

The PINNACLE



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Virtual Review Course

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President's Message

July 2024



It's a great honor for me to serve as President of the College of Diplomates (COD) of the American Board of Endodontics, and a

privilege to work with a group dedicated to making our specialty the best it can be through leadership and lifelong education. We have an enthusiastic, creative and hardworking Board of Directors dedicated to helping endodontists become board certified.

As a colleague said, "Being an endodontist is hitting the lottery." She was describing her profound appreciation of the privilege of being an endodontist. This profession gives so much to many of us, we feel compelled to give back. Some of our mentees find it almost incomprehensible how deeply we want them to succeed. Of course, this is a reflection of our gratitude to those who inspired us. I believe that being board certified allows us to be our best and provide the best care and instruction.

The COD's mission has two parts: (1) help educationally qualified endodontists achieve Diplomate status by mentoring candidates throughout their certification process and providing board review courses; and (2) provide the most innovative CE and mentorship opportunities for our members. Dr. John (Jeff) Neal has been directing our mentorship program and is also now our President Elect. He has done an outstanding job organizing and matching mentors with candidates. Please visit our website at www.collegeofdiplomates.org if you would like to give back to our

profession and help a colleague by being a mentor or mock-oral examiner.

Every two years, the COD hosts a special CE program in a venue conducive for education and fun! Our 2024 Summer Conference is on August 1-4 at the Ritz Carlton in Orlando, Florida. It will consist of a brief welcome reception, followed by three mornings of outstanding speakers. In the spirit of collaboration, we are allowing members to invite non-members as guests to register, as well as endodontic residents and recent graduates. We encourage members to attend and enjoy the afternoons and evenings with their family and friends. (Please visit our website for details.)

This year, we have added another goal for the COD: to establish helpful relationships with other organizations and programs that support endodontic candidates pursuing board certification. On September 13-15, the COD will partner with the IB Bender Division of Endodontics at the Einstein Medical College to host their Bender-Seltzer-Grossman board review course. We will continue to provide our annual board review course, biannual mock oral exams, mentors to help candidates prepare for the oral board exams and/or case portfolios, and our biennial summer conferences.

Lastly, I want to thank our very talented Board of Directors: Drs. Glickman, Neal, Lisell, Salazar, Noguera, Taylor, Weisleder Urow and Benjamin; Summer Conference Committee Chair: Dr. Frick; mentors; and amazing Executive Secretary, Aimee Rylko, for all their dedication and hard work. We are very excited as we look forward to another year of helping candidates become board certified, providing superlative CE, and collaborating with other endodontic organizations and programs.

S. Craig Schneider, *President*



Mentoring Update



Greetings to the members of the College of Diplomates!

I continue to be impressed by the charitable contributions we receive from our mentoring team. We have had another successful year mentoring board-eligible candidates through their certification process.

We received a record number 16 requests from candidates preparing for the 2023 October Oral Exam.

Wow! Our noble mentors rose to the challenge, some taking more than one candidate at a time. The exciting news that came from that group of candidates was we received confirmation from 11 of them that they passed! Two of the sixteen did not take the exam, one was not successful and we did not hear from two others. I think we could all agree, these are great numbers and a huge thank you to our well-deserving mentors! We did not have as many mentor requests, nine total, for the Spring 2024 Oral Exam. We received confirmation that four of them passed, two of them decided not to challenge the exam and two of them did not successfully pass the exam. We rely on the candidates for their feedback, so we do not always hear back from them and I have to cross-reference the New Diplomate list each year. So even though we like our numbers now, they could be even better! Let's not forget about Case History Portfolios. We have not received many requests for mentor assistance with the portfolios. Last Fall, we received confirmation that all three candidates we assisted had passed their case portfolio, which is excellent news!

This Spring we assisted five additional candidates and we are patiently awaiting the results. The American Board of Endodontics has changed the Case Portfolio submission to one time per year (May 1st) and I anticipate an increase in requests for May 2025.

Since our last published Pinnacle, we have held two rewarding Mock Oral exams, one in September 2023 and

one in February 2024 for those candidates preparing for the Oral Exam. We received successful confirmation from 11/15 candidates from the September Mock Exam and 6/15 from the February Mock Exam. We did not receive feedback from many of the February candidates, so it is hard to ascertain our success with those candidates. As an examiner myself for the mock oral exams, I cannot explain how much I get in return by doing so. Helping others achieve their goals is very gratifying by itself, however being a part of the team with a secondary goal of giving back to our community in efforts

to raise our board-certification rates and stature means just as much to me. Some may be concerned that they have not kept up on the literature or have been tapped in to the education field over the years to be able to be a helpful examiner. I would like to inspire you to not believe this to be true. Our exams are designed to help those who feel this way, with answers and literature to support those answers built into the exam for you. Our next Mock Oral Exam is scheduled for September 21, 2024. Please join our team! We are always looking for new examiners and/or mentors, like yourself, to help us achieve our mission.

I would like to introduce four mentors that recently joined our team in 2023-2024: Dr. Matthew Tonioli, Dr. Anna Gliniaska, Dr. Yehuda Benjamin, and Dr. Annika Lucarelli. With the ever-growing number of board-eligible candidates seeking board certification, we continue to search and add new mentors to join our team. Our mission would not be possible without the tireless efforts from all of our amazing mentors. If you know someone who would fit our mission, please encourage them to reach out. He/she can apply to be a

mentor (Mock Oral Examiner, Case Portfolio Mentor and/or Mock Orals Mentor) by going to our website <https://www.collegeofdiplomates.org/>, hover over Resources, then Mentoring, and submit a Mentor Volunteer Request or by contacting Aimee Rylko at info@collegeofdiplomates.org.

John "Jeff" Neal, Director



"I had a great experience mentoring! Watching the candidates grow as they took on the board certification process was new to me, but amazing to watch. It was challenging, but ultimately very fulfilling to be part of a very well-organized group of endodontists trying to make board certification manageable for the candidates. Mentoring was extremely worthwhile and I look forward to helping or colleagues in the years to come!"

Dr. Matt Tonioli

"Becoming a mentor was a decision inspired by my personal experience of being coached in preparation for my examination. While graduates have a rich body of knowledge when graduating from residency, the specific format of the exam is something which, for many, requires preparation and practice. Receiving feedback, developing strategies, and practicing mock exams was the key for me in gaining confidence and thus receiving a passing score. I was grateful that mentors took time out of their busy schedules to help me as well as the specialty in general. I want to make the same contribution."

The ABE candidates I have worked with were/are highly motivated and diligent. All the credit for their achievement belongs to them. All I am needed for is to tweak small details, provide structure and help develop a bit more confidence in navigating the format of the exam. Their success stories are one of my favorite things."

Dr. Annika Gliniaska

Meet the New Board Members



Dr. Yehuda Benjamin is a Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics and is from Cooper City, Florida. He earned his DMD from the University of Florida College of Dentistry and completed a general practice residency at New York Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital before specializing in endodontics at the University of

Florida. With over a decade of private practice experience, he became the Postdoctoral Director of Endodontics in 2021 and Chair of the Department of Endodontics in 2023 at Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine. His academic areas of interest include dental traumatology, disease education, and dental health equity.



Rebeca Weisleder, DDS, MEd, is the chair, predoctoral director and clinical professor in the Department of Endodontics at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry. She earned a DDS from the Universidad Autonoma de Mexico in Mexico City and earned a master's in education and instructional design from the University of Houston. She

received a certificate in endodontics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Weisleder is a Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics. She has been involved in academia since 1990 and has delivered numerous presentations both nationally and internationally. She is a member of the American Association of Endodontics and the American Dental Education Association.

AAE Meeting



Membership Update:

“Thank you to everyone that stopped by our booth at AAE24! We are so excited to have a presence in the exhibit hall with our peers, and hope to continue to grow our organization by meeting with New Diplomates and reconnecting with our members at AAE each year in the exhibit hall. If you didn't have a chance to stop by our booth, please take a moment to make sure your contact information is current, and you have paid dues for 2024. Feel free to reach out to Aimee Rylko at info@collegeofdiplomates.org if you need assistance.”



EVENT SCHEDULE

Thursday, August 1

5:30-6:30pm

Welcome Reception for attendees and families

Friday, August 2

8:30am-12:30pm

Endodontics and Artificial Intelligence

presented by Drs. Asma Khan and Frank Setzer

Saturday, August 3

8:30am-10:30am

Proposed New Joint AAE/AAPD Vital Pulp

Therapy Guidelines (VPT) for Permanent Teeth

presented by Dr. James Coll

10:30am-11:30am

Biology of Vital Pulp Therapy

presented by Dr. George Huang

11:30am-12:30pm

Panel Presentation/Discussion

Drs. Coll, Huang, Sabeti, Ather, and Lemon

Sunday, August 4

8:30am

Farewell Breakfast

9:30-10:30am

Innovative Strategies for the Modern

Endodontic Practice

presented by Dr. Elizabeth Shin Perry



Summer Conference

Emerging Paradigms in Endodontics

August 1-4, 2024


Ritz Carlton Orlando, Grand Lakes

This three-day event will provide plenty of *continuing* education, while also ideal for family fun. The schedule will be built with mornings of CE, and afternoons of free time to take in the sites including waterpark, spa and championship golf, in the heart of Orlando, just minutes away from the major theme parks.



Thank you to all of our sponsors for their support of our biennial event:

- Brasseler
- Avalon Biomed
- Directa USA
- EdgeEndo
- Enova Illumination
- GentleWave
- VizualEyes
- Seiler Instrument
- Specialized Dental Partners*
- TDO Software

*And a special thanks to Specialized Dental Partners. Our exclusive Welcome Reception sponsor. 

The College of Diplomates is proud to announce our first joint virtual review course.

Save the date for the:

**College of Diplomates/
Bender-Seltzer-Grossman**

**Academic Review of
Endodontology, 2024**

When: September 13–15, 2024

Where: Virtual course

Registration to open August 1

Please visit our site for more information. Registration link below will be live first week of August.

https://www.collegeofdiplomates.org/events-meetings/event-registration/?epi_action=process_cart_action&cart_action=add&event_id=7246

