

**Council on Community Health**

*Lindsey A. Robinson, DDS  
Chairman*



The Council on Community Health acts as a liaison to state and local agencies, local component dental societies, and the public for the purpose of enhancing access to dental care, enhancing dental health education, and monitoring developments of dental health issues in other states and at the national level. The council also provides guidelines for activities that promote National Children's Dental Health Month in February of each year. In addition, the council is represented on an array of dental health task forces, committees, and steering groups.

The council is organized into three areas of focus: regulatory, advocacy/access, and communication. Council members are given responsibility for policy-related projects within the focal areas.

The council focuses efforts on the development of materials to complement its policy-related activities. The council continues to be involved in educating the public on access and utilization of special dental services, such as programs for children, the disadvantaged, elderly and/or other special care populations.

Through the liaison to the Department of Health Services, the council works closely with the public sector. Consequently, the council provides policy input to statewide organizations and programs such as the Child Health and Disability Prevention Program, Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies, the Dental Disease Prevention Program, Office of Oral Health, Medi-Cal Dental Services (Denti-Cal), and Healthy Families Program.

**Council members**

- Luis R. Dominicus, DDS
- Irene V. Hilton, DDS
- Jennifer H. Holtzman, DDS
- Phyllis M. Ishida, DDS
- Mireya S. Ortega, DDS
- Arnold C. Paulos, DDS

**Council on Dental Research and Developments**

*Richard T. Kao, DDS, PhD  
Chairman*



The mission of the Council on Dental Research and Developments is to evaluate and monitor scientific, technical, and regulatory matters for the purpose of recommending association policy and appraising membership of the significance of these issues to the practice of dentistry. Critical matters the council has worked on during the past year include dental office wastewater, amalgam safety, hazardous waste, infection control, the Dental Materials Fact Sheet, and Proposition 65.

Environmental agencies across the country are seeking to reduce levels of mercury and amalgam in dental office wastewater. CDA has promoted for several years the implementation of best management practices for waste. A recent scientific assessment conducted for the American Dental Association supports the effectiveness of these practices in reducing the amount of amalgam impacting the environment. Certain best management practices became mandatory statewide in March 2003. The council continues to communicate with the respective regulatory agencies to monitor these developments and to advise members and components of regulatory activity.

By the end of 2003, the council anticipated the announcement of updated infection control recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and their impact on the Dental Board of California infection control regulations. Additionally, the council has been actively involved in advocating that the Dental Board's newly proposed consumer-friendly Dental Materials Fact Sheet be reflective and consistent with consensus science. The council will also continue to monitor Cal/OSHA's recent activities related to glutaraldehyde use in healthcare establishments. Information and tools for complying with Cal/OSHA, infection control, and waste management regulations are provided by the council in the CDA Regulatory Compliance Manual.

The council will continue to monitor and evaluate scientific developments in dental treatment technologies, methods, materials, asepsis, and infectious diseases. The council seeks improved methods of communicating significant issues to the membership. To assist the association with gaining cutting-edge information, the council developed and maintains a consultants' list. Consultants are CDA members with particular expertise in various areas of dentistry and are used to assist the council and staff in researching issues and answering inquiries from members, the media, and public. The list also is used by the Publications Department, which refers submissions to the *Journal of the California Dental Association* to the consultants for peer review.

**Council members**  
 Ronald Brown, DDS  
 John C. Chao, DDS  
 John P. Ducar, DDS  
 Emilio E. Garcia, DDS  
 Robert G. Keim, DDS

**Council on Dental Care**

*Raymond S. Pedersen, DDS  
Chairman*



The Council on Dental Care advises and informs the association on policy matters involving the dental profession and third-party payment issues, including government programs and health care reform.

In addition, the council assists member dentists in resolving problems they encounter with their patients' dental benefit plans and provides input to third parties concerning benefits and acceptable claims practices. In conjunction with the ADA, the council assists members in gaining a greater understanding of the legal implications of contracting with third-party payers through the contract analysis service.

To serve as a source of information for the association and its membership, the Council on Dental Care monitors government health care programs, the status of national health care reform, and regulatory developments affecting provider/plan relations within the California Department of Managed Health Care. The council monitors the activities of entities that influence and affect health care plans and services.

**Council members**

- Devang Gandhi, DDS
- Vickie Greenberg, DDS
- Thomas Jacobs, DDS
- Yolanda Mangrum, DDS
- Michael McRae, DDS
- Michael W. Perry, DDS
- George Stratigopoulos, DDS
- Kenneth G. Wallis, DDS

**Council on Education and Professional Relations**

*Stanley R. Surabian, DDS, JD  
Chairman*



The mission of the Council on Education and Professional Relations is to support and advance the association's strategic plan in the areas of education, licensure,

allied dental health personnel, and enhanced professional relations. It does this by providing direction to and oversight for specific programs, projects, and task forces.

Increasing the number of allied dental health personnel in California continues to be a priority for the association and the council. A recruitment campaign, including radio and bus stop media ads, was launched in 2003. A concentrated recruitment effort is planned in 2004 in areas identified with allied dental health personnel shortages. Following up on a feasibility report, the council also plans to oversee the development of a business plan for a proprietary dental hygiene school.

The council will work with a second task force on licensure that is being formed to research licensure-by-graduation models and to determine the most appropriate one for California. The task force will also review accredited post-doctoral general dentistry/specialty program and enhanced licensure by credentials options in California, with an understanding that a legislative plan may be introduced to implement licensure reform.

A significant portion of the council's time is devoted to monitoring the activities of the Dental Board of California and its many committees, including the Committee on Dental Auxiliaries. Expansion of dental assisting duties and

efforts to place the scope of practice in statute, instead of regulation, is ongoing. Licensure by credential, foreign-trained graduates, and enforcement continue to be matters of significant interest.

The council also reviews all CDA-sponsored courses that may qualify for continuing education credit. The council continues to monitor the issues of continued competency and student debt/faculty recruitment, while enhancing relations with specialty and allied dental health organizations and with the dental education community.

**Council members**

- Robert H. Christoffersen, DDS
- Terry L. Eggleston, DDS
- Judith E. Grunstein, DDS
- Gary Herman, DDS
- Cindy Lyon, DDS

**Council on Insurance**

*Dennis DeTomasì, DDS  
Chairman*



The Council on Insurance develops, monitors, and evaluates CDA-sponsored insurance programs. The council's primary goal is to provide a meaningful membership benefit for CDA members through its selection of outstanding insurance products and a superior level of service through 1201 Financial & Insurance Services, Inc.

Throughout the year, the council and its consultants closely monitor each of the sponsored plans in terms of benefits, pricing, and service. Based on comparative analysis of plan features and costs, the council evaluates the future direction of the markets in which the sponsored programs compete and selects programs that merit CDA sponsorship.

A significant portion of the council's

time and effort during the past year has been devoted to overseeing the challenging renewal for CDA's workers' compensation coverage, which will again be a major focus and priority in 2004. The past year also saw the council add several new long-term care carrier endorsements to ensure adequate diversity in plan options available to members. The council has been and will continue to monitor the increasing healthcare costs and utilization that have resulted in nationwide increases in medical plan premiums and will work closely with its consultants to search the marketplace for the best health plan alternatives.

The council, its consultants, and 1201 will continue to exercise due diligence in exploring all options to ensure that insurance products offered to CDA members are as cost-effective as possible given the state of the overall market. The council is looking forward to continuing to represent CDA members and overseeing the CDA-sponsored insurance programs in 2004.

**Council members**

- Richard A. Cuevas, DDS
- William Marble, DDS
- David F. Levine, DDS
- Sanjay Patel, DDS
- Marvin S. Waldman, DDS
- Howard J. Winer, DDS

**Council on Peer Review**

*Raymond Sheridan, DDS*  
Chairman



The Council on Peer Review is responsible for overseeing the association's peer review system. This system is an alternative to litigation that provides

the member dentist with an objective, professional review when disagreements concerning the quality and/or

appropriateness of dental care occur between dentists and patients. In addition to patient-initiated complaints, the peer review system also provides utilization review to assist members with problems related to obtaining benefits from third-party payers.

The council's purpose is to ensure that procedures are followed in a consistent manner by components and specialty committees statewide, and that they comply with the CDA *Peer Review Manual*. The council has three subcommittees: two advisory panels that hold monthly conference calls to review select cases and the appeals panel, which meets once a month via conference call to review cases that have been appealed.

The council reviews approximately 600 cases each year involving quality and appropriateness of treatment, and its primary objective is to timely and credibly assess and resolve such cases.

This year, the council will focus on promoting the peer review system as a service to the general membership and alter the perception that the system is punitive in nature. Members of the council are prepared to provide CE courses to educate the general membership on how to use the system to benefit their practices and their patients. The council will continue to implement the regional/calibration training workshops for all component and specialty peer review committees to ensure consistency and credibility throughout the state in order to serve members and their patients more efficiently.

**Council members**

- Norman C. Bitter, DDS
- Adrian J. Carrington, DDS
- Edward Casper, DDS
- David S. Humerickhouse, DDS
- Randy J. Jelmini, DMD
- Alan O. Robb, DDS
- James H. Thompson, DMD
- Philip Wolkstein, DMD

**Council on Scientific Sessions  
Board of Managers**

*Carol Gomez Summerhays, DDS*  
Chairman



It is the goal of the Scientific Sessions Board of Managers to present two outstanding dental meetings per year and to assist the entire association in

achieving its goals through appropriate programs and speakers. This goal is accomplished by working with other councils, committees, and the subsidiary companies, and by scouting the other major dental meetings throughout the United States and Canada to identify speakers and pertinent topic information.

The planning of the Spring 2004 Scientific Session has been finalized and advance registration materials were sent to all member dentists in California and selected ADA members throughout the United States in December of 2003. There will be up to 100 programs presented and approximately 85 nationally well-known and up-and-coming speakers. The exhibit hall will consist of over 600 exhibiting companies. The entire dental team will be honored at the opening session and breakfast on Friday, April 15 with an uplifting message by Erin Gruwell. The Membership Celebration will feature the Bacon Brothers at the House of Blues Anaheim.

The Fall 2004 Scientific Sessions meeting will be moving to the brand-new Moscone West Convention Center and the board of managers is working diligently to make the best use of the new space to benefit the attendees.

The board of managers is focusing on finalizing the Spring 2005 Scientific Session and planning the Fall 2005 program. Both sessions are filled with quality speakers and pro-

grams and promises to keep all CDA members and their dental team on the cutting edge of technology.

The Spring 2003 Scientific Session, one of the most successful meetings to date, attracted 27,695 attendees, of which 6,717 were dentists. Many lecture and workshop rooms were full to capacity. The three exhibit halls housed more than 1,200 booths with 600 exhibiting companies. The Membership Celebration featuring Megastars in Concert, who performed to a sold-out crowd, was an entertaining event for CDA members and guests.

In lieu of the Fall 2003 Scientific Session, staff concentrated on streamlining online registration and selecting a new CE automation process for future sessions. The Scientific Sessions Board of Managers has also been assigned to work collectively on Distance Learning.

**Board members**

- Gary R. Ackerman, DDS
- Jeff J. Brucia, DDS
- R. Bruce Coye, DDS
- Frank T. Curry, DDS
- Richard K. Rounsavelle, DDS
- James C. Withers, DDS

**Associate members**

- Stafford Duhn, DDS
- Daniel Miyasaki, DDS
- Anthony Perez, DDS
- Craig Yarborough, DDS

**Council on Membership**

*Virginia Hughson-Otte, DDS  
Chairman*



The Council on Membership has as its mission to assess the needs of all California dentists and to address those needs through the development, coordination, and imple-

mentation of programs designed to promote the success, health, welfare, and diversity of CDA membership. The council is largely responsible for membership services and membership development. Council members oversee activities designed to maximize the accessibility, usefulness, and relevance of CDA's services, programs, and membership benefits, which in turn will enhance recruitment and retention efforts. The council also oversees the activities of the Committee on the New Dentist, a group of new dentists who bring their perspectives into the consideration of membership programs and recruitment activities.

The council oversees many benefits and programs including the Universal Membership Application and Procedures (UMAP) programs for students and new dentists, and the Well-Being Program.

The council's membership development responsibilities comprise membership records and dues billing, recruitment and retention, and membership categories.

Highlights of the past year include the CDA New Dentist Conference, a one-day conference held in conjunction with the San Francisco Scientific Sessions; "Tips from the Pros: Advice from the Dental Board Before you Graduate!"; a seminar for junior and senior students on preparing for the state licensure examination; the Senior Transition Seminars, a program held at the five dental schools to assist senior students with the transition from a student to a practitioner; hosting an all-student representative conference; sponsoring and hosting a Well-Being Network Training Conference, and monitoring the UMAP for the 32 components in California.

Plans for the upcoming year include hosting a one-day conference in conjunction with the San Francisco Scientific Session, sponsoring the Senior Transition Seminar at the five

dental schools, implementing the new application procedures, and hosting a Student Reception at the Anaheim Scientific Session.

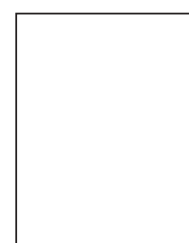
The Committee on the New Dentist, a subcommittee of the council, is responsible for integrating new dentists into organized dentistry and assisting new dentists in the transition from dental school into practice. In the next year, the members of the committee will be working more aggressively on creating links with local dental societies' new dentist contacts and implementing its mission statement and strategic plan. Some of the goals on the committee strategic plan include: hosting a workshop for component new dentist committee chairmen, participating in the ADA New Dentist Conference in San Diego, and electing a student member to the committee.

**Council members**

- John P. Cunningham, DDS
- Gerald G. Gelle, DDS
- John D. Williams, DDS
- Joseph M. Nunez, DDS
- Judee Tippett-Whyte, DDS

**Judicial Council**

*J. Andrew Hunter, DDS  
Chairman*



The CDA Bylaws charge the Judicial Council to consider proposals for amending the Code of Ethics and Bylaws, among other things.

The Bylaws also charge the council to provide advisory opinions regarding interpretation of the ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct and this association's Code of Ethics. Additionally, the Judicial Council is charged with rendering decisions in disputes arising between component societies.

The council's mission continues to be the promotion and maintenance of high ethical standards within the dental profession; development and uniform enforcement of a viable and legally enforceable Code of Ethics; and interpretation and enforcement of the Code of Ethics on behalf of the association, components, individual members, and the public.

Through its subcommittees, the Judicial Council reviews membership applications (through the Membership Application Review Subcommittee); determines whether members should be charged with violation of the Code of Ethics (through the Investigating Panel); and determines whether charges of violation of the Code of Ethics are valid (through the Hearing Panel). Through its Subcommittee on Ethics in Dentistry, the council also sponsors an annual ethics conference to train component ethics committees and staff on the ethics counseling and investigation process.

Council staff provides confidential counseling on dental ethics issues and interpretation of the Code of Ethics for the components, individual members, and the public. The CDA Council on Peer Review and component dental societies' ethics and peer review committees also depend upon the council for advice, guidance, and assistance in enforcing their committee decisions and the Code of Ethics.

Revitalization of the Code of Ethics, as resolved by the Board of Trustees in the summer of 2003, will be the Judicial Council's primary concern in 2004. The Judicial Council will work closely with the appointed Ethics Task Force to incorporate aspirational values and refine the operational guidelines within the Code of Ethics. The Judicial Council and Ethics Task Force will ensure that the code is responsive to the membership and that it models unwavering professional integrity. Continued interpretation and enforcement of the Code of Ethics; in-

creased component communication and training; and amplified member education are crucial to the success of this revitalization effort. These goals can be achieved by ensuring the Code of Ethics is a relevant and legally viable document for guiding association members; reviewing potential violations of the Code of Ethics; and communicating these actions to components and members.

**Council members**

- Leif K. Bakland, DDS
- Lisa J. Dobak, DDS
- Kenneth J. Fischer, DDS
- Mark D. Kaufman, DDS
- Robert "Dodie" Lynds, DDS
- Howard C. Richmond, DDS
- Jeffrey C. Shepherd, DDS
- Richard O. Spencer, DDS
- Alan R. Stein, DDS
- Douglas R. Wall, DDS

**Council on Legislation**

*James D. Wood, DDS*  
*Chairman*



The Council on Legislation is responsible for guiding CDA activities in the legislative and regulatory arena. The council initiates and responds to legisla-

tive and administrative proposals with the goal of implementing and maintaining CDA policy objectives. The council also oversees grassroots political activities and political education programs for component societies and other dental groups. The council has a representative on the Executive Committee of CalDPAC, the political action arm of the California Dental Association.

In the 2003-2004 legislative session, the council will be moving forward in several areas. CDA is an active participant in the state's budget

process every year; but this year, with another significant budget deficit, CDA will defend the importance of the optional adult Denti-Cal program and attempt to identify other areas for improvements. The Dental Board undergoes another joint legislative sunset review, and CDA will participate in those discussions. In 2002, legislators on the Sunset Review Committee recommended through SB 1950 that interested parties discuss the possibility of developing a separate board for hygiene, a structure that is used with other health care providers (e.g., nursing, physical therapists). Other legislative proposals include the scope of practice for dental assistants, the status of the restorative techniques exam, and oral surgery scope of practice. CDA will continue its involvement in the fight to protect the use of dental amalgam and fluoride. Access to dental health care continues to be a pressing issue, balanced with the need for dentists to work in a business-friendly environment with the goal of treating patients from all economic levels.

The council reviews all legislation introduced in the California Legislature and closely monitors all bills having an impact on dentistry, including licensure of dentists and allied dental health professionals; insurance issues; government programs; environmental and OSHA issues and hazardous waste disposal; small business and tort concerns; public health and access to oral health care; and other areas of professional concerns.

**Council members**

- Nicholas Caplanis, DDS
- Michael R. Clark, DDS
- Debra S. Finney, DDS
- Dennis M. Kalebjian, DDS
- Irving S. Lebovics, DDS
- Tim S. Shahbazian, DDS
- Roger B. Simonian, DDS
- James D. Wood, DDS