

Bronx County Dental News



A PUBLICATION OF THE BRONX COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY

BCDS Welcomes New Residents to the Bronx

THIS PAST AUGUST, in conjunction with NYSDA, the Bronx County Dental Society welcomed the residents of our local teaching hospitals to the Bronx. The night to unwind, connect and celebrate the start of the new residency year was held at Maestro's Caterers on August 13. It was a great night, and it was only the beginning of the BCDS outreach to our new colleagues. All residents can join the ADA tripartite organization at no charge. The ADA and NYSDA are a great source of information for all residents on how to pursue their dental careers. Residents are welcome to all BCDS dinner meetings at no charge and we will host a Resident Job Fair in March of 2027.

Our longtime sponsor, MLMIC Insurance Company, has recently published a New Dentist Handbook on the MLMIC website. Written exclusively for MLMIC by Dr. Gregory Dodd, the handbook is designed for residents and new dentists and gives them practical, real-world advice and pro-tips to help them navigate the job search process. It identifies a range of key considerations that go well beyond things like salary and hours.

Here's the link to the handbook:
<https://www.mlmic.com/dentists/new-dentists/#dentisthandbook>

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Dr. Louisa Milo

Treating the Osteoporotic Patient: What You and Your Patient Need to Know that You Weren't Taught in Dental School

[Learn more](#)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

Dr. Julián Conejo

D.D.S. M.Sc.

The Digital Revolution: Predictable Clinical Implementation

[Learn more](#)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12

Dr. Rachelle Wolk

Oral Precancer and Cancer: Clinical Recognition and Early Intervention

[Learn more](#)



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Located in a charming, family-oriented community in the Bronx, this well-established dental practice has proudly served local residents for over 40 years, building an exceptional reputation and loyal patient base. The owner doctor is highly respected in the community and known for providing compassionate, high-quality care — reflected in the practice's outstanding patient reviews and long-standing relationships. The office operates with a warm, family-oriented culture, supported by a passionate and reliable team that has helped create a welcoming

environment for patients of all ages.

This modern, well-equipped practice features:

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Currently operating 4 days per week, the practice generates approximately \$644,000 in annual revenue on a fee-for-service basis, with many specialty procedures referred out — offering significant opportunity for growth for a buyer who wishes to keep more services in-house.

The office itself is a true oasis, situated on beautifully

maintained grounds with the rare advantage of private patient parking, making visits convenient and comfortable. The location is easily accessible by bus, train, and major expressways, providing excellent visibility and convenience for patients throughout the surrounding neighborhoods.

The selling doctor is committed to a smooth transition and is willing to remain involved for a period of time to introduce the new owner to patients and the community.

Contact:

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Kratom: What every dental professional should know

KRATOM USE IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY COMMON,

yet many patients may not consider it important enough to mention in a medical history. For dentists, understanding kratom's effects — and its potential implications for anesthesia, sedation, pain management, and oral health — is increasingly important. Over the past decade, kratom has steadily moved from obscure herbal shops into smoke shops, gas stations, convenience stores, wellness boutiques and countless online retailers.

What is kratom?

Kratom comes from a tropical tree native to Southeast Asia—*Mitragyna Speciosa*. It is widely available in the US in powders,

capsules, extracts, drinks, gummies and concentrated shots. The principal alkaloids in kratom are mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH). These compounds interact with opioid receptors. At lower doses, users may report increased energy, alertness or sociability. At higher doses kratom can produce opioid-like effects such as sedation, relaxation, nausea, constipation and respiratory depression.

The FDA has not approved kratom as a drug for any medical indication and warns consumers about serious adverse effects including liver toxicity, addiction and in some cases, respiratory depression and death.

Why should dentists care?

Kratom can affect several aspects of patient care:

- Sedation and central nervous system depression
- Interactions with other medications
- Response to opioids and other analgesics
- Liver toxicity
- Possible cardiovascular effects
- Dry mouth and its subsequent oral problems
- Patient behavior and ability to provide an accurate medical history

For dental professionals, kratom should be treated as a clinically relevant substance — not simply as a harmless herbal supplement. We should broaden our medical history discussion and pay more attention to supplements our patients might be taking. ■

NYSDA's Committee on Substance Use Disorder and Well-Being is here to support and assist you, your family or a colleague who may need help with substance abuse, addiction and related mental health issues. We are only a confidential phone call away. 1-800-255-2100 ext. 250 or jdonnelly@nysdental.org

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Twelfth Letter From The ADA Second District Trustee To The NYSDA Components

REGARDS TO MY FELLOW NEW YORK STATE DENTAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERS. This is my twelfth and final correspondence to you as your ADA Second District Trustee. First, I would like to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve. It has been a very rewarding and challenging experience. The American Dental Association, along with our constituent and component organizations, are the champions and voices of the dental profession. I would like to thank every one of you for contributing in your own way to our profession. It is something we should all be proud of for serving our patients in the best possible way we can.

As the summer comes toward its inevitable conclusion, your ADA is working on many things. The 2026 budget for the American Dental Association is projected to have a four-million-dollar deficit on a cash basis at the end of the year. This is a vast improvement from last year. The draft budget for 2027 is currently being planned, and the hope is to have a balanced budget or possibly a small surplus. As you know, the ADA is working hard to reduce expenses and increase non-dues revenue via a variety of avenues.

A comprehensive governance and organizational structure evaluation of the ADA has been under way since the spring of this year. The consultant company Vista Cova has completed the preliminary findings after finishing initial surveys and interviews. There will be a Town Hall in Indianapolis on Friday, October 9th at the ADA Annual Meeting to discuss this very subject. Everyone's input is welcome, but one must attend in person to contribute to this evaluation. The study concerns governance structure, management culture as well as financial and leadership

accountability. There is a governance organizational workgroup composed of ADA House of Delegates members, state leaders and ADA Board of Trustees assisting Vista Cova with interpreting the findings.



The ADA Board will review the findings early in 2027 and the full report with recommendations will come before the 2027 House of Delegates.

The Oral Health 2050 initiative, a strategic forward-looking effort to help navigate the next 25 years of our profession, has key panels beginning to discuss the most important issues of dentistry. The five areas include the payment model, patient wellness, provider wellness, the delivery model and artificial intelligence/technology in dentistry. Over 130 nominations have been secured to fill the panels and 170 inquiries have been received to assist with the panel discussions.

The ADA Health Policy Institute, a critical thought leader for knowledge concerning the US dental care system, reports dentists' confidence in their practice and the dental care sector have improved in the second quarter of 2026. Dental spending is up, although it lags overall health care spending. Employment growth is increasing but recruiting team members, particularly dental hygienists, continues to be difficult. 78% of graduating dental students have over \$312,000 in debt, which continues to affect their employment decisions after graduation. The three top challenges for early career dentists are finding the ideal job, adjusting to dental office life and finances. ■

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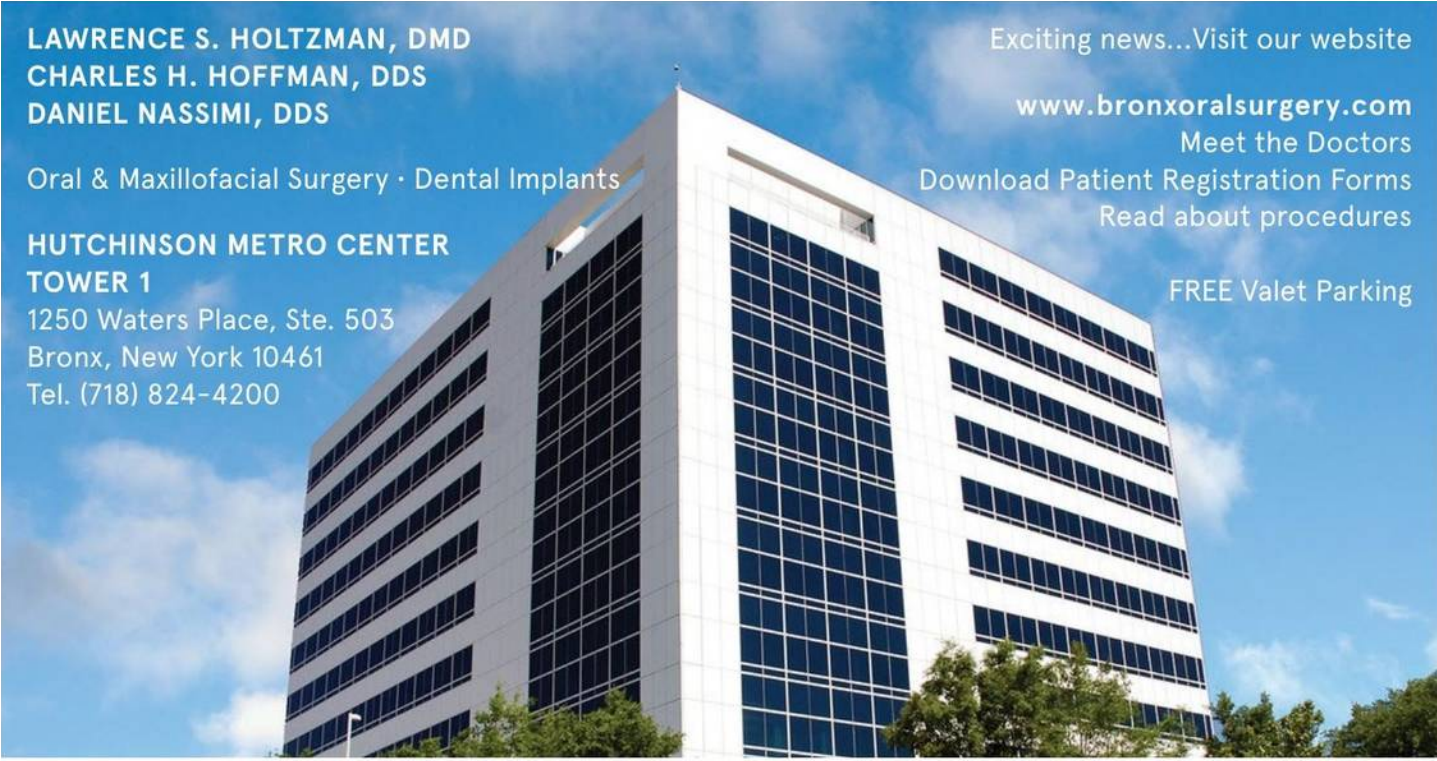
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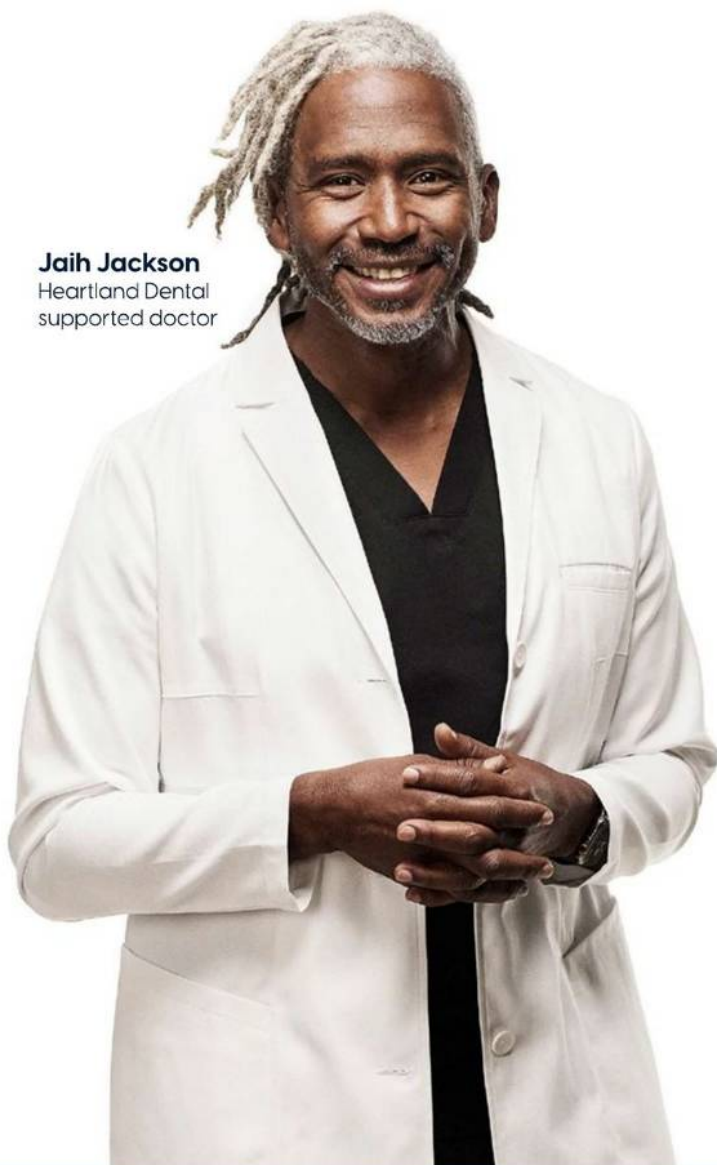
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See our website

www.bronxcountydentalsociety.org

THIS SITE IS DESIGNED TO BE A RESOURCE for member dentists as well as the public we serve. Take a few minutes to take a tour of the site. Some of the new features are:

- A Member Center full of resources for your practice. All information here is updated constantly by the ADA and NYSDA to keep you informed in real time.
- A Public Resource Center for the general public. The Find A Dentist feature enables patients to search for ADA member dentists by ZIP code and specialty.

Please give us feedback. This is your site and we have the ability to adapt it to better serve our members. ■

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A letter from the editor

I would like to take a moment of personal privilege to thank my daughter, Julie Ferguson, who will be stepping down as the designer of the Bronx County Dental News. Julie is responsible for creating a first class, beautiful newsletter for the past 10 years. Directors of other dental societies have reached out over the years to compliment the Bronx on our outstanding newsletter. Julie will be a bit too busy with her real job and her extremely cute new baby, Henry Beau Ferguson.

In an act of shameless nepotism, my eldest daughter Dayna will be taking over as our designer. Thanks to Dayna for agreeing to help me out and keep this newsletter going-in style.



Dr. Louisa Milo

Treating the Osteoporotic Patient: What You and Your Patient Need to Know that You Weren't Taught in Dental School

Tuesday, September 29, 2026 | 6:00pm

Maestro's Caterers 1703 Bronxdale Avenue, Bronx, New York 10462

Buffet Dinner at 6pm Lecture at 7pm

\$35 for BCDS members | \$75 for non-members | Free for residents of Bronx Hospital programs

This lecture will provide updated information and valuable resources for you to employ immediately in your interactions with osteoporotic patients.

1. Identifying at-risk patients and the proposition for earlier screening/detection.
2. Review of current medication protocols and the rising interest in alternative options through lifestyle/functional medicine.

3. Pre-operative patient optimization and risk assessment.

4. Medicolegal considerations of treating osteoporotic and osteopenic patients with urgent/emergent needs.

5. Bone health and osteoporosis resources, preventive strategies, and ongoing clinical trials.

Dr. Louisa Milo

Dr. Louisa Milo is a licensed retired dentist, certified fitness trainer, and national speaker committed to reducing frailty through skeletal muscle and bone health advocacy, education and one-to-one training. Dr. Milo guest lectures at U Penn and is a preceptor for Touro's Interprofessional Ethics Conference each spring. A former owner and operations director of a multi-location OMS practice, she survived breast cancer in her early thirties and reversed her osteoporosis diagnosis in eight months through evidence-based strength training and lifestyle intervention.



TO REGISTER FOR THIS DINNER LECTURE, EMAIL JOY PATANE AT BRONXDENTAL@OPTONLINE.NET

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Dr. Julián Conejo D.D.S. M.Sc.

The Digital Revolution: Predictable Clinical Implementation

This lecture is sponsored by Kuraray Noritake Dental

Tuesday, October 27, 2026 | 6:00pm

Maestro's Caterers 1703 Bronxdale Avenue, Bronx, New York 10462

Buffet Dinner and Open Bar at 6pm Lecture at 7pm

\$35 for BCDS members | \$75 for non-members | Free for residents of Bronx Hospital programs

This lecture focuses on highly esthetic tooth and implant-supported restorations through implementation of digital technologies. A detailed update on the latest materials, workflows and techniques will be presented.

- Update participants in new methods to elaborate long-term provisional restorations and their respective polishing protocols for optimal esthetics and soft tissue response.
- Review step-by-step clinical protocols for tooth preparations and bonding optimization of full-ceramic CAD/CAM restorations with evidence-based concepts.

- Treatment time optimization and better clinical outcomes are possible with digital tools from the diagnostic phase through facially driven mock-ups and 3D printing alternatives.

Dr. Julián Conejo D.D.S. M.Sc.

Dr. Conejo is the Clinical CAD/CAM Director at the Department of Preventive and Restorative Sciences, University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine, Philadelphia, PA, USA. He conducts research and has multiple publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals on CAD/CAM technology, prosthodontics and implant dentistry. Dr. Conejo has been the recipient of several awards in his field, to include the ICP Research Fellowship in Dental Restorative Materials in 2016 and has lectured in over 35 countries.



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Dr. Rachelle Wolk

Oral Precancer and Cancer: Clinical Recognition and Early Intervention

Tuesday, January 12, 2027 | 6:00pm

Maestro's Caterers 1703 Bronxdale Avenue, Bronx
NY 10462

Oral potentially malignant disorders (OPMDs) are clinically defined mucosal conditions carrying a variable risk of progression to oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC). This lecture covers the recognition of the principal OPMDs, the role of epithelial dysplasia in stratifying that risk, and features of OSCC. We will also review how to perform a thorough head and neck examination, the most effective means of detecting these lesions early and interrupting progression to invasive cancer.

- Define oral potentially malignant disorders and recognize their principal clinical presentations, including leukoplakia, erythroplakia, and erythroleukoplakia.

Buffet Dinner at 6pm Lecture at 7pm

\$35 for BCDS members

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- Explain the concept of oral epithelial dysplasia and its grading and describe how dysplasia grade stratifies the risk of malignant transformation.
- Describe the clinical and histopathological features of oral squamous cell carcinoma and explain why early detection is critical to improving patient outcomes.
- Perform a thorough and systematic head and neck examination for the detection of high-risk oral lesions.
- Apply this knowledge to a series of illustrative clinical cases demonstrating the appearance of these lesions across different oral sites.

Dr. Rachelle Wolk

Dr. Wolk is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology at New York University College of Dentistry, where she teaches oral and maxillofacial pathology and oral medicine, practices oral medicine clinically, and provides microscopic biopsy diagnoses in the Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology diagnostics laboratory. She is also an Adjunct Instructor in the Department of Pathology at NYU Grossman School of Medicine, diagnosing head and neck pathology cases microscopically. A Fellow of the AAOMP and a Diplomate of the ABOMP, she completed a fellowship in Head and Neck Pathology at the University of Chicago and and serves on the editorial board of Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine, Oral Pathology and Oral Radiology and as Co-Editor of Head and Neck Pathology. She also maintains a private practice at the NYU Faculty Practice focused on the diagnosis, treatment, and management of oral diseases.



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