

# The PINNACLE



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College of Diplomates of the American Board of Endodontics  
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## President's Message

May 2025



I am honored to be elected and serve as President of the College of Diplomates (COD) of the American Board of Endodontics for 2024-2025. Having served five

years as the Director of Mentoring, I gained a passionate understanding of the College's mission and vision. I have had the benefit of working with dozens of accomplished mentors and the opportunity to work with a group of dedicated board members who are committed to the continual growth of our membership and specialty. I am excited to lead the charge over the next year!

The College's mission is to (1) to encourage board-eligible endodontists to achieve Diplomate status by offering comprehensive candidate mentorship, realistic mock-oral board examinations and our annual board-review course; and (2) conduct innovative continuing education (CE) opportunities for our members, such as our biennial Summer Conference. We're committed to providing the best possible resources for our members preparing for oral exams, and our mock oral exam program is a prime example! Its popularity has surged – we've been completely booked for the last four cycles, with a waitlist each time! Our mentoring program is in excellent hands! Dr. Rebecca Weisleder took the reins as Director of Mentorship at the end of the annual COD meeting in Boston. Her wealth of experience teaching residents and her enthusiasm for working with candidates makes her the perfect leader. To further enhance this invaluable program, I'm delighted to announce that Dr. Colleen Shull, former President of the COD, will be joining us as a mock oral exam consultant, working closely with Dr. Weisleder to ensure its continued growth and excellence.

A key part of our mission is providing modern, first-rate CE for our members. This year, the Board has agreed to provide two virtual CE lectures to our membership at no cost: one in late September and the other in March 2026. If you're interested in lecturing to our group, please contact us through our website;

we would love to hear from you. Our next virtual COD board review course is February 6-8, 2026, and is designed to help candidates prepare for the written and oral exam. AND REMEMBER: This year's course is free for all members! Don't miss out.

Our goal is to demonstrate to our members, our commitment to high-quality education, and this commitment will carry forward to our next Summer Conference, "Beyond the Pulp: Expanding the Diagnostic Lens," to be held in Key Biscayne, Florida, from July 23-26, 2026. The conference will begin with a welcome reception Thursday evening, followed by three mornings of outstanding speakers. In the spirit of collaboration, we are allowing members to invite non-members as guests, as well as endodontic residents and recent graduates. We encourage members to attend and enjoy the afternoons and evenings with their family and friends. Details on registration and lecture topics will be distributed by email and available on our website by the end of this summer.

I want express my sincere gratitude to our innovative, ambitious and hardworking Board of Directors. Their passion and dedication are instrumental in providing you with opportunities to learn and, in turn, mentor those following in your footsteps. A heartfelt thank you to Craig Schneider, Andrea Lisell, Geno Salazar, Ron Taylor, Rebecca Weisleder, Yehuda Benjamin, Angela Noguera, Tawana Feimster and Jorge Vera-Rojas. Alongside this stellar group is our Executive Secretary, Aimee Rylko, who skillfully manages the College's operations. Her tireless efforts are essential to *keeping everything moving and the wheel churning*. Thank you, Aimee, for all you do!

Finally, I urge you to consider becoming a mentor! Many of us owe our success to the guidance and encouragement of great mentors. Our volunteers support candidates preparing for the oral exam and case portfolio and assist as examiners for our virtual mock oral exams (held twice a year). Our mission thrives because of this energetic and enthusiastic mentoring team. To join our ranks, please submit a "Mentor request form" on our website at [www.collegeofdiplomates.org](http://www.collegeofdiplomates.org).

**John "Jeff" Neal, DDS, MS**  
*President, College of Diplomates of the American Board of Endodontics*



# Mentorship Update



## Dear Esteemed Members of the College of Diplomates,

Warm greetings! As another year unfolds, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the dedication of our mentors and examiners. Your time, expertise, and unwavering commitment are invaluable to the success of our candidates and the high standards of our profession.

This past year has seen a wonderful surge in mentorship engagement. We were honored to support a record-breaking 34 board-eligible candidates for the October 2024 Oral Exam, followed by 18 candidates in February 2025. Thanks to the tireless efforts of our volunteer mentors, many of whom generously took on multiple candidates, we're thrilled to hear that 21 individuals from October and 14 from February have successfully achieved certification. These results truly reflect the positive impact of our mentorship program, and we couldn't be prouder of everyone involved!

Turning to Case History Portfolios, we've seen continued, albeit limited, engagement in mentorship, and we were pleased to support two additional candidates this spring as we eagerly await their results. With the American Board of Endodontics transitioning to a single annual submission deadline of May 1st, we anticipate a greater need for portfolio support in 2025 and 2026, and we're ready to meet that demand.

We also hosted two enriching Mock Oral Exams in September 2024 and February 2025, which are always highlights of our year. From the September cohort, we're delighted to confirm that 21 out of 34 participants have achieved certification. For the February session, fourteen out of 18 have reported success so far, and we eagerly anticipate hearing from the remaining participants.

Having personally participated in these mock oral exams, I can attest to the deep personal and professional fulfillment that comes from mentoring. Beyond the rewarding experience of helping individual candidates, our collective effort elevates the standards of board certification and strengthens our entire specialty. If any Diplomate feels they might be out of touch with recent literature or academic involvement, I encourage you to reconsider participating. The structure of our exams is thoughtfully designed to support you, with readily available guidance materials and references to help you feel prepared and confident in your role.

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming Mock Oral Exams, scheduled for September 20th, 2025, and February 21st, 2026. We are always seeking passionate examiners and mentors to join our ranks; your involvement is not only welcome but vital to our continued success.


As the number of board-eligible candidates pursuing certification continues to grow, so does our need for dedicated mentors to support them through this important journey. The success of our mentoring program is made possible by the generosity and commitment of our incredible volunteers, and we are deeply grateful for their contributions.

If you know a colleague who shares our passion for advancing the specialty and supporting future Diplomates, we encourage you to invite them to get involved! Those interested in serving as a Mock Oral Examiner, Case Portfolio Mentor, or Oral Exam Mentor can learn more and submit a Mentor Volunteer Request by visiting our website at [www.collegeofdiplomates.org](http://www.collegeofdiplomates.org). Simply hover over the "Resources" tab, select "Mentoring," and follow the steps to sign up. Alternatively, they may reach out to us directly for more information by contacting Aimee Rylko at [info@collegeofdiplomates.org](mailto:info@collegeofdiplomates.org).

With deep appreciation for all that you do,

**Rebeca Weisleder, DDS, M.Ed**

*Chair, Mentorship and Mock Oral Exam Committee*

*College of Diplomates of the American Board of Endodontics* 

# Meet the Directors



## Jorge Vera

Dr. Jorge Vera has served as the Advanced Education Program Director at the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine since 2023. He earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree from the Universidad Autónoma de México in Mexico City and completed his Certificate in Advanced Education in Endodontics at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in Boston, MA, in 1993.

Dr. Vera spent two years as a general practitioner and 28 years in private practice, specializing exclusively in endodontics. A Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics, he has been actively involved in academia since 1993. He has delivered over 500 lectures worldwide, published more than 80 scientific articles, and contributed to three chapters in endodontic textbooks.

He is a member of both the American Association of Endodontists and the American Dental Education Association. In his spare time, Dr. Vera enjoys spending time outdoors with his wife and daughter.



## Tawana Feimster

Tawana D. Feimster, DDS, MS, MPH is a Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics who resides in Huntersville, NC. She earned a DDS from Howard University College of Dentistry (HUCD) and completed a General Practice Residency at St. Barnabas Hospital in the Bronx, NY. She obtained a Masters in Biomedical Science from the University of Maryland–Baltimore, where she obtained her specialty certificate in Endodontics. Dr. Feimster also obtained a Masters in Public Health—Health Policy from Harvard Chan School of Public Health. She has worked full-time as an Assistant Professor at HUCD, part-time at University of Texas at Houston, and a Deans Faculty member at the University of Maryland. Dr. Feimster's areas of interest includes dental health equity and mentorship. She has managed a private practice since 2008 and loves spending time with her family, traveling, boating, and golfing.

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# Membership News and Updates

## Annual COD Meeting Updates

- Jeff Neal began his tenure as President.
- Biannual Virtual CE events discussed for members
- Consultant positions for Mock Oral Boards (Dr. C. Shull) and social media (Dr. R. Rosenblatt) were proposed.



## Membership News

- **Elections results:** President Elect 2026-2027, Andrea D Lisell, DMD, MS
- **Membership Dues:** Annual dues remain \$150. In 2025, a two-year payment of \$300, covering 2025-2026, is required to maintain active membership and receive benefits. Active member benefits include registration for annual board review courses (20 CE credits/year) and a \$300 credit towards registration for the 2026 Summer Conference. New Diplomates receive their first year of dues free.



## COD Welcomes ABE's 2025 Diplomates

Bianca Aboubakare	Anjali Dave	Joshua Jones	Naglieri	Anika Solanki
Hiroya Ako	Schuyler DeLuca	Aaron Keith	Jonathan Nguyen	William Stanley
Hajar Albanyan	Hayley Denison	Isaac Kempe	Jasmine Oghaz	Kortnie Strother
Sara Aldahmash	Kevin Duque	Julia Kim	Shreyas Oza	Ryan Swiss
Emily Alper	Elise Ellingsen Miller	Matthew Kinstlet	Devang Patel	Kristel Tabet
Abdullah Alshaikh	Justin Fang	Kristine Knoll	Panchali Patel	Sowjanya
Ali Alsuhail	Eric Feuer	Thomas Korte	Christina Penn	Tadapakalli
Christopher Ammons	Colton Fischer	Tadkamol	Christopher Peppel	Anastasia Talalenko
Anthony Arena	Alyse Fleming	Krongbaramee	Ian Prins	Scott Thayer
Edward Asdel	William Gallagher	Joshua Kucharski	Paul Pryor	John Tran
Hira Assad	Jessica Garcia	Ben Kushnir	Devon Ptak	Chinh Tran Khanh
Nabeel Atassi	Yvonne Garitty	Katherine Le	Srinivas Pushpala	Ryan Trautman
Yaakov Barak	Elliott Glenn	Fang-Chi Li	Pardis Rajabi	Telmen Tumen-Ulzii
Benjamin Bell	Sharaschandra Reddy	Jack Han-Hsing Lin	Grant Rutherford	Kimberly Vaglio
David Body	Govindool	John Logsdon	Mansoor Safder	Jonathan Velardi
Heather Burbick	Jenna Hart	Kristine Mady	Adam Sarnowski	Amy Vermeer
Priscilla Carpenter	Andrea Hernandez	Saurabh Mannan	Rebekah Schott	J. Tyler Vogel
Alejandro Carrasco	Alex Herring	Anthony Marin	David Schuweiler	Navid Vosoughi
Stephanie Chan	Yasmin Hoffman	Cara McCary	Lily See	Tyler Whiting
Leticia Chaves de Souza	Feifei Huang	Jason McDaniel	Stephanie Serrano	Lindsey Yap
Chia Chen	Alabbas Hussain	Mariana McNamara	Abby Shannon	James Young
Hannah Cohen	Johnny Huynh	McNamara	Lucas Sheppard	Amanda Zelnick
Bryce Cordell	Zakery James	Milica Milicevic	Katherine Shi	
David Cordero	Rachel James	Andrew Moshman	Erika Silverberg	
	Jordan Johnson	Christopher	Michael Smoljan	



# AAE Meeting

We had a blast at AAE25, connecting with our members and welcoming new Diplomates! The exhibit hall was buzzing with innovation and collaboration. To make sure you don't miss out on valuable updates and opportunities, please take a moment to verify your contact information and pay your dues. Need help? Reach out to Aimee Rylko at [info@collegeofdiplomates.org](mailto:info@collegeofdiplomates.org).



# From Mentee to Mentor: A Journey of Growth and Gratitude

By Dr. Shreyas Oza



**A**s a resident at the University of the Pacific (UOP), Postgraduate Endodontology Program, I received exceptional training and guidance that laid a strong foundation for my board certification journey. The program didn't just emphasize the value of becoming a Diplomate—it

actively supported us in achieving that goal. As part of our curriculum, we were required to pass the Written Examination during residency. Thanks to the rigorous preparation and mentorship I received at UOP, I also passed the Oral Examination taking it just a month after graduation—an outcome I credit wholly to the program's thoughtful and thorough instruction.

By the time I reached the Case History phase, however, three years had passed since graduation, and I felt disconnected from the process. My first attempt was unsuccessful, and the setback was disheartening. That's when one of my former faculty members, Dr. Yasaman Ravandoust—also a mentor with the College of Diplomates (COD)—stepped in. She encouraged me to try again and generously reviewed my cases, guiding me through the exam. Her mentorship was instrumental in helping me succeed on my second attempt. She was my introduction to the CODs' mentorship program.

Experiencing the uncertainty of returning to the process, enduring the disappointment of a failed attempt, and ultimately finding the right support at the right moment—all culminating in the joy of finally succeeding—lit a fire in me to pay it forward. I realized firsthand how daunting and overwhelming it

can be to re-engage with the board certification process after spending even just a few years in clinical practice. That perspective deepened my desire to help candidates in similar situations—those who, like me, had once felt disconnected or unsure of how to proceed, whether they were fresh out of residency or had been in practice for years.

After becoming board certified, I joined the CODs' mentoring program to support others at any step of their journeys, particularly in preparing for the Oral Examination. I've also had the privilege of participating in the College's mock oral boards. The passion, dedication,

and commitment I witnessed in the other volunteer examiners was inspiring. Their love for the specialty and their generosity reminded me of the strength of our endodontic community. It was incredibly rewarding to participate in the mock oral boards as an "examiner." Supporting candidates in the same way I had once been supported felt like a true honor and a welcome full-circle experience. I can't wait to do it again!

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. John "Jeff" Neal, then Board Director and Mentorship Chair, and now President of the College of Diplomates. His encouragement, patience, and support as I stepped into the role of mentor were incredibly meaningful. He created a welcoming environment that allowed me to grow with confidence and contribute with purpose.

My journey—from mentee to mentor—has been one of growth, gratitude, and full-circle moments. I'm honored to be part of a legacy that champions excellence, and I look forward to continuing to support others just as I was once supported.

*"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 Glinianska



# Save the Dates

## Mock Oral Board Examination

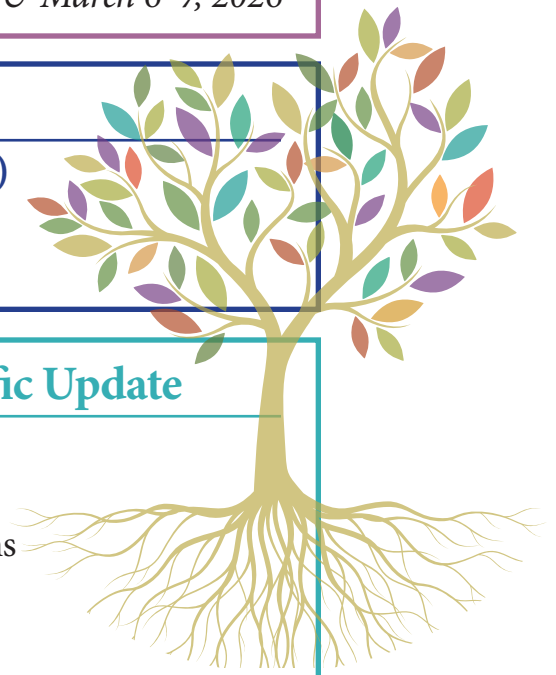
- September 20, 2025
- January 31, 2026
- ABE Oral Board Examination dates October 16–18, 2025 & March 6–7, 2026

## COD Webinar Series

- October 8, 2025—Dr. B. Weisleder (Endo-Pedo)
- March 11, 2026—Dr. J. Vera
- Included for members

## 16th Annual Board Review Course & Scientific Update

- February 6-8, 2026
- Virtual 3-day event (20 CE credits)
- Prepare Candidates for ABE oral and written examinations
- Free attendance for COD members
- Registration opens July 2025



## 2026 Summer Conference

### *“Beyond the Pulp: Expanding the Diagnostic Lens”*

- July 23-26, 2026
- Ritz Carlton, Key Biscayne Florida
- Three-day event will provide plenty of CE and time for family fun.
- Registration opens July 1, 2025
- Members are invited to sponsor guests to attend.
- Endodontic residents and new graduates are invited to attend.



<https://www.collegeofdiplomates.org/2026-summer-conference/>

