

Midwestern Dentist

News and Views

OSHA Half-Day Lecture

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM • Adams Pointe Conference Center of Courtyard by Marriott
1400 NE Coronado Dr. • Blue Springs, MO 64014

3 CE Credit Hours

June 13, 2025

Mary Govoni, CDA, RDH, MBA



Mary is an internationally-recognized speaker, author and consultant on a variety of topics in dentistry, including infection control, OSHA and HIPAA compliance, ergonomics and team development. She brings over 40 years of experience to her speaking and coaching clients, including clinical assisting and hygiene, as well as practice administration and education.

Mary is a life member and past president of the *American Dental Assistants Association*, a member of the *American Dental Hygienists Association*, the *National Speakers Association*, the *Speaking and Consulting Network* and the *Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention*. She has published numerous articles and continuing education courses serves as a key opinion leader for many dental companies.

What's New with OSHA, CDC and Infection Prevention and Control?

OSHA requires that employees in dental practices participate in annual safety training, which includes general workplace safety, bloodborne pathogens, hazard communication, hazardous waste compliance requirements and any additional information that is pertinent to current infection prevention recommendations. This course will enable participants to review their safety protocols and make any necessary updates.

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

- Identify the OSHA regulations that apply to their dental practice
- Discuss documentation and training requirements for compliance with OSHA regulations
- Implement strategies for compliance with all federal, state and local safety standards
- Assess the practice's compliance with CDC infection control guidelines

*Sponsorships still pending.

DENTIST NIGHT @ Chicken N Pickle



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Practice Management Full Day Lecture

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM • Adams Pointe Conference Center of Courtyard by Marriott
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7 CE Credit Hours

September 12, 2025

Steven Anderson



Steven J. Anderson, as an author, entrepreneur, presenter, philanthropist, and success coach, is often referred to as dentistry's "Yes Man". He has worked with thousands of top dental teams around the world to transform their team case acceptance success. Get ready for a practice-transforming day that will take your team results to the top!

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Secrets of Creating a Culture of Success for More New Patients, Better Case Acceptance, and World-Class 5-Star Online Reviews.

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

- Double new patient flow at no extra cost
- Unlock the secret to unlimited case acceptance success
- Apply the proven phase for more same-day treatment acceptance
- Learn to become the "Yes" Practice and the essential skills it takes to become
- Recognize the myth of the online review and what you can do to make it work for you
- STOP cancellations/no shows with proven strategies for patient commitment treatment
- Discover the most overlooked element in repeat and referral dentistry and how you can tap into it
- Realize the most neglected document in your practice that will change your case acceptance success
- Assess the practice's compliance with CDC infection control guidelines

*Sponsorships still pending.



Greater Kansas City Dental Society

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Continuing Education
Recognition Program

The Greater Kansas City Dental Society is an ADA CERP recognized provider approved by the Missouri Dental Association. ADA CERP is a service of the American Dental Association to assist dental professionals in identifying quality providers of continuing dental education. ADA CERP does not approve or endorse individual courses or instructors, nor does it imply acceptance of credit hours by boards of dentistry. The Greater Kansas City Dental Society designates each activity for seven continuing education credits (with exception to the OSHA program, which is 3.5 education credits). Concerns or complaints about a CE provider may be directed to the provider or to ADA CERP at www.ada.org/cerp.



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Upcoming Meetings

Greater Kansas City Dental Society:

June 13, 2025 – Continuing Education Meeting. 8:30 AM-11:30 AM. Ms. Susan Govoni presents an OSHA half-day lecture. Adams Pointe Conference Center; Blue Springs, MO. \$105 per member dentist/\$130 for non-member dentist/\$55 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.

September 12, 2025 – Continuing Education Meeting. 8:30 AM-4:30 PM. Mr. Steven Anderson presents a practice management 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.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING MARCH 21, 2025

The regular meeting of the *Greater Kansas City Dental Society* was called to order Friday, March 21st, 2025 at *Adams Pointe Conference Center* in Blue Springs, MO by President, Dr. Jared Gerhardt. A quorum was present.

Dr. Gerhardt thanked everyone for being there and reminded everyone to pick up your CE credit slips at the registration table and to retain in your files. The next meeting will be on Friday, June 13th, 2025 at *Adams Pointe Conference Center* featuring Mary Govoni, CDA, RDH speaking about OSHA compliance.

Please complete the survey at the end of the program and give to Sam with your feedback.

Dr. Gerhardt thanked our program sponsors, *Complete Dental Care*, *Culligan Water Solutions*, *Henry Schein Dental Practice Transitions*, & *Kettenbach*. There are several tables out in the foyer; please visit them!

Dr. Gerhardt welcomed all new guests, members, and Season Underwriters, especially *UMKC SOD* student, Camryn Sticke.

Dr. Hayes asked for approval of previous minutes as printed in the *Midwestern Dentist News and Views*. Seconded; minutes approved.

Dr. Wendy Weimer, *MDA Trustee* was not in attendance, so no *MDA* report today; however, please keep an eye out for our next newsletter or email for her article with state association updates.

In new business, Dr. Tait announced that there is an upcoming fundraising race for the *Belton Safety Net Clinic* on May 3rd. He discussed a bit more about the clinic itself as well as the event. Information is on the back registration desk. Please come join us.

In new business, Dr. Gerhardt asked for a bylaws revision vote to help align us with the *MDA* so that we can be a part of the *ADA*'s pilot program in 2026.

A. Vote on bylaws change: Addition of Chapter 5, Section 30(F)
Notwithstanding any provision in these Bylaws, the Board of Directors may authorize ADA sponsored pilot programs of limited scope that do not conform to the current provisions of these Bylaws. As a part of that authorization, the Board of Directors will approve the guidelines under which the pilot program operates, including duration of the pilot program, which will not exceed three (3) years without prior approval of the General Assembly. The Board of Directors will submit a report to the General Assembly annually, reporting on the operation of the pilot program, and any findings and conclusions resulting from the operation of the program

B. Bylaws changed approved.

There was no old business.

Dr. Gerhardt called for any other business; as there was none, the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:03 PM.

Other Meetings:

June 19-21, 2025 – MDA Connect4Success Meeting & House of Delegates Meeting. Come join us for the MDA's annual CE and Social meeting down at Margaritaville at the Lake of the Ozarks, then stay for the annual parliamentary House meeting. To register and for more information, visit: <https://www.modental.org/meetings-events/connect4success>

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From the President . . .

As a full-time faculty member at UMKC, I am often asked about what is happening at the dental school. Our future dean, Paul Luepke, will start in June and a new Health Sciences building will house a new dental clinic in 2027. I am privileged to work with many bright individuals who will soon be part of our profession. The late Dr. John Haynes, who taught at UMKC for over 50 years, always emphasized how important it was for the alumni association to start recruiting future involvement while future members were still students. Recently, the ADA, MDA and GKCDs have been actively engaging students through a variety of new ways.

UMKC generally does have some student participation in the MDA *Lobby Day* in Jefferson City. This year, we were extremely excited to have over 50 students sign-up to attend and participate in meeting legislators at the capitol. The GKCDs and the Rhinehart Foundation agreed to provide funding for transportation and lunch. Prior to *Lobby Day*, a few of our members from the GKCDs led educational meetings so the students could understand the background of the proposed bills. Unfortunately, our travel plans were altered due to weather conditions. However, several students wrote letters to legislators in support of the MDA's position on key issues.

This past March, the GKCDs sponsored "Progress Into

Your Future." A 24-seater bus took students to tour the offices of *Facial Surgical Group*, *Sloop Dental Co*, and *Caywood Dentistry*. Each dentist shared some of their patient-centered values, explained their journey to practice ownership, and how their unique practice was fit for them. It was an opportunity for students to speak with practicing dentists and tour three different office types while enjoying great food and drinks. Please see photos on the back cover of our fun, informative evening.

The ADA has recognized faculty from different schools across the nation to serve in a Faculty Ambassador Program to help with the ASDA/ADA transition. The MDA is piloting *The Final 18* mentorship program where current students gain wisdom from me. Both programs have been instituted to better facilitate communication and provide student mentorship.

I am proud of the different ways in which organized dentistry has been engaging the future generation of our profession. Last month, we had signing day where students graduated from ASDA to ADA members. Being on the education side of dentistry, it is always fun to watch students grow into the future leaders of our profession.



Dr. Jared Gerhardt



On behalf of the NDA Leadership Team, we are honored to invite you to the 112th Annual Convention, taking place this July in Kansas City, Missouri. Register here for this fantastic event: <https://ndaonline.org/>



MDA Report from your Trustee ...

Dr. Wendy Weimer
MDA Trustee

I hope this finds everyone well and looking forward to summer. Nowadays, I mark the passing of time by dental school semesters. We just said goodbye to the class of 2025 and are eagerly awaiting the class of 2027 to start in the clinic. The other event that marks summer for me is *Connect4Success* at the Lake of the Ozarks. This year the MDA has scheduled C4S for the end of June 19-21. With a Hawaiian/Luau theme this year, it promises to be a fun time. Like the last couple of years, it will be held at *MargaritaVille on the Lake*. You can still sign up on the MDA website. We have some fun speakers this year.

The MDA will also hold their *House of Delegates* right after C4S, starting on June 21. I wanted to take this time to go over a couple of the resolutions we will be presenting and voting on.

2025-6: Supporting Dentists in all Practice Modalities

The MDA wants to be inclusive of all stages of a dentist's journey; this includes dentists that work for or have sold to DSOs. We are trying to get away from an "us" vs "them" mentality. The larger percentage of new graduates will work for DSOs and if we do not engage with them, our membership will continue to decline.

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2025-7: Transitioning to Participatory Governance

For many years now, the MDA's regulatory body was the House of Delegates. Over the last number of years, leadership has noticed this method seems to be ineffective, wasting many hours and dollars and accomplishing very little. A few committees have investigated how other states handle their regulations. This resolution asks to appoint a task force to look into other methods and how our bylaws can accommodate them. This is a controversial resolution as many members feel we should keep status quo. You may hear more about this in months to come.

2025-9: Private Equity Ownership in Healthcare

This resolution will ask the Legislative and Regulatory Committee, along with the MDA, urge Missouri and the Attorney General to develop laws that allow for the examination of the impact of private equity on healthcare and to allow for the AG to monitor and intercede to protect the public. One might think this is contrary to 2025-6, but this is only for private equity owned dental offices where it is not obvious that oversight remains in a dentist's hands.

2025-10: ERISA Law Relating to Governing of Dental Benefits

"Dental benefits/insurance plan administration in the state of Missouri should follow insurance laws of the state, not the Department of Labor. Seeking a legislative remedy in MO is advocating on behalf of dentists and patients alike." The MDA Legislative Regulatory Committee will lobby the Attorney General of MO to join the suit with Oklahoma that addresses abuse of the ERISA statute. Hopefully, we can all read between the lines on this one. The MDA is asking the AG to get on board with handling a certain dental insurance company. This resolution is the beginning of the "ask."

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, you can contact me at wendyweimer@yahoo.com or 816-812-6770.

Have a great summer!

Here & Now

by Sam Silvey
Executive Director, GKCDs



The school year has wrapped up and it's officially summertime! I hope you all have enjoyed your Memorial Day weekend and are easing into a more relaxing time of the year, filled with vacations, barbecues and lots of pool time!

The Dental Society has had busy and productive first and second quarters of 2025, and it looks like it won't be slowing down any time soon. As Dr. Gerhardt mentioned previously, we have been engaging with the UMKC SOD students quite a bit this year, with a multitude of programs, both new and established. It is imperative that organized dentistry continues to make these vital connections with the dental schools and students to help build the future for our association. The MDA and GKCDs have done our annual private

practice dental office tours event, Food For Thoughts, National Signing Day, an extended mentorship program, and a handful of social events. We will also be welcoming the new D1s in late summer/early fall.

In other activity, the Society has been continuing to host CE events, council and committee meetings, Board discussions, among other community gatherings. We are developing a few upcoming socials and are throwing around new ideas to try out in the near future. We'd love to have your participation/input/attendance at any and all, so please keep an eye out, or even better yet, feel free to reach out to any of the officers or me to let us know of your interests and we'll get you plugged in right away!

Coming up soon, will be the *MDA Connect 4 Success* meeting followed by the *MDA House of Delegates* at the Lake of the Ozarks, in late June. Please join us for any and all of that, as well!

I hope the first half of 2025 has treated you well and that it only gets better for you, as the months go on! We will continue to try to find ways to be as beneficial to you, our members, as the profession and life evolves. Thank you for your commitment to further the objectives of our organization; and thank you for being a steward of the profession!

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Thursday and Friday
September 25-26, 2025

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The advertisement for the Mid-Coⁿtinent Dental Congress features a blue header with the event name and dates. Below this, a large blue box on the right contains the text 'Registration is NOW OPEN!' in white, with 'NOW OPEN!' in a larger, bolder font. A green arrow points from the text to a QR code. The text 'Register online today!' is also present. To the left of the text are two circular icons: a blue one with a white calendar and a yellow one with three orange arrows pointing right. Below these are four small photographs showing dental professionals in a conference setting, a large audience in a lecture hall, a group of men in a hallway, and a woman holding a small dog. At the bottom, a yellow bar contains the words 'Positive', 'Collaborative', and 'Passionate' with arrows indicating a flow between them.



Oral Cavity Cancer: Key Insights for Dental Health Providers

By Dr. Omar Karadaghy, MD MSCI, Assistant Professor, Department of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, University of Kansas Medical Center

Oral cavity cancer remains a significant concern in the field of head and neck oncology, with squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) being the predominant malignancy. Early detection and multidisciplinary management are crucial to improving survival rates and maintaining function in affected patients. As dental professionals, understanding the nuances of oral cavity cancer is essential for early identification and referral for treatment, as well as supporting patients through their recovery.

Risk Factors and Early Detection

The most common risk factors for oral cavity cancer include tobacco and alcohol use, with a synergistic effect making individuals up to 35 times more likely to develop cancer. Other risk factors include smokeless tobacco, UV light, and genetic conditions. Dentists can play a vital role in detecting premalignant lesions such as leukoplakia and erythroplakia, which can progress to carcinoma if not addressed promptly.

Comprehensive Evaluation and Surgical Treatment

A thorough clinical evaluation, including biopsy, imaging, and a multidisciplinary tumor board discussion, is essential for accurate staging and treatment planning. Surgery remains the gold standard for treatment, offering superior local control compared to nonsurgical options. Adjuvant radiation and chemotherapy may follow, depending on the stage and features of the tumor.

Reconstruction and Post-Operative Care

Post-surgical care, including speech and swallowing therapy, dental rehabilitation, and quality of life support, is integral to recovery. Many patients will require complex reconstructive surgeries to restore oral function and aesthetics. This may involve free flaps, osseointegrated implants, and careful attention to dental health to prevent complications like osteoradionecrosis following radiation therapy.

Dental Considerations in Post-Operative Care

For patients undergoing radiation therapy, the risk of radiation-induced dental issues, such as caries and xerostomia, increases significantly. The OraRad trial highlights the importance of early dental intervention and continuous monitoring to prevent severe complications. Additionally, addressing dental health before radiation therapy, such as tooth extraction if necessary, can help minimize the risk of osteoradionecrosis.

Conclusion

I am eager to collaborate with dental professionals to enhance the care and outcomes for patients with oral cavity cancer. If you encounter any cases or have questions regarding diagnosis, treatment, or post-operative care, please don't hesitate to reach out. My goal is to be a reliable resource for you, providing support and expertise when needed. Together, we can ensure the best possible outcomes for our patients.

A Great Resource: The American Head and Neck Society

For both dental professionals and patients, the American Head and Neck Society offers a wealth of information on head and neck cancers. This resource provides valuable insights on prevention, treatment options, and support for individuals affected by head and neck conditions. It's a fantastic tool to stay informed and enhance collaboration between dental providers and oncology specialists. <https://www.ahns.info/for-patients/>

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