Bronx County Dental News

A PUBLICATION OF THE BRONX COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY

The ADA – What's in it For Me?

I RECENTLY WAS TALKING TO a dental resident at one of our dinner/lectures. He asked me why he should join the ADA. I gave him my standard elevator speech but realized that there were more reasons than I could say in 30 seconds. I reached out to Kasey Bennet, Director of Marketing and Communications for the New York State Dental Association and asked her to help me put together a Top 10 list of reasons why every new dentist should join the ADA, NYSDA and their Local Dental Society. Here is Kasey's list - drum roll please.

1. Your License Needs a Bodyguard — That's Us.
While you're focused on patient care, we're in Albany and D.C. fighting for your ability to practice. Scope-of-practice threats, insurance overreach, fee schedules, dental therapists — we're the ones in the room protecting your profession.

2. You Get a Seat at the Table.
Policy decisions will shape the rest of your career — with or without your input. Membership ensures your voice is part of the conversation, not an afterthought.

3. Early Career = Early Mistakes. We Help You Avoid the Expensive Ones.
From contract reviews to student loan guidance, practice transition resources, and career planning tools, we give you the support residents tell us they wish they had sooner.

4. You're About to Start Paying Malpractice, Disability, and Loans. Members Pay Less.
Through ADA-vetted partners, new dentists receive lower rates on malpractice, disability insurance, refinancing, and more. Many members save more than the cost of dues.

5. Real-World Career & Practice Support You Won't Get in Residency.
Negotiating your first job? Deciding between private practice and a DSO? Navigating workplace issues? NYSDA provides expert, unbiased guidance for the major decisions you'll face early on.

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THURSDAY MARCH 19 | 6PM

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Bronx, New York 10462

6. A Community That Actually Gets What You're Going Through.
Your local dental society connects you with peers, mentors, job leads, referral networks, volunteer opportunities, and leadership experience — support you simply can't find on social media.

7. CE Tracking That's Actually Useful.
New York CE requirements are confusing. NYSDA's CE Navigator tool keeps every credit organized in one place and automatically reminds you of what you still need — no scrambling at renewal time.

8. Protection From the Regulatory Surprises You Don't See Coming.
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9. Evidence-Based Clinical Resources You Can Trust.
Members receive access to ADA.org's clinical practice guidelines, product insights, and JADA — plus local clinical content through the NYS Dental Journal, written for New York dentists by New York dentists.

10. Dentistry Is Changing Fast — Don't Navigate It Alone.
Corporate models, insurance changes, workforce challenges, AI, legislation... The profession is shifting quickly. Your membership gives you stability, advocacy, and support so you can focus on the part you love: dentistry.

As we approach the end of 2025, it's the perfect time to join NYSDA or renew your membership. Go to nysdental.org for information on how to become a member. ■

Dr. Don Safferstein was proud to receive the Hertz-Bildner Distinguished Service Award. Pictured in his Maestro's throne with "The Ladies"

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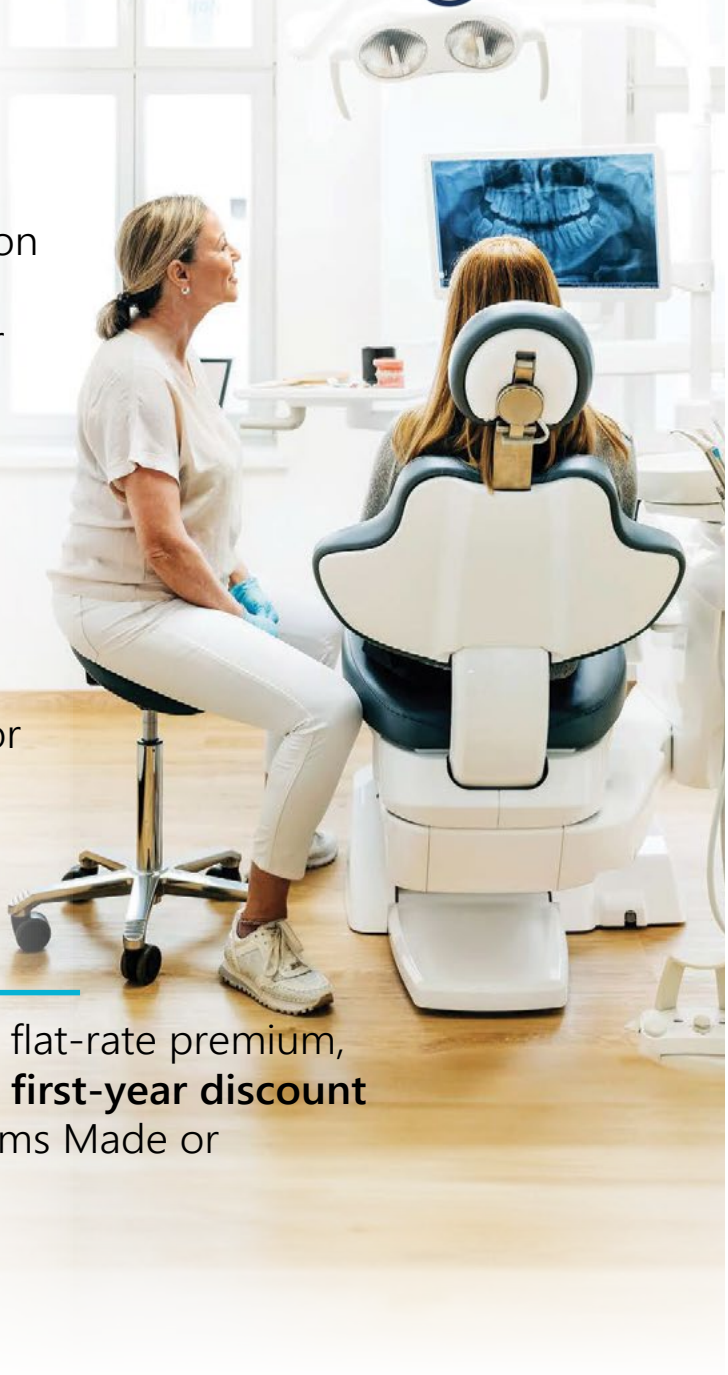

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Who Knew?

Why is our Borough Called "The Bronx"?

I UNDERSTAND THAT SOME OF OUR LOYAL readers have been clamoring for a new edition of Who Knew. Your wish is granted. Many of us are aware that our home borough is named after a Swedish settler named Jonas Bronck. But why is the definite article "the" used? The definite article is used because the borough is actually named for the Bronx River, similar to how one might refer to "the Rhine"or "the Mississippi". The present named borough was officially established in 1898 when NYC acquired the land from Westchester County and it was named for the river that flows through its center.

Tell me more about Jonas Bronck, you ask. Jonas along with his wife, Teuntjie, and a boatload of voyagers traveled to the new world in 1639 and settled on a 500 acre stretch of land across the river from the village of Haarlem. The land was controlled by the Dutch colony of New Netherland who had a tenuous relationship with the local Lenape Indians. Spread out through what is the modern neighborhood of Motts Haven, Bronck and the other settlers grew tobacco and traded with the local Indians, keeping the peace through exchange of goods. Keeping the peace was difficult and Jonas along with most of the settlers were killed in an Indian raid in 1643.

The river that runs through the borough and bordered Jonas's original farm was called Aquahung by the natives. The European settler named it Bronck's River. The ck was eventual changed to an "x". If only they had kept the original name, we would call ourselves the Aquahung Dental Society. Who Knew? ■

Jonas Bronck

Historical map

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Dental Residency: Bridging the Gap Between Professing and Practice. A Simple Guide to Risk Management and Protecting Your Future.

By: Kevin Henner, D.M.D, F.A.C.D., F.I.C.D.

BEGINNING YOUR RESIDENCY and career in the profession of dentistry is a wonderful rite of passage into the world of patient and clinical care. However, there are some basic principles and guidelines that will help you avoid the most common mistakes and liabilities that are inherent in the practice of dentistry. Being knowledgeable and aware of these standards of care and best practices will likely provide the framework for a wonderful, successful career.

In the realm of organized dentistry, as oral healthcare providers, we are subject to rules, regulations, and requirements that govern the way we practice dentistry. Consideration of federal, state and local law, with specifics related to practicing in New York State in addition to a Code of Ethics, both nationally and in New York State, provides the framework for patient safety and high-quality care. In other words, utilizing these best practices allows for minimal risk and the best outcome for the patients and public we serve. Hence, welcome to the world of risk management, which includes but is not limited to:

- Patient confidentiality
- Sterilization and infection control
- Records, record keeping and documentation
- Understanding billing, insurance and handling financial disputes appropriately
- Informed consent and patient involvement
- Effective and appropriate patient communication
- Adhering to ethical standards
- Understanding legal responsibilities
- Dentist and auxiliary staff training
- Emergency preparedness and protocol
- Radiation safety guidelines and recommendations
- Quality assurance and quality control.

As residents entering the prime of your professional careers, the guidelines of risk management and the Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct provide the daily playbook for sitting chairside, providing care to the patients and public we serve. However, there are several additional suggestions that will help to ensure a smooth career experience in the practice of dentistry that directly correlate with your risk management and ethics skillset. Again, included but not limited to:

- Keeping current with continuing education, current techniques and advancements,
- developing good communication skills with patients and colleagues and your dental staff team,
- focusing on strong relationships with colleagues, staff and referral sources,
- determining and implementing a healthy work/life balance, which includes prioritizing patient care and your time management skills,
- taking care of yourself and focusing on your own health and well-being,
- keeping current with Federal, State and Local laws.

Finally, and possibly one of the most important aspects of your journey in dentistry, is that experience truly is one of your greatest assets and it helps you navigate the various challenges and opportunities that come your way, making your career

not only more effective but also more fulfilling as well. Therefore, I would strongly recommend that you find a seasoned mentor or mentors to help you negotiate the wonderful road ahead in the practice of dentistry. Experience is just that, and it accounts for so many of the issues, dilemmas and solutions you will find along the way in your professional career. The knowledge of `been there, done that,' from a seasoned mentor, is much more efficient and accurate than trying to recreate the wheel by yourself. Additionally, it is important to note the incredible safety net mentors can provide along that journey until, of course, you become that mentor, more competent and skilled, which ultimately leads to a more successful and rewarding career.

MLMIC policyholders can reach out to our healthcare attorneys for questions regarding risk management and/or healthcare law inquiries by calling (877) 426-9555 Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. or by email here.

Our 24/7 hotline is also available for urgent matters after hours at (877) 426-9555 or by emailing hotline@tmglawny.com.

Follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram or Twitter to stay in the loop about the medical professional liability industry.

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Sources can be found here. ■

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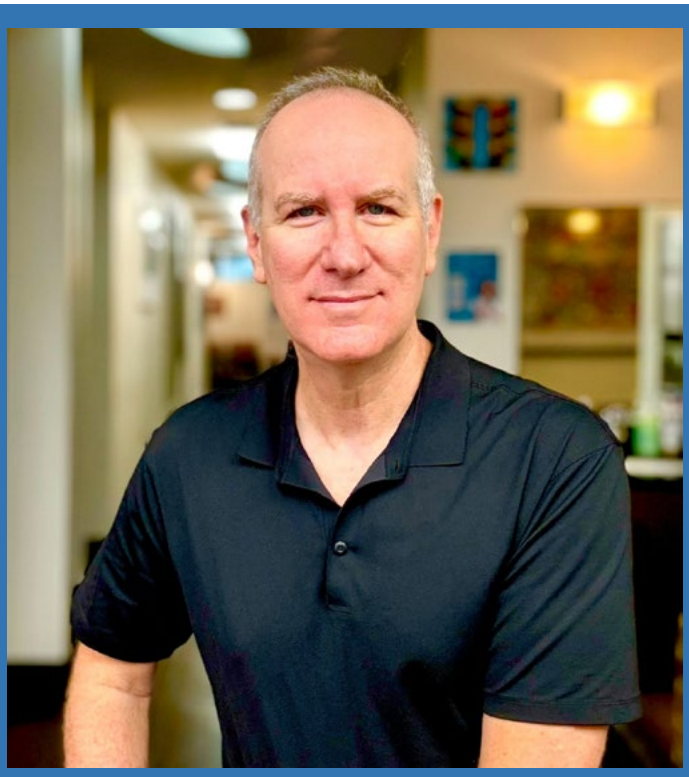

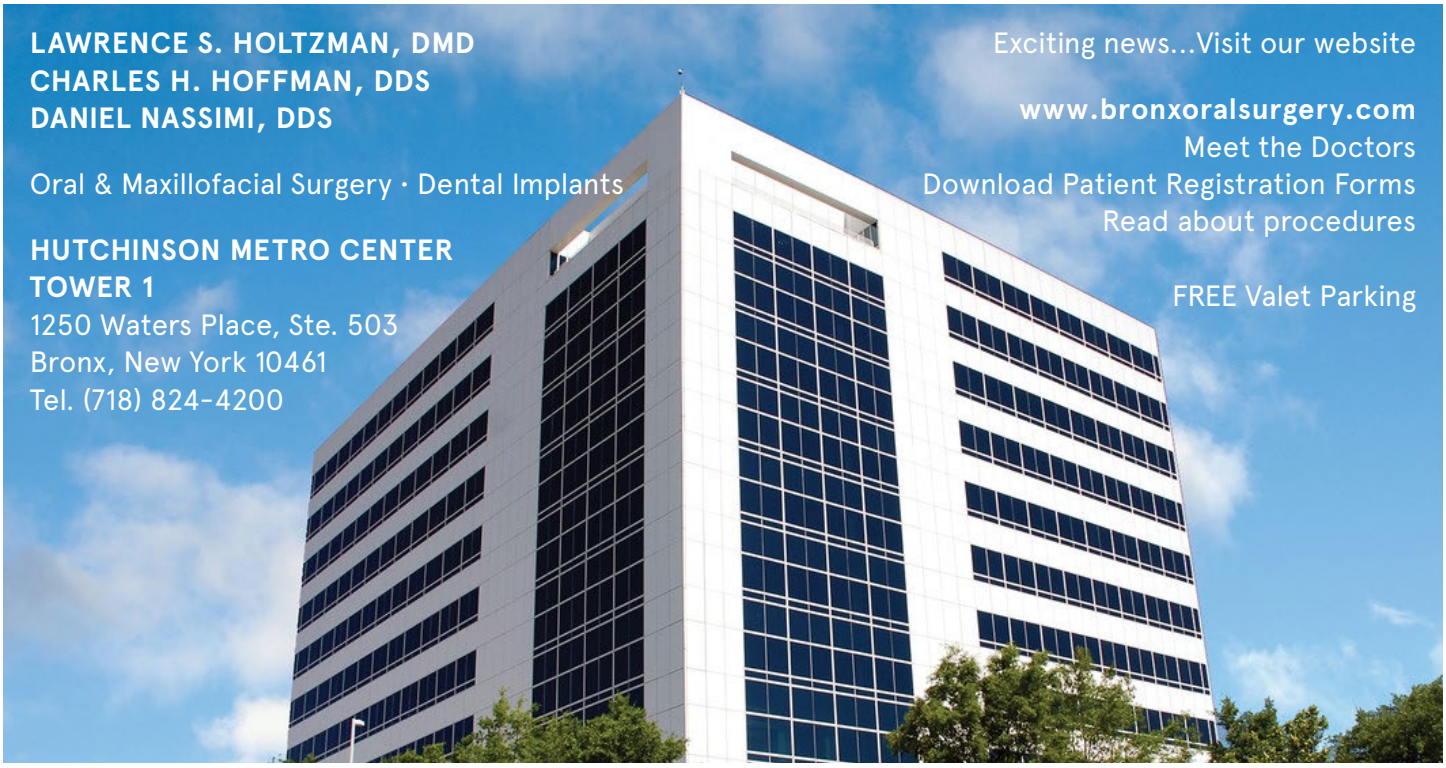

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Tenth Letter from the ADA Second District Trustee to the NYSDA Components

Trustee's Corner

HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO MY FELLOW NEW YORK State colleagues. My best to you and your families for a safe and Happy Holiday season and a wonderful New Year. At the time of writing for this Trustee's Corner, I am just beginning my fourth and last year as your trustee of the second district. As I have mentioned before, it has been a labor of love, and I have completely enjoyed representing New York at the national level. It should be an exciting and interesting year for the American Dental Association and our profession.

The ADA House of Delegates completed its deliberations at the end of October. Many difficult decisions were made, including an annual dues increase of $57 dollars from $570 dollars to $627. It was a tough process, but the House felt this would help the ADA with the operating budget deficit. The ADA Board of Trustees will have already met in late November to discuss this issue and others by the time you read this article. The House of Delegates also decided to sunset the Strategic Forecasting Committee, which had only been in existence for two years.

I would like to take a moment of personal privilege and thank the ADA second district of New York delegates and alternate delegates for their careful deliberations and thoughtful consensus building on the important decisions made at the ADA House of Delegates. It was impressive to see the personal voices and opinions on all the resolutions which each New York representative worked on. We are a delegation that encourages open debate and personal choices. Our delegation takes pride in having strong voices and opinions which can be shared and expanded upon during any time in our deliberations. As always, we vote individually and with our conscience. This means we work together as a group and vote what we each think is best for the ADA. The trust factor is critically important when we rely on each other to complete the business of the House of Delegates.

I would like to share some good news about our account management system, Fonteva. It has proceeded much more effectively than the failed attempt from last year. The renewals and new member applications for 2026 have gone very well thus far, including New York. Couple that with the events manager scheduling working well in the states and components that use this function and we have a much-improved picture compared to the end of 2024 and the beginning of 2025. With the success of the AMS system, it will be time this coming spring to begin to implement Salesforce, which is the customer relation management (CRM) portion of our system. This is the first in class CRM that is used by many Fortune 500 companies and many other international companies. The ADA looks forward to providing personalized, detailed communication and interaction with our members that is specific for individual members interest and professional needs.

The 2025 ADA House of Delegates voted to continue to support the ADA's membership in the Federation Dentaire Internationale (FDI). As a fourth-year member of this delegation, I personally feel this is a critical portion of ADA international leadership. The rest of the world looks to the ADA on policy, innovation and evidence-based science. It is our connection to the World Health Organization and theUnited Nations General Assembly. Improved communication on this issue needs to happen with our members and constituent leaders. Expect to see more

correspondence and updates on this very important relationship in the coming year. An annual report will also be given to the House of Delegates next fall in Indianapolis.

The ADA Executive Director Search Committee has met several times since the summer and has acquired Russell Reynolds Associates, an executive search and leadership advisory firm, to assist us in this critical matter. As incoming chairman of the ADA Compensation Committee, I was recently added to the Search Committee by ADA president Rich Rosato. An updated timeline has been completed with initial virtual interviews for prospective candidates coming in the very near future. After that, final interviews will be done in person in Chicago. The hope is to have an agreement and contract with a new Executive Director sometime in the spring.

Thank you for everything you do as a member, as a leader in your local component, as a contributor to the New York State Dental Association and/or your assistance with the ADA itself. I deeply appreciate your involvement, leadership and ideas to make our profession and tripartite organization the best it can be. As always, I can be reached via email at dowdb@ada.org or on my cell phone at 716-510-3217.

With gratitude,
Brendan Dowd DDS
ADA Trustee, Second District ■

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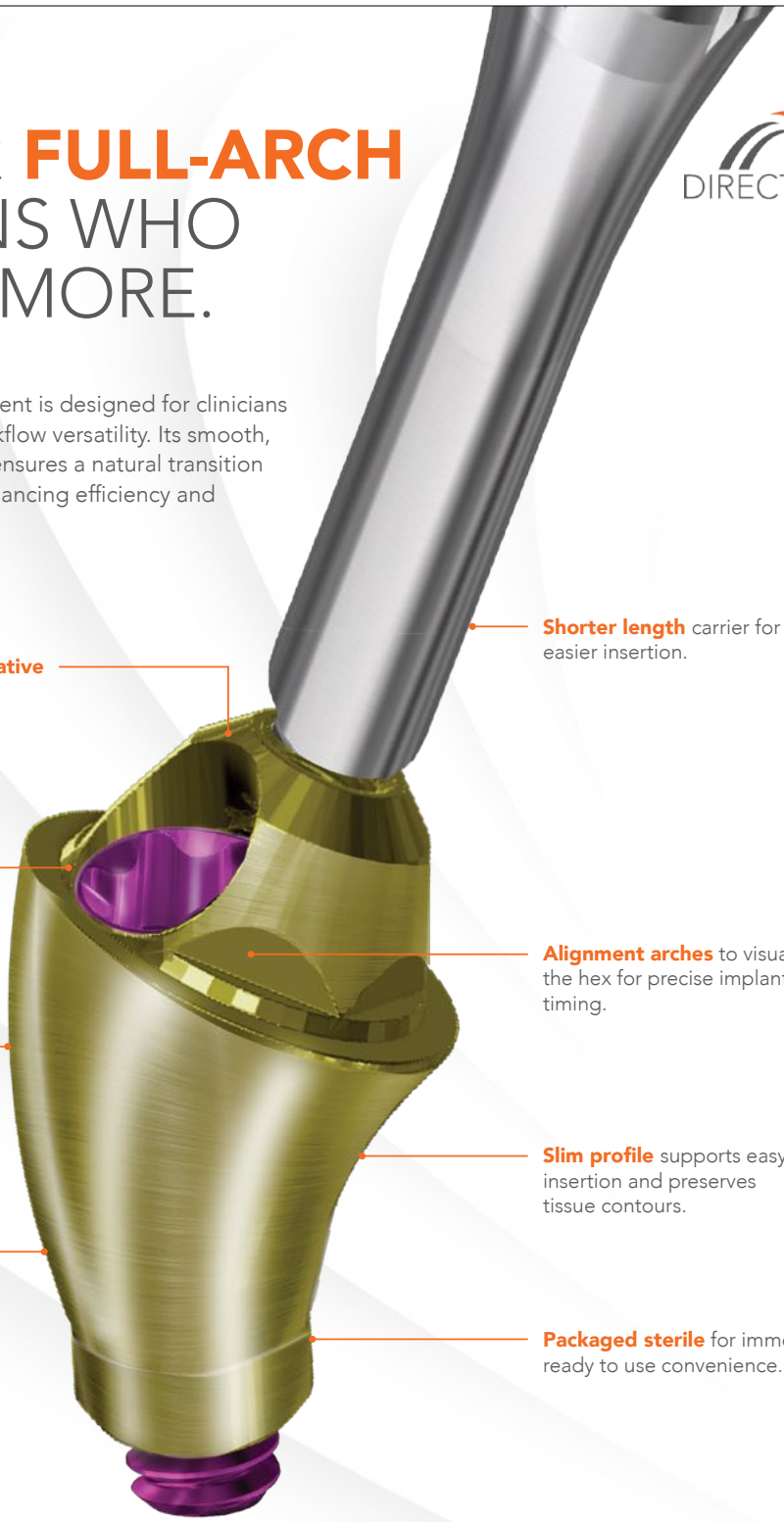

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www.bronxcountydentalsociety.org

THE 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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This lecture is free for all attendees

Dr All Gizerskaya is a Bronx Community Dentist for over 20 years

Dr. Megan Cloidt

Safe, Effective, Essential: Evidence-Based Dental Care in Pregnancy

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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

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Dr. Megan Cloidt

Dr. Megan Cloidt is a dentist, public health researcher and Assistant Director of Community Dentistry at NYC Health + Hospitals/Jacobi and North Central Bronx. She is board-certified in Dental Public Health and holds advanced training in epidemiology and clinical research. Her work focuses on improving maternal and intergenerational oral health, engaging dental providers in cancer prevention and advancing health equity in safety-net settings.

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