're not alone. Insurance jargon can be convoluted and confusing. Add to that that your real job, running a dental or medical practice means juggling patient care, staff, and operations, you really can't be expected to know all these terms, too. Unfortunately, you can't afford not to read the fine print in your insurance policy (or lease) because one overlooked detail could leave you with a huge bill if disaster strikes. A fire, flood, or other property loss can put your practice on hold. The right coverage can help you reopen quickly, while the wrong coverage can leave you rebuilding on your own dime.

Two critical types of coverage every commercial tenant should understand are **Business Personal Property** (BPP) and **Improvements and Betterments** (I&B).

Business Personal Property Coverage for Dental & Medical Practices

Picture this… If you unscrewed every piece of dental equipment from the floor, unbolted the chairs, cut the roof off of the building, and turned it upside down—everything that fell out would go with you to the next office. That's your business personal property.

BPP includes your movable equipment, furniture, computers, and supplies. In a dental office, that means dental chairs, x-ray machines, tools, IT equipment, and anything else you can take with you.

The coverage amount should be based on the direct replacement cost of these items. You can determine this by looking at purchase agreements, supplier quotes, or industry equipment lists.

> "If you removed all your movable property and a fire destroyed the building, you (as the tenant) would still be responsible for rebuilding the interior in the event of a total loss.

What Is Improvements and Betterments Insurance for Commercial Tenants?

Now think about the parts of your space you can't just pick up and move: the walls, flooring, light fixtures, cabinetry, and built-in features that make your office functional. That's what Improvements and Betterments coverage protects.

If you removed all your movable property and a fire destroyed the building, you (as the tenant) would still be responsible for rebuilding the interior in the event of a total loss.

In most cases, a landlord will only restore the building's "shell." This means the four walls, a ceiling, and a floor. You would walk back into a barren shell and have to reconstruct everything else yourself.

Valuing I&B coverage is less straightforward than BPP. It's often estimated based on local construction costs per square foot. A rough starting point might be $250/sq. ft. at the time of this writing, but that number climbs significantly in large metro areas.

Avoiding Disputes with Landlords Over Insurance Responsibilities

Many disputes between tenants and landlords after a property loss happen because of unclear expectations. Both sides often assume the other will pay for the interior rebuild, which can lead to costly delays and frustration.

It's also becoming more common for landlords to specify in the lease agreement that tenants are required to carry coverage for improvements and betterments, precisely to avoid this kind of finger pointing.

Why Your Lease Agreement Is the Key to Proper Coverage

Your lease is the ultimate guide to your insurance responsibilities. It spells out exactly what you're on the hook for if your space is damaged or destroyed.

Always have an attorney review your lease before you sign and before you purchase coverage. Insurance agents can give you a general understanding of what's needed, but they can't interpret your contract with legal authority.

Here's a business property protection checklist you may find helpful:

Business Property Protection Checklist

Business Personal Property (BPP)

√ List all movable items you own: equipment, furniture, computers, supplies.

√ Calculate your **replacement cost** (use purchase agreements, supplier quotes, or inventory tools).

√ Confirm with your insurance agent that your BPP coverage limit matches today's replacement value.

Improvements & Betterments (I&B)

√ Identify fixed interior features you've added, like walls, flooring, lighting, cabinetry.

√ Get a **cost-per-square-foot** rebuild estimate from your **local** contractors.

√ Make sure your I&B coverage matches the full rebuild cost, and not just what's in your budget.

Lease Agreement

√ Review your lease for clauses on rebuild responsibility.

√ Confirm what your landlord's policy covers (usually the "shell" only).

√ Have an attorney review it before you sign or renew.

Annual Review

√ Recalculate equipment values annually, because things do change in price.

√ Update your I&B estimates for inflation and construction cost changes.

√ Adjust your coverage whenever you renovate or add major equipment.

Understanding the difference between Business Personal Property and Improvements and Betterments coverage, and making sure both are valued correctly, can save you from expensive surprises. The goal after a loss should be to get back to seeing patients quickly, not arguing over who pays for the drywall. ■

Do you have a question about business insurance?

We have answers! Contact us today for a no-obligation conversation with one of our experienced business insurance team members.

About Treloar & Heisel

Treloar & Heisel, an EPIC Company, is a financial services provider to dental and medical professionals across the country. We assist thousands of clients from residency through retirement and strive to deliver the highest level of service with custom-tailored advice and a strong national network. For more information, visit us at treloaronline.com.

TH-25-026 • Insurance products offered through Treloar & Heisel, LLC.

FOR YOUR PRACTICE

Ask the Coding Coach

Reimbursement and Dental Coverage under Medicare Advantage Plans

In recent months, many dental practices have encountered complexity and confusion around reimbursement for dental benefits included in Medicare Advantage plans. The number of these plans offering dental coverage has grown, yet answering provider and patient questions can remain challenging.

Traditionally, dental offices were encouraged to **opt out** of the original Medicare program, and that remains the case. However, as more patients enroll in Medicare Advantage plans that include dental benefits, some carriers are denying reimbursements to providers who have opted out of Medicare.

There are multiple variables to review when determining whether reimbursement will be available:

First, understand the patient's plan. These dental benefits stem from plans selected by individuals (not employers). They vary widely: some cover only basics such as prophylaxis and radiographs, while others may include restorative or periodontal procedures. It is ideal for your practice to review the patient's specific plan, confirm covered services, and in many cases obtain predetermination before treatment.

Second, provider participation status and contract type matter. If the dentist is a participating provider in the carrier's plan network, reimbursement typically follows the plan contract (including fee schedule). If the dentist operates under a fee-for-service arrangement (or is out-of-network), the fee structure may differ and is often lower or subject to different rules.

Finally, double-check your practice's opt-out status. Many dentists opted out of Medicare 8-10 years ago, and that opt-out status is automatically renewed unless the dentist requests to re-enter participation. There are situations where a carrier should not have paid because the dentist still has opted-out status.

To verify or update your status, use the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (cms.gov) "Provider Opt-Out Affidavits Look-up Tool." If you wish to opt back into Medicare, contact **ProviderEnrollmentDataRequests@cms.hhs.gov**

Q: I get frustrated when I submit a pre-treatment estimate, but when I later perform the treatment and send in the claim, the reimbursement is different from what the estimate indicated. What can I do?

A: This situation is understandably frustrating for both the office and the patient. If the Explanation of Benefits (EOB) does not clearly explain why the payment changed, you should submit an appeal requesting a review of both the pre-treatment estimate and the final payment.

There are a few important points to keep in mind, and it is helpful to confirm these before contacting the carrier. First, a pre-treatment estimate is just that: an estimate. It does not guarantee the exact payment amount once the claim is submitted. There are several legitimate reasons why the final payment may differ. For example, the patient may have received additional treatment at their general dentist's office after the estimate was issued, which can reduce their remaining benefits. Another possibility, especially if several months have passed, is that the employer may have changed insurance plans or carriers, making the original estimate invalid.

It is important to remember that a pre-treatment estimate is not a binding agreement. When discussing costs with patients, make sure they understand that the estimate is approximate and that they will be responsible for any remaining balance after the insurer processes the claim. ■

Medicare Checklist for Dental Offices

- Confirm whether your practice has opted out of Medicare.
- Identify which Medicare Advantage plans with dental coverage are most often seen in your office.
- Review your fee schedule and participation contracts; determine if you are a participating provider or operating fee-for-service for those plans.
- Whenever possible, secure predetermination from the carrier before undertaking significant treatment.

Have Benefits Been Denied by the Insurance Carrier?

First, appeal the denial with a written request for review. This will sometimes resolve the issue.

If the appeal is denied and the denial is not due to policy provision, the AAP can initiate the Complaint Resolution Process. Contact the AAP's Third-Party Specialist at **michellef@perio.org** or 312-573-3241 for more information and to get started.

Submit your third-party questions to **insurance@perio.org**. Members with coding questions or difficulties with insurance claims can also contact the AAP's third-party specialist at 312-573-3241 or **michellef@perio.org**.

Dental Hygiene Study Club

Dental Hygiene Engagement Initiative

Do you want to connect with dental hygienists in your local area? Expand your network and position yourself as a periodontal expert by becoming an AAP Dental Hygiene Study Club host! As a Study Club host, you get access to a slate of resources to help facilitate a Dental Hygiene Study Club in your local area.

Study Club resources include video modules to use as the main presentation during your meetings, best-practice resources on how to build and sustain a successful dental hygiene study club, invitation templates, and promotional materials, all designed to make hosting a dental hygiene study club easy for you, the Study Club host.

Interested in hosting an AAP Dental Hygiene Study Club? Visit **dentalhygiene.perio.org** to sign up!

Check out the latest Study Club modules!

The AAP has recently added two new modules to the Study Club: "The Perio-Systemic Connection: The Link You Can't Ignore" – Presented by **Dr. Caitlin Darcey**, and "Behavioral Management and Compliance in Your Everyday Clinical Practice: Empowering the Team Approach" – presented by **Dr. Jennifer Doobrow** and **Tracy Butler**. Stay tuned for another module on soft tissue management and its deficiencies around dental implants coming in early 2026!

Renewals

Study Club hosts who need to renew their subscription will be notified by the AAP via email. Subscriptions can be renewed online by logging into your profile on **perio.org** or by contacting the AAP at 312-787-5518. ■

Thank you to AAP's hygiene partners for sponsoring the Dental Hygiene Engagement Initiative!

Crest + Oral-B continuing the care that starts in your chair

PHILIPS

Perio PERKS Programs

PERIO PERKS

Exclusive savings and value available only to AAP members

Finance & Insurance

The CareCredit healthcare credit card can help bridge the gap between patient benefits and cost of care.

CareCredit

Aurora Payments offers credit card processing, check guarantee services, loyalty programs, merchant loans and data breach protection plans.

AURORA PAYMENTS

Banking Built for Doctors, by doctors: Panacea Financial is a doctor-founded and expert-driven digital bank that caters to Periodontists. Whether moving for residency, opening a practice, or consolidating debt–Panacea Financial was built specifically for you.

panacea FINANCIAL

SoFi consolidates and refinances federal and private student loans to offer rates customized to you, creating meaningful savings.

SoFi

Treloar & Heisel offers dental and medical professionals nationwide a comprehensive suite of financial products and services ranging from insurance to investments and financial planning.

Treloar & Heisel

Practice Management

Bent Ericksen has been a leader in employment compliance and human resources for over thirty years. AAP members are eligible for a special discount on Bent Eriksen's comprehensive HR Director package.

Bent Ericksen & Associates

Sowingo helps you effortlessly track patient referrals, manage implant inventory, streamline communication with GPs, and reclaim valuable time for patient care.

SOWINGO

Throughout 2025, you got to know Ryan Lark, Dr. Maria La Torre Sanchez, Dr. Cassandra McKenzie, and Dr. Max J. Perlitsh.

As we close out another inspiring year of Gen You, let's take a look back at their stories, their growth, and the passion they bring to our specialty.

GEN YOU IN REVIEW

Ryan Lark
Student
AAP Member since 2024

As a D4 at NYU College of Dentistry, Ryan Lark has spent the last year deepening his commitment to periodontology. His journey began early in dental school, where an influential faculty mentor sparked his interest and encouraged him to assist in surgeries during his free time. This led Ryan to take on leadership roles, including President of NYU's periodontology society, where he hoped to inspire more of his peers.

Ryan's passion for perio is due to its combination of long-term patient relationships, evidence-based care, and the excitement of emerging technologies. His experience at the 2024 AAP Annual Meeting was pivotal because it gave him a front-row seat to advanced surgical techniques, implant workflows, and the collaborative spirit of the profession.

He approaches both clinic and academics with intention, and stayed grounded during the demands of his final year. Ryan looks forward to continuing this momentum and embracing regenerative therapies, digital dentistry, and lifelong learning through the Academy. He hopes to someday inspire the next generation of specialists the same way he was inspired.

Dr. Maria Cecilia La Torre Sanchez
First-Year Resident
AAP Member since 2024

Dr. Sanchez's path to periodontics is defined by resilience, determination, and compassion. Originally from Colombia, she worked full-time as a pharmacy technician while navigating a new language and education system in the U.S., earning her degrees and pursuing her dream to become a dentist. During dental school, she shadowed perio residents, which opened her eyes to the specialty's precision, scientific rigor, and strong patient relationships. This solidified her passion. Now a resident at the University of Detroit Mercy, Dr. Sanchez is immersed in learning more advanced procedures such as IV sedation, soft tissue grafting, and regenerative therapy.

She is a strong believer in communication, teamwork, and shared learning. She collaborates closely with faculty and upper residents and utilizes cloud-based systems and structured study habits to balance clinical and academic responsibilities. Her journey has also been shaped by profound personal loss, having unexpectedly lost her father and brother. With the support of family, friends, and her program, she learned to move forward with resilience and renewed purpose.

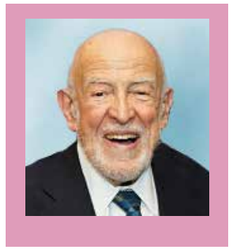
Dr. Sanchez hopes to continue building clinical experience, expanding her surgical skills, and using her passion to serve underserved communities through the power of periodontal care, especially communities facing language barriers.

Dr. Cassandra McKenzie
Clinician
AAP Member since 2021

Dr. McKenzie is in her ninth year in private practice in Kansas City, and she brings enthusiasm for the way periodontology blends pathosis, function, and aesthetics to improve everyday lives. Her practice environment thrives on teamwork, clear systems, and a culture of humility.

Dr. McKenzie has become increasingly active with the Academy in recent years, participating in committees and serving as a moderator at the AAP Annual Meeting, where she says she had many unforgettable experiences. What she values most about the meeting is the education she can immediately translate into improved patient care, elevated systems, and a stronger team.

In her practice, she emphasizes transparency, accountability, and shared growth. Guided by Maya Angelou's quote, "When you know better, do better," she continues to push herself, her team, and her community toward excellence.



Dr. Max J. Perlitsh
Clinician and Educator
AAP Member since 1964

Dr. Perlitsh's career spans over six decades and represents a life of dedication to the specialty. After earning his DMD from Tufts University in 1956 and serving in the U.S. Navy Dental Corps, he pursed advanced periodontal training and later became Acting Chair of Tufts' Department of Periodontology. Influenced by Dr. Irving Glickman's research, Dr. Perlitsh attended his first AAP Annual Meeting in 1964 and has been engaged ever since.

Throughout his academic and private practice career, he witnessed and contributed to major shifts in the specialty. Even in retirement, Dr. Perlitsh remains committed and knowledgeable. He actively follows the latest research, engages with professional societies, and attends AAP Town Hall meetings. He continues to advocate for preserving natural dentition.

Mentoring the next generation of periodontists is very important to Dr. Perlitsh. With decades of clinical experience, he remains committed to educating and guiding future periodontists.

Education Updates

Educator Symposium

140 educators attended the 2025 Educators' Symposium: "Are We Graduating Truly Competent Professionals? Attendees enjoyed listening to how different schools are implementing Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) in periodontal education and clinical training. They discussed implementing standards for practical approaches to incorporate progressive learning autonomy into periodontal teaching, and identified the role of EPAs in predoctoral and postdoctoral periodontal education.

Thank you to Philips Oral Healthcare for sponsoring the 2025 Educators' Symposium!

PHILIPS

SPARK – Sharing Periodontal Advances and Resident Knowledge

SPARK is a resident-led virtual event featuring clinical case presentations.

The next event will be held on Feb. 17, 2025, 12 – 1 p.m. (Pacific Time).

Theme: Esthetic Crown Lengthening: Precision, Planning, and Predictability
Participating Programs:

- **University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)**
- **Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU)**

Did you miss the SPARK event on Nov. 11 on periodontal regeneration? Visit **perio.org/periodontal-education/spark** to view the recording.

The AAP's **e-Learning Center** offers **24/7 access** to web-based and on-demand periodontal **continuing education** (CE).

e-Learning Center

Be sure to check out our updated e-LC user experience!

CE topics include:

- Periodontal plastic and soft tissue surgery
- Treatment of periodontal diseases and peri-implant diseases
- Emerging concepts and innovative therapies
- Interdisciplinary therapy
- Implants, tissue engineering, and hard tissue reconstruction
- Leadership, personal, and practice development

ADA C·E·R·P® | Continuing Education Recognition Program

The American Academy of Periodontology is an ADA CERP® Recognized Provider

Visit **e-learning.perio.org** to view course descriptions, speaker information, and educational objectives.

Welcome New Members

Congratulations to the new members of the Academy who joined between Sept. 1, 2025 and Nov. 20, 2025

New Member	Location	Category
District 1		
John T Russo	Boston, MA	STUDENT
Andro Azer	Boston, MA	STUDENT
District 2		
Omar Daweri	Williamsburg, VA	ACTIVE
Saba Mohammadi	Pittsburgh, PA	STUDENT
Cliff Chen	Arlington, VA	ACTIVE
Justin D Zalewsky	Washington, DC	ACTIVE
District 3		
Matthew Alvarez	Peachtree City, GA	ACTIVE
Alec J Temlock	Nashville, TN	ACTIVE
Stanley D Halpern	Saint Simons Island, GA	RETIRED
Maninder Kaur	Vestavia Hills, AL	EDUCATOR
Renata S Leite	Charleston, SC	EDUCATOR
Isabelle Hwang	Memphis, TN	STUDENT
Bennett Blaine Fry	Memphis, TN	STUDENT
Nathalia Vielela Souza	Gainesville, FL	EDUCATOR
Helia Dehghan	Miami, FL	STUDENT
Colton Terrell	Charleston, SC	STUDENT
Maria Andreina Izarra	Atlanta, GA	ACTIVE
Wanda Hall	Glen Allen, VA	ACTIVE
District 4		
Elizabeth Vella Caruana	Winnipeg, MB	STUDENT
Kaileigh Chow	Toronto, ON	STUDENT
Heli Gosaliya	Winnipeg, MB	STUDENT
Daniella Stackiw	Winnipeg, MB	STUDENT
Amanda Tittel	Toronto, ON	STUDENT
Cindy Xiao	Toronto, ON	STUDENT
Haley Weglarz	Detroit, MI	STUDENT

New Member	Location	Category
Valeria Estrella	Kansas City, MO	STUDENT
Shahram Raoof	Chicago, IL	ACTIVE
Karen K. Wolf	Waterloo, IA	RETIRED
Eddie Morales	Elm Grove, WI	ACTIVE
Lisa A Teel	Brookfield, WI	ACTIVE
Jenna Hang	Fitchburg, WI	ACTIVE
Olivia Bodnar	Fairview Park, OH	STUDENT
David P Sarment	Novi, MI	ACTIVE
Pedram Matinsefat	Cleveland Heights, OH	STUDENT
Shilpa Kolhatkar	Northville, MI	ACTIVE
District 5		
Ernest Erian	Katy, TX	ACTIVE
Naveen Manori Karim	Lewisville, TX	ACTIVE
Ravneetinder Kaur Sandhu	Highland Village, TX	ACTIVE
Tyler Buterbaugh	Lexington, KY	STUDENT
Aalieyah Billings	Aurora, CO	STUDENT
Thalida Dong	Conroe, TX	ACTIVE
Vanessa J Garcia	Denver, CO	STUDENT
Ryan Lanman	Oklahoma City, OK	ACTIVE
District 6		
Sohail Ebrahimi	Union City, CA	STUDENT
Nathan Palanker	Sunnyvale, CA	ACTIVE
Ira R Simon	Novato, CA	ACTIVE
Victor Perez	Studio City, CA	ACTIVE
April Martinez	San Diego, CA	ACTIVE
Lincoln Nguyen	Huntington Beach, CA	ACTIVE
Ingrid Chai	San Francisco, CA	STUDENT
Shervin Afghani	San Bruno, CA	STUDENT

New Member	Location	Category
District 7		
Kathryn Kaloroumakis	New York, NY	STUDENT
Sebastiano Andreana	New York, NY	INTL
Shivani V Iyer	Harrison, NJ	STUDENT
Sima Tafreshi	East Norwich, NY	STUDENT
Elisa Mello	New York, NY	ASSOCIATE
Mitra Astar	Harrison, NY	ACTIVE
District 8		
Joseph Jankovich	Lawton, OK	ACTIVE
Natalie Nuckolls	Bethesda, MD	STUDENT
Gabriel El-Awik	Augusta, GA	STUDENT

INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS

New Member	Location
Alexandra Hunter	York, Canada
Geraldine Patricia Arcos Maldonado	Lima, Peru
Robert Stone	Slaithwaite, United Kingdom
Mohammed Inam Khan	Oakville, Canada
Anastasia Kelekis-Cholakis	Winnipeg, Canada
Alison M Mayers	Saint Michael, Barbados
Jacob Swiderski	Oakville, Canada
Amarpreet Sabharwal	Burlington, Canada
Yousef Kareem	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Nancy Mouradian	Quebec, Canada
Gina Kano	Westmount, Canada
Jon Swain	Nedlands, WA Australia
Aparna Radhakrishnan	Coimbatore, India
Bartlomiej Górski	Warsaw, Poland
Piotr Wychowanski	Warsaw, Poland
Abirami Ravichandran	Chennai, India
Ghassan Omera	Oakville, Canada
Jaffar Pakroo	Innisfil, Canada

2025 Signature Diamond Sponsors

The AAP thanks its Signature Diamond Sponsors for their generous support in 2025.

Nobel Biocare

straumann

Treloar & Heisel
AN EPIC COMPANY

2025 LEAD Program

On Sept. 19-21, 2025, the AAP held its eighth Leadership, Engagement, Action, and Development (LEAD) Program. 15 participants, who have been recognized as up-and-coming leaders in periodontics, came together for an interactive two days of learning, discussion, and networking.

Participants enjoyed discussion sessions with some of the most respected leaders in the specialty. Focused on leadership development in practice, academics, science, and organized dentistry, discussion topics ranged from building a successful practice to becoming an elected AAP officer.

The AAP is proud to support the participants in their journey to become the next-generation leaders in periodontics. Congratulations LEAD class of 2025!

Dr. Aly Kennedy
Dr. Amanda Finger Stadler
Dr. Bethany Brooks
Dr. Brittney Ferguson
Dr. Christina Zachariadou
Dr. Hawra AlQallaf
Dr. Ioannis Kormas
Dr. Katie Martin
Dr. Kelly Hill
Dr. Monica Gibson
Dr. Rafael Amorim Cavalcanti de Siqueira
Dr. Samia Suleiman-Ata
Dr. Vinayak Joshi
Dr. Ye Shi
Dr. Yvette Carrillo

Thank you to the AAP Foundation, American Board of Periodontology, Colgate-Palmolive Company, and Nobel Biocare for supporting the 2025 LEAD Program.

ABP The American Board of Periodontology
Certifying in Periodontology and Dental Implant Surgery

Colgate

Nobel Biocare

Want to be considered for next year's LEAD program? The nomination period opens in early 2026. Visit **perio.org** to learn more!

60 YEARS of Member Recognition

Congratulations to the following members on reaching the milestone of 60+ years of membership with the American Academy of Periodontology! The Academy acknowledges and appreciates their dedication and commitment to the specialty of periodontics.

Name	Years of Membership	Year Joined
Earl Ah Moo	61	1964
Leonardo Alvarez	61	1964
George App	61	1964
Umberto Bar	61	1964
Erwin Barrington	62	1963
Jerome Bartwink	62	1963
Andrejs Baumhammers	60	1965
Norman Becker	63	1962
Sheldon Benjamin	64	1961
Richard Benveniste	60	1965
John Billen	61	1964
Gerald Bowers	63	1962
Charles Bress	62	1963
Philip Caplan	61	1964
Richard Chaikin	60	1965
Eleanore Cornish	70	1955
John Derdivanis	60	1965
Milton Dines	62	1963
H L Diversi	61	1964
Lucina Ejercito-Goitia	63	1962
Sidney Friedman	70	1955
Dennis Galanter	62	1963
Edwin Galkin	60	1965
David Gordy	62	1963
Charles Graham	61	1964
Alan Greene	60	1965
Carlos Gutierrez	60	1965
Richard Helburn	61	1964
Edward Herrman	61	1964
Harold Horton	61	1964
James Houser	61	1964
Willis Irons	61	1964
Paul Kalis	60	1965
Irving Karel	62	1963
Ralph Kaslick	60	1965

Name	Years of Membership	Year Joined
Robert Kennedy	60	1965
Matthew Kessler	61	1964
James Knowles	61	1964
J David Kohn	62	1963
Edward Last	60	1965
William Lundquist	64	1961
James Lytle	62	1963
David Maiman	60	1965
Richard Marcus	63	1962
Robert Marks	61	1964
Joseph Maybury	61	1964
Walter Mazzella	60	1965
Herman Mintzer	62	1963
Clodomiro Mora	63	1962
Moyses Moreinos	63	1962
Marvin Okun	68	1957
Louis Orzolek	60	1965
Robert Oslar	69	1956
Claude Pallanca	61	1964
Max Perlitsh	61	1964
Louis Pesce	60	1965
Elmer Popov	63	1962
Aurelio Ramos	60	1965
Charles Reeve	61	1964
Morton Rivo	62	1963
Fred Robbins	60	1965
Gerald Rosen	62	1963
Stanley Rosen	60	1965
Marvin Rosenberg	62	1963
Thomas Salimeno	62	1963
Robert Schallhorn	61	1964
Robert Scoren	60	1965
Fumio Shibata	60	1965
Richard Shick	63	1962
Stanley Stoller	62	1963
Stephen Stone	60	1965
Stewart Taubkin	60	1965
Justin Towner	64	1961
George Uohara	61	1964
Juan Villavicencio	62	1963
Gerald Wank	66	1959
E A Warren	61	1964
E Thompson Witte	60	1965

Advocating *for* Perio

Dr. Brad Crump

Dr. Richard Nagy

In October, the AAP's leadership team attended the ADA's House of Delegates Annual Session in Washington, D.C. On Saturday, Oct. 25, the AAP hosted a gathering of the Dental Specialty Group (DSG) where representatives from eight of the 12 dental specialties assembled to hear from ADA leadership and discuss relevant items of business, including the direction of future House of Delegates meetings, and advocating for the unique concerns of dental specialties at the federal and state levels.

The AAP delegation also met with representatives from other specialty groups, including the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO), the American Association of Endodontists (AAE), the American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists (ASDA), and the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) to discuss potential collaborations for 2026 and beyond. Additionally, the AAP team met with the team from the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD).

On Sunday morning, the AAP's ADA Liaison Committee hosted its annual breakfast for the ADA House of Delegates and Alternate Delegates, led by Acting Co-Chairs Dr. Brad Crump and Dr. Richard Nagy. Over the course of two hours, attendees reviewed and discussed ADA resolutions of interest to the specialty of periodontics, heard directly from the five candidates for ADA President-Elect, received an update from ADPAC representatives, and received a governmental update from AAP member, Dr. Leigh Kent.

The AAP, in conjunction with the ADA Liaison Committee, looks forward to continuing to interact with the ADA to ensure that the specialty of periodontics is well represented. ■

International periodontics

The Academy extends its sincere appreciation to our Canadian partners who helped make this year's 111th AAP Annual Meeting in Toronto a success. We want to take a moment to recognize the international collaboration that supported our meeting in Canada.

The Academy was honored to host this year's meeting in collaboration with the Canadian Academy of Periodontology (CAP). Their partnership, hospitality, and commitment to advancing periodontics helped to make a collaborative and welcoming environment for the AAP and for all our attendees from around the world.

We also want to recognize the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA), who we partnered with to host the Dental Hygiene Symposium. Their leadership and educational expertise helped elevate the focus of this year's programming, and helped support and strengthen the relationship between periodontists, dental hygienists, and the entire dental team.

A special thank you as well to Destination Toronto, whose support led to a smooth and unforgettable experience for all our attendees.

AAP CONNECT
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PERIODONTOLOGY

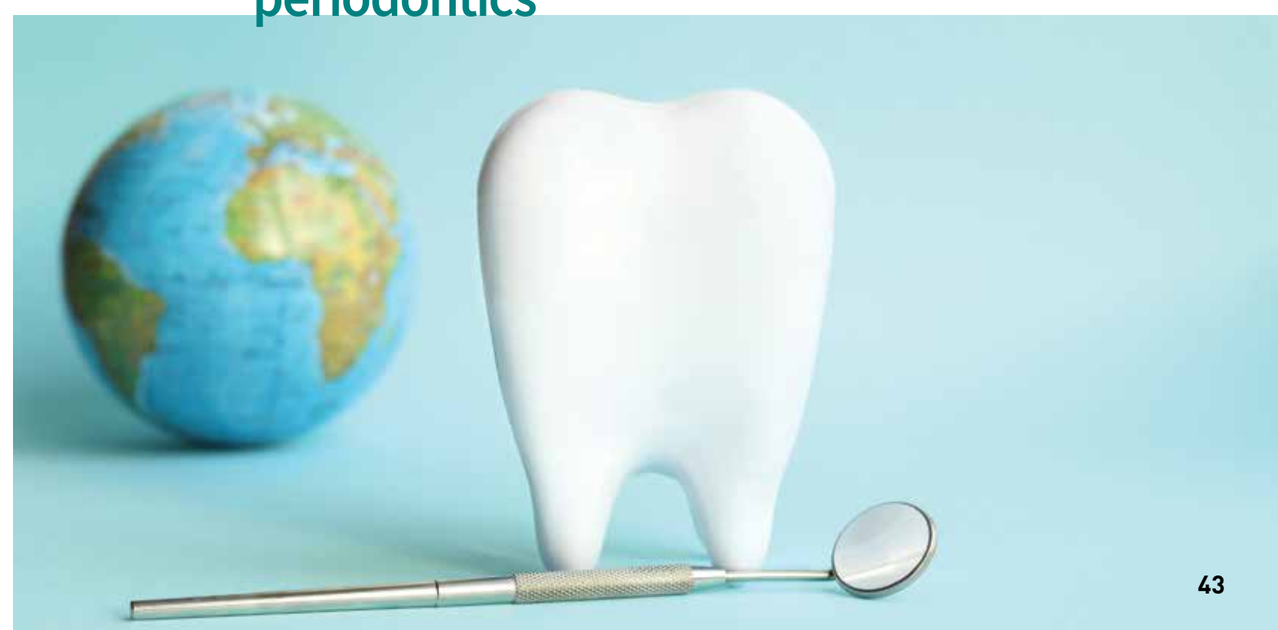
Communicate with periodontists around the world on AAP Connect!

AAP Connect is a unique space where members can share insights, discuss the differences of periodontology in their countries, and collaborate on advancing the specialty.

On AAP Connect you can join the conversation on the main forum, PerioSphere. There is also a new community just for international AAP members where you can:

- **Engage** with periodontists internationally and learn about different approaches, challenges, and innovations in periodontics.
- **Participate** in discussions on clinical practices, research developments, and case studies specific to other countries.
- **Access** resources, including articles, videos, and webinars, contributed by experts.

Together, we can make a difference, one discussion at a time. Join us today! ■



AAP Journals Roundup

2025 Annual Meeting

The AAP Journals team hosted several events in Toronto, including the third annual Peer Review Workshop, annual Editorial Board meeting, and meet-and-greets at the Member Resource Center (MRC). At the workshop, participants interacted with the Editors of *Clinical Advances in Periodontics* (CAP) and the *Journal of Periodontology* (JOP) and learned about the publication process, the guiding principles of peer review, and the article types published in both journals.

Various topics were discussed during the Editorial Board meeting including special journal issues, accomplishments to date, and plans for 2026. These plans will be shared in future updates in *Periospectives*. Meeting attendees also had opportunities to meet and chat with the Editors at the MRC. Finally, the editorial team presented their annual awards for Excellence in Peer Review. This year's recipients – **Dr. Anthony L. Neely** (JOP) and **Dr. Sejal R. Thacker** (CAP) – were recognized at the awards ceremony for their outstanding performance as peer reviewers.

ORCID

Did you know that CAP and JOP require submitting authors to have an ORCID ID? ORCID IDs (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) are unique identifiers – like Social Security numbers – that help researchers and clinicians distinguish themselves and manage their scholarly contributions. More than 7,000 scholarly journals collect ORCID IDs from authors, and these IDs are often required by institutions and funders such as the National Institutes of Health. ORCID IDs can be obtained by anyone free of charge at **https://info.orcid.org/researchers/**. Once you have your ID, you can create a profile and link your research, publications, and funding to your profile. If you do any peer reviewing, you can also connect your peer review history to your ORCID profile. The Editors of JOP and CAP strongly encourage all authors, not just submitting authors, to obtain an ORCID. Additional information about ORCID is available at **https://orcid.org/**.

Reduced Open Access Fees for AAP Members

The Academy's publisher, Wiley, offers discounted open access (OA) fees to AAP members. With open access, articles are immediately free to read, download, and share, which helps to disseminate research to an audience beyond journal subscribers. The fees that authors pay to make their articles open access are often covered by their institutions or funding agencies, but in cases where this support isn't available, members can receive a discount for JOP and CAP. Further information is available on the **JOP OA** page and **CAP OA** page.

Wiley E-Alerts

Be sure to add the email address **e-service@info.wiley.com** as a safe sender or new contact, or mark it as "not spam," in your email client to receive monthly content alerts from Wiley. These alerts, which are sent to AAP members, highlight selected articles published in the current issues of CAP and JOP. ■

AAP's Saving Teeth Webinar Series Continues

New Sessions Now Available

The AAP's Saving Teeth Webinar Series, developed by the Workgroup on Emerging Technologies for Bone and Soft Tissue Reconstruction to Save Teeth, is well underway. This 14-part series highlights the importance of preserving natural dentition through established therapies and emerging technologies that are shaping the future of care.

Each session features internationally recognized experts who share scientific evidence, clinical applications, and practical strategies to support tooth retention and long-term oral health.

The first three webinars are now available in the AAP e-Learning Center for CE credit, and more information can be found on the series webpage.

Coming next: *"Leveraging Antibiotics in Periodontal Therapy: When and How?"* featuring Dr. Magda Feres and Dr. Irina Dragan, which will take place on Feb. 11 at 7:00 p.m. Central Time.

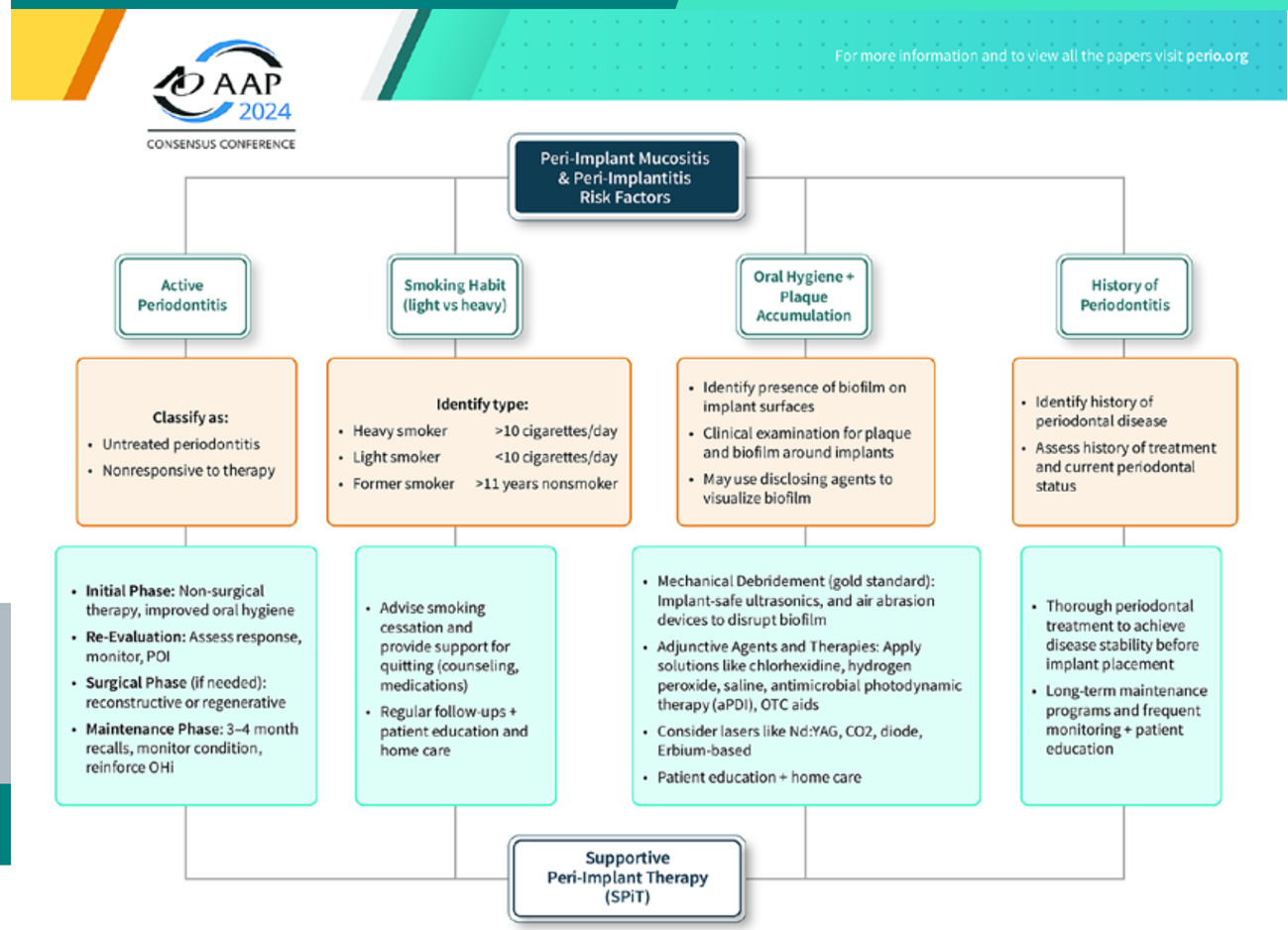
For updates and access to available content and to register, visit:

https://www.perio.org/ce-meetings/saving-teeth-webinar-series/ ■

AO/AAP Consensus Conference Flowcharts

Check out the latest resources from the recent AO AAP Consensus Conference. These flowcharts highlight key decision points and serve as quick reference tools in daily practice and when reviewing the full consensus papers.

To view them all visit: **https://www.perio.org/**



ABP | DIPLOMATE INTERVIEW

Angela Palaiologou-Gallis, DDS, MS
Incoming Director of Examinations
American Board of Periodontology
San Antonio, Texas

Dr. Palaiologou-Gallis will become Director of Examinations in Jan. 2026. The Director of Examinations provides substantive guidance to the ABP Board of Directors on examination policy and best practices, oversees the examination process, and supports candidates throughout the process.

Where did you attend dental school and complete your periodontal residency?

I completed my dental degree in Greece at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens in 1995. After earning a full scholarship from the National Scholarship Foundation of Greece through a national examination, I began my periodontal residency at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in 1997. In 2000, I graduated from LSU with a Certificate in Periodontics and a Master of Science in Oral Biology.

Where did you start your career in periodontics and what is your current role?

My scholarship required me to obtain a Master of Science degree and return to Greece to practice for a minimum of three years. After completing my residency, I returned to Greece and practiced in a solo practice limited to periodontics and implants from 2000 to 2007. During that time, I also held a part-time teaching position in the Graduate Program at the University of Athens.

I had always aspired to pursue a full-time academic career in the United States, and in 2007, I was able to realize that goal by accepting a faculty position at LSU. After seven years in private practice, my husband, our two toddlers, and I returned to my alma mater, where I began my academic career as an assistant professor. In 2009, I became the program director at LSU, a role I held until 2018, when I moved to San Antonio to serve in my current position as program director.

How has serving as an Examiner, Board Member, and ABP President prepared you for your new role as Director of Examinations?

I have served as a Board examiner since 2013 and have had the opportunity to witness and participate in the evolution of the ABP throughout this period. My experience as a Board member and as President has given me a comprehensive understanding of the pathway to Board certification.

Throughout my years of service, I worked closely with Dr. Rossmann, who held the Director of Examinations position for the past seven years, and I gained in-depth knowledge of all aspects of both examinations. I have served on the Oral Examination Committee as both a member and chair, as well as on the Qualifying Examination Committee. These experiences have provided me with the insight necessary to oversee and advance the examination processes.

As you take the helm as Director of Examinations, what challenges and opportunities do you see?

The ABP is in a strong position thanks to the dedicated efforts of the Board members and the previous Director of Examinations. The number of Qualifying Examination candidates has grown over the past three years following the extension of eligibility to third-year residents. We continue to work diligently each year to refine both examinations and to incorporate findings from the most recent Job Task Analysis completed last year.

This ongoing work requires commitment from all Board members as well as the Director of Examinations. The ABP is fortunate to have a talented and highly motivated group of individuals who are eager to enhance our examination processes. As Director of Examinations, I am excited to collaborate with them in developing and delivering examinations that are well constructed, evidence-based, and validated.

The Board of Directors recently created a Task Force on the Future of the Oral Examination. What are the Task Force's goals?

The ABP is looking ahead and exploring how artificial intelligence and other technological advancements may support the evolution of our examinations. The Task Force will evaluate emerging technologies and trends to determine whether—and in what ways—they may help us further enhance the quality, reliability, and efficiency of our examinations.

What trends or developments do you see in the practice of periodontics today?

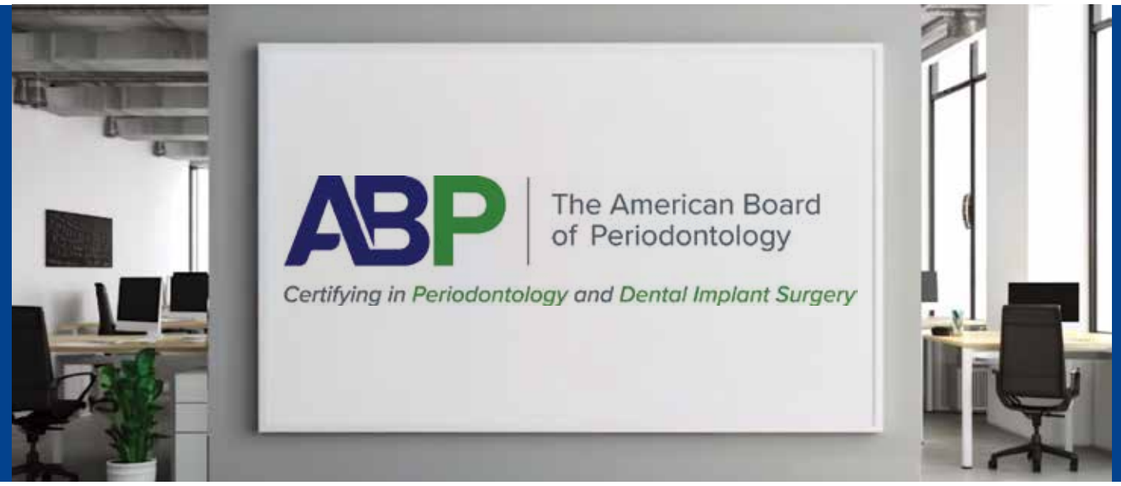
Digital technology continues to expand its role in periodontics, influencing diagnostics, treatment planning, and clinical workflows. Artificial intelligence will also increasingly impact dentistry, and periodontics is no exception. I believe these advancements will help further elevate the quality of care we are able to provide to our patients.

Do you have any advice for those considering pursuing Board certification?

In addition to staying informed about updates posted on the ABP website regarding examination changes, my advice is to rely on the knowledge and experience gained through residency training and clinical practice when preparing for the exams. Candidates who perform best tend to prepare methodically and study steadily over time rather than attempting to "cram" at the last minute.

These examinations are comprehensive, and the content is broad. It is important to develop a structured approach that allows for systematic review of all domains. For the Oral Examination specifically, I encourage candidates to practice "thinking out loud," as doing so helps examiners assess the depth and clarity of their clinical reasoning. ■

AMERICAN BOARD OF PERIODONTOLOGY



2026 ABP ANNUAL REGISTRATION IS OPEN

The American Board of Periodontology 2026 annual registration is now open. The Board is pleased to announce the annual registration fee remains steady at $325. The Board works diligently to manage expenses while also providing quality services to Diplomates. Diplomates are asked to complete the annual registration process by Jan. 15, 2026.

ABPERIOminute All Diplomates are required to answer 15 ABPerio Minute questions a quarter/60 questions a year to maintain certification. ABPerio Minute replaces the prior maintenance of certification exam every six years. The ABPerio Minute platform is designed to capture "walking around knowledge" so preparatory study is unnecessary and there is no pass/fail. Helping Diplomates engage in continuous quality improvement and lifelong learning is a core function of the Board. In addition to answering 60 ABPerio Minute questions annually, in the final year of the six-year certification cycle, Diplomates must attest to accumulation of 60 CE activity points over the course of the certification cycle. **Diplomates completing their six-year certification cycle this year will be asked to complete the on-line attestation form by Dec. 31, 2025.** To view the CE activity point chart, please visit the Maintenance of Certification page on the ABP website. Diplomates who passed the oral examination in 2025 must comply with annual continuing certification requirements starting in Jan. 2026.

2025 LESLIE M. SALKIN AWARD

Dr. Leslie M. (Mike) Salkin served as a Director of the American Board of Periodontology from 1995 to 2001. Following his last year as a Director, he returned every year to assist the Board on the Oral Examination as an Examiner until his death in 2013. The Board established the Leslie M. Salkin Award to honor his many years of exceptional service to the ABP. The award is presented each year to the candidate who earns the highest score on the Oral Examination. **The Board is pleased to announce Ellen Piehl Pearce, DMD, MS, as the 2025 Salkin Award recipient.**

The award was presented during the 2025 AAP Annual Meeting.

NEW DIPLOMATES RECEPTION

The ABP was pleased to celebrate new Diplomates at a reception held at the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto during the AAP Annual Meeting.

EXAM UPDATES

The continual improvement of the examination process is a priority of the Board. The Qualifying Examination Committee and its item writers are working on updates to exam content for 2027. The Board of Directors recently approved a Task Force on the Future of the Oral Examination. The Task Force will spend the next year hearing from certification experts and other stakeholders in the examination process with the goal of evolving the oral examination to meet the needs of future Diplomates and maintain high standards for patient care.

DIPLOMATE BROCHURES AVAILABLE

The ABP is pleased to offer Diplomates tri-fold brochures for purchase. The brochure is ideal for display in your reception area and provides patients with useful information about the value of seeing a board-certified periodontist. Brochures are available in a standard format, or for a small additional, one-time fee, may be customized with your information. For the customized version, you can add your office contact information on the back panel. You can also replace the cover photo with your own high-resolution head shot photo, or you can opt to add both customization options. For more information, please contact the ABP Office 312-682-0919 or **staff@abperio.org**.

UPDATE YOUR PROFILE AND IMPROVE YOUR VISIBILITY

Did you know the "Find-a-Board-Certified Periodontist" tool is the most visited page on the ABP's website? Make sure you are visible by adding a profile photo and website address. Do you have multiple offices? We can help you with those listings. Contact the ABP Office if you have any questions or need assistance updating your profile.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Jan. 26 – 30, 2026:** 2026 Qualifying Examination
- **April 27 – May 1, 2026:** 2026 Oral Examination

2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Leena Bahl Palomo, DDS, MSD; President
Bryan J. Frantz, DMD, MS; Vice President
Mary Beth Neill, DDS, MS; Secretary/Treasurer
Richard T. Kao, DDS, PhD
Angela Palaiologou-Gallis, DDS, MS; Interim Director
Douglas R. Dixon, DMD, PhD
Nicolaas C. Geurs, DDS, MS
Dimitris N. Tatakis, DDS, PhD
Jennifer L. Bain, DMD, MSPH, PhD
Benjamin T. Duval, DDS
Paul G. Luepke, DDS, MS; Immediate Past President

Executive Staff

Jeffrey A. Rossmann, DDS, MS; Director of Examinations through 12/31/25
Angela Palaiologou-Gallis, DDS, MS, Assistant Director of Examinations
Charles A. Powell, DDS, MS, Director of Continuing Certification
Eileen G. Loranger, Executive Director
Katy Englehart, Associate Executive Director
Barbara Robinette, Credentialing Program Manager

312-682-0919

staff@abperio.org

www.abperio.org

@abperio

@americanboardofperiodontology

@abperio

Two New Awards in 2026

Introducing the AAPF International Resident Award

The AAP Foundation is pleased to introduce the AAPF International Resident Award, a new scholarship created to support internationally trained periodontal residents as they advance their education in the United States. The annual $2,000 award assists second-year residents with travel, immigration, legal, and other costs that often accompany training far from home. Applications for the inaugural award will be accepted in 2026. Eligibility is limited to residents who completed their predoctoral studies and earned their DMD or DDS outside the United States.

The award was made possible through founding gifts from Dr. Irina F. Dragan and her patients at The Perio Studio in Boston, MA. Dr. Dragan, a former AAP Foundation awardee and current Board Member, completed her dental degree in Romania and her periodontal residency in the United States. Her commitment to championing globally trained clinicians reflects the Foundation's mission to support excellence in education and expand opportunities within the specialty.

Second Levi Research Award for Perio Residents

Beginning in 2026, the AAP Foundation will offer two annual $5,000 Patty & Paul Levi Research Awards. In addition to the existing award recognizing a research project by a pre-doctoral student, a new second award will be available for a post-doctoral resident. Both awards recognize research related broadly to prevention and conducted under the supervision of a periodontal faculty mentor. Applications for both awards are due June 1. Led by Paul and Patty Levi, more than 100 donors have made gifts to support these awards. ■

AAP Foundation Annual Meeting Recap

A Strong Showing of Support at the 2025 Annual Meeting

Thank you to everyone who stopped by the AAP Foundation booth in Toronto. Our Planting Seeds for the Future theme offered a visual reflection on the role we each play in strengthening the specialty. Watching the canopy fill with symbolic maple seeds from campaign supporters was a clear reminder of how today's investments in periodontology strengthen the teaching, research, and care that shape tomorrow.

During the meeting, colleagues stopped by to connect, participate in the Silent Auction, and join Foundation-supported programs including the AAP/AAP Foundation Awards Ceremony, the Ambassador Breakfast, the Future Horizons session from past award recipients on AI, and the Practice Transition and Estate Planning Breakfast. The steady stream of visitors and the conversations we had spoke to the shared purpose that connects us all. That support was reflected in the generosity shown throughout the week, and we are grateful to share that **$89,633.23 was raised** through contributions, pledges, and the Silent Auction during the meeting.

In addition, the Foundation extends its sincere thanks to Dr. Marc Nevins, Dr. Yoshihiro Ono, and the host committee for the Celebration of Teaching, Mentorship, and Friendship Honoring Dr. Myron Nevins. This extraordinary event raised more than **$400,000** from **34 sponsors** and more than **200 attendees**, with net proceeds shared equally between the AAP Foundation and the Harvard School of Dental Medicine. ■

PerioDash Recap

PerioDash 2025 and New Resources for Participants

PerioDash continued to bring the periodontal community together this year with 527 participants across 23 states, Canada, and Japan. Practice teams, residents, and individual runners organized their own events and helped raise awareness of periodontal disease, the importance of treating it, and the dedicated specialists who can help.

To help participants carry the message forward, the Foundation launched a new PerioDash Participant Resource webpage **https://periofoundation.org/periodash-2025**.

The page includes spotlight Q&As from different types of participants, educational handouts, talking points, and a social media toolkit. It also offers customized press releases for teams interested in sharing their local event with community news outlets.

Groups shared photos, stories, and reflections about how they made PerioDash their own, from practice fun runs to school-based gatherings. Each example underscored the spirit of connection and advocacy that has defined PerioDash since its start.

Thank you to everyone who participated this year and supported the AAP Foundation's mission to foster education, research, and advocacy in periodontology. We invite you to explore the new resource page and share it with others who may want to take part next year. ■