

TDA TODAY

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Dental Solicitation and Kickbacks Reminder

The Texas Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General (OIG) is reminding dental providers that soliciting Medicaid clients or offering kickbacks to influence a client's choice of provider is prohibited and can carry serious consequences.

Dental solicitation and kickbacks are prohibited

Dental solicitation can include paying marketers to recruit Medicaid clients, offering cash, mobile payments or gift cards to patients, providing improper transportation, offering free or discounted services to influence health care decisions, or offering goods or services—except low-cost, non-cash items valued under \$15, such as a toothbrush. These practices may violate state and federal law, including Texas Human Resources Code, Section 32.039, Texas Occupations Code, Section 102.001, and Texas Administrative Code, Section 371.1669.

OIG settlements highlight risks

Recent settlements highlighted in the FY 2026 Q3 Quarterly Report show the penalties providers may face when they engage in these activities.

In April, the OIG finalized a settlement with three affiliated dental providers in the Dallas-Fort Worth area following investigations into alleged kickbacks and client solicitation. OIG investigators found that the providers paid marketers to illegally solicit Medicaid recipients. Under the settlement, the providers agreed to pay \$4 million to resolve the allegations. One provider agreed to withdraw from Medicaid for three years, and the other two agreed to withdraw for one year.

In May, the OIG settled a separate case involving another DFW-area dentist accused of illegal kickbacks and solicitation. In that case, the provider agreed to a settlement of \$700,000 and agreed to permanently withdraw from participation in Texas Medicaid.

These cases underscore that solicitation and kickback schemes can result in more than repayments. Providers who violate solicitation rules may face disciplinary action by the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners, injunctions, civil penalties, exclusion from Medicaid and criminal charges. Depending on the circumstances, illegal dental solicitation may be charged as a Class A misdemeanor or a third-degree felony.

Provider responsibilities

Dental providers should ensure that all marketing, outreach and patient engagement activities comply with Medicaid requirements. The OIG encourages dental providers and their staff to review compliance expectations and train employees on prohibited solicitation practices. For more information, review the OIG's Illegal Dental Solicitation one-pager, which outlines prohibited activities, potential consequences and examples of solicitation schemes.

See something? Say something

Providers who identify potential issues in their own operations may self-disclose to the OIG, which can help reduce legal and financial exposure by avoiding prolonged investigations or litigation. Additionally, suspected fraud, waste or abuse may be reported through the OIG Fraud Hotline at 800-436-6184 or at ReportTexasFraud.com.

For case updates, agency news and guidance, follow the Texas OIG online or on social media: <https://www.reporttexasfraud.com> | Facebook: @TxOIG | LinkedIn: Company/TxHHS-OIG. 📩

10 UNDER 10 | ADA®

Dr Jonathan Vogel Named ADA 10 Under 10

Dr Jonathan Vogel of Dallas was named as one of the 2026 ADA 10 Under 10 Award recipients. The prestigious award celebrates 10 outstanding new dentists who graduated from dental school within the last 10 years and are making an impact on the association.

Dr Vogel graduated from the UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry in 2018. He was also recently named the TDA Rising Star of the Lone Star at the May 2026 House of Delegates, and he currently serves as the senior director for DENPAC Board of Directors.



Dr Jonathan Vogel
Texas

According to ada.org, the ADA New Dentist Committee chose the honorees for demonstrating excellence and inspiring others in science, research, and education; practice excellence; philanthropy; leadership; and advocacy. They will receive a commemorative plaque and be recognized October 9 at the ADA 2026 Scientific Session's Changemakers Celebration in Indianapolis.¹

Reference

1. 2026, August 18. ADA 10 Under 10 Award. <https://adanews.ada.org/new-dentist/2026/web-exclusives/ada-10-under-10-award-recognizes-new-dentists-for-making-impact>. 📩

Texas Dental School News

UT Health Houston School of Dentistry

Renato M. Silva, DDS, MS, PhD, Named Dean of UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry

Dr Renato M. Silva will begin a new role as dean of UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry, effective September 30, 2026. He will also be nominated to the William N. Finnegan III Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Dental Sciences endowed professorship. Dr Silva is an internationally respected clinician-scientist, educator, and academic leader whose career reflects a deep commitment to excellence across education, research, clinical care, and service.



Dr Renato M. Silva

Dr Silva served on the faculty of UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry from 2011 to 2022, including as professor and chair of the Department of Endodontics. During that time, he advanced the school's academic and clinical missions, mentored students and trainees, contributed to the school's research enterprise, and helped strengthen a culture of innovation and excellence.

He currently serves as professor, senior associate dean, and chair of the Department of Endodontics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine, where he previously began his academic career as an assistant professor from 2007 to 2011.

John A. Valenza, DDS, will remain in the role as dean until Dr Silva's arrival, followed by a well-deserved retirement after nearly 4 decades of extraordinary service to the School of Dentistry. Dean Valenza has led the school to new heights, strengthening its reputation for excellence in education, clinical care, research, technology, facilities, and service while advancing its vision of Improving Oral Health, Improving Overall Health.

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The President’s Address



Elizabeth Goldman, DDS
TDA President

For 143 years, the *Texas Dental Journal* has served as a trusted source of scientific knowledge, professional insight, and the collective voice of organized dentistry in Texas. As the longest continually published dental journal in the Americas, it has documented the evolution of our profession and our Association while educating and connecting generations of dentists.

With great sadness, the 2026 House of Delegates voted to suspend publication of the *Texas Dental Journal* at the end of this year. This decision was not made lightly. The House of Delegates, comprised of your elected peers from across the state, carefully considered the financial realities facing the Association. After two consecutive years of membership decline, difficult decisions became necessary to ensure the long-term financial stability of the Texas Dental Association.

We recognize that the *Texas Dental Journal* is far more than a publication. It is part of our Association’s history and identity. It has chronicled advances in dentistry, highlighted the work of Texas dentists, and served as a lasting record of our profession. We understand that many members have contributed articles, served on the editorial board, or simply looked forward to receiving each issue. We share your disappointment in this moment.

While publication is being suspended, our commitment to advancing the profession and providing members with timely, high-quality professional information remains unchanged. We will continue to explore meaningful ways to deliver educational content and keep members informed through our evolving communications and digital resources. It is also our hope that as we stabilize and move forward, we are once again able to publish this significant piece of our history.

The history of the *Texas Dental Journal* deserves to be celebrated, and we are deeply grateful to the countless editors, authors, reviewers, volunteers, advertisers, and staff members whose dedication sustained this publication for more than a century. Their contributions have left an enduring legacy that will continue to influence the profession for generations to come. We would like to expressly thank our current editor, Dr Jaqueline Plemons, our managing editor, Nicole Scott and our long-time graphic designer, Barb Donovan.

Thank you for your continued support of the Texas Dental Association. Your membership enables us to advocate for the profession, protect organized dentistry, and make thoughtful decisions that position our Association for a sustainable future. Our commitment to serving Texas dentists remains as strong as ever. ■



Celebrating 100 Events of Community, Service, and Impact

TDA MEMBERS,
YOU’RE INVITED!
October 2-3, 2026
Bert Ogden Arena
Edinburg, TX

Join us in Edinburg as TMOM marks an incredible milestone: our 100th free dental clinic.

This event honors the volunteers, supporters, and dental professionals who have helped provide compassionate dental care to Texans in need throughout the years.

THE \$100 CHALLENGE

In celebration of our 100th clinic, we invite every TDA member to make a \$100 donation to help Texas Mission of Mercy continue to provide free dental care to communities across Texas.

100 events. \$100. One community.

Your contribution will help us commemorate this milestone and continue making a meaningful impact in our Texas communities.

Click the link: <https://tinyurl.com/TDASF100Club> to accept the \$100 Challenge and help us make the TMOM 100th celebration one to remember! ■



The Texas Toothline
YOUR MONTHLY UPDATE FROM THE FRONT LINES OF TEXAS DENTAL ADVOCACY



Texas Dental School News

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UT Health Houston School of Dentistry

Young Named Chair of Katz Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Professor Simon W. Young, DDS, MD, PhD, has been named chair of the Bernard and Gloria Pepper Katz Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry.



Dr Simon W. Young

Dr Young succeeds Professor Mark E. K. Wong, DDS, who has served as chair of the department since 2000.

A nationally recognized oral and maxillofacial surgeon-scientist, Dr Young has served as acting chair since May 2025. He joined the School of Dentistry faculty in 2013 and has played a key role in advancing the department’s academic, research, and clinical missions.

Texas A&M University College of Dentistry

Former Associate Dean Accepted as a Fellow of the American Dental Education Association Council of Deans

Dr Reginald Taylor, associate professor and director of predoctoral orthodontics at Texas A&M University College of Dentistry in Dallas, was recently accepted into the American Dental Education Association Council of Deans Fellowship Program for 2026-27. The program helps future leaders succeed as deans or other high-level university administrators.



Dr Reginald Taylor

Taylor is A&M Dentistry’s first fellow of the council.

“I am preparing to be a dean ...,” he said. “Where, I haven’t narrowed that down yet, but it will be a place where I think I can do the most good and I can use my skill sets the best to help the institution.”

Texas A&M University College of Dentistry

Abdellatif Awarded for Good Work

Dr Hoda Abdellatif, clinical associate professor and director of the Office of Community Outreach in public health sciences at Texas A&M University College of Dentistry, received the 2026 Dental Health Arlington Award on June 13 in recognition of her leadership and dedication to advancing dental education and community care.



Dr Hoda Abdellatif

She was instrumental in the dental college’s partnership with DHA, a nonprofit, low-cost dental home serving uninsured and underserved patients. ■



TDA Perks Program Endorses New Compliance Program

TDA Perks Program has a new endorsed compliance program that has more than 30 years of experience and provides practical solutions to help practices navigate regulatory requirements and strengthen compliance.

Total Medical Compliance (TMC) offers online and on-site training, custom compliance programs, facility audits, risk analysis, CE, and expert guidance on OSHA, HIPAA, and infection-control.

TDA members that become new OSHA or HIPAA full-service, on-site clients (and have not been a client in the past three years) have access to a 5% discount.

Learn more at tdaperks.com (Compliance & Supplies) or by calling TMC at 888-862-6742. ■

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5% TDA-Member Discount*

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plus complimentary *ADA CERP CE Webinars.





INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO CREATING SENSORY ADAPTED DENTAL ENVIRONMENTS



Friday, Sept 18, 2026

Virtual Live Seminar: 9am - 12pm CT
(Free to attend if no CEU requested)

- Learn strategies interdisciplinary professionals use for overcoming sensory barriers in the dental environment for people with additional needs
- Explore how to integrate oral health goals into interdisciplinary plans of care and collaborate across disciplines

Featured Speakers:

- **Leah Stein Duker, PhD, OTR/L** USC Chan
- **Aubry Dodge, MS, BCBA, LBA** Kaleidoscope Behavioral Services
- **Tonya Fuqua, DDS** - Cook Children’s, Dental Integration Director

See comments for details and link to register.

Questions: hello@branchly.com



TDA Editor Among Nominees for TAGD Dentist of the Year

Dr Jacqueline Plemons of Dallas, clinical professor in the Department of Periodontics and Director of the Stomatology Center at Texas A&M College of Dentistry, was selected as an at-large nominee for the Texas Academy of General Dentistry’s (Texas AGD) Texas Dentist of the Year™ Award.



Dr Jacqueline Plemons

Dr Plemons, the editor at TDA, is one of 16 dentists nominated for the prestigious award, which will be announced on September 18 in Austin.

“The Texas Dentist of the Year™ nominees represent the very best of our profession,” said Texas AGD President Dr Jon Dossett, MAGD. “Through clinical excellence, leadership, mentorship, and service to their communities, these dentists have made a lasting impact on both their patients and the future of dentistry. We are proud to recognize Dr Plemons and all of this year’s nominees for their outstanding contributions.”

The complete list of TAGD Dentist of the Year nominees includes:

Joseph Castellano, DDS
Laredo District Dental Society

Carlos Cruz, DDS, OMS
Rio Grande Valley District Dental Society

Chad Duplantis, DDS, FAGD
At-large Nominee

Brooke Elmore, DDS, MAGD
At-large Nominee

Jeff Geno, DDS, MAGD
At-large Nominee

Alex Gonzalez, DDS, MAGD
El Paso AGD

Trisha Kimes, DDS, FAGD
Greater Austin AGD

Jayesh S. Patel, DDS, FICOI, FAAIP, FICD
Central Texas Dental Society

Fred T. Philips, DDS, FICD, FACD, FPFA
San Antonio District Dental Society

Jacqueline Plemons, DDS, MS
At-large Nominee

Shane Ricci, DDS, FAGD
North Texas Dental Society

Garett J. Seeba, DMD, MD
Ninth District Dental Society

M. Leif Stromberg, DDS, MAGD
Dallas AGD

Akshay Thusu DDS, MAGD, FICD, FPFA
San Antonio AGD

Christa Walker, DDS
Fort Worth AGD

Karen Walters, DDS, FAGD, MBA
Houston AGD

The complete list of TAGD New Dentist of the Year nominees includes:

Shady Bishai, DDS, FAGD, MBA
Houston AGD

Kelli Creel, DDS
At-large Nominee

Clara Griffey, DDS, FAGD
Fort Worth AGD

Blake Hutzler, DDS
Dallas AGD

Anthony Jaramillo, DDS
San Antonio AGD

Carson Jett, DDS
Greater Austin AGD

Georgia Mitchell, DMD, MS
South Plains District Dental Society

Nam Nguyen, DMD
At-large Nominee

Elborz Safarzadeh, DMD
At-large Nominee



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