

IOWA

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The 2022 Iowa Society of Orthodontists (ISO) meeting was held October 2-3 in Iowa City. Sunday's agenda included speakers from the University of Iowa, Department of Orthodontics and was held at the College of Dentistry. On Monday, Dr. **Neal Kravitz** offered his *Orthodontic Pearls*. His experience as both a private practice clinician and a teacher, as well as his positive energy and love for orthodontics, made for an educational and enjoyable day.

Thanks in part to the dedication of several representatives from the ISO working with an Iowa Dental Board (IDB) committee, there are some favorable proposed 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 proposed changes provide a more realistic pathway for candidates to become registered dental assistants by eliminating several barriers to achieving RDA status. The second proposed 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. We are hopeful these changes will be adopted when reviewed by the entire IDB at a future meeting.

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19, the Iowa Mission of Mercy (IMOM) is being held November 4-5, 2022, in Des Moines. The last time IMOM was held in Des Moines, over 1,400 patients were treated and provided with nearly \$1 million in free dental care. Since IMOM began in 2008, thousands of dentists, dental professionals, and lay volunteers from across the state have come together to provide over \$10 million of free dental care to more than 15,000 patients.

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

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