



November 2010

[www.luzernecountydental.org](http://www.luzernecountydental.org)

## Don't Miss the Third District Meeting 11/12

Be sure to attend the Third District's November 12th meeting at the Woodlands Inn and Resort. The title of the day's presentation is "Oral Medicine Update Field Guide for the Oral Health Care Professional."

This course will review the more common oral mucosal diseases encountered in practice. The seminar will be presented in a case-based learning format and will focus on the latest in the diagnosis and treatment of oral mucosal disorders.

## October CPR Course a Success

What a great turn-out we had for October's CPR recertification. Special thanks to our great instructors for making it a quick, efficient process!

## Support PADPAC in 2011

With the end of the year fast approaching, it is time to start planning ahead for 2011. President Dr. Spruill and the PADPAC board have been very busy working to solidify the dental profession as one of the prime players in state political arena. With a new year comes a brand new challenge. That challenge is to make our PAC one of the biggest and best the state has to offer, but we need your help. Everyday we battle on the front lines to protect you, and we are hopeful that you seize your opportunity to help us in return.

As a reminder, you can join PADPAC when you renew your dues at the end of this year. For those who contributed in the past, remember you do have the option of contributing at a higher

level. Let's make 2011 a successful year for the dental profession – contribute to PADPAC TODAY!

For more information about PADPAC, how you can join, or how you can contribute at a higher level, please contact Don Smith, government relations coordinator, at (800) 223-0016, ext. 108 or [dls@padental.org](mailto:dls@padental.org). To contribute online, follow this link: [http://www.padental.org/am/Template.cfm?Section=Government\\_Relations&Template=/customsource/forms/padpacmembership.cfm](http://www.padental.org/am/Template.cfm?Section=Government_Relations&Template=/customsource/forms/padpacmembership.cfm)

## 2011 CE COURSES

Wednesday, 1/12/11  
"Geriatrics" Dr. Greg Folsy

Wednesday, 2/16/11  
"Composite Bonding and Porcelain Review" Dr. Howard Strassler

Wednesday, 3/16/11  
"Implants: The Restoration of and Mini-Implants" Dr. Steve Kukunas

Wednesday, 4/6/11  
"Nutrition" Dr. Ken Etzel



### FREE COURSE IF YOU TAKE ALL FOUR:

May 2011  
Bowser Memorial Lecture  
To Be Determined  
Pittsburgh, PA

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# ADA/PDA News

*Information submitted by Marisa Swarney, Director of Government Relation, PDA*

## **HB 602: EFDA scope of practice**

PDA was successful in passing HB 602 through the legislature this session, after four years of advocacy efforts made by lobbyists, staff and grassroots dentists.

HB 602, now Act 19, allows EFDAs to perform coronal polishing and fluoride applications and take impressions of teeth for athletic appliances. The State Board of Dentistry (SBOD) is promulgating regulations that, once approved, will likely require currently practicing EFDAs to complete a three-credit hour course on these expanded functions. These new functions will be integrated into the curriculum for all EFDAs enrolled in educational programs. Newly graduated EFDAs will not need to take three continuing education credits to perform these additional duties.

The SBOD is finalizing its regulations and they will most likely take effect early next year. PDA advises members to wait for the regulations to take effect before allowing EFDAs to perform these extra duties. Stay tuned for more information in PDA's publications and on the website at [www.padental.org](http://www.padental.org).

## **SB 1222: Prohibiting insurers from capping non-covered services**

This year, PDA lead the charge to pass legislation that would prohibit insurers from capping those dental services they do not cover in their plans. Sen. Kim Ward (R-Westmoreland) introduced SB 1222 on PDA's behalf. Due to the grassroots efforts of members in their districts and during Day on the Hill at the Capitol on June 8, SB 1222 passed the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee and moved to the Senate Appropriations Committee for consideration.

Most legislators seemed to understand the inherent unfairness of letting insurance companies dictate fees on services they have decided not to cover. However, a powerful insurance lobby confused the issue by convincing several legislators that the bill should include language that would prohibit dentists from charging

their usual fee on covered services once the maximum allowance is met. PDA would not consider supporting such an amendment until it became apparent that Sen. Jake Corman (R-Centre), chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, would not bring the bill up for a vote until a compromise was reached. By the time this occurred, however, there were no more session days in the Senate in which to pass the bill. The session was cut short by the election and decision by Senate Leadership not to return before the end of the year.

This issue will remain at the forefront of PDA's legislative agenda for the 2011/12 session. Lobbyists and staff are already working to identify the right sponsors for legislation in both the House and Senate, hoping to find legislators willing to "champion" the bill with their colleagues until it passes the General Assembly. We will stick with the original language that addresses capping of non-covered dental services, and only consider compromising on the maximum allowance issue if necessary, thinking that such a compromise would have a minimal impact on your practice due to the fact that only three to five percent of patients reach their maximum benefit in a given year.

Thirty-one states have filed non-covered services bills and sixteen states were successful in its passage. Stay tuned for more information and for "action alerts" as PDA tries to capitalize on the national momentum to pass a non-covered services bill through the General Assembly next year.

## **HB 2684: Requirements for foreign-trained dentists teaching in dental schools**

At the request of the deans of Pennsylvania's three dental schools, PDA supported a legislative initiative to change the requirements under Act 160 for foreign-trained dentists who are faculty at the dental schools.

As it currently reads, Act 160 allows foreign-trained dentists to teach in a dental school or advanced dental education

program for a maximum of four years. This time may only be extended if the dentist receives a license from the State Board of Dentistry (SBOD). The deans believe that this requirement places Pennsylvania at a competitive disadvantage to recruit and retain dental faculty.

Rep. Tony Payton (D-Philadelphia), introduced HB 2684 in September and it was fast-tracked to a public hearing before the House Professional Licensure Committee on September 23. Dr. Bernard Dishler, trustee from PDA's Second District, testified on PDA's behalf in support of HB 2684 as it currently reads. This legislation would allow foreign-trained dentists who have graduated from programs accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) to apply for unlimited renewals of their teaching license until they have obtained their regular license from the SBOD. Those foreign-trained dentists who have not graduated from a CODA-accredited program must obtain their regular license from the SBOD within six years of teaching at a school (as opposed to the current four-year requirement). All dentists with a license to teach dentistry would be unable to practice dentistry privately outside of the dental school to receive a fee for their services.

The Committee failed to act on this legislation before the end of the session, wanting to have further discussions with stakeholders to reach a consensus on the bill's language. It will most likely be reintroduced next session.

HB 2509: Assignment of Benefits: This legislation would require insurers to assign benefits to those providers who are not participating providers in their patients' insurance plans. Rep. Thomas Murt (R-Montgomery) introduced HB 2509 on PDA's behalf and it is now before the House Insurance Committee for consideration. Though it is unlikely this legislation will pass either chamber before the end of session, PDA is now educating lawmakers about this issue, with the intent of reintroducing the bill next session.

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# Letter from the President

Dear LCDS Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the 2010 LCDS president. It has been an honor to work with the LCDS officers, the board members, and the society's general members. I look forward to celebrating the holiday season with all of you at our Annual President's Brunch at Huntsville Golf Club on December 5th at 11:30 AM. Please be sure to join us for this special event.

I urge you to continue to be informed on issues the PDA and ADA bring to our attention. There are many items at the forefront in Harrisburg and Washington addressing the way we practice dentistry, the well-being of our patients, and the future of dentistry.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season and wonderful new year.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Calandria L. Miller, President



*Dr. Calandria Miller, President*

## **DENTAL PRACTICE AVAILABLE**

**ENDLESS MOUNTAINS DENTAL CARE, P.C.**

**DR. TOM PASCOE  
21 PUBLIC AVE.  
MONTROSE, PA. (SUSQUEHANNA CO.)  
570-278-1186**

- SEEKING OUT-RIGHT BUYER, OR ASSOCIATE, OR PARTNER
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- RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MARCELLUS SHALE GAS EXPLORATION
- CREATING RAPID GROWTH
- AND INCREASED NEED FOR SERVICES.

**DENTAL OFFICE BUILDING AND ATTACHED COMMERCIAL PROPERTY  
ALSO AVAILABLE.**

## Upcoming Events

<b>3rd District Meeting</b>	Woodland's	November 12, 2010	8:00 AM
<b>President's Holiday Party</b>	Huntsville Golf Club	December 5, 2010	11:30 AM
<b>CE Course "Geriatrics"</b>	Inn at Nichols Village	January 12, 2010	8:30 AM
<b>Board/General Meeting</b>	Lucky's Sporthouse	January 17, 2010	6:00 PM
<b>CE Course "Composite Bonding and Porcelain Review"</b>	Inn at Nichols Village	February 16, 2010	8:30 AM
<b>Board/General Meeting</b>	Lucky's Sporthouse	February 21, 2010	6:00 PM
<b>CE Course "Implants: The Restoration of and Mini-Implants"</b>	Inn at Nichols Village	March 16, 2010	8:30 AM
<b>Board/General Meeting</b>	Lucky's Sporthouse	March 21, 2010	6:00 PM
<b>CE Course "Nutrition"</b>	Inn at Nichols Village	April 6, 2010	8:30 AM
<b>Board/General Meeting</b>	Lucky's Sporthouse	April 18, 2010	6:00 PM
<b>Board/General Meeting</b>	Lucky's Sporthouse	May 16, 2010	6:00 PM

### Mark Your Calendar

General meetings in 2011 will be held at Lucky's Sporthouse, 110 Schechter Drive, Wilkes-Barre. Please make note of it in your calendar and watch upcoming newsletters for special events and venue changes.

## 2010 Officers

### President

Dr. Calandria Miller

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### Vice President

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Dr. Elizabeth Joseph (2011)

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Dr. Samantha Abod (2011)

### PDA Delegates

Dr. David Bergey

Dr. Thomas Donahue

Dr. Richard Grossman

### Alternate Delegates

Dr. Calandria Miller

Dr. Larry Shire

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