

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**Elizabeth Baker, DMD** has been employed as a dental consultant with Fluent since 2021. She is currently the Assistant Director of Quality. A 2007 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine and a 2008 graduate of the Christiana Care Health System General Practice Residency, Dr. Baker spent most of her professional career in Private Practice as well as public health settings. She continues to maintain credentials and volunteers with Christiana Care Health System. In 2017, Dr. Baker was granted Fellowship in the Academy of General Dentistry. In addition, Dr. Baker served for several years on the Executive Committee of the Delaware State Dental Society. She credits her co-workers as her inspiration for excellence in consulting.

*Speaker has no financial interests to disclose relating to the content of this presentation.*



**Stewart R. Balikov, DDS, CDC, AFHI** has been with Elevance Health since 2017, serving as the Director National Dental Utilization Review and Director of Dental Special Investigations. Dr. Balikov oversees Dental Utilization Management and Dental Clinical Policies and the Dental Special Investigations Unit (SUI). He is a Certified Dental Consultant, Accredited HealthCare Fraud Investigator, and Certified Quality Assurance Consultant. A 1983 graduate of the USC School of Dentistry, he is a member of American Association of Dental Consultants, the National HealthCare Antifraud Association, several other professional organizations and holds active dental licenses in California, Colorado, Arizona, Kentucky, and New Jersey.

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**Solomon (Sol) G. Brotman, DDS, MAGD** is retired Chief Clinical Officer for USAble Life, the Blue Cross dental affiliate. Dr. Brotman worked closely with Medical Directors to oversee medical-dental integration in addition to other head and neck related issues.

Dr. Brotman is a general dentist and Clinical Instructor, Department of Neural and Pain Sciences, Brotman Orofacial Pain Center at the University of Maryland. He was Clinical Assistant Professor in Operative Dentistry and Facial Pain at the University of Florida and has lectured on professional ethics and facial pain. He was a Practitioner-Investigator and author for the National Dental Practice-Based Research Network.

Dr. Brotman served as Chair of the Florida Board of Dentistry and has provided consultant services to medical insurance companies for the Florida Department of Health and in civil litigation. He is a Senior Scholar of the Santa Fe Group chairing a Task Force on Promoting Primary Care Activities in Dentistry.

Dr. Brotman received his dental degree from the University of Maryland and a Certificate in Comprehensive General Dentistry from the University of Florida and is a Fellow of the American College of Dentists, International College of Dentists, Academy of Dentistry International and Pierre Fauchard Academy.

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**John C. Comisi, DDS, MAGD, D'ASBA**, a Northwestern University Dental School graduate, has practiced general dentistry in Ithaca, NY, for nearly 35 years. In August 2017, he joined the Medical University of South Carolina's faculty at James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine in Charleston, SC. There, he served as an Associate Professor of Restorative Dentistry until December 2024.

He serves as a Professor in the Department of General Dentistry at the Dental College of Georgia, Augusta University and as the Course Director for Bioclinical Seminar VI—Oral Biology & Diagnostic Sciences. He is establishing a Sleep Services Committee to integrate dentistry and medicine.

He has published over 40 articles and has authored four textbook chapters.

Dr. Comisi is an Emeritus Member and Master of the Academy of General Dentistry and a Diplomate of the American Sleep and Breathing Academy. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Dentistry International, the American College of Dentists, the Pierre Fauchard Academy, and the International College of Dentists. Additionally, Dr. Comisi served as President of the South Carolina Dental Association and currently holds positions on the American Dental Association's Council on Scientific Affairs and its SEAL Subcommittee.

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**Jim Di Marino, DMD, MSEd, CDC** is an international speaker and the Chief Executive Officer at Practice Booster and eAssist Publishing, LLC. He holds a dental degree and masters degree in education from the University of Pennsylvania. He completed a General Practice Residency, became a solopreneur practicing general dentistry, all while researching and implementing advanced dental technologies and consulting as a Dentrix and Schick trainer. Dr. DiMarino has worked in the dental insurance industry as a dental claims reviewer, a State Dental Director, and as a National Dental Director. In 2018 he completed the certification requirements to become an AADC Certified Dental Consultant.

Dr. Di Marino served as the Director of Medical Affairs for GlaxoSmithKline ensuring the effective deployment of safety/compliance/governance standards across GSKs Consumer Healthcare business. He coordinated product launch strategies, sales team and dealer representative training, led their key opinion leader (KOL) engagement program, and participated in new product development. Dr. DiMarino is also a patented inventor, trainer, educator, publisher, and international speaker.

*Financial Disclosure: CEO at Practice Booster and eAssist Publishing, LLC*



**Dr. John Gale**, a 1994 graduate of the Medical College of Georgia School of Dentistry, has led teams of medical and dental professionals across North, Central, and South America, bringing care and compassion to underserved communities.

His dedication to the profession includes a seven-year tenure as editor for the Georgia Academy of General Dentistry, and his mission work has been featured on national news networks and in multiple publications.

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**Stephanie Gans, DDS** is a distinguished general dentist with over a decade of experience in the dental industry. She graduated from The Ohio State University's College of Dentistry in 2013, and completed a General Practice Residency at Saint Vincent Charity Hospital. Before joining Procter & Gamble in the Fall of 2018, Dr. Gans practiced dentistry in Cleveland, Ohio, where she developed a strong foundation in patient care and clinical excellence.

Dr. Gans currently is the Senior Scientist and Professional and Scientific Relations Manager for Crest + Oral-B. She is dedicated to empowering dental professionals by educating them on the latest advancements in oral care technology, with a focus on paste and power brushing innovations. She presents the science through article writing, presentations, podcasts, and more, ensuring that complex information is accessible and engaging for both professional and consumer-facing audiences.

*Financial Disclosure: Works for Crest Oral-B*



**Eve B. Hoover, DMSc, PA-C**, is a Distinguished Fellow of the American Academy of Physician Assistants and associate professor at Midwestern University's Physician Assistant (PA) program. She is a passionate advocate for interprofessional collaboration and medical dental integration, representing Arizona since 2021 in the Center for Integration of Primary Care and Oral Health's (CIPCOH) 100 Million Mouths Campaign, which aims to expand oral health curricula within primary care education programs. Eve enjoys partnership with Delta Dental of Arizona and many universities and medical organizations to support medical dental integration initiatives in Arizona. Dr. Hoover has multiple publications and national presentations focused on oral health and is honored and grateful to have the opportunity to be with you all today.

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**Bryan Laskin, DDS** is a Minnesota dentist and tech entrepreneur on a mission to connect dentistry and empower patients through innovation and standardization. Co-Founder and CEO of Toothapps®, Cair™ and Dental Standards Institute, Dr. Laskin is the host of "The Patient First Podcast" and author of the Amazon best selling books, "The Patient First Manifesto" and "Dental Disorder", and "Unfair Care".

*Financial Disclosure: CEO and Co-Founder of Toothapps*

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**Anthony Lent, DDS** is a graduate of the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry who is a practicing full time associate dentist and part-time dental consultant.

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**Jessica Lubek, DDS** is a dental consultant with CareFirst Blue Cross Blue Shield, serving Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Northern Virginia. She currently serves on the AADC New Member Committee and is actively involved with the Maryland State Dental Association.

Dr. Lubek earned her dental degree from the University of Michigan. She completed a General Practice Residency at the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System. Prior dental consulting, Dr. Lubek practiced general dentistry for 22 years.

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**Brian Novy, DDS** teaches cariology at Harvard School of Dental Medicine and Virginia Commonwealth University. He served the American Dental Association Council of Scientific Affairs from 2010-2014, and in 2016 was appointed the consumer representative to the United States Food & Drug Administration Dental Products Panel. His papers are published in various journals including the Journal of the American Dental Association, the Journal of Dental Research, the Journal of Evidence Based Dentistry, Dentistry Today, Inside Dentistry, Dental Economics, the National Academies of Medicine, the International Journal of Health Equity, and General Dentistry.

*Potential Conflicts of Interest: All professional services (clinical, speaking and consulting) paid through Offensive Dentistry, LLC; Previously employed by: Alliance Dental Center, DentaQuest, Loma Linda University School of Dentistry; Previous consultant to Phillips Oral Healthcare and Mars-Wrigley Currently consulting for Livionex and wardis, both unpaid; Previous research support from: GC America, SDI, Oragenics (now ProBiora); Previous honoraria throughout career provided by: GC America, Straumann, Shofu, Xlear, SolutionReach, GSK, AirTechniques, Ivoclar, CariFree, Triodent, SDI, VOCO, Church and Dwight and CDE World; Other financial or material support: I receive product samples free of charge from Church and Dwight, MedLabel, Medicom, Laclede, and GC America; Faculty appointments at Harvard School of Dental Medicine and Western University of Health Sciences*



**Clayton Pesillo, DMD, CDC** is a graduate of University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine receiving his DMD degree in 1971. He practiced general dentistry in central Pennsylvania for 42 years starting and growing a group practice. While practicing clinical dentistry he concurrently served as Dental Director for United Concordia. After 38 years he retired from United Concordia Dental and has continued as an independent consultant for Guardian.

Dr. Pesillo has been an active member of the American Association of Dental Consultant since 1985, attaining certification in 1988. He served as Program Chair for several years prior to being elected association president in 2000. He serves currently as the Editor of the association's journal, *The Beacon*.

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**Shaju Puthuserry**, CEO & co-Founder, leads LightSpun, a venture-backed startup revolutionizing healthcare administration through AI-powered solutions that reduce costs and improve patient outcomes.

With over 20 years of leadership experience at the intersection of technology and healthcare, Shaju has held senior executive positions including COO at Overjet, Chief Analytics Officer at DentaQuest, CIO at P&R Dental Strategies, and CTO & Co-founder at P&R Technologies. A recognized thought leader in the industry, he regularly speaks at healthcare conferences and working groups, sharing insights on technology innovation and the future of healthcare administration.

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**Shenam Ticku, BDS, MPH** is an assistant professor of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology and serves as the past pre-doctoral discipline director for OHPE at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine. She was also a Rabkin Fellow in Medical Education. Her research focuses on medical-dental integration, training, and policy reform. She has served as a co-investigator in the federally funded Center for Integration of Primary Care and Oral Health (CIPCOH). Additionally, she was a sub-project co-principal investigator on a study examining behavioral health and social determinants of health within dental workforce training. Her research has also explored the feasibility of integrating mental health screenings in dental settings. She is the principal investigator of a national initiative aimed at enhancing the primary care workforce's oral health knowledge, skills, and competencies. She has led multiple studies to Integrate Oral Health and Medicine, further advancing interprofessional collaboration in oral health care.

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**Hana Worede, DDS** currently serves as the Senior Dental Consultant at DNoA where she has a leadership role in the development and implementation of clinical policy and clinical review guidelines. She is actively involved in training and quality oversight of the dental consultants. In addition, Dr. Worede participates on the Credentialing Committee and is actively involved in medical-dental integration initiatives. Dr. Worede joined DNoA in 2024 and previously worked as a dental consultant at Guardian.

She is a board member of AADC and a member of NADP serving as a volunteer for both the Codes and the Clinical workgroups.

Dr. Worede has a BA in Psychology from Southern Methodist University, and a Doctor of Dental Surgery from Texas A&M University College of Dentistry.