



GUIDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF DENTISTS
September 2025

IMPORTANT LINKS

[Register for ODA Annual Session](#)

[Join us at Topgolf](#)

[Jobs & Ads Board](#)

[Endorsed Products & Discounts](#)



CONNECT. LEARN. EXCEL.

JOIN US AT ODA ANNUAL SESSION!

ODA Annual Session is just around the corner, and time is running out to register! Join us Sept. 25-27 in Columbus to attend CE and special events aimed specifically at new dentists!

ODA members who have been practicing for 10 years or less will receive up to a \$50 total discount toward paid CE courses. Dental residents who are ADA members and dental students can register for Annual Session for free and attend any lecture courses for free (space permitting).

[Click here](#) to learn more and register!

SPECIAL EVENTS

- **New Dentist Social** – Thursday, Sept. 25 from 9-11 p.m. at Denmark on High. Enjoy an open bar and appetizers, free for dentists in practice 10 years or less.
- **Jive After Five!** – Friday, Sept. 26 from 5-6 p.m. Meet new colleagues and tour the Hall with experienced shoppers at this special happy hour in the Exhibit Hall. FREE for dental residents, dental students, and new dentists.
- **The BASH! Featuring HooDoo Soul Band** – Friday, Sept. 26 from 9 p.m. to midnight. Featuring live music, casino-style games and convenient bars, you

and your friends won't want to miss The BASH! Free with registration.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

ODA Annual Session features CE courses to help you meet requirements, improve your skills and connect with your team. Each day we have courses of special interest for new dentists.

[Click here](#) to see all of the courses that have been hand-picked for new dentists.

EXHIBIT HALL

ODA Annual Session also will feature an expansive Exhibit Hall, where you can shop, enter to win daily prizes and attend special events with free food and drink.

[Click here](#) to learn more about our Exhibit Hall.

REGISTER NOW



COME LEARN ABOUT LIFE IN THE REAL

WORLD AT TOPGOLF EVENTS

The ODA Subcouncil on New Dentists is hosting two events just for new dentists, dental residents and dental students at Topgolf!

Attendees will have a chance to hear from new dentists a few years in practice as they reflect upon their journey from school to now.

These fun and FREE evenings are open to new dentists, dental residents and dental students only and includes dinner, drinks, golf and 1 hour of CE!

Life After Residency at Topgolf Columbus

When: Oct. 3 from 7-10 p.m.

Where: [Topgolf Columbus](#)

Register: [Click here](#) to register for the Columbus event.

Life After Residency at Topgolf Cleveland

When: Nov. 7 from 7-10 p.m.

Where: [Topgolf Cleveland](#)

Register: [Click here](#) to register for the Cleveland event.

ADVERTISEMENT

Your ad goes here!

ODA HEALTH BENEFITS PLAN OPEN ENROLLMENT COMING SOON

Open enrollment for the ODA's health benefits plan, the ODA Wellness Trust, is available from Oct. 15 through Nov. 15 for Jan. 1, 2026 coverage.

The ODA Wellness Trust is available exclusively to ODA members and their staff and features a more extensive provider network than most individual health insurance plans. It also has a wide range of deductible options to fit many different needs.

10
YEARS OF



Plus, most offices are able to save money on health benefit costs by joining the plan.

The ODA Wellness Trust is a private, dentist-owned, self-funded health benefits plan, developed by ODA member dentists for ODA member dentists, their families and their staff members to provide high quality health benefits at affordable rates.

ODA members who enroll in the Wellness Trust have access to ODA Services Corp. staff to help enrollees through every step of the process and avoid needing to wait on hold or navigate automated directories with insurance carriers.

If you are an independent contractor or have employees that are all covered elsewhere (spouse, etc.), you may have them waive the coverage and request an exception as a one-person group. Underwriting will review based on accept or reject providing a quote when only one applicant is applying to a group, which means if the personal health questionnaire includes extensive health history they can respond that they will not provide a quote.

To learn more about the ODA Wellness Trust, visit www.odawt.org or call (800) 282-1526 or email insurance@oda.org.



SAVE ON STUDENT LOANS WITH LAUREL ROAD REFINANCING

ADA members can save thousands of dollars by refinancing their dental school loans with Laurel Road. Laurel Road's student loan consolidation/refinancing program, which ADA exclusively endorses, provides ADA members the opportunity to refinance existing federal and private student loans from undergraduate or graduate school at a 0.3% rate reduction to Laurel Road's already low rates.

Highlights of the Laurel Road Student Loan Refinance program include:

- An exclusive 0.30% rate reduction on loans for ADA Members.
- No application or origination fees, and no payment penalties.
- Flexible repayment options for residents during training.
- Concierge-level customer service from dedicated representatives.
- Check rates in 5 minutes – no hard credit pull required.

[Click here](#) to learn more.

PERSPECTIVES FROM THE PROFESSION

IF YOU WON THE LOTTERY, HOW WOULD YOU SPEND THE MONEY?

DR. CANISE BEAN, University of Kentucky College of Dentistry (1981): "WOW, this is a difficult question. I immediately think I would make arrangements to assure higher education for my two granddaughters. But, my passion for public health would prevail and drive me to seek sustainable funding for public health research and the expansion of impactful initiatives like the OHIO Project at The Ohio State University College of Dentistry. This program, which places dental students in community sites to serve underserved populations, is crucial not only for the dental profession but for the well-being of society. A healthier community, regardless of socioeconomic factors, is a stronger and more resilient community. This would be my way of sharing and spreading my good fortune."

DR. STEPHANIE SOMMER, The Ohio State University College of Dentistry (2005): "I'd first hire someone to be in charge of donations. I would very much dislike people coming to me at all times and locations seeking funds. I would donate to my local church (put in a paved parking lot and new ceiling), I would give a certain amount to all my close family, friends and select staff members. I would buy up farm ground so my sons/daughters and nephews/nieces could, without such heavy burden, carry on the legacy of farming. I would travel, like a lot. Like a ridiculous amount. I would hire private tutors for my children as education is foundational as well."



NewDentSpotlight

Dr. Morgan Kelley Tiemstra



I first became involved in organized dentistry as a dental student, when I joined to connect with peers and mentors outside the classroom. What drew me in initially was the sense of community and the opportunity to learn from practicing dentists who were navigating the same challenges I knew I would soon face. Now after practicing for nine years, I believe being active in organized dentistry is essential because it provides a collective voice for our profession, helps us stay informed about legislative changes, and offers resources that support both professional growth and patient care.

Through my involvement, I have learned the importance of advocacy—not only for our profession but also for our patients. Organized dentistry also gave me confidence during a pivotal moment in my career, when I transitioned from an associate dentist to a practice owner. The mentorship, networking and resources I gained through my membership reassured me that I wasn't navigating that transition alone. Several of my mentors, I now consider close friends. Organized dentistry has given me both guidance and a platform to contribute back to the profession I deeply value.

Dr. Tiemstra is a general dentist in Dublin. She earned her DDS from The Ohio State University College of Dentistry in 2016.

About NewDentNews

NewDentNews is an e-newsletter with information specifically for dental students and dentists in

ODA Subcouncil on New Dentists Members

Dr. Grace Eichler (chair)
Dr. Amar Vagadia (vice chair)

practice for 10 years or less and is overseen by the ODA's Subcouncil on New Dentists.

Interested in contributing to NewDentNews or have a topic you would like to see covered? Email jackie@oda.org.

Dr. David Danesh
Dr. Paige Durkin
Dr. Jarid Jones
Dr. Joseph Linser
Dr. Kristina Petrich
Dr. Michael Vieth
Dr. Yi-Chu Wu
Dr. Bennett Hollar, (liaison)
Dr. Fiona Chambers (consultant)

614-486-2700 | Dentist@oda.org | www.oda.org



Follow Us



Ohio Dental Association | 1370 Dublin Road | Columbus, OH 43215 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!