

Midwestern Dentist

News and Views

Volume 101 • Issue 3
Fall 2025

November 14, 2025

Periodontics/Implants Full Day Lecture

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM • Adams Pointe Conference Center of Courtyard by Marriott
1400 NE Coronado Dr. • Blue Springs, MO 64014

Dr. David Barack, DDS
7 CE Credit Hours



Dr. David Barack

Dr. Barack studied Biomedical Engineering at *Northwestern University* before being accepted to the *University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry* in 1978. After completing his doctoral studies, Dr. Barack opted to pursue further education in the field of Periodontics, completing a residency at the *University of Illinois at Chicago* in 1984. He received his *Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology* in 1991. While at the *University of Illinois at Chicago*, Dr. Barack served as an assistant clinical professor for the college of dentistry from 1984 to 1997.

While in private practice, Dr. Barack incorporated implant surgical techniques into his practice beginning with Implant Surgical Training at the *University of Texas – San Antonio* in 1987. For the past 30 plus years, Dr. Barack has focused his periodontal practice on implant surgery and supportive reconstructive surgical procedures.

In addition to his teaching duties at the *University of Illinois College of Dentistry*, Dr. Barack has authored clinical papers and lectured nationally and internationally on implant surgical techniques, regenerative procedures and related topics.

Morning Session:

Strategies for Excellent Implant Health and Aesthetics

The success of an implant treatment is defined not only by function, but also by esthetics and the maintenance of peri-implant health. Much of this success is a function of how the surrounding hard and soft tissues are constructed and maintained following placement of the implant and the supported restoration. While a properly planned surgical approach is critical, the design of the implant and abutment plays a critical role for achieving predictable results.

The era of placing implants with disregard to esthetic outcomes is over. Treating sites with soft and hard tissue loss may be challenging, but is often necessary to ensure a successful outcome and meet patient expectations. This program will focus on surgical and restorative protocols for implant placement in extraction and healed sites, utilizing a variety of materials. Abutment design plays a critical factor in tissue health and we will illustrate with scientific evidence and clinical case presentations, the impact of restorative design on esthetic outcomes along with the maintenance of form and function.

Upon completion of this course, attendees will be able to:

- Understand the value of robust peri-implant tissues
- Have explored the techniques required to generate healthy and robust tissues in different clinical scenarios
- Understand the impact of timing for delivering stock and custom abutments
- Understand the role of abutment and crown design on the stability of peri-implant tissues

Afternoon Session:

Protecting Crestal Bone Around Dental Implants: Strategies for Long-Term Health

We are now facing a wave of ailing and failing implants with progressive bone loss and implant loss. While this has been perceived as implant failure, we must consider bone graft failure as a large part of that reality. To combat graft failure, new technologies have emerged that help us create a vital, healthy and robust environment for future implants, immediate implants and even repair diseased sites. This talk reviews the current beliefs and suggests strategies to construct a more vital and durable peri-implant bone and tissue environment, in both healed and fresh extraction sites.

Upon completion of this course, attendees will be able to:

- Have explored graft failure and causes
- Understand the difference between older graft options and the products developed with newer technologies
- Learn applications for these newer regenerative options and best to apply them
- Observe the limits and potential of bone regenerative techniques of ossification of materials before and around existing implants

Dentsply Sirona is a partial sponsor of this program.

January 9, 2026

Half-Day Lecture

8:30 AM - 12:00 PM • MCC-Longview Campus, Multipurpose/Education Room (Rm #ED113)
500 SW Longview Rd., Lee's Summit, MO 64081

Dr. Michelle Briner &
Dr. Keerthana Satheesh

3.5 CE Credit Hours



Dr. Michelle Briner

CBCT Overview Basics

This program will cover the topic of the usage of CBCT. The universal common mistakes that can occur will be discussed and ways to remedy these issues.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the fundamental principles underlying CBCT image acquisition
- Compare different CBCT units
- Identify appropriate clinical indications for various field of view (FOV) sizes and resolution settings
- Recognize and correct the three most common user errors in CBCT ordering and image visualization
- Understand the basics on CBCT interpretation

**Sponsorships still pending.*

Beyond Placement: Peri-Implantitis Management

The presentation will cover case selection, treatment planning, and long-term maintenance protocols.

Learning Objectives:

- Determine which cases to select for treatment
- Gain an understanding of disease prevention
- Recognize early detection of peri-implant disease and how to manage it

**Sponsorships still pending.*



Dr. Keerthana Satheesh

Dr. Briner's and Dr. Satheesh's biographies are continued on page 2



Greater Kansas City Dental Society

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In This Issue

Upcoming Meetings	3
President Report.....	4
Trustee Report	5
Here and Now	5
Veterans Program Information	6

Index to Advertisers

Engage Advisors	3
HealthStaff	4
Marr & Company.....	3
MDIS.....	7

Dr. Michelle Briner received her DDS in 2015 in Santiago, Chile. She completed an Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology residency in 2020 at the *University of Florida* and is a board-certified Oral and Maxillofacial Radiologist. She has been teaching continuously at the *University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) School of Dentistry* since March 2021, where she is part of the Oral Pathology, Radiology, and Medicine department. Dr. Briner uses her interdisciplinary background to teach courses in Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology to dental students, dental hygiene students, and residents.

Her research focuses on the uses of cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT) in the dental field, artificial intelligence in radiographic interpretation, and osteogenesis imperfecta. She has presented at national and international professional meetings and published in peer-reviewed journals.

Dr. Briner currently serves as the elected Vice President of the *Diagnostic Sciences Group of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR)* for the 2025–2026 term. She has also served in the *American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Section on Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology* as Secretary, Chair-Elect, and Chair.

Dr. Keerthana Satheesh earned her Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree from the *University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) School of Dentistry*. She completed her specialty training in Periodontics and a Master of Science in Dentistry at the *University of Minnesota*.

Dr. Satheesh is a board-certified periodontist and currently serves as Chair of the Department of Periodontics at the *UMKC School of Dentistry*, where she is a full-time faculty member. She previously held the role of Director of Advanced Periodontics (2014–2016). She is licensed in the state of Missouri to provide moderate parenteral sedation.

Her academic responsibilities span both didactic and clinical instruction in predoctoral and postdoctoral programs. A dedicated educator and leader, Dr. Satheesh is a recipient of numerous honors, including the *American Academy of Periodontology Educator Award*, the *Innovations in Teaching and Learning (ITL) Fellowship*, and the *ADEA Leadership Institute Fellowship*. Her excellence in teaching has been recognized through awards such as the *Distinguished Teacher Award*, the *David Moore Teaching Award*, and the *Elmer F. Pierson Excellence in Teaching Award*.

Dr. Satheesh is an active member of several professional organizations and was honored with induction into the *American College of Dentists*. Outside of her professional life, she enjoys spending quality time with her family and caring for her pets.

Upcoming Meetings

Greater Kansas City Dental Society:

November 13, 2025 – *New Dentist Main Event Social*. 6:00-9:00 PM @ *Main Event North* located at: 8081 NW Roanridge Rd., Kansas City, MO 64151. If you've graduated in 2015 or more recently, we'd love to have you join us! RSVP to Sam at gkcds@att.net or 816.737.5353 (text or call).

November 14, 2025 – *Continuing Education Meeting*. 8:30 AM-4:30 PM. Dr. David Barack presents a perio/implants full-day lecture. *Adams Pointe Conference Center*; Blue Springs, MO. \$275 per member dentist/\$375 for non-member dentist/\$75 per staff member, if paying for individual course. Program included in Season Underwriter subscription. RSVP to Sam at gkcds@att.net or 816.737.5353.

December 12, 2025 – *GKCDs Holiday Social & Annual Business Meeting*. 6:00-10:00 PM. *Piropos*. 4141 N Mulberry Dr, Kansas City, MO 64116. \$65 per person. Current Season Underwriters are pre-paid/free. RSVP to Sam at gkcds@att.net or 816.737.5353 (text or call)

Other Meetings:

January 16-23, 2026 – *MDA Travel and Learn. Secrets Playa Esmeralda*, Dominican Republic. More information found here: <https://www.modental.org/meetings-events/travel-learn>.

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From the President . . .



Dr. Jared Gerhardt

As dentists, we can sometimes feel isolated. I often have been told from well-meaning people, “nothing personal, but I hate dentists.” We are sometimes the peacemakers in resolving office conflicts and are counselors managing anxieties of our patients. Our work is so precise that accuracy to a fraction of a millimeter can differentiate success from failure. Often, we are subject to pressures from patients and team members with unrealistic expectations. To compound our stress level, many of us must comply with headaches from insurance companies along with regulations and laws that the public is clueless. It is easy to feel as though we are sent to battle without anyone on our side. Luckily, we have an amazing team of advocates through organized dentistry.

One of the last things anyone ever wants is being informed we owe the government money. A dentist in the

area received notice that he owed the Missouri Department of Revenue a very large sum of money because the DOR changed their interpretation of the tax matrix regarding aligner therapy. This change affected several dentists who were audited. Through the strength of organized dentistry, the MDA was able to protect this dentist through legal support and lobbying efforts. The result was a change in the tax matrix that protected this one dentist and allowed another dentist to receive a five-figured refund. This change in the tax matrix protects every dentist in the state. More details can be found in the article “Tax Matrix Change” at modental.org/news. This is just one example of many ways that organized dentistry protects our profession. There is strength in numbers, and it is comforting to know we are not alone!





Dr. Wendy Weimer
MDA Trustee

MDA Report from your Trustee . . .

Well, we are barreling down towards the end of the year. Hard to believe. I hope everyone had a great summer. The *MDA* Board met 9/12/25 in Jefferson City with a lot to discuss.

First, the legislative news:

1. Dental Loss Ratio – this is similar to the medical loss ratio that was established with ACA, where medical insurance companies must spend at least 85% of premiums on care delivered to patients. *MDA* submitted this DLR in 2024 and this year. This year it was referred to committee but did not go further. We plan to submit again in 2026 with more data from other states.
 2. Oral Preventative Assistant – EFDA – this pilot program is still in the data collection phase, but we hope to be able to submit it for permanency in 2026.
 3. Dentist and Dental Hygienist Licensure Compact- this compact was finalized in 2022 by the Department of Defense and Council of State Governments. This give providers a way to be able to practice in other states without going through the licensure/boards route. A state must enact this compact through their legislation to participate. *MDA* is in favor of this, and we are monitoring this legislation. The ADSO has confirmed they will refile this in 2026.
 4. Missouri Use Tax – the *MDA* has been successful in getting the state to take clear aligners off the list of medical devices that can be taxed. This is huge since those clear aligner lab fees are not small. Thanks to the members that brought this to the *MDA's* attention.
- Just a reminder about the *MDA Day at the Capital*. It will be held Wednesday, March 4, 2026. Come meet with your legislators and help them understand how the laws affect dentistry.
- The Missouri Dental Board is currently taking applications. If you are interested or know someone that is interested, you can contact the Missouri State Dental Board for an application.
- As always, if you have any questions or comments regarding the *MDA*, I can be reached at 816-812-6770 or wendyweimer@yahoo.com. Have a great end of the year.

*Here
& Now*

by Sam Silvey
Executive Director, GKCDs



Happy Fall Y'all!

I hope this finds you all enjoying the crisp leaves falling, the cooler breeze and the decreased humidity! It is crazy the final months of the year are upon us and the holidays are right around the corner.

The Dental Society and its leadership have been hard at work for organized dentistry this year. There have been many surprises, changes, obstacles, and accomplishments that have happened at all three levels of our organization (ADA, *MDA*, and GKCDs) and it is an honor to be a part of its successes, and an honor to help address and overcome the hurdles.

One thing locally that we are "trying out" for next year is a different venue and format for our CE programs. We have had a multidecade history of hosting a robust educational experience for our members, that we pride ourselves on. Throughout the years, our Programs Committee and Board have spent hundreds of hours scouting speakers, organizing the series, determining logistics and facilitating programs that featured the most innovative techniques, motivating teams, helping provide practical practice management

guidance and aiding our members to keep sharp, current and informed for their patients and the public. We are grateful for the work put in year after year for this endeavor and for everyone's continued support and participation!

Due to our economy, the rising costs of nearly everything, and lower participation due to available competing CE via online opportunities and other options, we have not been able to successfully turn a marginal profit, nor even break even for many years. Our leadership still sees value in offering this membership service and the last thing we want to do is throw the towel in on something that has been so integral to the foundation of GKCDs.

So, we are going to try to transition to Longview Community College in Lee's Summit and to downsize our programs to three full-days and two half-days. This will still fulfill the 25 hours needed annually for the Missouri Dental Board education requirements for licensure. We are excited to see how this can positively impact our ability to continue these programs for our members, and we appreciate your flexibility and understanding.

If you have any questions, input or concerns, please reach out anytime. We are always looking for new ideas and we'd love for anyone that has a desire to help give their time and talents for this committee and/or any of our committees and positions.

As an aside, I wanted to take the time to thank our outgoing President, Dr. Gerhardt for his fantastic leadership this year. He was promoted early to this role and his willingness, commitment, and passion for dentistry and the society is unmatched. Thank you, Dr. Gerhardt for being a wonderful leader and boss, from the bottom of my heart!

JOIN Everyone for Veterans IN SUPPORTING OUR HEROES

Less than **15%** of the veterans enrolled in the VA health care system qualify for dental benefits.



The VA provides dental care only to veterans with a 100% disability rating, former POWs, and those with certain other conditions. This leaves millions of veterans in chronic pain and poor health, many struggling daily with infection and the systemic effects of untreated dental issues, leading to declining health, depression, and low self-esteem.

For these veterans, even sliding-scale clinics are out of reach, because those clinics are often limited to emergency care alone. Even those who purchase VA dental insurance face high out-of-pocket costs, with coverage that rarely supports a full treatment plan.

While the need spans our nation, we've seen that the most profound impact happens locally. When dental societies take the lead in serving veterans, they bring crucial care to their communities and inspire others to join in, creating a ripple effect felt across the nation. We invite you to be part of this mission, lifting up veterans who have served us all and helping meet a pressing, often-overlooked need.

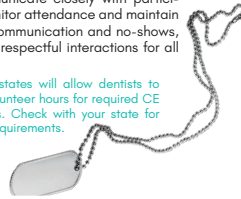
WHO WE SERVE

Our program serves veterans facing financial hardship who have completed at least one enlistment period (with the exception of combat veterans) and have been honorably discharged. We also extend our services to spouses of qualified veterans, recognizing their invaluable role in supporting our service members both physically and emotionally.

We understand that not all veterans are immediately ready to engage in our program. To ensure a positive experience for dental teams, we carefully screen participants, ensuring respect and adherence to schedules. We communicate closely with participating dentists to monitor attendance and maintain clear guidelines for communication and no-shows, ensuring smooth and respectful interactions for all involved.

DID YOU KNOW?

Some states will allow dentists to use volunteer hours for required CE Credits. Check with your state for their requirements.



COMPREHENSIVE DENTAL CARE

Participating dentists offer veterans a fresh start by providing one-time, comprehensive dental care pro bono. This includes an initial examination and any necessary treatments identified during that exam. Once this treatment plan is completed, veterans assume responsibility for any future dental care.

This approach goes beyond addressing immediate needs by eliminating infection and chronic pain, re-

storing proper chewing function, and enhancing appearance. Our focus on comprehensive care helps break the cycle of "quick fixes" and offers veterans a true path to oral health renewal.

All treatments are provided in the comfort of the dentist's own office and can be integrated into the doctor's regular schedule.

COMPREHENSIVE DENTAL TREATMENT GOALS

1. ELIMINATE INFLAMMATION AND INFECTIONS
2. ESTABLISH ADEQUATE FUNCTION
3. ESTABLISH ADEQUATE ESTHETICS

CASE STUDY

— at a glance —

WHERE ARE THEY?	LUBBOCK, TX
WHAT YEAR DID THEY START?	2021
# MEMBERS IN E4V:	30
# VETERANS/SPOUSES HELPED:	15
\$ OF SERVICES DONATED:	OVER \$145,000

In the fall of 2021, Dr. Mary Glasheen introduced the South Plains District Dental Society to the mission of Everyone for Veterans. Inspired by its purpose, the board eagerly embraced the opportunity to make a difference. They reached out to their colleagues within the local society, raising awareness about the critical dental care needs of local veterans.

Since then, their collective efforts have provided life-changing dental care to 15 veterans and their spouses, totaling over \$145,000 in services that would have otherwise been out of reach. This care has significantly enhanced the recipients' quality of life.

"It's a great program that has given me the ability to chew again and be involved in my relationships with my family and friends," shares Alex, a grateful participant.



Dr. Whitney McBryer with U.S. Marine veteran Nathan



Dr. David Midkiff with U.S. Navy veteran Alex



Veteran spouse, Rhonda with Dr. Kevin Shively

DENTAL VOLUNTEERS | 2

1 | EVERYONE FOR VETERANS

Veterans Apply to the Program

Veterans complete an application call, submit eligibility paperwork, and sign an agreement outlining program expectations.

Connecting Dentists with Veterans

When a veteran or spouse is nearby (within 60 miles), we confirm the dentist's availability and share the veteran's background and dental needs.

Initial Appointment Scheduling

The dental office contacts the veteran to collect patient information and schedule the first appointment.

Treatment Planning and Coordination

After the initial exam, the dentist creates a treatment plan and, if needed, coordinates with specialists or labs for specific procedures or lab fees.

Ongoing Support and Check-ins

E4V staff provide regular check-ins with the dentist and veteran to ensure treatment progresses smoothly.

STEP-BY-STEP THROUGH THE PROGRAM

Completion and Documentation

Once treatment is finished, the dentist's office submits a final ledger, and we gather testimonials and photos to celebrate these success stories.

YOU AND E4V: PARTNERING FOR IMPACT

As a dental provider, you have the power to make a life-changing difference for a veteran in your community. Everyone for Veterans (E4V) connects veterans in need with volunteer dentists like you, providing free comprehensive care to those who have served our country.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

By partnering with E4V, you can directly impact a veteran's quality of life, improving not just their oral health, but also their confidence, relationships, and overall well-being. Your skills and generosity can help restore smiles and change lives—right in your own community.

"Adding one patient to a dentist's private practice is an entirely achievable goal...if you feel confident in your smile, you're able to do job interviews and have solid employment, that does wonders for veterans too."

- Dr. Mary Glasheen, Partnering Dentist & 2024 Secretary Treasurer of the South Plains District Dental Society



I am thankful for the healing Everyone for Veterans has provided for my own heart. You've really created something amazing through E4V.

- Dr. Nhi Pham, E4V Dentist

A WORD FROM THE FRONT LINES TESTIMONIALS

"I am absolutely certain that Everyone for Veterans & Dr. Ohlson have given me years back on my life with my family, and I am so very thankful."

- Rashawn J. U.S. Army Veteran with Dr. Thomas Olson Partnering Dentist



HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT E4V

There are several ways to get involved:

1. Provide Care – Volunteer to see just one veteran in need, either once a year or every other year, offering comprehensive treatment just as you would for any other patient.
2. Encourage Your Peers – Invite colleagues, specialists, and labs to join you in supporting a veteran's full dental needs.
3. Spread the Word – Share E4V's mission with your professional network or feature it in your practice's communications.
4. Host a Veteran-Specific Event – Work with E4V to coordinate a local care clinic for veterans in need.

Your participation, whether big or small, has a lasting impact. By committing to see just one veteran every year or two, you can help bridge the gap for those who have served.



"Every dentist who volunteers is proud that they did – and still do. The best part of my job is that when I call for a volunteer to do treatment for a veteran, the answer is always 'yes!'"

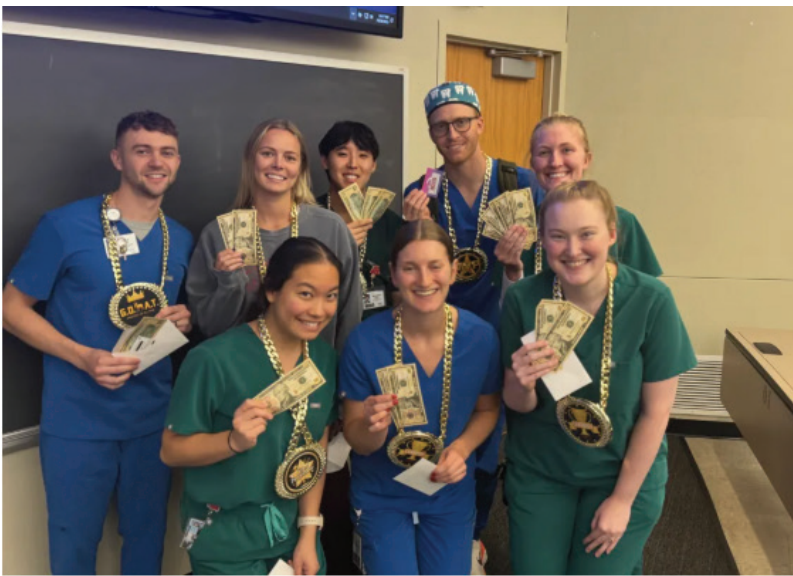
- Cathy Levering, Executive Director of the Sacramento District Dental Society



DENTAL VOLUNTEERS | 4

3 | EVERYONE FOR VETERANS

For more information, and to sign-up to help this wonderful cause, please contact us here: <https://www.everyoneforveterans.org/contact-us.html>



MDA, MDIS & Dr. Collin Caywood
hosted a fall

Food For Thought

for students at *UMKC SOD* in October.

Photo courtesy of MDA's "The Week That Was" Blog
by Paul Roberts, MDA Engagement & Outreach Director.



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GKCDS Holiday Social & Business Meeting

Friday, December 12th



PIROPOS

The Village at Briarcliff

4141 N Mulberry Drive, Kansas City, MO 64116

6-10 PM

\$65 Per Guest

Season Underwriters already prepaid

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gkcds@att.net

Hope to see you there!



GKCDS