



news bites

the FDA's official e-newsletter



NORTHEAST
DISTRICT DENTAL ASSOCIATION
A COMPONENT OF THE
AMERICAN & FLORIDA DENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

FEBRUARY 2025

▶ INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE FDA BOARD OF TRUSTEES? AS FDA SECRETARY OR FDA TREASURER?

Help shape the future of dentistry in Florida! The Florida Dental Association (FDA) is now accepting nominations for key leadership positions on its Board of Trustees. This is your chance to make a meaningful impact, represent your peers and contribute to advancing the dental profession.

Open Positions:

- Two (2) At-Large Trustees
- FDA Secretary
- FDA Treasurer



Join a dynamic team of leaders dedicated to serving the interests of Florida's dental community. Whether you're passionate about advocacy, financial oversight or strategic planning, there's a role that suits your strengths and aspirations.

Election Timeline:

- **Jan. 18:** Applications are available on the FDA website.
- **March 31:** Deadline for first-round applications.
- **April 22:** Initial candidate slate announced to the House of Delegates (HOD) and FDA membership.
- **May 7:** Virtual Candidate Forum for members to hear from the candidates.
- **May 9:** Final deadline for second-round applications.
- **May 22:** Final slate of candidates announced.
- **June 21:** Elections held during the HOD annual meeting.

Ready to lead? Visit the [FDA website](#) or scan the QR code above to learn more and submit your application. Together, let's shape the future of the FDA and the dental profession.

Act now — your leadership journey starts here!

2025 FDA Membership Dues

Go to floridadental.org/dues to renew today!



Let ^{be} your voice heard!

2025

January 18

Applications are available on the FDA's Website

March 31

Last day to submit applications for first round

April 22

Initial slate of candidates announced to House of Delegates & FDA Membership

May 7

Virtual Candidate Forum

May 9

Last day to submit applications for second round

May 22

Final slate of candidates announced

June 21

Elections held at House of Delegates annual meeting

GOVERNANCE

The following seats on the Florida Dental Association's Board of Trustees will be open and voted on during the June 2025 House of Delegates meeting:

- **Two (2) At-Large Trustees**
- **FDA Secretary**
- **FDA Treasurer**

The timeline applies to all open positions.

To learn more or apply,
scan this QR code.



▶ FDA SERVICES: SUPPORTING FLORIDA DENTISTS AND BEYOND WITH UNMATCHED EXPERTISE

For the past 10 years, FDA Services (FDAS) has contributed more than \$16 million to the FDA.

Here's what that means for our member dentists:

- **More than 10K dentists trust FDAS** as their brokerage.
- **Malpractice premiums are 20% lower** than when FDAS started selling policies in 1986 (that does not include inflation).
- Negotiated a **\$0 cosmetic Botox rider** — down from the original \$2K.
- Secured a **20% upfront dividend for Florida dentists** with The Zenith.
- Found comprehensive **cyber policies with Coalition** tailored to dentists' needs.
- Maintains a **dedicated 20-person staff** helping member dentists every day.
- **Lowered membership dues by \$30 this year.**
- Expanded to assist clients in **28 states nationwide.**



services inc.
FLORIDA DENTAL ASSOCIATION™

What can you do?

- Tell your **new associates WHY FDAS**
- Tell your **friends in other states WHY FDAS.**

Call FDAS at 800.877.7597 or visit fdaservices.com.

▶ SHOULD YOUR PRACTICE CONSIDER SURCHARGING



As a dental professional, you always look for ways to streamline operations and maximize profitability. One option gaining attention is *surcharging* — shifting the cost of credit card processing fees to patients. Marketed by some payment providers as “credit card processing for free,” surcharging might sound appealing, but the reality deserves closer examination.

Before deciding, it's important to weigh the potential impacts on your practice. While surcharging can reduce operational costs, it may also affect patient satisfaction and trust. Patients who encounter unexpected fees during checkout may feel frustrated, potentially damaging their reputation and long-term relationships.

Best Card is committed to transparency and helping dental practices make informed financial decisions. If you're curious about surcharging, their experts can walk you through the pros and cons and ensure you are set up to do it in a way that is compliant with laws and regulations and tailored to your practice. Best Card also provides alternatives that keep your budget and patients happy.

As a payments provider initially created by a dental association to help members, we've been a trusted partner for dental practices nationwide. Best Card offers straightforward, competitive credit card processing solutions with no hidden fees. Their average client saves \$6,671, or 28% annually, without relying on surcharging.

Want to know more? Call Best Card at 877.739.3952 today and let them help you determine whether surcharging is the right fit for your practice — or if there's a better way to boost your bottom line while keeping your patients smiling.

DENTISTRY HAS CHANGED OVER THE YEARS, OUR COMMITMENT HASN'T.

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WORLD'S MOST
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The transition ahead may seem new and uncertain, similar to when you began your practice, but we understand the process.

As your local Transition Sales Consultant at Henry Schein Dental Practice Transitions, I'll guide you along the way.

Thinking Transition?

Need a Valuation?

Call Today!

850-879-4235



ALISA SHOAF, RDH

Transition Sales Consultant

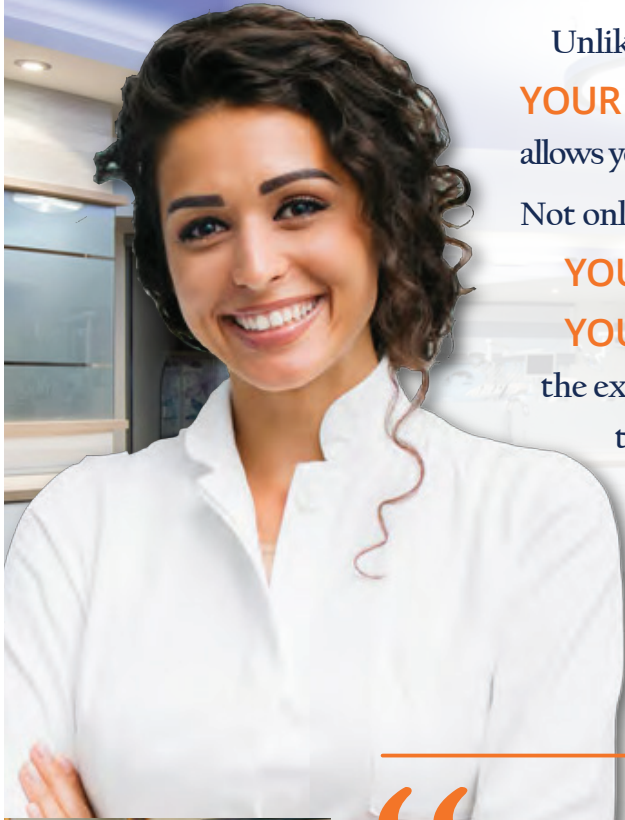
Alisa.Shoaf@henryschein.com

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HenryScheinDPT.com

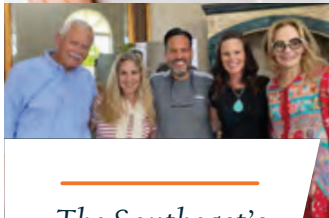
- PRACTICE SALES
- VALUATIONS
- TRANSITION PLANNING
- BUYER REPRESENTATION

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WE CAN HELP YOU GAIN A COMPETITIVE EDGE



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Not only do **WE MAKE IT EASY FOR**
YOU TO MANAGE AND ACCESS
YOUR MONEY, but we also go
the extra mile. Switch to Affinity Bank
today to see why we've been making
our dentists smile since 2002.

**THE SWITCH WILL
PAY FOR ITSELF.**



The Southeast's
**Leading
Dental Bank**

“ Working with Affinity Bank was one of the best decisions I made when purchasing my practice. Tara was so helpful in walking me through the process. She helped me find the right legal advice as well as CPA that gave me the confidence to move forward with the purchase. Finally, no other bank came even close to their financial support. ”

~ Mario Romero, DDS - Sarasota, Florida



TARA GLEASON

Vice President
Business Development &
Commercial Lending

(770) 548-8029

tgleason@myaffinitybank.com

400 Galleria Parkway SE | Suite 900 | Atlanta, GA 30339

▶ NEDDA AFFILIATE WEBSITES



CLAY COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY
AN AFFILIATE OF THE NORTHEAST DISTRICT,
AMERICAN & FLORIDA DENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

• claycountydental.org •

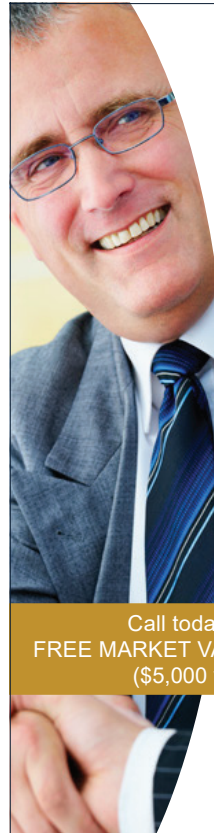


JACKSONVILLE DENTAL SOCIETY
AN AFFILIATE OF THE NORTHEAST DISTRICT,
AMERICAN & FLORIDA DENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

• jaxdentalsociety.net •

▶ NEDDA CLASSIFIEDS

Make sure to check out the [NEDDA classifieds](#) for your next opportunity!



AFTCO
TRANSITION CONSULTANTS
Since 1968

We are pleased to announce...

Cardona Carlos Medina, D.M.D. has transitioned his practices Lady Lake & DeLand, Florida

Melvin B. Benson Jr., D.D.S. has acquired the practice of **David C. Schirmer, D.D.S.** Sarasota, Florida

Call today for a
FREE MARKET VALUE ANALYSIS
(\$5,000 value)

We are pleased to have assisted in these transitions.

800.232.3826 | www.AFTCO.net
Practice Sales & Purchases Over \$3.2 Billion

THANK YOU, MIKE TROUT!



The Florida Dental Association (FDA) would like to thank the FDA Services' (FDAS) Board of Directors, employees and clients for supporting organized dentistry. In the last 10 years, the sales of superior insurance products to dental practices have raised more than \$16 million in non-dues revenues, all while keeping malpractice insurance premiums lower than they were when FDAS started in 1989. The FDA encourages all Northeast Florida members to use Mike Trout for their practice insurance needs and continue to support organized dentistry.



CONTACT MIKE TROUT - NORTHEAST FLORIDA

904.254.8927 | mike.trout@fdaservices.com | fdaservices.com



MORE WINS, LOWER DUES.

Renew your membership
for 2025 today!

THREE EASY WAYS TO PAY:

ONLINE: Visit floridadental.org/dues
or scan the QR code below.

MAIL: Return blue envelope with
statement and payment.

PHONE: Dial 850.681.3629 to speak
to our friendly membership team.

PAYMENT PLAN:

Choose from a variety of monthly
installment plans.

AUTO-RENEWAL:

Set it and forget it! Your membership will
automatically renew each year with the
credit card you put on file.



Dr. Brandon Alegre
FDA member since 2005
Boca Raton



Dr. Jessica Stilley-Mallah
FDA member since 2005
New Port Richey



Dr. Kaycee Wilcox
FDA member since 2016
Crestview



HELPING MEMBERS SUCCEED
850.681.3629 | floridadental.org/dues



A HIGHER STANDARD ... A HIGHER CALLING

FLORIDA MISSION OF MERCY

Florida Mission of Mercy (FLA-MOM) is the state's largest charitable dental clinic that provides care to any patient at no cost, with the goal of serving the underserved and uninsured in Florida – those who would otherwise go without care.

FLAMOM.ORG

VOLUNTEER FOR
FLA-MOM 2025!

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



NEED HELP WITH PATIENT COMPLAINTS?

The Peer Review program is designed to help Florida Dental Association member dentists.

Avoid costly legal fees, malpractice suits and Board of Dentistry complaints by using this free service exclusively for members.



Learn more online at FloridaDental.org/PeerReview or by contacting FDA Peer Review Coordinator Lywanda Tucker at 850.350.7143 or ltucker@floridadental.org

2025 Dentists' Day on the Hill

TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF

Florida's Action for Dental Health

Advocating for the oral health and the resulting overall health of Floridians

Monday, March 24, 6pm

Legislative Briefing

Hotel Duval (8th floor)

Complimentary dinner to follow

Tuesday, March 25

Capitol Visits

Lunch provided

Hotel Duval Room Block

\$295 per night - [click here](#)



Registration Open
floridadental.org/ddoh

Scan to register



For more information, please contact the
FDA Governmental Affairs Office.

850.224.1089 • gao@floridadental.org

► 2025 DDOH REGISTRATION OPEN!

The success of the FDA during the last Legislative Session was directly tied to your participation and advocacy at the 2024 *Dentists' Day on the Hill (DDOH)*. With your help, the FDA passed essential dental insurance reform legislation, enhanced protections for direct-to-consumer dentistry and secured funding for the Veterans Dental Care Grant Program and the *Florida Mission of Mercy* Program. **Help us repeat our success and join us for the 2025 DDOH!**



Registration is now open for the 2025 *DDOH*! *DDOH* will take place Tuesday, March 25, 2025, with a legislative briefing on Monday, March 24 at 6 p.m. at Hotel Duval. For more than 25 years, FDA member dentists have traveled to Tallahassee to proudly advocate on behalf of organized dentistry. [Join your fellow dental advocates and register!](#)

During this event, the FDA will host a complimentary buffet dinner after the legislative briefing on March 24 at Hotel Duval. If you plan on attending the briefing and dinner, please add both items during your registration.

The FDA has a room block at Hotel Duval for \$295 a night. To book your room, please call 850.224.6000 and reference the "Florida Dental Association" or click [here](#). Rooms for this event fill up quickly — so reserve your room today!

Please note: Room reservations should only be made for yourself/parties staying in the same room. Multiple rooms reserved under one name for any affiliate or district may be subject to cancellation by the FDA. Thank you for your cooperation.

Information regarding *DDOH* will be sent periodically to registrants throughout the year and up until the event. Click [here](#) to register or scan the QR code above. If you have any questions, please contact Legislative Affairs Coordinator Jamie Graves at 850.224.1089 or jgraves@floridadental.org.

[Check out the highlight video from the 2024 DDOH!](#)

► UTILIZE THE FDA'S JUMPSTART PROGRAM IN SOLVING WORKFORCE CHALLENGES



The FDA's Jumpstart program is an initiative to connect member dentists with pre-dental students who are interested in volunteering or working with dental offices. It's a creative solution to assist in solving workforce challenges faced by Florida dentists. Jumpstart is a fast

pass for students to gain real-world experience, connect with dentists and master skills that will help them stand out in the dental school application process and in the competitive field of dentistry. All of this while providing staffing for offices that may have difficulty hiring the right people. A true win-win!

As a result of the FDA's efforts, members can access a student directory at floridadental.org/jumpstart. It notes students' geographic location, interests and roles they could fill. If you have an interest in engaging any of these students, please contact them directly and make suitable arrangements. If you know pre-dental students who may be interested registering, encourage them to visit floridadental.org/jumpstart to sign up and learn more about transforming their enthusiasm into expertise.

Life comes with challenges. The FDA's Member Assistance Program is here to help.

Starting Jan. 1, 2025, FDA members have free, confidential access to AllOne Health's counseling and work/life services.

The Florida Dental Association's (FDA) Member Assistance Program (MAP) can help you reduce stress, improve mental health and make life easier by connecting you to the right information, resources and referrals.

All services are confidential and available to you and your household as an FDA member benefit. This includes access to short-term counseling and the wide range of services listed below:

Mental Health Sessions

Manage stress, anxiety and depression; resolve conflict, improve relationships and address personal issues. Choose from in-person sessions, video counseling or phone counseling.

Life Coaching

Reach personal and professional goals, manage life transitions, overcome obstacles, strengthen relationships and achieve greater balance.

Financial Consultation

Build financial wellness related to budgeting, buying a home, paying off debt, resolving general tax questions, preventing identity theft and saving for retirement or tuition.

Legal Referrals

Receive referrals for personal legal matters including estate planning, wills, real estate, bankruptcy, divorce, custody and more.

Work-Life Resources and Referrals

Obtain information and referrals when seeking childcare, adoption, special needs support, eldercare, housing, transportation, education and pet care.

Personal Assistant

Save time with referrals for travel and entertainment, professional services, cleaning services, home food delivery and managing everyday tasks.

Medical Advocacy

Get help navigating insurance, obtaining doctor referrals, securing medical equipment and planning for transitional care and discharge.

Member Portal

Access your benefits 24/7/365 through the member portal with online requests and chat options. Explore thousands of self-help tools and resources including articles, assessments, podcasts and resource locators.



No matter what the concern might be ... connect with AllOne Health. It is a great starting point to find appropriate resources, referrals, information and support. Simply pick up the phone and call: 800.788.8630 or login to www.encompass.us.com to access your services.

Contact AllOne Health

800.788.8630

www.encompass.us.com

Code: fdamap



floridadental.org/healthy

▶ MARK YOUR CALENDAR – FDC2025 REGISTRATION OPENS ON MARCH 1!

Immerse yourself in the world of dental excellence and “Polish Your Perspective” June 19-21 in Orlando for the 2025 Florida Dental Convention (FDC). Explore 150+ courses led by 90+ acclaimed speakers, showcasing the latest trends, technologies and techniques in dentistry. Course topics include anterior implants, Botox, CBCT technology, laser dentistry, laminate veneers and more — FDC2025 covers it all! Click [here](#) to view all course options and to make your course itinerary.

This year’s scientific program will feature education by The Pankey Institute faculty members, Drs. Lee Ann Brady and Gary DeWood. Drs. Brady and DeWood will be presenting the two-day course “[Occlusion in Everyday Dentistry Workshop: A Two-Day Hands-on Pankey Program](#)” (PE1) Friday, June 20 and Saturday, June 21. This course is limited to 24 attendees, so secure your seat when registration opens.

Mark your calendar to register and sign up for courses at floridadentalconvention.com beginning March 1! As always, FDA members register for free!



▶ THE FLORIDA DENTAL CONVENTION (FDC) OFFERS TWO HOTEL OPTIONS TO FIT YOUR NEEDS AND BUDGET!



Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center (Host Hotel)

Get ready to combine professional growth with a memorable getaway! Indulge in the Gaylord Palms’ newly renovated amenities — including:

- Three-acre water park with a Rapid River.
- Nine diverse dining options.
- Renovated modern hotel rooms.
- Breathtaking four-and-a-half-acre atrium.

Reserve your room at \$218 per night, including free self-parking. Click [here](#) or call 877.491.0442 to make your reservation.

Fairfield by Marriott Kissimmee/Celebration (1.5 Miles from Gaylord Palms)

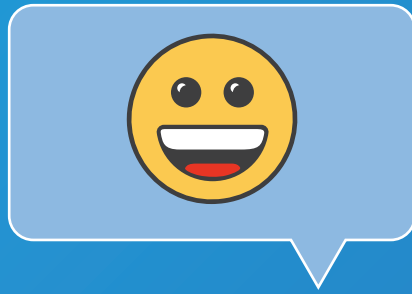
- Conveniently located 1.5 miles from Gaylord Palms, the Fairfield offers attendees complimentary breakfast and parking for the discounted rate of \$129 per night. Click [here](#) to call 407.390.1532 to make your reservation.

▶ FREE ONLINE CE FOR FDA MEMBER DENTISTS!

“**Rooted in Dentistry Webinar**” series — This webinar series is your opportunity to stay informed, grow your skills and earn continuing education (CE) hours at no cost. Click [here](#) to view the webinar schedule and course details and to sign up! Don’t miss your chance to earn six hours of CE at no cost as an FDA member dentist.

Today’s FDA Diagnostic Discussion courses — FDA members can earn up to six hours of general CE by reading the Diagnostic Discussion column included in the bi-monthly *Today’s FDA* and taking a quick online quiz. Discussions and quizzes are available 24 hours a day at the convenience of your home or office. Click [here](#) to access these free courses.

A graphic titled "FDA Online CE Opportunities" with two circular images. The left image shows a woman at a laptop with the text "ROOTED IN DENTISTRY WEBINARS". The right image shows a hand writing on a notepad with the text "DIAGNOSTIC DISCUSSION COURSES". Below the images, it says "FREE COURSES FOR FDA MEMBER DENTISTS". At the bottom, it says "LEARN MORE AT FLORIDADENTAL.ORG/CE" and includes the Florida Dental Association logo.








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




The Florida Dental Association (FDA) is a state constituent of the American Dental Association (ADA), which represents dentists throughout the country.

-  @FloridaDentalAssociation
-  @fda_dental
-  @FDADental
-  @florida-dental-association
-  @floridadental



Stay informed with updates on the education and event offerings for the Florida Dental Convention. You'll also find details about other continuing education events hosted by the FDA, including webinars, Women Inspire and Navigate Dentistry (WIND) and more.

-  @floridadentalconvention
-  @florida_dental_convention
-  @FLDentalConvnt
-  @florida-dental-convention
-  @floridadentalconvention




Stay in the know with FDA Services about practice insurance resources, risk management tips and industry updates by following our page.

-  @FDAServicesInc
-  @fda_services
-  @FDAServicesInc
-  @fda-services-inc-





Florida Dental Chatter is a private Facebook group designed for dentists to interact with other members, receive the latest updates and information and engage with FDA leaders and staff.

-  @floridadentalchatter **PRIVATE**



The FDA Foundation is the philanthropic and charitable organization for dentistry. Bringing together volunteer dentists, donors and community partners to serve the underserved and uninsured in Florida.

-  @FloridaDentalAssociationFoundation
-  @florida_dental_foundation



GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

The FDA Governmental Affairs Office (GAO) Instagram account is for FDA members only and is used to promote legislative and political advocacy throughout the year.

-  @fda_gao **PRIVATE**

HELPING MEMBERS SUCCEED SINCE 1884

▶ CONNECT WITH THE TOP DENTAL VENDORS IN THE FDC2025 EXHIBIT HALL!

FDC2025, June 19-21, offers the perfect opportunity to explore the latest dental products and services and connect with more than 300 leading dental vendors all under one roof. The Exhibit Hall will give you access to a diverse range of products and services, including dental equipment, technology, software and more. Click [here](#) to view the list of exhibiting companies.

Access to the Exhibit Hall is included in FDA members' free FDC2025 registration. If your team is not looking for CE, they can take advantage of free "Exhibit Hall Passes" to gain access to the Exhibit Hall all three days of FDC. Take advantage of this offer beginning March 1 at floridadentalconvention.com.



▶ HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS URGED TO REVISIT OBLIGATIONS OF ACCESSIBLE HEALTH CARE

ADA[®]

By ADA News Olivia Anderson

DHHS issues guidance letter following nondiscrimination rule

The Department of Health and Human Services has published guidance to help health care providers comply with recent updates to federal regulations prohibiting discrimination in health care on the basis of disability.

The Office of Civil Rights issued a Dear Colleague letter to clarify how health care providers can accommodate disabled patients using telehealth services, self-serve kiosks, mobile applications, artificial intelligence and more. The guidance follows updates to two regulations governing the treatment of patients with disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Section 1557 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, both published last year.

The Dear Colleague letter clarifies that health care providers must notify patients with disabilities that auxiliary communication aids and services are available at no cost; ensure telehealth services are accessible to people with disabilities; provide alternate methods for people with disabilities where self-service kiosks are offered; ensure websites and mobile applications are readily accessible and usable by people with disabilities; and ensure medical diagnostic equipment is compliant with the U.S. Access Board's accessibility standards.

The guidance letter also emphasizes that covered providers must make reasonable efforts to mitigate the risk of discrimination where clinical algorithms, predictive analytics and other artificial intelligence tools are used.

The guidance letter does not address the nondisabilities portions of the civil rights regulations updated last year. Certain of those provisions are on hold pending the outcome of several lawsuits, such as challenges to the agency's interpretation of discrimination "on the basis of sex" to include sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics.



AWARDS LUNCHEON 2025

Dental Student Award

MR. CARTER BEDINGHAUS

Dental Team Member Award

MS. HIND RICHANI

Public Service Awards

DR. ZACK KALARICKAL

DR. MATTHEW RASMUSSEN

NSU COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE

New Dental Leader

DR. MONIQUE BELIN

Leadership Awards

DR. BERNIE KAHN

DR. ROBIN NGUYEN

Special Recognition

DR. TOM BROWN

Helping Members Succeed Team Impact Award

MS. TESSA POPE

President's Award

DR. JEFF OTTLEY

Dentist of the Year

DR. BETHANY DOUGLAS

J. Leon Schwartz Lifetime Service Award

DR. GERALD BIRD

JOIN IN THE RECOGNITION OF YOUR COLLEAGUES

Friday, June 20 | 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM • Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center, Orlando, FL

Individual tickets are \$55 or reserve a table of 10 for \$550.

Purchase tickets through your FDC registration or contact Lianne Bell
at lbell@floridadental.org or 850.681.3629 by **June 6**.

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1 Visit floridadental.org/books.



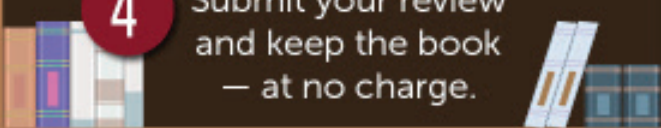
2 Select a textbook.



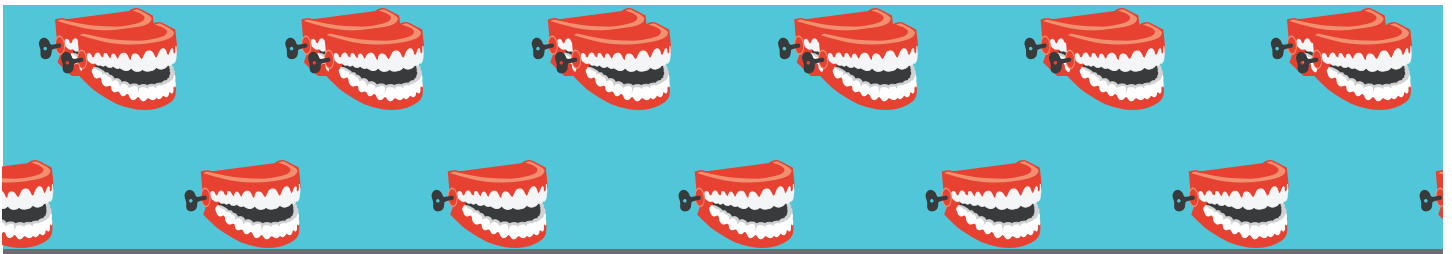
3 Your requested book is sent to you to read and review.



4 Submit your review and keep the book — at no charge.



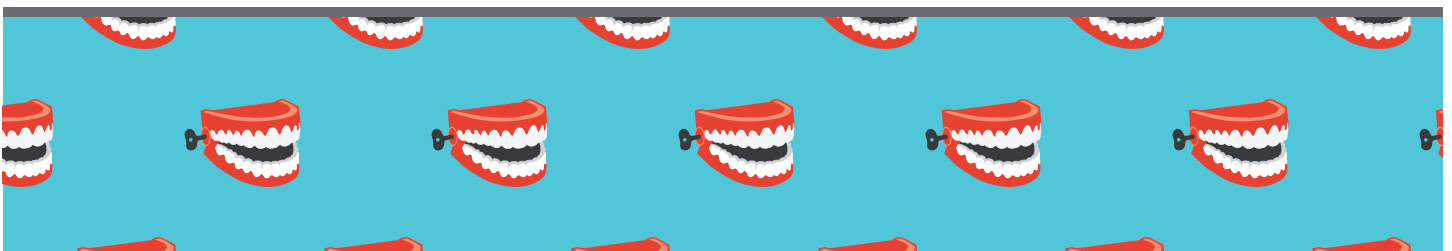
5 Add it to your own bookshelf!



FLORIDA DENTAL CHATTER

This Facebook group is designed for dentists to interact with other members, receive the latest updates and information, and engage with FDA leaders and staff. This is the place to be in the know!

Join us at facebook.com/groups/floridadentalchatter.





IS X-RAY VISION YOUR SUPERPOWER?



DEVELOP YOUR SUPERPOWERS WITH ONLINE DENTAL RADIOGRAPHY CERTIFICATION

Take the first step on the path to dental radiography certification. Train online, at your own pace. Study anywhere! The Florida Dental Association (FDA) Online Radiography Training Program provides you the formal training you need, with the professional development you want. Enrich your career path while contributing a vital service to your patients and dental team. It's the most convenient and economical way to get the radiography training required by Florida law. It's affordably priced, too — just \$285 per student* for FDA members!



*Non-members pay \$385.