



Maryland

Dental Hygienists' Association

Newsletter

Fall 2019



President's Pen:

Happy Summer!

We are midway through 2019! I again want to personally thank all of the members of the Maryland Dental Hygienists' Association! MDHA is so thankful that you recognize the value your membership provides not only you, but the underserved citizens of our state. In addition to our members, I also want to thank our event attendees, vendors, and sponsors for your continued support of our organization. I also want to take a minute to thank Montgomery County Dental Hygienists' Association for their hard work in promoting the MDHA Spring Scientific Session! It was a very successful program this year!

In keeping with my presidential theme, "Together Toward Tomorrow", we are very proud to announce the passing of our bill which now allows dental hygienists to practice in primary care and prenatal care medical offices, adult day cares, and group homes. This bill built upon the law from 2010 which allowed dental hygienists to practice in nursing homes and long-term care facilities. Please keep your eye out for continuing education course offerings from MDHA for transitioning into the public health settings. If you are interested in practicing in these settings and don't know where to start, please feel free to email me!

Our Annual Session in the fall will be in Annapolis at the Double Tree Hotel on October 18 and 19. We will have some really great opportunities for dental hygienists to let loose and have some fun while learning. Some of these opportunities include a headshot lounge, a dental themed photo area, and social hours, not to mention several vendors to learn about new products and technologies!

Moving into 2020, we will continue to make some very big changes which will improve the way MDHA functions both at a state level and local level. While we are making some big and positive changes, we do want to continue to be listeners for all dental hygienists in the state. I would like to invite you to please reach out to us and tell us what you want to see from us! As we make changes, we will be sure to update everyone and gain feedback.

Have a Happy Summer,

Better Together,

Jennifer Suminski, CPhT, RDH, MS

MDHA President 2018-2019

jsuminski6@gmail.com

Annual Session



**Join us at the 2019 MDHA Annual Session Celebrating
65 Years!**

Registration is OPEN!

Click to register:

[2019 MDHA Annual Session Registration](#)

- If you are planning on attending the whole conference, choose Full Conference badge
- If you are not planning on attending the whole conference, choose Pay Per Course



2019 Session Highlights:

- NEW Location: DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton in Annapolis, MD!
- **October 18-20, 2019**
- Great Speakers!
 - **Maura Ordovensky, RDH, BS**
 - *Why Does My Body Hate Me? An Overview of the Most Common Digestive Autoimmune Conditions for Dental Providers*
 - **Sara Karlin, DDS & Ellen Karlin, MMSc, RDN, LDN, FADA**
 - *The Role of the Dental Hygienist in Pediatric Nutrition and Oral Health Care for Food Allergic Children*
 - **Kimberly Farley, MHSc, RDH**
 - *Medical Marijuana: Breaking the Stigma- Helping Your Patients*

- House of Delegates on Sunday

Have you been wanting to volunteer as a leader with MDHA? Now is your time! Elections for leadership positions will be on Sunday, October 20, 2019 at our House of Delegates. Want more information? Contact Karyn Carr-Porter at: dental.karyn@gmail.com

MDHA Symbol of Excellence Award



The Maryland Dental Hygienists' Association is pleased to announce the open call for nominations for the Symbol of Excellence Award. The award was created to recognize those members who have provided exemplary service to MDHA and its components. Deadline is September 1st.

[Click here for the nomination form](#)



Mission of Mercy

Mission of Mercy will be held Friday, Sept 13th and Saturday, Sept 14 at the University of Maryland's Xfinity Center in

College Park.

Dental hygiene volunteer spots are still open! There are 2 different time openings each day AND you can receive CE credits (up to 8 in a CE credit period) by volunteering!!

[Click Here to Register](#)

Legislative Update

For the upcoming legislative session our committee is working on a number of different things and we are starting early this year! We had an in person meeting with our lobbyist Caitlyn last Wednesday to review the game plan and determined the schedule for our weekly

conference calls to begin in August. Committee members will be sent a schedule of planned meetings and calls.

First, on the human resources front.

Our new lobbying firm, Harris, Jones and Malone, LLC. has delivered on the promises they made upon entering into contract with us last Fall. They provided a

"head lobbyist", Caitlyn with additional help from Sean Malone as we needed. They ensured we had support every step of the way, provided sound advice, and had someone in person available in Annapolis every time we needed. They worked hard for us making phone calls, attending committee meetings and private meetings with legislators, shared their work space, accommodated our busy work schedules, had weekly conference calls and regular communication with us, handled our opposition well and in my opinion they made our goals, their goals. Their work made this session successful.



As a committee, last Fall we had decided that the Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner/Dental Therapy bill is not supported well enough to attempt getting it passed at this time.

This past session we rewrote and submitted our Direct Access bill, HB738. After meeting with legislators, providing written and verbal testimony to the House of Delegates and the Senate, responding to opposition with rewrites and negotiation, returning to Annapolis for committee hearings (throw in some blood, sweat and tears) our bill passed in the House and unanimously in the Senate! It was signed by Governor Larry Hogan on May 13th in the presence of our President Jenn Suminski, myself and our lobbyist from HJM, Caitlyn.

House Bill 738 allows Dental Hygienists to go into primary care and prenatal medical offices, adult day care facilities, and group homes. This will go into effect beginning October 1, 2019. This bill can be viewed on the Maryland General Assembly website.

In passing this bill we have created another avenue for those in need to have access to care. Employment opportunities for dental hygienists in expanded settings will allow for the interprofessional collaboration necessary to provide these patients with the best care for their overall systemic health.

These additional settings can be an opportunity for research and statistics which can provide a stronger evidence based argument for the Dental Therapy bill in the future.

Feeling the momentum from our recent success, we are moving forward toward another organized and productive legislative session.

"Autonomy equals access to care."

Sincerely,
Suzy Burgee, RDH, BS, QDA
MDHA Legislative Chair
sburgeerdhbs@gmail.com

Student Corner

Bertha Morgan Scholarship
Congratulations to **Alexis Henson** for winning the 2019
Bertha Morgan Scholarship!

Thank you to Montgomery County for donating additional
funds for the scholarship!

MDHA Leadership Award Winners:
Howard Community College: Sonya Gebreegzabher
BCCC: DeAndre Cador
CCBC: Melanie McKenzie
Hagerstown: Alex Snyder
Maryland: Amanda Lynn Turner



Membership Update



As MDHA Membership Chair, I've enjoyed meeting and speaking to members and non-members alike (aka potential members). There are many benefits to being a member; some of my top reasons for being a member of ADHA is the networking opportunities, camaraderie and investing in the future of my profession. I had the pleasure of working with MDHA's Membership Co-Chair, Mimi Truong, over the past year to help grow our membership. Mimi's infectious smile and enthusiasm has even converted some of our non-members to members! It shows that putting in that personal touch and making a sincere

connection is what makes all the difference.

This year, we held our inaugural volunteer event at Moveable Feast on June 30, 2019. *Moveable Feast serves individuals who have a critical and life threatening illness which prevents them from accessing, affording or preparing medically appropriate meals for themselves.*

It was fun and a pleasure to give back to the community outside of the clinical setting alongside colleagues.

We will continue efforts to organize more volunteering and social events in order to connect with our members. Your membership allows us to continue our work in advancing and supporting *all* Maryland hygienists. Thank you!

Because we are better together,

Nancy An, RDH, BS & MiMi Truong, RDH, BS

MDHA Membership Co-Chairs



MDHA IOH Fundraiser

Help MDHA raise money for ADHA's Institute of Oral Health by purchasing one of the beautiful Rustic Cuff bracelets featured. Shipping options are available!



[purchase](#)

[Click here to](#)

What's happening in Well-Being

Peer Support Meetings

We welcome you to join us--or refer a friend--to the MDHA Well-Being Committee quarterly peer support meeting. We will gather at Kahler Hall on 10/14, 1/13, and 4/13 to discuss concerns with a group of like minded individuals. Meetings are 7:30-8:30 pm.



New Logo Contest



We loved our butterfly logo, but we thought that an update would be really nice! If you are an amateur artist and you would like to enter in a little contest, send us a sketch of your idea for a new logo. The winning design will get a \$50 gift card. We are looking for something that speaks to wellness and positive transformation. Send entries by 12/31 to Maura at myordovensky@gmail.com

Opioid CE and Narcan Training

Our wonderful clinical coordinator, Heather Healy, will be offering a 2 hour CE course followed by a 1 hour Narcan training in Howard County. Tentatively: 12/7/2019 at Kahler Hall in Columbia. Please stay tuned for more details.



It's Hygienic Student Competition

All Maryland schools' dental hygiene 2nd year classes are invited to compete in a 6 round game show style event at Howard Community College on 2/29/2020. The game covers all subjects represented on the NBDHE from anterior superior alveolar nerve to the zygomatic process. The 2019 title went to The Invisalign-backers from Baltimore County Community College lead by "head-coach", Margaret Hinkle.

The Well-Being Committee is delighted to host a luncheon during this event to keep our future RDHs well-nourished for the competition.

Visit itshygienic.com to learn more about registration.



FDA requires stronger warnings about rare but serious incidents related to common sleep medications

Updated warnings for eszopiclon (Lunesta) zaleplon (Sonata) and zolpidem (Ambien, Ambien CR, Edluar, Intermezzo, and Zolpimist).

At the end of April 2019, The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced that the

agency's most prominent warning will now be required on certain prescription insomnia drugs. The warning follows FDA's review of 66 cases of serious injuries and/or deaths resulting from various complex sleep behaviors after taking these medicines. These complex sleep behaviors have included falls, burns, near-drowning, exposure to extreme cold temperatures leading to loss of limb or near death, self-injuries such as gunshot wounds, carbon monoxide poisoning, fatal motor vehicle collisions with the patient driving and suicide. The new warnings will be required for eszopiclone (Lunesta), zaleplon (Sonata) and zolpidem (Ambien, Ambien CR, Edluar, Intermezzo, and Zolpimist).

"While these incidents are rare, they are serious and it's important that patients and health care professionals are aware of the risk. These incidents can occur after the first dose of these sleep medicines or after a longer period of treatment, and can occur in patients without any history of these behaviors and even at the lowest recommended doses," said FDA Acting Commissioner Ned Sharpless, M.D. In addition to the warning, the agency is requiring the addition of a contraindication to not use these medicines in patients who have experienced an episode of complex sleep behaviors after taking them. The warning and contraindication are intended to make the warning more prominent and reflect the risk of serious injury and death.

If you would like more information about this warning or any personal concern, your Dental Hygiene Well Being Committee is a confidential resource for Maryland Dental Hygienists, Dental Assistants and Dental Rad Techs. Give us a call at 800-947-0068.



Orleans

October 16-18, 2020 - MDHA Annual Session

Important Dates

October 18-20, 2019- MDHA Annual Session

TBD -Advocacy Day in Annapolis

March 27-28, 2020 - MDHA Spring Session

June 12-14, 2020 - ADHA Annual Conference in New

Congratulations to Stephanie Fazenbaker, Sena M. Roop, Susan Macagney Brillhart and Leah Dunlap! They each won \$200 for completing the *Maryland Survey of Dental Hygienists: Factors Affecting Prenatal Dental Care.*

We would also like to thank those of you who completed the survey. Your responses will be helpful in developing educational interventions to help improve the oral health of low-income pregnant women in Maryland.

All the best,
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