

Texas Dental School News



Texas A&M University College of Dentistry: Teixeira Speaks in Poland

Dr Fabricio Teixeira, the head of endodontics, recently returned from Warsaw, Poland, where he was invited to speak at The 23rd World Congress on Dental Traumatology. The conference focused on treatment approaches to improve the survival of pulp tissue after traumatic dental injuries. He emphasized the importance of clinicians using a combination of approaches that are tailored to the specific condition of the tooth, the clinical situation, and the patient’s preferences.

Texas A&M University College of Dentistry: White Coat Ceremony

One hundred thirty-four new dental and dental hygiene students attended Texas A&M University’s annual White Coat Ceremony just before the start of the semester in August to receive their white coats—the symbol of joining the dental profession. The White Coat Ceremony is an annual tradition for the dental college, which opened in Dallas in 1905.

The new students enrolled in the 4-year dental program are expected to graduate in 2030.

“We expect each of you, as either a dental hygienist or dentist, to acknowledge your responsibilities in providing competent, compassionate, and high-quality oral healthcare as your lifelong aspiration,” said Dr Lily T. Garcia, dean. “Having you wear the white coat as you enter this field of study is a reminder of the significance of your choice as you enter our profession.”



First-year dental student Carrie Clement shakes hands with Dr Lily T. Garcia, dean, during Texas A&M University College of Dentistry’s White Coat Ceremony. She graduated from A&M Dentistry’s dental hygiene program in 2023.



First-year dental student David Nguyen recites The Dentist’s Pledge along with other first-year dental students.



First-year dental student Bryce Pearson returns to his seat after donning his white coat.

TDA-Member Dentist Selected to Lead Texas Health Institute Board

A TDA-member dentist now chairs the board of one of the state’s leading public health nonprofits. The Texas Health Institute (THI) has selected Tonya K. Fuqua, DDS, to lead its board of directors. Dr Fuqua serves as dental integration director at Cook Children’s Health Care System and has spent years working to link dental care with medical care. She is the first dentist to chair the THI board.



Dr Tonya K. Fuqua

THI operates as an independent nonprofit that gathers clinicians, insurers, public officials, and community members to tackle health problems that reach beyond any one group. Its projects address oral health, primary care access, and the health needs of rural and maternal populations.

Dr Fuqua has collaborated with THI for years, chiefly through the Texas Oral Health Coalition and the Texas Primary Care Consortium. In accepting the role, she said she looks forward to strengthening the partnerships that help improve health for Texans and praised the group’s talent for turning complex problems into workable solutions.

Ankit Sanghavi, BDS, MPH, executive director of Texas Health Institute, welcomed the appointment. He said Dr Fuqua pairs health system experience with collaborative leadership and a clear understanding of how the different parts of health and health care fit together, and that her perspective will help guide THI as it concentrates on the areas where it can contribute most to improving health in Texas.

“I am honored to serve as Board Chair of Texas Health Institute,” said Dr Fuqua. “THI has a unique ability to bring together people and perspectives from across health care, public health, communities, and other sectors to better understand complex challenges and identify practical paths forward. I am excited to help strengthen the role and partnerships needed to improve health for all Texans.”

TDA is proud to see one of its members take on this role. A TDA member leading a respected statewide health institute signals that oral health continues to gain standing in wider health policy conversations.

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.

The ADA 15th District did what Texans do best and gave a warm Texas welcome to the ADA President-elect candidates at Meat U Anywhere BBQ in Grapevine in August!





Legacy

Denise Bruchmiller (Mrs Brad),
2026-2027 President of The Alliance of the TDA



Denise Bruchmiller and husband, Brad

As I step into the role of president of ATDA, I’ve been thinking a lot about “legacy”—both the legacy of this organization and the personal legacy we each leave behind. I’ve come to define legacy as “the impact you leave behind through your actions, values, and how you make others feel long after you’re gone.” ATDA’s legacy is alive in its people, its service, and its history of dedication to the profession.

That idea resonates deeply with me through my husband’s family. His maternal grandmother, Mary Louise Dale, was a founding member of the Auxiliary of the San Antonio District Dental Society (SADDS) 94 years ago. She set an example of leadership and service that inspired future generations. Her daughter, my mother-in-law, Diana Dale Bruchmiller, carried that dedication forward for nearly 70 years in the local and state dental alliances. These incredible women taught me that legacy isn’t about titles or recognition. It’s about showing up, supporting others, and contributing to something larger than yourself—the lasting impact of your actions, values, and care for others.

As I take on this role, my goal is to honor the legacy ATDA has built while helping shape a living legacy for future members. That means listening, collaborating, and making thoughtful decisions that strengthen our organization and support our members. My hope is that together, we leave ATDA stronger, more vibrant, and inspiring for generations to come. Thank you for your trust and for the opportunity to serve.

2026 ATDA Fall Board Meeting

The Alliance of the Texas Dental Association held its annual Fall Board Executive meeting in Georgetown at the Sheraton Hotel on September 15-17. The 3-day executive board meeting was hosted by District 10, Capital Area Dental Alliance. The theme of the meeting was “Legacy: Rooted, Growing, Enduring.”

Denise Bruchmiller (Mrs Brad) from San Antonio, District 20, performed her first official duty as 2026-27 ATDA president. Special guests and speakers included 2026-27 TDA President Dr Elizabeth Goldman and TDA Executive Director Lee Ann Johnson. ■



TDA President Dr Elizabeth Goldman and ATDA President Denise Bruchmiller at the ATDA Fall Board Executive meeting in September.



ATDA members and spouses relax in Georgetown.



Pictured (L-R): Members of the Austin Dental Alliance who planned and coordinated the Fall Board Meeting, Linda Radwanski, Beth Voorhees (chair), Janet Hooten, and Jenefred Davies. Not pictured is Carren Katz (treasurer).

COMPONENT CORNER

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.

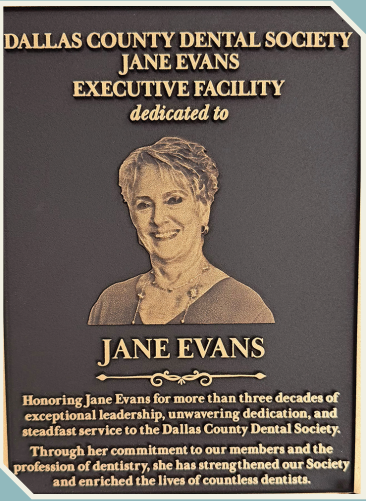
SPOTLIGHT: Dallas County Dental Society

Dallas County Dental Society (DCDS) Executive Director Jane Evans was honored by past DCDS presidents at the Southwest Dental Conference in August.

The DCDS executive office building was named in her honor for 33 years of service, 23 of which she was executive director. Ms Evans is retiring at the end of the year, and DCDS will hold a casual open house in October.

Celebrating 33 Years of Service: Open House for Jane Evans

Friday, October 30 • 1:00-3:30 PM
DCDS Executive Office • 13633 Omega Road • Dallas, Texas 75244
Friends and colleagues are also welcome to share notes/memories with her at <https://www.dcds.org/note-to-jane>. ■



DCDS Executive Director Jane Evans is surrounded by past presidents presenting her with a plaque that reads: Honoring Jane Evans for more than three decades of exceptional leadership and wavering dedication in steadfast service to the Dallas County Dental Society. Through her commitment to our members and the profession of Dentistry she has strengthened our society and enriched the lives of countless dentists.

TEXAS MISSION of MERCY, INC.



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! ■

TDA Editor Named 2026 TAGD Dentist of the Year Award



The TAGD’s 2026 Texas Dentist of the Year™ Dr Plemons is pictured with TDA President Dr Elizabeth Goldman and TAGD President-elect Dr Lindsey Wendt.

Jacqueline M. Plemons, DDS, MS, of Dallas, Texas, was named the 2026 Texas Dentist of the Year™ on Friday, September 18, during the Texas Academy Awards celebration in Austin, Texas.

Dr Plemons was nominated at-large and selected from 16 distinguished nominees by a panel of judges based on her professional excellence, commitment to continuing education, leadership, and service to her community and the field of dentistry.



Dr Jacqueline M. Plemons

“Dr Plemons represents the very best of our profession,” said Texas Academy of General Dentistry (Texas AGD) President Dr Jon Dossett. “Her extraordinary career as a clinician, educator, mentor, and leader has touched countless patients and dental professionals across Texas and beyond. Her dedication to advancing dentistry and serving others makes her truly deserving of this recognition.”

“It was such a wonderful evening celebrating several well deserving nominees. The humorous introductions set the stage for a very warm and lighthearted evening,” said Dr Plemons. “I’m humbled and honored to receive this award and truly grateful for the opportunities to serve my profession and my community.”

For 38 years, Dr Plemons has combined clinical practice, education, research, and leadership to advance the profession of dentistry. A graduate of Baylor College of Dentistry, she completed specialty training in periodontics and earned a Master of Science degree before embarking on a distinguished career as both a practicing periodontist and educator. Today, she serves as clinical professor in the Department of Periodontics and Director of the Stomatology Center at Texas A&M College of Dentistry, where she helps diagnose and manage complex oral medicine conditions while educating future generations of dental professionals.

Dr Plemons has been a highly respected leader in organized dentistry at the local, state, and national levels. She served as president of the TDA and previously served as president of the Dallas County Dental Society. Her extensive service includes leadership roles within the ADA, where she chaired the Council on Dental Education and Licensure, served as a delegate to the ADA House of Delegates, and contributed to numerous councils, committees, and accreditation initiatives.

A nationally recognized educator, researcher, and lecturer, Dr Plemons has spent nearly four decades teaching at Baylor College of Dentistry and Texas A&M College of Dentistry. She has authored more than 30 peer-reviewed scientific publications, delivered more than 200 professional lectures nationally and internationally, and contributed to research in periodontics, oral medicine, oral cancer detection, and patient care.

Dr Plemons’ distinguished career has been recognized with numerous honors, including the Texas Dental Association Gold Medal Award for Distinguished Service, the American Dental Association President’s Award, the Dallas County Dental Society Lifetime Achievement Award, the Texas A&M College of Dentistry Distinguished Alumnus Award, and the American Academy of Periodontology Educator Award. Her commitment to service also extends into the community through decades of volunteer work supporting adoption services, shelters, charitable organizations, and programs serving individuals affected by HIV/AIDS.

Reflecting on her life’s work, Dr Plemons wrote, “I often say I make a living by providing periodontal care for my patients, but I do the most good in the world by helping patients with challenging oral medicine problems. I’m blessed.”



Philips Sonicare Introduces Its First Power Toothbrush With Smart Coverage Guidance Built Into the Handle

Philips Sonicare Next-Generation DiamondClean 9900 Prestige uses Philips’ third-generation AI and machine learning model to provide smart coverage guidance and instantly display how well users are brushing during a session.

- Notable features include:
- A new light ring system that lets users know when to move to the next segment of the mouth.
 - Smart coverage feedback and a 12-segment Mouth Map on the brush’s display that lets users know if there are missed spots after each session.
 - Users can select from 8 modes and 3 intensities to customize their brushing experience.

Additionally, if users press too hard, Philips SenseIQ smart pressure sensors automatically adapt intensity to protect teeth and gums.

TDA members have access to exclusive discounts on Philips Sonicare and Zoom! products through the TDA Perks Program. Additionally, TDA members can schedule a visit from their area Philips representative to their offices. Offices can be provided a Lunch and Learn, demo, help setting up, or training on Sonicare and Zoom! products.

For more information, visit tdaperks.com (Compliance & Supplies) or call 800-422-9448 and mention you have a “key account” with TDA Perks Program.

Designed to brush better and improve brushing habits over time

Next Generation
DiamondClean 9900
Prestige power toothbrush

TDA members have access to **exclusive discounts** on Philips Sonicare products through TDA Perks Program.

LEARN MORE

NEW!
HITTING YOUR INBOX MONTHLY ON THE 15TH

The Texas Toothline

YOUR MONTHLY UPDATE FROM THE FRONT LINES OF TEXAS DENTAL ADVOCACY



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 Texas State Board of Dental Examiners (TSBDE) with an effective date of August 27, 2026.

- 22 Texas Administrative Code §117.2, Dental Faculty Licensure
- 22 Texas Administrative Code §117.3, Dental Hygiene Faculty Licensure

Amendments to §117.2 (Dental Faculty Licensure) and §117.3 (Dental Hygiene Faculty Licensure) make parallel changes to both. Each replaces the old, detailed eligibility criteria (a dental or dental hygiene degree, faculty position, dean endorsement, jurisprudence exam, and 30-day filing deadline) with a single cross-reference to the qualifications in Texas Occupations Code §267.003. Both add a new requirement that applicants prove US citizenship, legal permanent residency, or federal work authorization at initial application and renewal, using one of six specified documents (a REAL ID-compliant license, certain non-compliant state licenses, a passport, a Texas handgun license, or a naturalization or citizenship certificate), and both streamline the renewal, expiration, and re-employment provisions while keeping the employer-completed affidavit at renewal and confine practice to the employing school.

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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Stronger for Texas.

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Pay \$0 for the rest of 2026.

tda.org/join-renew