

# ACCOLADE

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF DENTISTS / SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION • VOL. XXXV • 2019

## Chairman's Report



**Doug Christiansen**  
Chairman, Southern California Section

Greetings to the members of the Southern California Section of The American College of Dentists. 2018 was a busy year for the College and for our Section as well. As our national organization was

streamlining its parliamentary procedures to improve efficiency, our Section revised our own Charter and updated our bylaws to better reflect the way we conduct business. Our Secretary/Treasurer, Linda Lukacs, has been busy codifying the necessary changes and we anticipate we should be operating under our new bylaws later this year. Dr. Lukacs has also been planning a continuing education seminar on the topic of Ethics in Dentistry. The seminar will

be co-sponsored with The San Diego County Dental Society and will take place in Coastal North County San Diego in the spring. A golf excursion is planned after the lecture.

I attended the 2018 ACD Annual Meeting and Convocation in Honolulu, Hawaii where 16 new fellows were welcomed into the College from our Section. It was a wonderful opportunity to attend courses on leadership and ethics in dentistry, and to network with colleagues from around the nation/world. I had the privilege of meeting with our Regent, Dr. Gary Yonemoto, who lives in Hawaii. We hope that Gary will attend our joint ACD/ICD breakfast in Anaheim this spring during the Annual CDA Presents and that you all have a chance to speak with him.



*ACD Student Achievement Award winners Grant Hiroshi Nishimura (UCLA), Rachna Shenoy (USC), Morgan Steely (LLU) and ACD Section Board Member Gary Dougan at May 18, 2018 Anaheim Spring Breakfast. Not pictured: Kevin Fang (Western)*

## Regent's Report



**Gary Yonemoto**  
ACD Regent

Aloha!

It was a pleasure seeing some of you at the ACD convocation in Honolulu. We had a successful induction of about 200 fellows and survived the Local 5 strike that affected the Sheraton Hotel. In my

opinion we had a very successful meeting.

At the convocation luncheon, we honored two sections in Regency 7. The Section Newsletter Award for 2018 was given to the Northern California Section and I am pleased that the Hawaii section was recognized as a 2018 Model Section

Before the convocation, there was an ACD Board business meeting. We elected Thomas Connolly from New York as the new President, Stephen Ralls became President-Elect, Mark Bauman is our new Vice President and Robert Lamb became our new Treasurer.

We chose our first cohort for the Kellogg Management program. This program is an opportunity developed through our Foundation and in conjunction with the American Association of Pediatric Dentistry to provide leadership training for fellows. Congratulations to Julie Connolly, Huong Nguyen Le (Regency 7)

*(continued on page 2)*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**2** Intergenerational Dental Equity

**4-5** ACD 2018 Convocation

**6** Dentistry/Opioid Epidemic

**8** ACD/ICD 2019 Spring Breakfast



Harriet Seldin

# Intergenerational Dental Equity

The term “intergenerational equity” is common in policy advocates’ vocabulary. It is the idea of fairness between generations. To give an example, the dues of CDA Life Active Members was just raised dramatically. Approximately 3000 senior dentists who had been CDA members for 30+ years were sent a letter about this change which used the word “equity” twice. Younger dentists have high student loans and large expenses for starting practices. The older dentists should pay their fair share, the argument goes, it is just “equity.” With major changes happening in the dental economy, older dentists are high maintenance CDA members, needing a lot of handholding by CDA’s practice support staff.

Another side of this is the reimbursement for dental care. Older dentists who participate in the Delta Dental Premier Program are currently receiving significantly higher reimbursement than their younger colleagues who started practice and their participation in Delta Dental at a time when newly joining dentists had to accept the Delta PPO in order to accept Premier. These younger dentists may be doing the same treatment, with the same materials and same overhead costs as older dentists, but being reimbursed a lot less. Is that fair?

In ADA’s Marko Vujicic’s talk to the American Association of Dental Editors and Journalists, he presented graphs looking at who is going to the dentist. More low income kids, more kids on Medi-Cal and Covered CA plans are utilizing dental services. The reimbursement for these plans is significantly lower than traditional fee-for-service insurance. Most of this care is provided by dentists accepting contracted rates. Middle class



Golden retriever puppy Makai with his great great aunt Pua.

and middle aged dental utilization is flat. However, high income elderly are increasing their use of dental services. Some are the patients of those older Delta Premier dentists, happy to continue paying Premier fees. Some can afford to pay out of pocket, fee-for-service and some see older dentists who don’t participate with any plans. Those lucky older dentists are happy to ride out that wave of high utilizing high income older patients in their practices until they retire.

(continued on page 6)



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American Association of Dental Editors & Journalists



Member Publication  
American Association  
of Dental Editors

1997, 2003, 2007 &  
2016 Section  
Newsletter Award

## Regent’s Report continued...

and Drew Smith.

Our move to Rockville is underway and we are on schedule to move by the summer of 2021. I have seen the Architect’s renderings and our new building is beautiful and functional. A capital campaign to help defray the costs of the move was initiated. If you would like to make a donation, please contact me.

The Foundation awarded the

Southern California section \$2,000.00 to help cover your ethics course that will be given this spring.

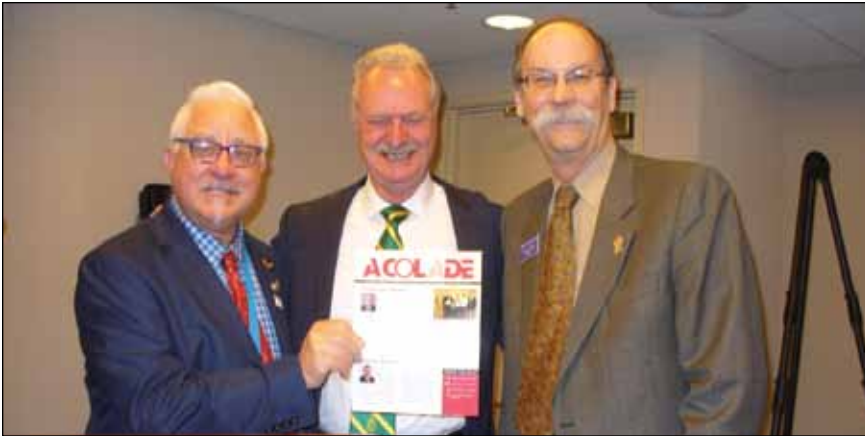
Lastly, our Gies Ethics project is on schedule and a draft is being reviewed by the Board. This is a tremendous project and everyone is excited to have this completed.

Thank you for the opportunity to be your Regent.

Mahalo Nui Loa



# 2018 ICD/ACD Spring Breakfast



*Gary Dougan, ICD 13th District Regent Henrik Hansen, and ACD President Richard Stilwill with an issue of Acolade*



*Academy of General Dentistry Secretary Mike Lew and Arlene Lee*



*Gene Casagrande, CDA Secretary Judee Tippett-Whyte, and Gary Dougan*



*Donna Klauser, Vicky and Ron Fritz*



*Dental Board of California President Tom Stewart with Gary Herman and 2019 CDA President Del Brunner*



*CDA Executive Director Peter DuBois, AGD Trustee Lindsey Robinson and 2017 CDA President Clelan Ehler*



*Mike Lew, Gary Dougan, Henrik Hansen*



*ADA Trustee Lindsey Robinson with Henrik Hansen. Robinson was our speaker at the Spring Breakfast*



*ACD President Richard Stilwill and Denise Habjan*



*Bob Hanlon and 2018 CDA President Natasha Lee*



**97th Annual Meeting & Convocation  
American College of Dentists  
October 17-18, 2018  
Honolulu, HI**

**2018 New Fellows from Southern California**

**Thomas D. Brant**  
El Cajon  
General Dentistry—34 years  
Past-Pres., San Diego County Dental Society

**Vivian Chui**  
La Canada  
Orthodontics

**Jeffrey A. Elo**  
Coto de Caza  
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery—17 years  
President, CALAOMS

**Allan C. Jones**  
Torrance  
General Dentistry

**Scott Y. J. Kim**  
Manhattan Beach  
General Dentistry

**Jacob K. Lee**  
San Clemente  
Pediatric Dentistry  
Trustee, Amer. Acad. Pediatric Dentistry

**Stephen E. Lockwood**  
La Jolla  
General Dentistry—34 years  
Past-Pres. & Regional Director, CAGD

**Jaime L. Lozada**  
Redlands  
Prosthodontics

**David H. Okawachi**  
Anaheim  
Pediatric Dentistry

**Parvathi Pokala**  
San Diego  
Pediatric Dentistry—26 years  
Past-Pres., College of Diplomates, Amer. Board Pediatric Dentistry

**Evangelos Rossopoulos**  
Huntington Beach  
Prosthodontics

**Megha Sata**  
Hermosa Beach  
General Dentistry

**Sue S. Spackman**  
San Pedro  
General Dentistry—35 years  
Past-Board, Special Care Dentistry

**Amy Tran**  
San Gabriel  
General Dentistry—10 years  
Past-Chair, CDA Council Membership

**Douglas R. Wall**  
Seal Beach  
General Dentistry

**Thomas Wuesthoff**  
Westlake Village  
General Dentistry—28 years  
Chair, CDA Council Peer Review



*New Fellow Tom Wuesthoff*



*Section Board Member Donna Klauser (sponsor) with New Fellow Amy Tran*



*New Fellows Thomas Brant and Parvathi Pokala*



*ACD President Richard Stilwill and New Fellow Steve Lockwood at Convocation*



*Sponsors and New Fellows in Honolulu—Doug Cassat, Steve Lockwood, Tom Brant, Russ Haag, Parvathi Pokala, George Stratigopoulos, Tom Wuesthoff and Janice Sugiyama*





*ICD Journalism award winners at the American Association of Dental Editors and Journalists (AADEJ) annual meeting in Honolulu, October 2018*



*ICD Past President Leighton Wier, Harriet Seldin, Eliot Paisner. Your editor, Harriet Seldin, is wearing a different hat here, as a Tufts Dental alum, filling in for the Tufts Dental School representative. I was proud to see my dental school's alumni magazine win this award, celebrating 150 years of the Tufts University School of Dental Medicine.*



*Donna Klausner, Amy Tran, Scott and Kimber Szojko. Back row Gurrinder Atwal.*



*Tom and Cathy Wuesthoff with sponsor Janice Sugiyama*

*New Fellows Jaime L. Lozada (with sponsor, Leif K. Bakland), Michael Boyko (with sponsor, Wayne K. Tanaka), and Jeffrey A. Elo. All five are current or retired faculty at Loma Linda University School of Dentistry.*



*Harriet Seldin and Brian Shue. Shue is editor of the San Diego County Dental Society, a Fellow of our Section, and a new member of the executive committee of the AADEJ. Attending courses at annual meeting of the AADEJ. The place for continuing education in dental journalism. The meeting was held at the Waikiki Prince in Honolulu, October 16-17.*

## Accolades to 15-Year Fellows:

**Stanton S. Appleton**  
Colton

**Viviane S. Haber**  
Glendora

**Frederick A. Berry**  
Dana Point

**Jeffrey D. Lloyd**  
Upland

**John P. Ducar**  
Torrance

**Mark I. Taira**  
Los Angeles

**Enrique Garcia**  
Redondo Beach

**Denis M. Weintraub**  
Tarzana

## Accolades to 25-Year Fellows:

**Joseph M. Caruso**  
Paradise

**Gregory W. Holve**  
Valley Village

**David W. Eggleston**  
Newport Beach

**Charles H. Julienne**  
Los Angeles

**Charles J. Goodacre**  
Loma Linda

**Thomas N. Sims**  
Torrance

## Accolades to 50-Year Fellow:

**Ted L. Harper, Jr.**  
Palm Desert

# California's Dental Reponse to the Opioid Addiction Epidemic

By Donna Klauser

"Despite the National efforts to mitigate the epidemic of opioid addiction, there are still 116 Americans dying from opioid overdoses daily," CDC, 2018.

"You may be one of the four in the US who knows someone who is addicted," according to Dr. Hersman from Rx Summit 2018. According to the NIH's National Institute on Drug Abuse Director, Dr. Volkow, addiction is a chronic treatable brain disorder.

I applaud the California Dental Association (CDA) and the Dental Board of California (DBC) response to the opioid addiction epidemic. Dentists may reduce the opioid addiction epidemic by not prescribing opiates and instead recommend alternatives such as anti-inflammatory medication. The following are excerpted from

statements from Natasha Lee, President of CDA and Tom Stewart, President of the DBC.

"CDA recognizes that dentists play a pivotal role in providing quality care and ensuring patient safety. The misuse and abuse of opioids has resulted in epidemic levels of addiction and death. As prescribers of opioids for dental pain management, dentists have a professional responsibility to reduce this abuse. CDA promotes the use of prescription drug monitoring programs, substance use disorder education, and enhanced collaboration between dentists and their medical colleagues." Dr. Natasha Lee

"The Opioid Crisis is an important issue to the Dental Board of California. The Board recognizes that the widespread use and abuse of

opioids in the country has risen to an epidemic level; and that dentists in California should be encouraged to acknowledge the crisis and to play an active role in finding a solution to it.

The Board believes that educating both licensees and consumers on this issue coincides with our mission of public protection; and therefore, encourages its licensees to learn more about this epidemic; and to understand best prescribing practices. To this end, and in response to SB1109, the Substance Use Awareness Committee will discuss development of a regulatory proposal to require Mandatory continuing education relating to the risks of addiction associated with the use of schedule two drugs as a condition of licensure renewal." Dr. Tom Stewart

## Dates to Remember

**1st Annual ACD S CA  
Section Ethics  
CE course - 4 CE Credits  
Dr. Robert Stevenson  
Co-hosted with San Diego  
County Dental Society  
The Crossings at Carlsbad  
Carlsbad CA  
April 27, 2019,  
8 am - 12 pm**

**ACD/ICD Southern  
California Spring  
Breakfast  
Membership Meeting  
Anaheim CA  
May 17, 2019**

**ACD 2019  
Annual Meeting &  
Convocation  
San Francisco CA  
September 4-5, 2019**

**Fellowship Nominations Due  
December 31, 2019**

## From the Editor continued...

U.S. News & World Report continues to say that dentistry is one of the best jobs, but there are dentists whose practices are in trouble. Some practices and used equipment may not be sellable. There are fewer dentists in solo practice, and fewer new dentists looking at solo practice careers. The dental marketplace is out of equilibrium.

These pressures also exist outside of dentistry. Prop 13 is under threat due to similar concerns about equity. Millennials, including millennial

dentists, are entering the California housing market paying property taxes based on 2019 housing prices, while their Gen X and Boomer colleagues are being taxed based on limited annual increases to the valuation of their homes from perhaps many years ago.

The push for "Medicare for All" notes the disparate premiums and coverage for those who are eligible for Medicare and those who are not. A 64 year old often pays a high age-rated premium for health insurance with high deductibles. Meanwhile, a 65 year old pays a much lower Medicare premium and often has a zero deductible Medicare Advantage plan. Where is the equity there?

In this time of rapid change in the dental economy, and a concern in the larger community about health equity and generational equity, what is fair depends on your vantage point. For older dentists, some of these changes are akin to repossessing the proverbial gold watch. But as these trends play out, hopefully costs and benefits will balance out across the generations.

## ACD Central Office

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## 2018 Board of Directors Meetings



*Section Chair Doug Christiansen and Secy/Treasurer Linda Lukacs at February 10, 2018 Board meeting at Tustin Ranch Golf Club*



*George Stratigopoulos, Luke Iwata and Raed Fawaz at February 10, 2018 Board Meeting*



*Past ACD Section Chairs at August 11, 2018 board meeting at the Country Club of Rancho Bernardo. George Stratigopoulos, Bruce Coyle, Andy Severson, Russ Haag and Doug Cassat*

## Transition from ACD Student Achievement Award Winner to ACD Fellow in 10 years

By Amy Tran

As I reflect back on the last ten years, my introduction to organized dentistry and leadership was when I served as senior class president at the UCLA School of Dentistry. With my leadership efforts and collaboration with my peers, the class of 2008 is still applauded for being the most organized and prepared for our licensure examination. This led to my receiving the ACD Outstanding Student Leader Award, an honor that fueled my desire to stay involved in organized dentistry. After graduating, I became involved with my local dental society and spent the first few years figuring things out while navigating private practice and teaching part-time at UCLA. Those initial years helped set the stage for further involvement on the Executive Board of the dental society as well as volunteering with CDA as a delegate and as Chair of the Council on Membership. What I have found to be the most rewarding aspect of volunteering and participating in organized dentistry is the friendships I have made with colleagues who share the same passion. Earning ACD Fellowship this past year marked a culmination of a decade of giving back to my profession, to education, and to my community. It is an overwhelming feeling to be recognized by peers, which further validates my conviction to live and lead with purpose.

**PLEASE SEND US YOUR  
EMAIL ADDRESS**

**Send to [drhfseldin@aol.com](mailto:drhfseldin@aol.com)**

We'd really like to be able to communicate with Southern California Section Fellows via email.

The American College of Dentists  
and  
The International College of Dentists

# Spring Breakfast

and  
**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

May 17, 2019 • 7:00 a.m. • Anaheim Hilton

Speaker To Be Announced Soon

Voting on bylaws update  
For more information (and for copy of bylaws) contact  
Linda Lukacs (619) 787-4200 or llukacs@sbcglobal.net

For hotel reservations, call CDA Housing Bureau  
promptly (714) 765-8868

## ACD/ICD Spring Breakfast

Send check payable to  
ACD S CA Section

To: Dr. Linda Lukacs  
9291 Edgewood Drive  
La Mesa, CA 91941

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$49 per ticket.

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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