



The Quarterly Rinse

Volume 1, Issue 2

January 2012

What's Inside:

Issues	2
Learn to Lobby	3
The forgotten minority	3
Annual Session	4
What Is ADPAC?	6
What Is ODPAC?	6
Research Opportunities	8

ODA Legislative Update

*-Keith Kerns, ESQ
Director of Legal and Legislative Services,
ODA*

Healthcare is in the midst of a transformative period. Federal, state and local government budgets are crippled with massive deficits. Bureaucratic oversight of healthcare and influence on small businesses is increasing. These trends suggest that major changes are on the horizon. To a large extent, legislators and policymakers will make these changes and shape your future as a dentist.

One of the current issues under debate is the implementation of the federal health care reform act, known as the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The bill passed and was signed into law by President Obama in 2010, but implementation of the ACA's provisions are just beginning.

Under the ACA, federal and state regulators will increase fraud and abuse enforcement activities in health care operations, develop quality outcomes for medical and dental care and place obligations on individuals and employers to obtain health insurance coverage. Additionally, states are required to

develop insurance exchanges by 2014 that will allow individuals and businesses purchase "qualified plans" which meet certain government requirements.

How dentists will be impacted as providers, employers and consumers of health care remains up in the air.

Separately, state legislatures throughout the country and members of Congress are also considering the creation of mid-level providers in dentistry. Ohio is not immune from these discussions. The Kellogg Foundation, a multi-billion dollar foundation based in Michigan, is funding entities in five states, including one in Ohio, to promote the creation of a mid-level dental provider called a dental health aide therapist (DHAT).

DHATs are minimally trained dental providers who would have the ability to perform irreversible procedures like extractions and restorations. Training ranges from 18 months to two years post high school. Additionally, dentists would have little to no direct supervision over DHATs under the proposal.

What can an individual dental student do to protect his or her future in the midst of these discussions?

Dental students and other Ohio dentists are in a position to make a significant impact on the political process in a variety of ways. Membership in organized dentistry, including ASDA and the Ohio Dental Association (ODA) provides students with a voice in the halls of Congress and at the Ohio Statehouse. It is the role of these organizations to advocate on behalf of the profession and the patients it serves.

In Ohio, the ODA is leading the charge against the creation of DHATs and is working to protect dentistry's interests in the implementation of the ACA. Strong membership representation allows the ODA to speak to lawmakers with a credible, unified voice for the profession. But dental students and dentists can also impact the political process as individuals in several ways.

First, dental students and dentists can be powerful grassroots advocates. As highly trained professionals, dentists provide legislators

(Continued on page 2)



Important Issues Affecting the Future of Dentistry

-Dr. Henry Fields

I have been asked to provide some perspective on the midlevel provider issue in Ohio. I have chosen to address this and some other issues that you might find interesting, as I believe they may be legislative priorities either at the national or state level. Advocacy before legislative and regulatory bodies on behalf of dentistry and the public's oral health are the two things that dentists most prize about both the ADA and the ODA. They are the most potent forces dentists have and they have been extremely successful in voicing dentistry's position. I come at this as the Chair of the ODA's Taskforce on Access to Care and Auxiliary Utilization and as the Vice Chair of the ADA's Council on Government Affairs.

Midlevel providers - Universal Health Care Action Network (UHCAN), the Kellogg Foundation's grantee in Ohio, has developed a campaign known as "Dental Access Now!" and is actively promoting the development of a mid-level provider in Ohio. Its form has been flexible depending upon the audience and the collaborators they are focusing on. At this time both the ODA and the ODHA oppose this concept and believe that the traditional dental team, bolstered by alternative utilization of existing auxiliaries (assistants, EFDA's and dental hygienists) under the supervision of the dentist who performs all irreversible procedures and using a revised Medicaid model could solve many of the problems that we believe are distribution issues, not manpower issues. Among those changes to the system that appear sensible are: preserving coverage of adult dental services, enhancing reimbursement levels for dentists who provide the full range of dental services (not just diagnostic services), and a commercial third-party to administer the dental Medicaid program in a manner designed to increase provider participation and use of needed services. At a minimum, the dental program should have the following features: fee-for-service payment to dentists at rates competitive with commercial insurance plans and expanded use of case management/care coordination.

"It has been difficult to have meaningful dialogue with UHCAN and some of us have been barred from meetings by UHCAN to discuss these issues."

It also makes sense to support other related opportunities that weigh on the workforce issue like:

- Expanding the Ohio Dentist Loan Repayment Program;
- Maintaining operation of the Dental OPTIONS program (OPTIONS is a public-private partnership between the ODA and the Ohio Department of Health through which Ohio dentists provide in excess of \$1.5 million in donated dental care to under-served Ohioans annually);
- Finding innovative ways to secure funding to assist with capital costs for expansion of existing safety net dental clinics and/or establishment of new sites;
- Working with other health care professionals (pediatricians, OB/GYNs, etc.) to encourage the provision of appropriate preventive services (fluoride varnish, etc.) and oral screenings;
- Securing expanded funding for general dentistry and pediatric dental residency programs in Ohio;
- Securing funding to support outreach education for the dental schools at The Ohio State University and Case Western Reserve University;
- Securing funding for the Ohio Department of Development to utilize to provide no-interest loans for the purchase of dental equipment to be used in federally-designated or state-defined Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas to treat under-served populations;
- Securing funding for scholarships for students who commit to provide care in under-served areas for a specific time period upon graduation;
- Exploring facilitating contractual relationships between private dentists and FQHCs;

(Continued on page 4)

ODA

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with a unique source of information. Many elected officials know very little about dentistry, the delivery of healthcare or the challenges facing small businesses. It's important for them to know how their decisions can impact patients and the profession. Consequently, dentists must stay informed on current legislative and regulatory issues and consider attending ODA legislative events like Day at the Statehouse

Second, dentists can help insure that pro-dentist candidates win elections by becoming members of the Ohio Dental Political Action Committee (ODPAC) and the American Dental Political Action Committee (ADPAC). ODPAC and ADPAC are the political arms of organized dentistry and are the only PACs that represent the interests of Ohio dentists.

In these tumultuous times dental students can't afford to sit on the sidelines and hope that things work out for the best. Being proactive as a member of organized dentistry, a grassroots advocate and supporter of ODPAC and ADPAC is the best way to ensure that the

changes on the horizon don't impact your patients, practices and way of life in a negative way.

For more information please contact the ODA Department of Government Affairs at (800) 282-1526 or visit <http://www.oda.org>.

Get Involved: Learn How to Lobby

-Ryan Hinkle '14
ASDA Legislative Liason

Over this past year the Ohio State University chapter of the American Student Dental Association has undergone sweeping changes. The leadership structure has been tweaked, a brand new website and quarterly newsletter have been created and many new programs have been implemented. Of all these changes, one of the most exciting is the brand new student lobbying program.

With the help of Mr. Keith Kerns, the Director of Legal and Legislative Services for the ODA, Ohio State ASDA has created a program that will educate groups of students on the finer points of lobbying. Starting this quarter, Mr. Kerns will hold a monthly meeting for a group of four to five students. His presentation will explain the "do's and don'ts" of lobbying and will touch on current issues facing dentistry at the state level. Following the training presentation, the students will contact state legislators and set up meetings to discuss the issues at hand and attempt to influence the legislators' opinions. For those

students who received training but were not able to meet with legislators right away, a refresher session will be held once every few months.

Undoubtedly, many dental students do not fully appreciate the importance of lobbying and advocating for



dentistry. The daily grind of classes, lab work and patients seems to partially insulate students from a harsh reality: all aspects of healthcare, the field of dentistry included, are deeply entrenched in a battle on the political stage. To emerge

victorious, the key to success is strength in numbers and a loud voice. In a few short years, we will all be removed from the safety that is the confines of Postle Hall and will have to directly confront issues such as the threat of midlevel providers. Although these issues may seem like no more than distant threats, they could quickly become all too real. Why not start fighting them now?

Some may question the effectiveness of the lobbying efforts of dental students. Would legislators actually consider the opinions of people not yet actively practicing? The answer is a resounding "yes". Last March nearly 400 dental students from across the nation traveled to Washington D.C. to participate in National Student Lobby Day. On Capitol Hill there were two main issues students advocated. The first was the Emergency Dental Responder act, a bill that would include dentists and dental facilities in the federal disaster response framework, allowing dentists to serve as first responders in the event of a natural disaster or terrorist attack.

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Southpaws: The Forgotten Minority

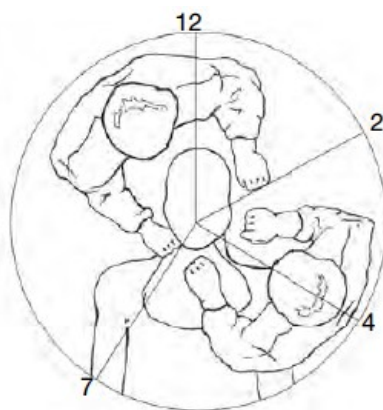
-Jonathan Winnyk '14
Class of 2014 Vice President

I was in elementary school and was walking into Dick's Sporting Goods with my dad looking for the perfect baseball mitt. We asked one of the employees to lead us in the right direction. There it was, a wall from the ceiling to the floor full of all kinds of different mitts, there must have been a hundred of them; but I only had three to pick from, because I was left-handed. So I tried on all three, picked which one fit me best and disappointed, left the store.

It's been the same situation ever since then whenever I try to buy something, from golf clubs to guitars, I can't get the one I want, I have to decide between the two or three that the manufactures make for lefties, and settle for the one that is close enough.

Now, in the time I've been in dental school, I've come to realize that it doesn't get any easier being left-handed, it's

actually a disadvantage that I have to learn overcome on my own with little to no help.



When I get out in practice, I will have to make sure I buy a practice that is set up for a left-handed dentist and hire assistants and hygienists that can work on the opposite side of a patient; but before I do all that, I have to LEARN how to be a dentist the "wrong" way.

Being a lefty has affected several classes throughout my education so far, but I am going to use Dr. Kerby's posterior crown preparation course as my example for this article, as it was the biggest hurdle I have had to face so far.

The lab in the dental school has about 15 left-handed stations dispersed all throughout it. We have one left-handed instructor (Dr. Emily) and she is in charge of a row of the lab like every other instructor. Because the left-handed stations

(Continued on page 5)

Annual Session 2012

-Micheal Pappas '14
OSU ASDA President

On February 29th – March 4th ASDA Annual Session will take place in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Over 400 dental students from all 61 dental schools will come together to elect new ASDA national leaders. The House of Delegates will meet to hear debate and vote on proposed policies that are submitted to the floor. Annual session features educational breakout sessions ranging from practice management lectures to legislative updates. Hot topic issues for students such as licensure and mid-level providers will be addressed by prominent leaders within dentistry. The week will also feature an exhibition fair featuring over 80 vendors from around the country. On Saturday night, the weekend will commence with the annual themed President's Reception and Dinner Dance. This year ASDA's President, Adam Shisler, has declared the theme to be 80's TV shows. Visit www.ASDAosu.com if you are interested in finding our more information about Annual Session or interested in attending.



Dental Students enjoy the 80's theme dance from the 2011 Annual Session

ASDA Minneapolis Annual Session 2012

Important Issues

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Exploring facilitating contractual relationships between educational outreach programs and FQHCs; and Exploring strategies to assist FQHCs in recruiting dentists.

It has been difficult to have meaningful dialogue with UH-CAN and some of us have been barred from meetings by UH-CAN to discuss these issues.

Water Fluoridation- It makes public health sense to continue to attempt to maintain and broaden community water fluoridation, which has been labeled the most important public health measure ever instituted. At this time, it is under fire in some quarters.

State insurance exchanges- Under the Affordable Care Act, By January 1, 2013, states will have to demonstrate that they can operate a health care exchange. It is important that state officials have the dentists' perspective to ensure that state health care exchanges are oral health con-

sumer and practitioner friendly. All plans must have an oral health benefit for children. Initially, the exchange will be open only to individuals and small businesses. Individuals eligible for tax credits and subsidies for individual coverage, individuals without access to employer-sponsored coverage, and individuals eligible for Medicaid/CHIP will be able to access coverage through a state exchange. In Ohio the process has been slow moving and the ODA is involved in trying to ensure that such a structure is in place and includes truly beneficial options for dental care. The ADA is developing a "toolkit" that will be available in mid-January to help all state dental societies address health care exchange implementation.

Non-covered services- There is interest in legislation that will prohibit insurers from setting fees for services they do not cover in their insurance plans. This has gained appeal and legislative changes in over 20 states and should be considered in Ohio.

Prescription Drugs – House Bill 93 made several changes to Ohio's prescription drug laws, including: requiring pre-

scribers to obtain information from the dangerous drug database in certain circumstances prior to issuing a prescription for a controlled substance.

Continuing Education –Recently the OSDB announced it will allow up to 6 hours of practice management CE to be earned by both dentists and hygienists and applied toward the biennial requirement.

Antitrust Issues-These seem to come in two forms. First, the health insurance industry is exempt from federal antitrust issues. The ADA is attempting to repeal that federal exemption (McCarran-Ferguson federal antitrust exemption) so that health insurance companies are treated like other businesses in the United States. Meanwhile, dentistry, especially regulators of dentistry like state boards, are under increasing scrutiny by the FTC for their activities, which they see as those with major conflicts of interest controlling their own profession. The ADA and state dental associations are currently observing these actions with great interest.

Learn to Lobby

(Continued from page 3)

The second issue was a proposal to increase funding to the National Institutes of Health, which did not seem promising due to the already tight budget and dire status of the economy. The results? This past November, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce advanced H.R. 2405, the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act of 2011, which included the Emergency Dental Responder Act. This bill is expected to move forward in both the House and Senate. Further, the 2012 fiscal year

“Would legislators actually consider the opinions of people not yet actively practicing? The answer is a resounding “yes” ”

budget, released this past September, included a one billion dollar increase in funding for the National Institutes of Health. Although various other oral health organizations were no doubt lobbying for similar interests, the collective voice of 400 dental students didn't hurt.

Although it may seem at times as if legislators could not care less about their constituents' wants and needs, the developments following National Student Lobby Day seem to suggest otherwise. There is a certain sense of accomplishment that comes from effectively conveying your thoughts and concerns to a legislator, especially when it leads to change. Hopefully you will all have the opportunity to experience this rewarding



Dental Students at 2011 Lobby Day

feeling at some point during your respective dental careers.

If anyone is interested in participating in the student lobbying training program, feel free to contact me at hinkle.126@osu.edu.

Southpaws

(Continued from page 3)

aren't all together, her row consists of mainly right-handed students and maybe one lefty (and it wasn't me).

So I had Dr. Gilbert (a righty) as my instructor, and he was a great instructor, he taught me a lot about prepping molars and premolars, but when it came to actually sitting down and doing the procedure, I did not have an instructor. Any question I had about sitting in the proper position or holding the handpiece correctly, which when dealing with tenths of millimeters is a pretty important part, was answered with “Oh yeah, you're one of the weirdos” or “I'm sorry, I'm not left-handed, I don't know how to do it that way.” I couldn't go to Dr. Emily to ask her questions because she was too busy with her own set of students asking questions and having problems.

Now Dr. Kerby had great help sessions and during labs, he would run through how to sit properly with every row of students so that it was a smaller group and they could ask questions. But the only information I ever got out of

those was “...and for lefties, do the opposite.” But Dr. Kerby did set up help sessions just for us lefties, a ten-minute talk after a four hour class with Dr. Emily, trying to understand her heavy accent with everyone else in the background packing up, walking out, and talking.

If that didn't make it hard enough, the first prep we did was tooth #30, the easiest molar in the mouth, for a right-handed student. So to make a long story short, I failed my first practical and flirted with remediation the rest of the class.

I didn't write this article to gain any sympathy or to tell you that my life is harder than yours; I'm just growing tired of the world overlooking this 10% of the population (which currently is around 700,000,000 people). In today's world where equality seems to take precedence over all other issues, where the color of your skin, your gender, and age are all sensitive subjects and have legal issues associated with them, being left-handed should fall under that same category and needs to stop being a discriminatory offense.

What Is ODPAC?

-Nathan Prueter '14

The Ohio Dental Political Action Committee (ODPAC) advocates on behalf of Ohio's dentists by supporting the campaigns of pro-dentistry candidates for state and federal offices. ODPAC is the political arm of the ODA and is the only PAC in Ohio that represents the interests of dentists. ODPAC helps individual dentists gain equal leverage on the playing field with big dollar contributors, like insurance companies and trial lawyers.

ODPAC's recent victories for Ohio Dentists include:

- **Improved due process rights in dental board investigations-** sets a time limitation on board investigations, provides for discovery rights for dentists charged with a violation, creates a two person panel to oversee all board investigations and ensures that board-



is-

sued subpoenas are reasonable in scope.

- **Malpractice reform-** caps on damages and a 4 year statute of repose
- **Defeating a proposed sales tax on dental services**
- **Increasing office efficiency by allowing for the safe delegation of duties**

ODPAC's current battles:

- **Midlevel Providers-** creation of a new category of dental

worker which would be permitted to perform irremediable procedures, such as restorations and extractions, with minimal training and supervision.

- **Taxes, Fees and Regulations-** ensure that dentists are not burdened with unnecessary regulations or taxes.

- **Prescription Drug Issues-** fighting against new unnecessary fees and additional government oversight.

ASDA has made joining ODPAC **FREE** to all Ohio State Dental Students. Please contact Nathan Prueter Prueter.5@buckeyemail.osu.edu or Ryan Hinkle Hinkle.126@buckeyemail.osu.edu for an application form. By joining you will be part of an important committee that is advocating for dentist on important issues facing our profession.

ADPAC: Protecting Our Careers as Future Dental Professionals

-Mike Border '15
Class of 2015 President

ADPAC: Protecting our careers as future dental professionals.

In light of the recent emphasis on the protecting the healthcare system as a whole, it is important to briefly detail the many critical organizations who advocate for the dental profession specifically. The American Dental Political Action Committee (ADPAC) concentrates the collective efforts of both American Dental Association (ADA) and American Student Dental Association (ASDA) members in electing congressional candidates who have recognized the significance of dentistry in the healthcare system, as well as the link between oral and systemic health.

ADPAC is committed to supporting candidates, regardless of party affiliation, who have demonstrated their abilities in remaining strong advocates for future dental professionals, and more

importantly for future patients. Furthermore, ADPAC is focused on the future of our profession, providing educational opportunities for dentists throughout the country who have expressed an



interest in pursuing public office at the local, state, and national levels. These efforts ensure the continued presence of a strong, united voice for our profession amidst the ever-changing political landscape.

As future dentists, it is critical that we support these efforts and provide the necessary resources for ADPAC to continue advocating for our profession. Registering as members of ADPAC demonstrates our support for their work and the candidates they endorse. As Ohio State students, we are in the unique position to take advantage of the mounting support that our student body demonstrated this fall, with more than 150 students registering as ADPAC members. Acknowledging the importance of student support, Ohio State's ASDA chapter, through a number of fundraisers, provides the funds necessary to cover the membership fees for all Ohio State students interested in joining. In this way the OSU ASDA chapter ensures that all students have the opportunity to take an active role in advocating for the future of our profession.

Give Kids a Smile 2012

Join ASDA on **Friday, February 3rd** for Give Kids a Smile Day. Give Kids a Smile Day is a nation-wide event run through the ADA to promote oral health and provide free oral services for lower-income children. It's a chance for a dental team to go out into the community to provide oral health services to those who might not otherwise have the access to care they need. This year's event will take place at **West Franklin Academy** (3501 Briggs Road), there will be both a morning (**8:30-11:30**) and an afternoon session (**12:30-2:30**). D3 and D4's receive accountability and D1 and D2 speak with your teachers about volunteering. Email **Phillips.940@osu.edu** to register. Hope to see you February 3rd.



Give Kids a Smile 2012!

Friday, February 3

- **West Franklin Academy**
3501 Briggs Road
- **Register to Volunteer!**
- **Morning session 8:30 – 11:30**
- **Afternoon session 12:30 – 2:30**
- **D3's and D4's receive accountability!**
- **Parking is limited. Please carpool.**
- **OSU scrubs and College I.D. required.**



email phillips.940@osu.edu to register

Upcoming Events:

- **Thursday February 2, 2012-SRG Lunch and Learn about applying for OSUCOD Student Research Program**
- **Friday February 3rd 2012-Give Kids a Smile**
- **Friday February 17th 2012- Mandiball 2012**
- **Wednesday February 29 2012- OSUCOD Research Day**
- **March 26th 2012- Applications for Student research program due**

Attention Researchers!

The OSUCOD Student Research Group (SRG) is pleased to announce two exciting opportunities for student researchers to showcase their work.

First, the SRG is partnering with the OSUCOD Office of Research to host the SRG Student Research Symposium at this years Research Day on February 29, 2012 at the Ohio Union. The symposium will give up to four selected students an opportunity to give a ten minute oral presentation showcasing their work following the talk from this years guest lecturer, Dr. Jill Ann Helms. Students will be selected by SRG executive board, and will still be expected to take part in the poster session and will remain eligible for all research-associated awards presented by the college. Interested students should submit their abstracts to the SRG advisor, Dr. Johnston at Johnston.5@osu.edu by Friday, January 20, 2012 to be considered for this opportunity to represent student research.

Second, the Indiana University School of Dentistry (IUSD) is welcoming all dental schools from the Ohio Valley to take part in a regional interschool research competition at the annual IUSD Research Day on Monday, April 16th, 2012 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Last year, three OSUCOD students attended the event and really enjoyed their experience meeting students from regional schools and participating in the competition. This year, three students will be selected to attend and lodging in Indianapolis for Sunday, April 15th, will be provided. Students who wish to attend will be granted an excused absence at the discretion of their course directors. Interested students should submit their abstracts to the SRG advisor, Dr. Johnston at Johnston.5@osu.edu by Friday, January 20, 2012 to be considered for this opportunity to represent the OSUCOD at this regional event.

Note, students who wish to present their work at the OSUCOD Research Day on February 29, 2012 at the Ohio Union must still submit their abstract to Christine Bitzel at bitzel.2@osu.edu by Friday, January 20, 2012, and students interested in the above opportunities must also submit their abstract to SRG advisor, Dr. Johnston at Johnston.5@osu.edu to be considered for these opportunities.

The Student Research Group looks forward to helping students showcase their research and hard work with these two opportunities.

-OSUCOD Student Research Group Executive Board
 President: Matt Mason(.369)
 Vice President: Andrew Holpuch(.5)
 Secretary: Stephanie Gans(.11)
 Treasurer: Brian Han(.249)

Save the Date: Mandiball 2012

Friday, February 17th 6:30-11:45pm



The logo for Mandiball Masquerade 2012 features the words "mandiball" and "masquerade" in a highly decorative, gothic-style font with intricate flourishes. Below the main text, the year "2012" is written in a simpler, clean font.

The committee for Mandiball 2012 has been hard at work planning what is sure to be another unforgettable evening! This year we are very excited to be hosting the event at The Ohio Union for the first time.

The evening will begin with a cocktail hour at 6:30pm followed by an Italian buffet dinner being served at 7:30pm. Of course, there will also be a variety of door prizes, a mask contest, and lots of dancing.

Don't miss the College of Dentistry's biggest celebration of the year! Tickets for the event go on sale **Friday, January 20th**.

Class of 2014 Basketball Tournament



Men's Champions



Some players enjoying a short break between games

Quote of the Quarter

“

Dictionary is the only place that success comes before work. Hard work is the price we must pay for success. I think you can accomplish anything if you're willing to pay the price.
—Vince Lombardi

”

Halloween at Nationwide Children's Hospital



Kids show off their tooth-healthy Halloween treats



Dental Students volunteering at the Nationwide Children's hospital: some chose to embrace Halloween more than others

Bored in Class?

Write For Us

Have an opinion about a hot issue? A funny comic to blow off the stress of school? We want to hear from you! If you are interested in contributing to next quarter's newsletter contact unger.46@osu.edu.



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Follow us on Twitter: @ASDA_OSU

Visit Us @
Asda.org.ohio-state.edu

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