

1 Report of the HDA Delegation to the ADA House of Delegates – 2021-H

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4 The American Dental Association held its 162<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting, now called SmileCon, at the  
5 Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nevada from October 11<sup>th</sup>-  
6 16<sup>th</sup>. SmileCon proved to be a successful return to in-person meetings, after last year’s virtual  
7 meeting due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, we are currently still navigating our way  
8 through the COVID-19 Pandemic, and the ADA made some changes to make this meeting as  
9 safe as possible. This included mandatory vaccination or daily COVID testing in addition to  
10 adequate social distancing and mask wearing. With everyone wearing masks, it was challenging  
11 to recognize friends and colleagues as we passed one another. A virtual component was also  
12 offered.

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14 SmileCon was presided over by ADA President Dr. Daniel J. Klemmedson, our former District  
15 14<sup>th</sup> Trustee. High-level discussions this year centered around the ADA’s COVID response,  
16 unity, membership diversity and inclusion, increasing the ease of accessibility to member  
17 benefits and advocacy relating to the proposed Medicare dental benefit. These themes were  
18 echoed in speeches given by outgoing Executive Director, Dr. Kathy O’Loughlin, candidates for  
19 ADA President-elect and Vice President, as well as the incoming ADA Executive Director, Dr.  
20 Raymond Cohlma. Those themes also permeated the Reports and Resolutions that we read,  
21 discussed, debated, and voted on.

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23 Over 7,400 attended in Las Vegas, with just over 3,000 dentists (over 570 were virtual only);  
24 over 120 dental students; and over 1,850 dental team members (150 were virtual only). CE  
25 courses were available to attendees and a cafeteria style of participation was initiated with the  
26 new SmileCon format. There were 535 total booths from 302 total companies (101 of those  
27 were first time exhibitors).

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29 All of the courses, exhibitors, district caucuses and ADA House of Delegates meetings were  
30 located at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center. The House of Delegates was presided over by  
31 Speaker Dr. W. Mark Donald and met Wednesday afternoon and all-day Saturday, starting at  
32 6:30 am with the election of officers. This year’s election was won by President-elect Dr.  
33 George Shepley from Baltimore, MD, and Second Vice President Dr. Mark Bronson from  
34 Cincinnati, OH. Dr. Ted Sherwin was unopposed for a second term as Treasurer.

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36 Dr. Klemmedson presided over the installation of the newly elected officers and our newly  
37 installed ADA President, Dr. Cesar R. Sabates from Florida. Dr. Sabates is the 158<sup>th</sup> ADA  
38 President and the first Cuban American President. He gave a very sincere speech and gave the  
39 House a sense that he will be proactive and concentrate on protecting dentistry from excessive  
40 regulations and interference from outside influences.

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42 Most of the work for the delegates involves evaluating the many reports and resolutions that are  
43 brought before the House. As in years past, the majority of Resolutions were left on the consent  
44 calendar and were therefore approved without discussion on the House floor; however, a number  
45 of resolutions were pulled off the consent calendar and discussed at the four Reference  
46 Committee meetings held from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm on Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup> and then at the

47 House meeting on Saturday, October 16th. The results of those discussions and decisions are as  
48 follows.

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50 **Reference Committee A: Budget, Business, Membership and Administrative Matters.**

51 ADA Treasurer, Dr. Ted Sherwin, remarked that the ADA is in a very strong financial position  
52 due to strong investments and existing non-dues revenue producing programs. He stated that the  
53 deficit of \$386K could be addressed without any dues increase beyond the mandated \$9.00  
54 increase to comply with Resolution 14H-2019 requiring a 1.5% inflationary increase. An  
55 attempt to amend Res 76 to increase the dues an additional \$4.00 to cover the \$386K deficit  
56 failed to pass.

57 **Res 75** established the 2022 Budget yielding an anticipated deficit of \$386K.

58 **Res 76** was approved 373 to 73 and established the 2022 member dues at \$582, a \$9 increase.

59 **Res 69** on ADA’s Proposed Diversity and Inclusion Policy was overwhelmingly supported by  
60 testimony at the Reference Committee hearing and was adopted on the consent calendar.

61 **Res 90RC** establishes a Task Force to explore current barriers for entry into the dental  
62 profession by underrepresented populations and to develop strategies and action plans to support  
63 a more representative workforce. Findings are to be reported to the 2022 ADA HOD.

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65 **Reference Committee B: Dental Benefits, Practice and Related Matters.**

66 **Res 42** Amendment to the Policy Statement on the Role of Dentistry in the Treatment of Sleep  
67 Related Breathing Disorders heard significant testimony at the Reference Committee hearing and  
68 again at the House. **Res 42RC** resulted and was amended on the House floor to change CPAP to  
69 PAP for increased inclusion. 42RC also placed sleep monitors within the dental practice as  
70 armamentarium and further established the relationship between the Dentist and the Sleep  
71 Physician needed to diagnose and treat Sleep Disorders

72 **Res 43** proposed ADA Policy on the use of Augmented Intelligence in Dentistry. The ADA  
73 supports using AI as a tool to supplement the dentist’s clinical judgement rather than a  
74 technology to replace or override it. This is an introductory policy statement and guide for future  
75 reference as AI capabilities expand and become more relevant in many aspects of practice.

76 **Res 63** Proposed Policy for the Elimination of Wait Periods for Children in Dental Benefit Plans.

77 **Res 71** amended the policy titled Third-Party Payers Overpayment Recovery Practices to support  
78 legislation to prevent third-party payers from unfair withholding or recoupment practices.

79 **Res 85RC** replaces Res 85, 85S-1, and 85S-2. It addresses the dental team workforce shortage  
80 and directs appropriate ADA agencies to distribute existing print and social media

81 communications materials to state and local dental societies to use to promote careers in dentistry  
82 to middle and high school students. The only testimony against the resolution was due to the  
83 anticipated high cost, but it passed almost unanimously.

84 **Res 88RC** proposed the ADA restart and significantly promote its third-party dental insurance  
85 concierge service for a 5-year period, at which time this service can be reevaluated as a state  
86 dental association benefit. It passed in spite of the high cost anticipated.

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88 **Reference Committee C: Dental Education, Science and Related Matters.**

89 **Res 92** was considered a Non-Consent Resolution and **Res 31** and **Res 65RC** were pulled off the  
90 consent calendar for further debate.

91 **Res 92** proposed a Task Force to establish metrics to compare dental school educational  
92 experience and financial implications across CODA accredited dental schools to assist

93 prospective dental students when applying to dental school. This resolution was submitted by  
94 our District, but it was met with significant opposition at the RC hearing and on the floor of the  
95 House. An attempt was made to have the resolution referred to CDEL for further study, but the  
96 chair and vice-chair of CDEL gave negative testimony that defeated that initiative. Some viewed  
97 it as a Yelp rating for dental schools. It was unfortunate that it was viewed so negatively, because  
98 the basic premise had merit that could have been better developed.

99 **Res 31** changed the makeup of the Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition  
100 (CCEPR) by eliminating an active member of the American Association of Dental Boards  
101 (AADB) and adding an active member of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA).  
102 Res 31 was adopted after an attempt to amend it failed, since the amendment would have created  
103 a conflict of interest if adopted.

104 **Res 65** an Amendment of the Policy, Research Funds, heard significant testimony at the RC, but  
105 it was mostly positive, and led the RC to recommend Res 65RC which changed the resolution  
106 from A Statement on Research Funds to Research Funding Advocacy and it had two resolving  
107 clauses. On the House floor, a Delegate requested splitting the Res 65RC into Res 65RC-A and  
108 Res 65RC-B. The Delegate was in favor of the first resolving clause, but not the second. The  
109 House concurred and Res 65RC-A was overwhelmingly adopted (93%), while, after  
110 considerable testimony and two motions, Res 65RC-B was referred back to CSA by a wide  
111 margin (81%).

112 **Res 46** on Specialty Care Dentistry had mostly positive testimony at the RC and concurs with  
113 CDEL and the BOT that a feasibility study should be provided to the Special Care Dentistry  
114 Association for pursuing an accreditation process and accreditation standards for advanced  
115 education programs in special needs dentistry by CODA. Along that vein, Res 47, 48 and 49  
116 were sponsored by CDEL and were supported by CDEL Report 1, concerning special needs  
117 dentistry. They were passed with passage of the consent calendar.

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119 **Reference Committee D: Legislative, Health, Governance and Related Matters.**

120 **Res 86** was a priority item and was intended to update and amend the ADA Policy Statement on  
121 teledentistry. The amendment sought to remove and replace language which suggests  
122 equivalency between face-to-face visits and teledentistry visits and to better define patient's  
123 rights and provider licensing requirements. A significant debate took place and in the RC and  
124 again on the floor of the House resulting in Res 86RC in lieu of Res 86, 86BS-1 and 86BS-2.  
125 Res 86RC was passed after attempts to amend it failed.

126 **Res 14** was amended to Res 14S-1 and again amended on the House floor with a friendly  
127 amendment and was passed. It adopted the policy of Guaranteeing Patient's Freedom of Choice  
128 of Dentists, which among other things identifies the need to advocate for full disclosure of the  
129 restrictions of dentist choices in closed panels.

130 There were various other resolutions adopted that addressed amendments of policies on military  
131 dental research, ERISA Plans, HIPAA standards, prioritization of the mental health of dentists  
132 and adding the new dentist committee chair as a voting member of the ADA Board of Trustees.

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135 One of the highpoints of the House is the induction of the incoming ADA Officers and Trustees.  
136 In addition to Dr. Cesar Sabates being installed as ADA President, the following newly elected  
137 officers were also installed:

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139 Dr. George R. Shepley, President-Elect  
140 Dr. Maria C. Maranga, First Vice President  
141 Dr. Mark Bronson, Second Vice President  
142 Dr. Ted Sherwin, Treasurer  
143 Dr. W. Mark Donald, Speaker  
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145 New Trustees elected by their ADA Districts and installed are as follows:  
146 Dr. James M. Boyle III, 3<sup>rd</sup> District, PA; Dr. Frank J Graham, 4<sup>th</sup> District, NJ;  
147 Dr. Marshall H. Mann, 5<sup>th</sup> District, GA; and Dr. Michele M. Tulak-Gorecki, 9<sup>th</sup> District, MI.  
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149 Our Trustee, Dr. Brett Kessler, CO, is in his third year and we are hoping he is considering  
150 running for President-Elect during his last year as Trustee. He has the distinction of running  
151 many marathons and completing in the Kona Ironman on several occasions, most notably 2018,  
152 just before the last ADA Meeting held in Hawaii. He has represented our 14<sup>th</sup> District with  
153 distinction.  
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155 Our Delegation appreciates the opportunity to represent our members to our District and the  
156 ADA HOD. The HDA Delegation to the ADA includes Delegates: Drs. Neil Nunokawa, Curt  
157 Shimizu and Ed Cassella and Alternate Delegates: Drs. Patsy Fujimoto, Chris Lee, and Dayton  
158 Lum. Also in attendance were Delegation Secretary Dr. Scott Kanamori and HDA Executive  
159 Director Ms. Kim Nguyen. As a final note, this House and Caucus meetings were the last for  
160 Neil and myself after 20+ years. We have worked hard at representing the HDA to our seven  
161 state District and to the ADA HOD, and we are especially grateful for the opportunity, but  
162 mostly, for your trust and support over the years. *Mahalo*.  
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165 Respectfully Submitted,  
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168 Edmund A. Cassella, DMD  
169 Senior ADA Delegate