

TDA TODAY

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“To the families in Kerr, Burnet, San Saba, Travis, and Williamson counties who have lost loved ones, homes, and livelihoods, we share your grief and pain. What should have been a time of joy and celebration has, for many, become a time of survival and unimaginable loss.”

To help donate, please consider the following local and national organizations, per compilation by the American Dental Association:

- **Kerr County Flood Relief Fund:** Supports local recovery efforts in Kerr County. Donate at kerrcountyrelief.org or 830-555-1234.
- **World Central Kitchen:** Provides meals to those displaced by the floods. Donate at wck.org or 202-844-6330.
- **Ark of Highland Lakes:** Supports Marble Falls, Burnet and surrounding areas. Donate at arkofhighlandlakes.org.
- **Salvation Army:** Delivers emergency aid and provides long-term recovery support. Donate at salvationarmyusa.org or 1-800-725-2769.
- **TEXSAR (Texas Search and Rescue):** Assists with search and rescue operations. Donate at texsar.org or 512-994-2574.
- **Kerrville Pets Alive:** Helps animals displaced by the floods. Donate at kerrvillepetsalive.org or 830-555-5678.
- **American Red Cross:** Offers shelter, supplies and support to flood victims. Donate at redcross.org or 1-800-733-2767. 📌



TDA Welcomes New Executive Director

The TDA has hired a new executive director!

Dr. Greta Zeimet of Fort Worth will join us on July 28, 2025 bringing with her a wealth of knowledge and experience. She has previously served as executive director of the National Association of Legal Assistants as well as interim executive director for American Mensa. In addition, she has served as chief staff officer for the American Association of Professional Landmen. Welcome, Dr. Zeimet!

We are eager to work together. 📌

Floods Devastate Texas Organizations Need Donations

The onslaught of heavy rain and resulting catastrophic floods on July 4, 2025, in the Texas Hill Country resulted in at least 136 deaths, with 2 remaining missing, at the time of this writing (July 23, 2025).

Responders and volunteers remain in the area to continue search efforts, and the TDA offers a message of solidarity for the residents and victims’ families.

TDA President Dr. Glen Hall emailed members on July 9.

“As an Association whose family extends beyond the profession of dentistry, we stand united in the face of adversity, our hearts heavy with sorrow for the devastating floods that have swept through the Texas Hill Country,” Dr. Hall said.

Congratulations, Newly Licensed Dentists!

The Texas State Board of Dental Examiners (TSBDE) held its annual Licensing Day Expo event on July 1 at the Barbara Jordan Building in Austin. Over 300 new graduates stood in line to obtain their licenses, some arriving as early as 4:00 AM. The Capital Area Dental Society was there as early as 6:00 AM, handing out snack bags to the anxious new graduates. A reception for the newly licensed dentists was held at the Bob Bullock Museum just a few steps away from the event, where new dentists could grab a snack, visit with event sponsors and TDA department representatives, and take an updated headshot.

TDA, TDA Financial Services Insurance Program, MedPro, Care Credit, Cloud Dentistry, Capital Area Dental Society, Dallas County Dental Society, San Antonio District Dental Society, and the Greater Houston Dental Society all sponsored the event. TDA would like to thank the TSBDE for letting us be a part of this impactful event! 📌



Chamberlyn Pruitt



Capital Area Dental Society executive director and members arrived at 6:00 AM to hand out goody bags to new graduates waiting in line to receive their license.



New graduates from all over the state celebrated their accomplishment at the Licensing Day reception.



TMOM Abilene Sets New Record in Care Delivered with Heart

On July 18–19, Texas Mission of Mercy (TMOM) hosted its most impactful event to date in Abilene. With the dedication of 336 incredible volunteers, TMOM provided 6,133 individual treatments to 683 patients, delivering an astounding \$911,885 in free dental care—a record-breaking milestone in TMOM history.

This event was more than numbers—it was a celebration of compassion, community, and the belief that everyone deserves access to quality oral healthcare, regardless of their circumstances. Patients traveled from across Texas to be seen, each carrying a unique story. We were humbled to witness so many people from different walks of life come together—as patients, volunteers, and supporters—united by the desire to help and heal.

One particular moment captured the spirit of TMOM in the most profound way. Late Friday evening, Dr Lyndi Smart welcomed the final patient of the day into her chair—a woman with only 6 teeth remaining. Before beginning treatment, Dr Smart took a moment to talk with her. In that conversation, the patient shared that she had stage IV lung cancer and that what mattered most to her now was to “die with beautiful teeth.”

Without hesitation, Dr Smart offered to extract the remaining 6 teeth and provide her with a full set of dentures—at no cost. The patient, overcome with emotion, began to cry and so did many of the volunteers who witnessed this incredible act of kindness. In that room, we all felt what TMOM is truly about: human dignity, compassion, and the power of generosity.

To Dr Smart, thank you. Your compassion reminds us why we do this work.

To every volunteer, supporter, and sponsor who made TMOM Abilene possible—thank you. This event could not have happened without you. Your time, energy, and spirit made a difference in hundreds of lives, and we are honored to do this work alongside you.

We can’t wait to be back. 🏳️‍🌈



Dr Lyndi Smart treats a patient at the TMOM Abilene.



(L-R): Volunteer (unknown), Stacy Hill, Dr Lyndi Smart, TMOM Patient, Dr Lovelace, and Shea Woodard.



Volunteers at the Abilene TMOM, July 2025.

TDA is Advocating for YOU



Legislative

- TDA is respected as the **oral health authority** in Texas
- Your membership in the TDA is crucial to our success
- TDA works for legislation that benefits your **profession**, your **practice**, and your **patients**



Regulatory

- TDA is your **trusted advocate** on regulatory activities
- Learn about new regulations and compliance updates
- We offer **personalized compliance assistance**



DENPAC

- TDA’s political action committee ensures we have a **constant presence** at our state capitol
- DENPAC collects voluntary donations from TDA members
- We **support state candidates** who support organized dentistry



Social Media

- Follow **@tdaDENPAC** for more info on **advocacy efforts** and quick legislative updates
- Watch TDA **dentists testify at the Capitol** and see your colleagues engage in advocacy

Spence Named Director of Recruitment and Admissions at Texas A&M University College of Dentistry



Dr Alicia Spence was named director of recruitment and admissions at Texas A&M University College of Dentistry in Dallas, after more than a decade in various teaching and administrative roles. Spence was tapped as interim director in 2024 and served on the admissions committee for several years.

Dr Ernestine Lacy, associate dean of student affairs, praised Spence’s work ethic, energy and positive attitude.

“She brings to this position needed experience, innovative ideas and professionalism,” Lacy said. “Dr Spence has both a sincere love of the College of Dentistry and a genuine care for its students and everyone at the college.”


In Spence’s role, she travels the state to recruit students from major universities, including Texas A&M, the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Texas at Dallas and the University of North Texas. She will increase recruiting efforts to include Texas Tech University, the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and smaller colleges and universities in person and via video conferences.

Spence graduated in 2012 and, after working for a mobile practice treating geriatric patients, returned to the college as an adjunct professor in 2013 and as a full-time faculty member in 2014 because she wanted to help students. She continues to teach as a clinical assistant professor in comprehensive dentistry, co-founded the dental college’s Mental Health and Wellness Committee and mentors student researchers.

“Our students come from all over, and I like that because they will treat patients from all over,” Spence said. “They will go back to all these areas of Texas that need them.” 🏳️‍🌈

Each month, we aim to spotlight a state component society and the events happening in the area. For more information or to let us know what is happening in your TDA component society, please email Managing Editor Nicole Scott, nscott@tda.org.

Dallas County Dental Society: Wellness isn't just physical—it's also about community

Trading scrubs for sticky socks, member dentists came together at Pure Barre Dallas in late June for a posture-boosting workout and great camaraderie. Hosted by the Dallas County Dental Society Membership Committee, this private Pure Barre class was thoughtfully designed with dentists in mind. From core strength to connection, the full-body session delivered exactly what we hoped for—movement, motivation and meaningful moments shared together. 



Member dentists compare workout notes following the Pure Barre class



From scrubs to socks our members showed up and showed out. A great way to reset recharge and reconnect.



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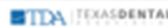


ARE YOU PROTECTED?

Whether you are a general dentist or a specialist, politics affect your practice and ability to serve your patients. **If you practice dentistry in Texas, you can't afford to not be politically engaged.** DENPAC is the advocacy arm of the TDA. DENPAC provides a powerful, united voice to advocate for organized dentistry at the Texas Capitol.

Invest in DENPAC. It's investing in you.

VISIT DENPAC.ORG TO JOIN NOW



5 SELF-CARE TIPS FOR DENTISTS



1 SCHEDULE MICRO-BREAKS

Set a timer to pause for 2–3 minutes every hour. Stretch your neck, roll your shoulders, or just breathe deeply.



2 FUEL YOUR BODY RIGHT

Don't skip meals. Keep healthy snacks on hand and stay hydrated to avoid energy crashes during long procedures.



3 MENTAL RESET RITUALS

Try 3 minutes of deep breathing, journaling, or mindfulness between patients to reset your mindset.



4 PROTECT YOUR SLEEP

Stick to a wind-down routine. Even 15 minutes of screen-free quiet before bed can improve sleep quality.



5 LEAN ON YOUR NETWORK

Talk to a mentor, peer, or therapist. You don't have to carry stress alone — support is strength.



Contributions or gifts to political action committees are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal tax purposes. Contributions to the Texas Dental Association Political Action Committee are voluntary and may be used to support state candidates and office holders. You may refuse to contribute without reprisal, and the Texas Dental Association and its local component societies will neither favor nor disadvantage anyone based on the amount or failure to make contributions. According to Texas state law, political action committees may only accept contributions from individuals, professional corporations, and professional associations. State law requires political action committees to request and make best efforts to report the name, mailing address, occupation, and employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$100 in a calendar year.



ATDA Awards Scholarships at TDA Meeting 2025

The annual Alliance of the TDA (ATDA) Memorial Endowment Scholarship Luncheon awarded 7 deserving dental students from the 4 Texas dental schools with \$25,200 in scholarships and recognized a host of distinguished guests attending.

Heide Heath (Mrs Frank) from Greater Houston District Dental Alliance served as Memorial Committee chairperson of the ATDA Memorial Committee for the 2024-2025 year. The scholarships are awarded to deserving third-year students. The Alliance maintains selection criteria at the 4 dental schools; however, each school independently decides the amount to be awarded and the number of students selected.

The scholarship recipients are:

- UTHealth School of Dentistry Houston—**Andrew Samaan and Umar Malik**
- UTHealth Science Center San Antonio—**Samantha Perez and Jiahui Qi**
- Texas A&M University College of Dentistry Dallas—**Tommy Kim and Brandon Tran**
- Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine El Paso—**Adrian Tatum**



Scholarship recipients who were able to attend are left to right: Jenny Qi and Samantha Perez, both from UT San Antonio, Adrian Tatum from Texas Tech El Paso, and Umar Malik from UT Houston.




(L-R): Ms Cyd Goldfarb from Texas Tech, representing Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine, Adrian Tatum, Jenny Qi, ATDA Memorial Committee Chair Heide Heath (Mrs Frank), ATDA Memorial Committee Member Denise Bruchmiller (Mrs Brad), and Dr Kelly Lemke, director of admissions at UT Health San Antonio School of Dentistry, and Samantha Perez.



Sitting, (L-R): Umar Malik, dental student recipient; Dr Ralph Cooley, assistant dean for Admission and Student Services, UT Health Dental School, Houston; Gloria Morales, 2024-25 ATDA President; Dr Lily Garcia, dean, Texas A&M College of Dentistry; Dr Nancy Cartwright, 2024-25 ATDA president-elect; Standing (L-R): Patty Taylor, Memorial Committee member; and her husband Dr Ben Taylor.

ATDA Sponsors Educational Speaker at TDA Meeting

ATDA annually sponsors an educational speaker at the TDA Meeting. This year's CE speaker was Tieraona Low Dog, MD, an authority on "Integrative Medicine".

Financial support for educational programs such as this is made possible through accumulated memorial donations and contributions in honor or memory of deceased members or deceased family and friends of the ATDA. 



Dr Low Dog and Patty Taylor, speaker host.



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Tired of shaking your Magic 8 Ball to find answers to complex regulatory and compliance issues?

Maybe it's time to "Ask Diane"



TDA Members can submit questions via tda.org/askdiane
Look for answers to those questions in future issues of TDA Today, Texas Dental Journal, and online.