

The PINNACLE



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2021 New Diplomates

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American Board of Endodontics
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President's Message



April 2021

It has been a privilege to serve as your President through these unprecedented times, we together faced challenges with positivity, dedication and kindness. The TEAM collaboration has only firmed my belief in this organization's principles and foundation. It exceeded all expectations in organizing the COD's 11th Annual Board Review virtual course and our virtual mock oral examinations for our aspiring candidates.

It is a matter of pride that the College of Diplomates Organization has traversed a remarkable journey of growth since its founding year to now its silver jubilee milestone of 25 years! Our diversity characterizes our attribute, further enriching our global community, and opening new dimensions for growth. In upholding the organization's mission, each predecessor paved the path for the next

successor. I am honored and humbled to be a part of the 25th year milestone of the College of Diplomates and in keeping the momentum of this journey to ensure that obligations are fulfilled, and COD's events' cycle maintained, our organization this year was able to achieve the following goals:

1. Merger with the AAE website officially as a branch of our parent organization.
2. We have changed our official COD Logo with the participation of our members.
3. Launched our new Virtual platform for the Board Review Course.
4. Established the foundation for virtual mock oral exams for our candidates successfully.
5. Signing up of more Mentors to give back to those on the road to board certification.
6. 'Share a story' series for the Pinnacle newsletter.
7. Updated our website to allow for easier navigation.
8. Improving member interaction within our organization.
9. Annual contribution to the AAE Foundation.
10. College of Diplomates video, Celebrating 25 years.

The 11th Annual Board Review Course of the College Of Diplomates set a strategic direction with the launching of its first virtual event, which proved to be a tremendous

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President's Message *continued from page 1*

success. The event unfolded an important series of excellent presentations, centered over an Evidence based model in clinical care by well-established, elite, and recognized professionals in our field on pertinent topics in endodontics. With close to 300 participants, the highest attendance, the event far exceeded in attracting a huge gathering of participants. The event covered a wide range of topics from Endodontic treatment outcomes, Endodontic Surgery, Oral Pathology, Regenerative Endodontics, Trauma and Resorption, Evidence-Based Literature—A Clinical Journey, Mechanisms and Management of Endodontic Pain, Management of medically complex patients etc., leading to fruitful discussions and dialogues relevant to endodontics, and critical to board preparation for our community.

As a mentoring body, our drive and mission is to ensure that our qualified candidates receive the preparatory guidance and feedback as they work towards crossing the board certification bridge. The 11th Annual Board Review course merged with our virtual Mock Oral Examinations, its purpose was to simulate and provide vital exposure to the important preparation needed for the American Board of Endodontics examination. The planning phase involved various iterations, but then the final rollout proved rewarding, where twenty-four candidates availed the opportunity to challenge the mock oral simulations. Two parallel sessions were hosted with 12 examiners who worked with dedication in providing expertise and guidance to the candidate's road to board certification. Each session had an inbuilt real time critical feedback that proved to be invaluable to our candidates. A new framework to support digital transformation in endontic education is now baselined for the future; we look forward to further expanding our sessions and adding even more examiners for 2022.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude! to all our phenomenal speakers, mentors and examiners for rendering their expertise, dedication and support in facilitating each candidate's journey towards board certification. The organization

of our events would not be possible without the support of our wonderful sponsors! I would like to thank our members for their continued support and our executive secretary, Aimee Rylko, for her steadfast approach through the organization of the events.

With the ever growing demand and need, the College of Diplomates is happy to share that we will be holding our mock simulation exam two times a year! The mock oral exams are scheduled a minimum of a month prior to the American Board Examination to provide candidates time to reflect on the necessary feedback provided by our examiners/mentors. The second mock orals simulation exam will be held in September. Please reach out to Aimee Rylko at info@collegeofdiplomates.org to sign up. More details will be shared in due course in the summer.

With the upcoming American Association of Endodontics meeting being in a virtual platform, it has not dampened our spirits. The College of Diplomates eagerly looks forward to welcoming our New Diplomates into our organization and extend our warm welcome with a hearty congratulations for achieving a distinct milestone in your

Our membership has grown in just the past 4 years, to over 1500!
A wonderful testament of our profession to the dedication of a united goal, and a promise to our specialty to be board-certified.

profession. We look forward to celebrating in person with you in 2022! The College of Diplomates plays a vital role in our profession, I hope that this year each member will find a way to serve the organization that serves you.

As I transit to immediate past president, on a personal note, I would like to thank the College of Diplomates Organization and our Board of Directors for the opportunity to serve as your Director, Chair of Mentoring for the past 8 years, and now President. It has been a remarkable journey highlighted by great friendships, embarking on new ones, mentorships, camaraderie, and the rewards of fulfilment and growth of our mission. I look forward to continuing my contributions to the organization's further growth and seeing you all at the upcoming events.



Priya S. Chand, MSD
 President, College of Diplomates



Mentoring Update



As our new Chairman of Mentoring, I have two main goals in support of the COD's mission. First and foremost is encouraging and mentoring candidates who are pursuing board certification. Secondly, to continue to build upon and retain a cadre of diplomates whose primary mission

is to "pay it forward" and strengthen the College's support of the American Board of Endodontics.

Over the last several years, our candidate submissions steadily increased. In efforts to upgrade our mentoring experience, under our past mentor chair's guidance, the COD implemented a pilot of onsite "Mock Oral Exams" during the 2018 Summer Conference in Washington, DC. In order to simulate the true exam, six examiners were positioned for candidates to rotate through three different case scenarios. The difference was that onsite critique followed each scenario to provide candidates an honest perspective of areas for improvement. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, so the COD adapted and incorporated the same model into the Board Review Course at Chapel Hill, NC in February, 2019. Once again, the feedback stated this was an extremely valuable addition to the course. We had similar success at the 2020 BRC in Baltimore, MD, where we were able to increase the number of candidates to eight.

"All of the examiners were very helpful and did a wonderful job of being critical, yet encouraging".

"The mock oral exam was a great experience. It helped me understand where I needed to focus my studies on".



More recently, due the COVID pandemic, the COD had to shift to a virtual platform for our 2021 BRC. This setting provided us a unique opportunity to expand the mock oral exam model. We doubled our number of examiners and held exams on two days instead of only one. We were able to provide the same examination format in virtual rooms for 24 candidates! We tripled the number of candidates from the prior year.

This past year has been slowed by the onset and persistence of the COVID-19 pandemic, therefore we experienced an overall decrease in the number of submissions for mentoring during 2020. Now that the ABE has reinstated the Oral Exam schedule, we expect our numbers to climb. We will not get complacent with our mentoring. We will continue to adapt and offer

our resources at each and every venue we have the opportunity to do so. We continue to search for new mentors to join our team as we guide candidates through their journey of board certification. We believe you will be fulfilled by volunteering your time to our community. Currently, much of our need is on the west coast .

At present, our mentors are both educators and private practitioners.

Anyone can benefit from mentoring, as it provides one an opportunity to stay connected or brush up on the literature while guiding the candidate. Nobody is alone, we have several seasoned mentors available to offer guidance if needed. If you know of someone who would fit our mission, please encourage them to reach out. He/she can apply to be an examiner (cases or mock orals or mock oral prep) by contacting Aimee Rylko at info@collegeofdiplomates.org or Dr. John J. Neal at endoddoc34@gmail.com.

By John "Jeff" Neal, DDS, MS

Chair of Mentoring, College of Diplomates



This Year the Challenge Was Broader

It included making the program safe from a world pandemic. Dr. Priya Chand, this year's President, along with her Board of Directors, had to develop and navigate an entirely new virtual course. The schedule covered two weekends. Enrollment was seamless and user-friendly. It set the stage for what was to come. The interphase between participants and lecturers was interactive and felt welcoming. Handouts were readily available; questions were texted and promptly answered. Interactions and chats were available between participants. The broad

list of topics covered everyone's needs. Experts in their field delivered lectures in a professional, supportive learning style that captivated all. Mock Oral Board examinations gave participants a first-hand opportunity to experience the oral exam. The Annual COD Board Review Course was well-organized and stimulating.

Dr. Randolph Todd

Diplomate of the COD, Past President, College of Diplomates



College of Diplomates Board of Directors



Gerald Glickman



Andrea Lisell



Angela Noguera



Geno Salazar



Colleen Shull

Board Members also include Priya Chand, Kenneth Frick, and John "Jeff" Neal.

College of Diplomates Treasurer's Report



Spring, 2021

The financial footing of the College is strong. Earnings through membership fees and registration fees for events continue to allow us to provide world class continuing education for members and mock oral and case review activities for targeted mentees.

Our bank balance as of March 1st was nearly \$140,000.00 and will fluctuate as

activities occur. Profits for our first ever Virtual Board Review Course were approximately \$17,000.00, which will allow us to fund our first promotional video, highlighting our unique mission and 25th anniversary year as an organization. Please remember to pay your dues when you receive your email notice, and please pay online if possible, as processing physical checks is time consuming for our staff of one! It has been an honor serving as your treasurer these past three years!

Thank you for supporting your College of Diplomates of the ABE!

Kenneth J. Frick, DDS, MS,

Treasurer, College of Diplomates



SHARE YOUR STORY SERIES

Best Laid Plans

I am a 54 year old board-certified endodontist and I am the eldest daughter of a blended family. Just prior to entering Endodontic residency in 2004, the primary breadwinner in our family passed away. I assumed a great deal of responsibility for my family. I am a planner. Currently, I live in Colorado and work as an associate in an Endodontic practice. How I came to be in Colorado is a COVID story.

In January 2020, I had positioned myself as an independent contractor working part-time in corporate dental offices. A transitional job after selling my practice, one of these offices would provide supplemental income when I became a full-time educator at the dental school where I volunteered my time (or, so I planned). I had no debt, fewer financial responsibilities to my family and was ready for a career transition. One of the last details in the execution of my plan: An elective surgery to treat a movement disorder that was interfering with my ability practice.

I inherited a hand tremor from my father. My tremor was so mild it went undetected until dental school. An astute professor recognized it one day in lab and recommended I see a neurologist. I was diagnosed with a progressive essential tremor. Primarily of the left hand, but also affecting the right. I was relieved to discover it was not my fault and a treatable medical condition. For years propranolol worked well controlling the tremor—my hands were smooth as silk. The quality of my work never suffered. However, over the years the medication was losing its effectiveness. The mental efforts required to compensate for the tremor were leading to exhaustion and burnout. I opted to undergo an elective surgical procedure that would allow me to continue a part-time practice and enhance my ability to teach: CereTom-Assisted, Deep Brain Stimulation.

In March of 2020, my plan for a more balanced and rewarding professional life imploded at the uncontrolled intersection of COVID, an elective surgery, a pandemic unfriendly business arrangement and an attempted career transition. A contagion of events left me without a job and without prospects.



My surgery was postponed and my opportunity at the dental school disappeared. My emergency fund being depleted, I urgently made plans to return to the safety of Endodontic practice. I posted my CV on the AAE website and toggled “willing to relocate.”

It took six months before I secured a position and was able to start working full-time again. I had several offers in desirable locations, but ultimately, the best fit was a multi-office Endodontic practice in Colorado. The owner-doctor is a fellow diplomate and went through the board certification process at the same time as me. This doctor has an enthusiasm for high quality patient care and customer service. I am enjoying the personal accountability working with another board-certified Endodontist fosters. Although I mourned the loss off of a dream, I am grateful to have the opportunity to practice at such a high level again, and I am thrilled with the outcomes of surgery. One day, I hope to have another opportunity to become an educator.

In the meantime, I am enjoying all that the Colorado Rockies have to offer. I have joined an active hiking club and I am making new friends. I am scheduling delayed, preventative medical screenings, and making long overdue plans to visit family and friends. I am building back up my emergency fund, and trying not to plan too much more beyond that!

Thank you Priya for this opportunity. It has been a great catharsis.

Kristy Marker DDS, MS

Diplomate American Board of Endodontics





COD Summer Conference

Meeting has been postponed until 2022.

*Save the date to join us
as we Celebrate 25 years!*

August 11-14, 2022

Spruce Peak Lodge, Stowe, Vermont

CE courses presented by:

Dr. Bruno Azevedo, Dr. Anil Kishen,
Dr. Charles Maupin, Dr. Craig Schneider,
and Dr. Colleen Shull.

Registration to Open in July 2021



Congratulations 2021 Diplomates

Shira Ackerman	Zameera Fida	Benjamin Porras
Navid Akbarzadeh	Rhett Finley	Lisa Poweski
Ahmed Alelyani	Anna Glinianska	Joshua Pruden
Mona Alenezi	Tyler Hawkins	Hisham Rifaey
Maha Alghofaily	Brent Hiebert	Yousef Redhai
Lauren Allegretti	Paul Hobeich	Michael Regan
Fouad AlMalki	Magdalena Holz	Anderson
Turky Alsaeed	Andrew Inagaki	Hussein Sahib
Sarmad Alyas	Jon Irelan	Sajini Sasthri-Rajaputrage
Julie Anderson	Thomas Jahnke	Erick Sato
Cyrous Ardalan	Homan Javaheri	Mark Scott
Elisa Arnarsdottir	Michelle Jordan-Gonzalez	Dontra Scott
Kendall Baginski	Jae Ha Jung	Elham Shadmehr
Erik Balinghasay	Steven Kim	Hadi Shbeeb
James Ball	Natalie Kim	Fiza Singh
Victoria Ball	Jonathan Kim	Joshua Steffen
Daniel Bartling	Christopher Kutanovski	Andrew Steidley
Sarah Barzanji	Jamie Yoonshin Lee	Joseph Stern
Saeed Bayat Movahed	Nicholas Leon-Guerrero	Daisy Stojanov
Jared Beam	Richard Liu	Gail Tischke
Jonathan Blacher	Omar Maktabi	Aniuska Tobin
Grant Burgdorf	Sidni Manne	Dan Tran
Lorel Burns	Alexa Martin	Zhejun Wang
Younghyup Byun	Allen McCall	Erick Weinberg
Vimal Chheda	Alexander McClure	Joshua Williams
Kelvin Chou	Greer McMichael	James K. Yang
Wayland Chu	Stanley Michel	Ghaeth Yassen
Geoffrey Clive	Andrew Miller	Kandace Yee
Alayna Corden	Patrick O'Hara	Deborah Yeh
Mauro Correa	Scott Otterson	Wing-Yee Yeung
Kyle Countryman	McKay Packer	Daniel Young
Timothy Cross	Gyu Park	Kaveh Zand
David Cuocolo	James Pastore	Joseph Zelig
Sahar Dadvand	Oscar Peguero	Zuwu Zhou
Frederic Elbaz	James Phillips	Lauren Michelle Zollet
	Brandon Pitcher	

