

TDA TODAY

A PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS DENTAL ASSOCIATION

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AVAILABLE ON TDA.ORG

Texas Dental Schools Hold Successful National Signing Days

The 4 Texas dental schools held successful signing days into organized dentistry in April. Dental school graduates can become ADA members for \$0 national dues for 18 months after graduation.

On April 6, the San Antonio District Dental Society and El Paso District Dental Society organized ADA/TDA Signing Days at UT Health San Antonio School of Dentistry and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine, respectively. Several member dentists and faculty spoke to graduating dental students about the benefits of organized dentistry and membership in the ADA tripartite.

At Texas A&M University College of Dentistry in Dallas on April 16, members of the Dallas County Dental Society and North Texas Dental Society converted 100 percent of the graduating D4 students into ADA tripartite membership. Over lunch provided by the TDA, the dentists shared insights, answered questions, and helped students take their next step into the profession.

On April 23, members of the Greater Houston Dental Society helped convert D4 dental students into ADA membership at UT Health School of Dentistry at Houston. 📍



Drs John Dossett, Fred Philips, Kelsey Edmondson, and Lea Hachem met with D4 students for National Signing Day at the UT Health San Antonio School of Dentistry.



Drs Partha Mukherji, Drew Vanderbrook, Jacque Plemons, and Hoda Abdellatif connected with Texas A&M University College of Dentistry D4 students on April 16, National Signing Day.



TDA Meeting is May 7-9 in San Antonio

Join your colleagues for a weekend of learning, networking, and fun! If you haven't registered, there's still time. Here is a preview of what you can expect this year.

NEW Keynote Session -- Friday morning!
Rise and shine with Dr Chris Ramsey as he shares how to "Master Your Passion for Excellence." This inspiring session is FREE for all attendees – just be sure to add event KEY01 to your registration.

CE Express is Back!
Explore fresh perspectives with our Emerging Speakers Series and a special lineup of Industry Insights on Thursday, May 7. These 1-hour sessions, offered every day, provide the perfect bite-sized pearls of CE.

Exhibit Hall Experiences
Take a spin through the exhibit hall and discover new activation spaces — including a wellness lounge, photo booth, and a hands-on keepsake station in the center lounge.

Be sure to check out the all-new TDA letters in the atrium lobby and share a pic of your TDA Meeting experience.

Texas Oral Health Coalition Summit

June 4-5, 2026 | Austin, TX



Registration is now open for the 2026 Texas Oral Health Coalition (TxOHC) Summit!

Join colleagues from across the state this June 4–5 in Austin, Texas. Centered on the theme "Reignite, Rebuild, Reimagine: Oral Health for All," the Summit will explore strategies to expand access, advance prevention, and strengthen the connection between oral and overall health.

This year's plenary speakers include Jerome Adams, 20th United States Surgeon General, for a fireside chat on Protecting Public Health: Prevention & Beyond.

Register today: <https://bit.ly/txohc26>

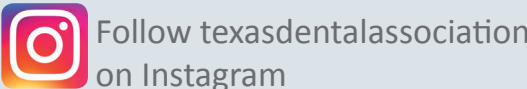
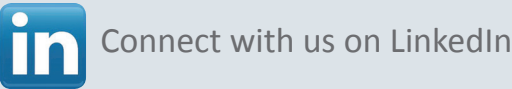
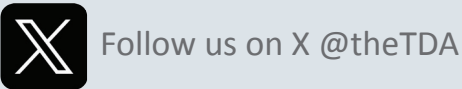
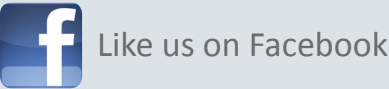
For questions, please contact convenings@texashealthinstitute.org.

In 2025, TxOHC began a new chapter as part of Texas Health Institute, continuing its mission to advance oral health for all Texans. 📍



Tropical Tiki Party!
Escape to the tropics with your dental tribe! Join us on Thursday from 4:30 to 6:00 PM for island-inspired fun featuring tropical sips, tasty bites, and authentic Hawaiian entertainment. Each attendee receives a free drink ticket and festive attire is encouraged!

You can still register online at tdameeting.com and sign up for CE courses. The TDA Meeting is YOUR source for professional development. Inspiration Awaits at the 2026 TDA Meeting in San Antonio! 📍



Texas Dental School News

Tatakis named head of periodontics at Texas A&M University College of Dentistry in Dallas

After a national search, Dr Dimitris N. Tatakis is the new head of periodontics at Texas A&M University College of Dentistry in Dallas. Dr Deborah M. Foyle, who served as interim head of periodontics, will assist Tatakis before assuming another high-level position at A&M Dentistry.

Tatakis started Feb. 2 and came to A&M Dentistry from Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio, where he was a visiting professor in the periodontics department. He was a tenured professor at The Ohio State University College of Dentistry in Columbus, where he led the advanced education program in periodontics, and was a consultant to the Naval Postgraduate Dental School in Bethesda, Maryland.



Dr Dimitris N. Tatakis

He’s a director of the American Board of Periodontology, a member of the CODA Periodontics Review Committee and an editorial board member of several biomedical publications.

“His record of research and scholarship, as well as his record of service, represents a lifelong commitment to excellence in our profession, contributing to his national and international reputation,” said Dr Lily T. García, A&M Dentistry dean.

Tatakis said he plans to build on the periodontics department’s strong foundation.

“Texas A&M has an accomplished group of people and a bold vision,” he said. “There is a tremendous opportunity for our department to continue advancing its excellence, and I look forward to supporting that growth.”

He’s held faculty positions at the University of Louisville School of Dentistry in Kentucky and the Loma Linda University School of Dentistry in California, where he attained tenure. Tatakis earned his dental degree from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens in Greece and a certificate in periodontology and a doctorate in oral biology from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine.

Inspired by a strong interest in biology that began during his high school years in Greece, Tatakis has built a career focused on understanding biological mechanisms and addressing clinically relevant scientific questions. He’s dedicated his professional life in dentistry to advancing academic inquiry and educating the next generation of periodontists.

“When you’ve seen people struggle with serious dental problems, you come to appreciate how profoundly dentistry can help — by relieving pain, restoring comfort and function and improving quality of life,” he said.

Tatakis said he plans to strategically expand the faculty and strengthen the department’s research enterprise to position the program as a national leader in periodontics. He also aims to elevate resident training to ensure graduates are exceptionally well prepared to meet the evolving demands of the profession. 🇺🇸

Medicaid Update

MEDICAID PROVIDER ENGAGEMENT MEETING FOR MEDICAID PAYMENT RATES

The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Provider Finance Department (PFD) held a provider engagement meeting to receive comments on Medicaid and non-Medicaid payment rates that may be addressed at the May 2026 rate hearings. The Texas Dental Association’s (TDA) testimony asked HHSC to distribute any available funds among the Rider 39 codes and the sedation/ anesthesia codes included in TDA’s March 3, 2026, testimony to HHSC.

ADDITIONAL REVALIDATION DUE DATE EXTENSION TO BEGIN APRIL 9

Beginning April 9, 2026, providers are eligible for an additional revalidation due date extension of 60 calendar days if they meet the following criteria:

- The provider’s current revalidation due date is on or before May 31, 2026.
- The provider has an in-flight revalidation application.

Important: Providers should begin the revalidation process as early as 180 days before their revalidation due date to allow sufficient time to complete the process and maintain their enrollment status.

Action Required: Complete Your Required Medicaid Revalidation
Complete the required Medicaid revalidation process to remain actively enrolled and avoid interruptions to claims payment.

- Take action now:**
- o Log into PEMS.
 - o Confirm your revalidation due date.
 - o Start or resume your revalidation application.
 - o Submit all required documentation.
 - o Respond to any requests for additional information.
 - o Ensure your status is “closed-enrolled” by your due date.

Providers must complete revalidation and reach a “**Closed-Enrolled**” status in PEMS by their assigned due date to maintain active Medicaid enrollment. Providers who do not complete revalidation risk disenrollment and nonpayment of Medicaid claims.

- Immediate Impact of Missed Deadlines:**
- o Disenrollment from Texas state health care programs.
 - o Loss of access to state-directed payment programs.
 - o You will not be paid for services provided to Medicaid members.
 - o Required to re-enroll to resume participation with no payment during disenrollment.

- YouTube Videos**
YouTube videos for step-by-step guidance on completing Medicaid revalidation in PEMS, including how to log in, review and update information, upload documents, and submit your application.
- o **Revalidating an Individual:** A step by step video for individual providers on updating personal information and submitting Medicaid revalidation in PEMS.
 - o **Revalidating a Performing Provider:** A step by step video for performing providers on updating personal information and submitting Medicaid revalidation in PEMS.
 - o **Revalidating a Clinic/Group Practice or Facility:** A step-by-step video for Clinic/Group Practice or Facilities on updating personal information and submitting Medicaid revalidation in PEMS.

Special Processes to Consider
Common Deficiencies Identified by OIG: Highlights common disclosure errors such as missing owners, managing employees, affiliations, exclusion checks, or outdated ownership information. Incomplete or inaccurate disclosures may lead to denial or impact your ability to participate in Medicaid.

Customer Support
For standard inquiries, contact Texas Medicaid & Healthcare Partnership (TMHP):
Email: Provider.Relations@tmhp.com
Phone: TMHP Contact Center at 800-925-9126 or TMHP-CSHCN Services Program at 800-568-2413

For escalations, contact HHSC via the HHSC Provider Enrollment mailbox, at ProviderEnrollment@hhs.texas.gov. 🇺🇸



DENPAC SILENT AUCTION

3RD FLOOR • FRIDAY, MAY 8 - SATURDAY, MAY 9

SUPPORT DENPAC & WIN GREAT PRIZES

- ✳️ ARTWORK
- ✳️ SPORTS MEMORABILIA & TICKETS
- ✳️ DESTINATION EXPERIENCES
- ✳️ WINE & SPIRITS
- ✳️ HISTORICAL TDA KEEPSAKES
- ✳️ AND MORE!





Alliance of the Texas Dental Association

Schedule for TDA Meeting

All active and inactive members of the Alliance of the TDA (ATDA) are welcome! All events are at Marriott Rivercenter hotel in downtown San Antonio. If you haven't received your registration by email or have questions, email owedds@gmail.com.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Marriott Rivercenter Hotel
ATDA Headquarters

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026

8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Registration
Pearl Pre-function
2nd Floor

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

ATDA Committee Meetings
President's Suite TBA

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Iconic Shopping Boutique (all welcome) and Hospitality Room
Pearl 3
2nd Floor

12:15 PM – 1:45 PM

Past President's Lunch (by invitation only)
Pearl 1
2nd Floor

2:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Bingo (ticketed event, \$45)
Pearl 2
2nd Floor
All are welcome. Register online at tdameeting.com.

6:00 PM – 7:45 PM

ATDA President's Reception (by Invitation only)
Pearl 1 & 2
2nd Floor

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026

8:00 AM – 9:30 AM
Executive Board Breakfast Meeting
Conference 2-4
3rd Floor

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Registration
Pearl Pre-function
2nd Floor

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Iconic Shopping Boutique and Hospitality Room
Pearl 3
2nd Floor

9:45 AM – 11:45 AM

**General Member Meeting (morning session)*
Conference 2-4
3rd Floor

Noon – 1:30 PM

ATDA General Lunch (ticketed event, \$65, must be purchased in advance)
Pearl 1 and 2
2nd Floor

1:45 PM – 3:00 PM

General Meeting (afternoon session) and Installation of ATDA 2026-2027 Officers*
Conference 2-4
3rd Floor
**All ATDA members are welcome.*

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

New President Orientation
Conference 1
3rd Floor

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

1:45 PM
ATDA President's Address to TDA House of Delegates
Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center

Events Listed Below Are Open to the Public

Sponsored by ATDA

BINGO!

Are you feeling lucky? Wine, cheese, and prizes! Dentists, auxiliary staff, and spouses are welcome (\$45/person).
Thursday, May 7
2:30 PM – 4:30 PM
Marriott Rivercenter on the River Walk
Pearl 2
2nd Floor

ICONIC SHOPPING BOUTIQUE

Thursday, May 7, and Friday, May 8
Marriott Rivercenter on the River Walk
Pearl 3
2nd Floor



CareCredit is now integrated into 90%+ of dental practice management software

The easy financing solution for your patients is the one they already have. Because most dental practice management software now has CareCredit integrated, it's likely you can see which patients on the schedule have a CareCredit credit card, their available credit, and identify those who are preapproved for the healthcare credit card.

For more information on CareCredit integrations, visit <https://www.carecredit.com/providers/partnerships/> or scan this QR code.



If you don't yet accept CareCredit and you're interested in doing so, call 800-300-3046 or visit tdaperks.com (Insurance & HR).

You may be able to see **which patients on your schedule** have a **CareCredit** credit card.

CareCredit integrated into 90%+ of dental practice software.

[SEE MORE.](#)

CareCredit
a Synchrony solution



2026 Required Course: Controlled Substances

Stay compliant with this virtual 4-hour course covering the opioid epidemic, ethical prescribing, PDMP use, pain management, and patient communication. This course meets all controlled substance CE requirements for dentists, including DEA permit holders (RULE §111.1(b)) and direct patient care (RULE §104.1(2)(B)).

Complete your required CE early and start 2026 on track!

DIFFERENT CAREER PATHS. ONE HOME.

Don't Let Your Benefits Expire!
(Deadline: March 31)

tda.org/join-renew

UPCOMING CONTROLLED-SUBSTANCES COURSE

✓ Friday, June 5, 2026
9:00 AM

Seats fill fast – secure your spot and start 2026 on track.

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

tdadentalconcierge.com



TSBDE Rule Update

This recurring section is designed to help TDA members keep up with important Texas State Board of Dental Examiners (TSBDE) rules, other regulations, and state law affecting their practices.

Recent TSBDE Rule Adoptions

The following rules are adopted by the TSBDE with an effective date of March 15, 2026.

- 22 Texas Administrative Code §101.1, *General Qualifications for Licensure (Dentist)*
- 22 Texas Administrative Code §103.1, *General Qualifications for Licensure (Dental Hygiene)*
- 22 Texas Administrative Code §114.6, *General Qualifications for Registration or Certification*
- 22 Texas Administrative Code §116.3, *Registration and Renewal*
- 22 Texas Administrative Code §117.2, *Dental Faculty Licensure*
- 22 Texas Administrative Code §117.3, *Dental Hygiene Faculty Licensure*

The Texas State Board of Dental Examiners (TSBDE) adopted rule changes requiring all applicants for initial and renewal licenses to submit proof of US citizenship, legal permanent residency, or federal work authorization. These changes affect dentists, dental hygienists, registered dental assistants, dental and dental hygiene faculty, and dental laboratory owners. The new documentation requirements are now in effect.

The new rules formally add immigration status documentation as part of the licensure and registration process. The stated purpose is to reduce fraud and ensure that no one practices dentistry in Texas without legal work authorization. The legal basis cited is 8 U.S. Code §1621, the federal law restricting professional licenses for individuals not lawfully present in the United States.

- Applicants must submit one of the following:
- A REAL ID-compliant driver’s license or state ID (must not be marked “Limited Term” or “Temporary”)
 - A driver’s license or state ID from one of a specific list of states that are not REAL ID compliant (Texas is included on this list)
 - A valid US passport or passport card
 - A foreign passport accompanied by a current permanent resident card or unexpired immigrant visa
 - A Texas License to Carry (LTC) issued by the Department of Public Safety
 - A US Certificate of Naturalization (Form N-550 or N-570)
 - A US Certificate of Citizenship (Form N-560 or N-561)

Important Details to Know
This applies to renewals, not just new applicants. Every dentist in Texas will need to submit one of the qualifying documents at their next renewal, not just new graduates, or out-of-state applicants.

Your standard Texas driver’s license will likely qualify but check it. A regular Texas driver’s license is on the accepted list of non-REAL ID-compliant states. However, if your license is marked “Limited Term” or “Temporary,” it will not be accepted. Verify that your ID is current and check the designation before your next renewal.

Driver’s licenses from certain states will not be accepted on their own. If you are licensed in Texas but your primary ID is from a state not on the approved list, such as California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, or Washington, you will need to provide a REAL ID-compliant version of that license, a US passport, or another accepted document.

This affects your staff too. Dental hygienists and registered dental assistants you employ will face the same requirements at their own renewals. Practice owners should be aware that a staff member’s failure to renew on time could affect their workforce.

Dental lab owners are also covered. If you own a dental laboratory as an individual rather than through a corporation, you must provide the same documentation on initial registration and renewal.

There are no fee increases associated with this rule. The TSBDE confirmed that this rule does not increase licensing fees.

There are no grace periods or transition periods. An incomplete application will be returned to the applicant, which could delay licensure or renewal.

For more information on the TSBDE, please contact TDA Senior Policy Manager Diane Rhodes at 512-443-3675 ext. 122, drhodes@tda.org.



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The Texas Toothline

YOUR MONTHLY UPDATE FROM THE FRONT LINES OF TEXAS DENTAL ADVOCACY



NEW!
HITTING YOUR
INBOX MONTHLY
ON THE 15TH