



## **Midwestern Society of Orthodontists**

### Electronic Newsletter Articles Spring 2023

A compilation of the news articles that were posted on the MSO web site in Spring 2023.

MSO Components, page 2

## MSO Components

### ILLINOIS

**Libby Graham**, President

**Pranav Patel**, President-Elect

**Ray Tsou**, Vice President

**Therese Galang**, Secretary-Treasurer

**Scott Prose**, Immediate Past President

**Kyint Chwa**, Trustee

**Andrew Clark**, Trustee

**Pamela Johnson**, Trustee

**Daniel Kelly**, Trustee

**Bronwen Richards**, Trustee

**Ben Youel**, Trustee

#### Recent/Upcoming Meetings:

January 27, 2022

*ISO Lecture for Doctors*

Facial Asymmetry: What are the Limits? • Looking at bimaxillary protrusion from a different perspective • Game Changers in Open Bite Treatment.

Speaker: Dr. **Flavia Artese**, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (Dr. Flavia is the Chair of the 10th International Orthodontic Congress of the WFO that will be held in Rio de Janeiro in 2025)

*Chicago Midwinter*

Ortho Talks lecture is sold out – will be a great collaboration with UIC faculty

*April 23, 2023 in conjunction with AAO*

Induction of officers

Addition of 2 new trustees

ISO Future potential meeting dates:

- November 2023 – Dr. **Maz Moshiri**, aligners
- April 2024 – Dr. **Hera Kim**, Director of the Graduate Orthodontic Program at University of Michigan
- October 25-26, 2024 – Instead of a competing meeting in fall 2024, ISO plans to encourage ISO membership to attend MSO in Rosemont

#### Illinois Updates:

2023 ISDS AGENDA

This year, ISDS will focus on a key issue dentists face when they practice: **dental insurance reimbursement.**

**ISDS regularly hears from members about numerous issues they have with dental insurance companies.** The 2023 legislative agenda includes the following dental insurance reform measures:

- Dental Loss Ratio
- Network Leasing
- Electronic Payment Fee Processing Ban

### **Teledentistry**

ISDS has been seeking to implement further patient protections for teledentistry in Illinois. Teledentistry needs to be a safe and effective treatment option for patients. ISDS has been working on this issue over the last year and will continue to do so throughout the 2023 legislative session. ISDS is seeking the passage of legislation that will require strong patient protections when a dentist chooses to use teledentistry.

### **Medicaid Program - Orthodontic Standards**

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) does not currently have a standard or automatic qualifier for when a patient can receive orthodontic care. The lack of a standard has caused administrative obstacles and denial of claims for orthodontic care. The American Association of Orthodontists (AAO) established a committee that developed a comprehensive list of recommended auto-qualifiers and diagnostic documentation for medically necessary orthodontic care. ISDS is seeking the passage of legislation that would codify these standards in state law. This would help clarify the confusion created by existing administrative obstacles.

### **Current Bills in Illinois Legislature:**

#### **Dental Loss Ratio (support)**

**Synopsis:** Creates the Dental Loss Ratio Act. The legislation requires beginning July 1, 2023, dental insurance companies to annually submit to the Department of Insurance a dental loss ratio filing. The legislation sets a dental loss ratio for dental insurance companies at 80% and provides a formula for the calculation of the ratio. Provides that the Department may adopt rules to implement the Act. Effective immediately.

#### **Network Leasing Requirements (support)**

**Synopsis:** Amend the Illinois Insurance Code. The bill prohibits a dental insurance company from automatically enrolling a provider in a leased network without the provider's written consent. Additionally, the legislation states that a dental insurance company that leases or assigns its network shall not cancel a network participating dentist's contractual relationship or otherwise penalize a network participating dentist in any way based on whether or not the dentist accepts the terms of the assignment

or lease.

**Unregulated Direct-to-Consumer Orthodontic Care (support)**

**Synopsis:** Amends the Illinois Dental Practice Act. The legislation clarifies that a person who uses teledentistry is considered to practice dentistry under the Act. Additionally, requires that a dentist practicing teledentistry is subject to the same standard of care as if those services were being delivered in a clinic or office setting. The legislation requires that a patient receiving dental services through teledentistry shall be provided with the name, direct telephone number, and physical practice address of the treating dentist who will be involved in the teledentistry services. Defines “informed consent”. Furthermore, the legislation outlines requirements and patient protections for the sale of clear aligners to the public.

**Electronic Prescription Requirement (support)**

**Synopsis:** Amends the Illinois Controlled Substance Act. The legislation requires prescribers who issue prescriptions for Controlled Substances II-V to submit them electronically. The legislation provides exemptions from submitting prescriptions electronically if they do not issue more than 100 prescriptions during a 12-month period. Additionally, the legislation allows the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) to establish further exemptions. The bill also outlines various factors that IDFPR should consider for exemption such as prescribers who do not have electronic health records, temporary electrical failure, and when the prescriber does not know the pharmacy of choice for the patient.

**Continuing Education Requirement: Cultural Competency (oppose)**

**Synopsis:** Amends the Department of Professional Regulation Law of the Civil Administrative Code. The bill requires all healthcare professionals, including dentists, to complete mandatory cultural competency continuing education (CE) training. The bill requires that the cultural competency training includes information on sensitivity training relating to providing affirming care to people in the person’s preferred language, for people with disabilities, people who are intersex, people living with HIV, and people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. The legislation that requires at initial licensure and renewal a healthcare professional who has continuing education requirements must complete at least 5 hours in cultural competency training.

**ISDS Position:** *Oppose due the additional continuing education mandate.*

**Department of Healthcare and Family Services Dental Medicaid Budget Proposal**  
**(oppose)**

**Synopsis:** As part of the budget for the Department of Healthcare and Family Services (DHFS) they announced that they will “propose and work with the dental community on a new [dental] assessment.” DHFS administers the dental Medicaid program in Illinois.

An assessment is a tax that is put on all providers, regardless of their participation in Medicaid, to generate money for the Medicaid program. The money collected then is returned to those Medicaid providers. Essentially, HFS is proposing to tax ALL dental providers, regardless if they are a Medicaid provider, to generate money for the Medicaid dental program in the form of rate increases. The Medicaid providers that generate and bill substantial Medicaid business will benefit the most from this program.

### **Licensure of Denturists (oppose)**

**Synopsis:** This legislation sees to license denturists in the State of Illinois. The legislation outlines the qualifications, applications, examinations, and the creation of the Board of Dental Technology.

### **ISO**

**Board Meeting:** ISO is focusing on quality speakers to improve attendance at ISO meetings. Live CE has been reinstated. We have changed format to a half day meeting, trying a Friday meeting versus Monday, changed venues to determine a good fit for our organization, hosted a wine and cheese social hour after one meeting, and are working on different types of speakers that are pertinent to a wider audience. Most recent meeting had a better turnout with an internationally known speaker. We are focusing on quality speakers and trying to determine topics that will be appealing to new and younger dentists.

**Board Structure:** The board is developing committees to simplify/streamline tasks for future officers. A “buddy system” for trustees to partner with officers to get exposed to each committee is being drafted. We are currently adding 2 new trustees to the board.

### **University Relations:**

- University of Illinois Chicago (Dr. **Sath Allareddy**)
  - o 8 residents graduating May 5<sup>th</sup>
  - o 9 incoming residents
  - o Over \$70,000 in scholarships given to residents this year
  - o Endowment created
  - o Several professors getting promoted to professor, associate professor, and tenure track
- Southern Illinois University – new residency program, planning 2 residents

Dr. **Randall Markarian**, ISO and MSO member is serving as the 8<sup>th</sup> District Trustee to the ADA representing Illinois. We value his expertise representing orthodontics as well as the dental profession.

**Bronwen Richards**  
Rock Island, Illinois

## **IOWA**

**Rachel Stiles**, President

**Chad Morarend**, President-Elect

**Jeremy Grabowski**, Vice President

**Clayton Parks**, Secretary/ Treasurer

Thanks in part to the dedication of several representatives from the ISO working with an Iowa Dental Board (IDB) committee, there are some very favorable changes to the Iowa Administrative Code pertaining to Registered Dental Assistants (RDA) that will have a positive impact on orthodontists in the state of Iowa. The first adopted changes provide a more realistic pathway for candidates to become registered dental assistants by eliminating several barriers to achieving RDA status. The second changes address barriers to orthodontic assistants to achieve Expanded Function status by separating placement of orthodontic bonding systems from applying cavity liners and bases/desensitizing agents. These changes, which were adopted in December 2022 and January 2023, will make the hiring and training of dental assistants in Iowa a much simpler process.

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19, the Iowa Mission of Mercy (IMOM) held November 4-5, 2022, in Des Moines was a tremendous success. 2,009 patients were served and provided with 6,801 procedures totaling \$1,018,709 in free dental care. Many state legislators attended IMOM and were impressed with the magnitude of care and compassion shown by the dental community. The next IMOM will be held in Waterloo on October 13-14, 2023.

The top priority of the Iowa Dental Association (IDA) during the 2023 Legislative Session is continuing efforts to increase Dental Wellness Plan (Medicaid) reimbursement rates to match Hawk-I rates. Medicaid rates in Iowa have not increased in Iowa in 20+ years.

**Melissa Bernhardt**

West Des Moines, Iowa

**MANITOBA**

**Susan Tsang**, President

**Lindsay Jay Robertson**, Secretary/Treasurer

**Ines Guedes**, Director to the CAO

No Report

**Fabio Pinheiro**

Winnipeg, Manitoba



## MINNESOTA

**Gregory Ross**, President

**Heather Horton**, President-elect

**Molly McMahon**, Secretary/Treasurer



### Meetings

The MAO held our annual meeting on Friday, January 6, 2023 at the InterContinental Hotel - MSP Airport. The headline speaker was **René Rodriguez** who gave a compelling presentation on leadership and influence. René is a best-selling author, keynote speaker, leadership advisor, and transformational speaker coach. For the last 27 years, he has been researching and applying behavioral neuroscience to solve some of the toughest challenges in leadership, sales, and change. As an entrepreneur and CEO of multiple companies, René integrates a practical business approach that inspires his audiences to take action. The second speaker was **Andrea Cooke**, who spoke about clinical procedures and team clinical productivity.

Our next annual meeting will be held on Friday, January 5, 2024, featuring Dr. **David Sarver** as the speaker. His presentation is entitled, *A Contemporary Look at Orthodontics: Where We Are and Where We are Going*.

The MAO is looking forward to sponsoring the MSO annual meeting on October 13-14, 2023 at the Mayo Clinic under the leadership of MSO President, Dr. **Nellie Kim-Weroha** of Rochester, Minnesota.

### Board Update

Dr. **Deb Lien**, chair of the legislative affairs committee, is continuing to help to run the AAOPAC for Minnesota. She is also representing the MAO in working with the Minnesota Dental Association (MDA) to focus on addressing the shortage of licensed dental assistants and establishing regulations surrounding teledentistry.

For the shortage of licensed dental assistants, the MAO and MDA are proposing that under the direct supervision of a dentist or dental therapist, non-licensed dental assistants be authorized to take digital impressions, take photographs extra-orally and intra-orally, and aid dental hygienists and licensed dental assistants in the performance of their delegated procedures.

The MDA and the MAO, along with other specialties, have formed a Teledentistry Task Force for 2023 to review and formulate teledentistry legislation to protect our patients.

**Estee Wang**

Maplewood, Minnesota

## **MISSOURI**

**John Firth**, President

**Amy Schulte**, President-Elect

**Jeffrey Cavanaugh**, Secretary/Treasurer

**Mike LaFerla**, Past President

The 2022 MSO meeting was combined this year with the SWSO and SAO in Austin, Texas. It was a great meeting and great location. Please plan for the next MSO, which will be held in Rochester, Minnesota October 13-14. Please make plans to attend.

Our new State Dental Director, Dr. **Jacqueline Miller** started her new position and has been busy visiting numerous areas of the state. She made a trip to Joplin to visit the new dental school.

In Joplin, KCU's new dental school has accepted its first class to start summer of 2023. The building has started internal finishes and from my understanding equipment will be installed in late spring/early summer with plenty of time to check prior to the school's first class starting in August 2023.

**Michael LaFerla**

Joplin, Missouri

## NEBRASKA

**Peter Longo**, President

**Leslie Ellingson**, Secretary

**Meenakshi (Minnie) Vishwanath** , Treasurer

**Jared Schoettger**, Past President

### 2022-23 Meeting Dates

- Nebraska Society of Orthodontists – Risk Management Presentation by AAOIC in the morning and UNMC Oral Surgeon Dr. **Jason Untrauer** in the afternoon, February 24, Omaha
  - Impressive attendance in January 2023 for the study club meeting (30 doctors) but so far only 15 registered for this meeting. We will make individual asks to increase attendance. We may struggle to get speakers in the future if we have such poor attendance.
- UNMC Grad Ortho Alumni Program – September 2023

### Legislative Action/Component Activities

- Leadership Development Conference
  - Dr. **Landon Peterson** attended.
- Legislative efforts
  - Legislative session 2023 underway. Increased Medicaid reimbursement. New managed care partners effective 2024 - with medical.
- Report from Treasurer
  - Balance as of 10/10/2022
    - checking: \$25, 370
    - savings: \$3,387

**Emily Willett**

Lincoln, Nebraska

## **NORTH DAKOTA**

**Daniel Keith**, President

**Emerson Ehlis**, Vice President

**Jeremiah Danel**, Secretary

North Dakota thanks **Dan Keith** for his years of service as North Dakota's director and wishes him the best as he steps in as the MSO Secretary-Treasurer.

The state has announced a second dental assisting and hygiene program will open in Minot, North Dakota. As is the case with many states, the dental assisting workforce supply of new graduates has not kept up with public needs in orthodontics and dentistry at large. This has been particularly the case in the western half of the state, which is geographically distanced from existing training programs. The new program in Minot fills a void for interested applicants that previously had to travel over 300 miles to the nearest training program. The assisting program is slated for opening in fall of 2023 and hygiene in 2024. The state dental association is currently working toward a third program with the goal of opening within the next five years.

**Emerson Ehlis**

Fargo, North Dakota

## **SOUTH DAKOTA**

**Ryan VanLaecken**, President

**Keri Barrow**, Secretary/Treasurer

The South Dakota state legislature is in session. The following topics have been or will be discussed:

### **Funding increase for Medicaid providers (General Appropriations Bill FY 2024 budget)**

The Governor proposed a 5% increase for Medicaid reimbursement. This will only address inflation. Current Medicaid reimbursement rates are approximately 56% of the average fee charged in South Dakota and well below the cost of overhead in most dental practices. The South Dakota Dental Association (SDDA) is asking the Appropriations Committee to fund the Dental Medicaid budget at \$32 million in order to reach the targeted reimbursement level of 70% of the average fees. SDDA members have been asked to contact their legislators and ask for better reimbursements in order to ensure adequate access to dental care.

### **Adding dental practices as eligible facilities to participate in the rural health care recruitment program (House Bill 1155)**

This bill would add dental offices to the list of facilities that can participate in the rural health care facilities program, thereby allowing dentists in rural areas to use the program to recruit dental hygienists. The bill passed the House of Representatives and is supported by the SDDA and SD Dental Hygienists Association.

### **Prohibit certain restrictive employment contracts (House Bill 1087)**

South Dakota currently prohibits restrictive non-compete agreements between employers and some medical provider employees, i.e: physician, PAs and nurses. This bill proposes to expand the prohibition on restrictive non-compete agreements to a variety of health care providers. This bill has been tabled.

### **Authorize the provision of medical records and the imposition of related fees (Senate Bill 181)**

This bill would both update the statute for medical records and establish the allowable fees for providing copies of medical records to patient and third parties. It would help dental offices know how much they are allowed to charge patients and third parties when fulfilling requests for copies of patient files. The maximum allowable charges are greater than what most offices currently charge. The SDDA supports this bill. It was passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on a 5-2 vote and will be debated on the Senate floor.

### **Require a practitioner's medical assessment of a patient to occur in certain facilities for purpose of medical cannabis (House Bill 1172)**

This bill would require that assessments for medical cannabis are performed in facilities of health care providers. The bill was amended by listing all of the health care providers whose facilities could be used for an assessment to use medical cannabis. The purpose was to reign in the locations at which medical cannabis assessments can be done. Dental offices were included in the list of possible facilities for medical cannabis assessments. The SDDA opposes this bill.

**Address the potential use of opiate and opioid drugs (Senate Bill 122)**

This bill aims to place several restrictions on the prescribing of opioids. It would limit prescribing by a dentist to no more than a three-day supply. The bill appears to greatly infringe on the doctor-patient relationship and would restrict a health care provider's ability to practice their specialty. The bill died in Committee.

**Keri Barrow**

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

## **WISCONSIN**

**Todd Connell**, President

**Pam Hanson**, President-Elect

**David Kennedy**, Vice President

**James Kolstad**, Secretary/Treasurer

**Melanie Hammerbeck**, Trustee

**Nicolas Branshaw**, Trustee

**Alison Mantel**, Trustee

The 2022 WSO Fall Conference was held on October 14, 2022 at the Renaissance Milwaukee West. The featured presentation, *Practice Growth and Scale* was presented by Dr. **Brian Amy**.

The 2023 WSO Spring Conference will be held March 10, 2023 at the Renaissance Milwaukee West. *Millennial Mom Critique: Dial-In Your Systems, Improve Your Service, and Increase Your Bottom Line* will be presented by **Tracy Martin**, Founder of Straight Consulting.

For more information, please contact the Wisconsin Society of Orthodontists at 920-560-5626; Fax 920-882-3655; or visit our website at [www.wisconsinsocietyoforthodontists.com](http://www.wisconsinsocietyoforthodontists.com)

**Mike Maslowski**

Oshkosh, Wisconsin

