

Periodontal Advocate

THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE CALIFORNIA
SOCIETY OF
PERIODONTISTS

ASK OUR MEMBERS

POLL QUESTION: How important is it for periodontists to teach periodontics to dental students in dental schools?

Below are answers from some of our members:

My opinion is that it is critical to have periodontists teach periodontics because the most important aspect of our specialty is in the recognition and understanding of how periodontics integrates with the comprehensive treatment of a patient. This includes not only dentistry, but internal medicine and basic science as well. With implant and esthetic dentistry, a healthy periodontium is vital to success. Moreover, tooth alignment, occlusal relationships, jaw relationships and endodontic prognosis must be included with comprehensive dental treatment. We share these responsibilities with our prosthodontic colleagues, but the other specialties do not routinely accept these responsibilities. However, it is also our responsibility to understand the dynamic relationship between systemic and periodontal health especially in light of the fact that periodontal disease is now recognized primarily as an inflammatory condition rather than infectious. This paradigm shift also

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INTERVIEW WITH ERIK SAHL, DDS, MSD

By Dr. Casey Herrera, Editor

You are successful in private practice, education, and organized Dentistry.

With the years of all this experience across the board what do you consider your greatest achievement and or contribution to dentistry and periodontics?

ES: Involvement in organized dentistry has not only alerted me to the constant pressures our profession faces, but has allowed the networking opportunities to meet so many of the leaders in our field. This has motivated me to look at Periodontics from the OTHER side, not what the career can do for me, but what I can do to contribute to the specialty and strengthen it in the years to come.

I feel my greatest achievement can be distilled down to one simple concept, motivating and encouraging students and future periodontists to be a part of our local periodontal society, the California Society of Periodontists. I have seen a number of my students develop into new leaders, and if our specialty is to not only survive, but continue to develop, encouraging new leaders to continue our vision is crucial. I know how challenging it can be to devote time to volunteer for professional organizations during residency training and early in practice, but when I see my new graduates actively engaging in the CSP and AAP I feel that truly defines what this professional is all about. Not what is in it for ME, but what WE can do together to build and



advance our specialty.

What do you think periodontists should do to advance our profession?

ES: I believe this question relates intimately with the above answer. Being actively involved in the CSP and AAP bring together the leaders and future leaders of our specialty. This interaction allows us, as periodontists, to develop a united philosophy on treating periodontal patients, and this will bring trust and legitimacy to what we do as the core of our training, SAVING TEETH!

In order to advance our specialty, using our united philosophy to reach out to the General Practitioners is essential. Dr. Deb Finney recently published an article in the CDA Journal which discusses successful dentistry as a "Team Game". Our role as the periodontal and dare I say it, implant, specialists is to create a game plan where we are simply one piece of the larger whole. Interdisciplinary dentistry is becoming more and more challenging with the expansion of the Group Practice model along with the general practitioner bringing in part-time specialists to their

offices. The only solution will come from us, and by involving the GP's in our meetings and study clubs is the only reasonable method to promote our skills as well as give patients the best possible care.

What do you feel is needed to help CSP prosper? What can each of us do?

ES: I think this is the easiest question yet! I think to expand the scope a bit, we should also include our national component, the AAP. For the CSP and AAP to continue to grow and develop, we must find a way to include and integrate the general dentist as well as the dental hygienist. Throughout these last few years I have had the opportunity and honor to present for a number of CSP and AAP meetings. My favorite presentation relates to dental implant maintenance and complications, and is really geared towards the GP and the RDH. After these meetings I had a massive amount of feedback from both GP's and the RDH's, and their interest in our specialty is palpable. We as the CSP and AAP need to harness this and develop an associate type of membership to invite non-periodontists to

Continued on page 2

Welcome New CSP Members!

Lisa Grosso, DDS, MS, RN
- Active
George Morarasu, DDS,
MSD - Active
Austin Schellinck, DDS,
MS - Active

Interview Dr. Sahl continued

be a part of our mission. This would not only bring awareness to our skills, but form a camaraderie for years to come.

How important is it for Periodontists to teach periodontics to dental students in dental schools rather than general dentists or hygienists and why?

ES: This issue is currently at the forefront of my academic life. Perio teaching perio has been an issue since I began my training in 2007. Nearly every meeting with CSP addressed this issue, and as a matter of fact, this was my soapbox issue I addressed when I received the Dr. Merin Outstanding Resident Award from the CSP. As dental schools continue to evolve toward the all-encompassing GP approach, specialties, namely Periodontics, are running the real risk of being a washed out, glanced over component of general dentistry.

How will future patient care be determined? By the education our new

practitioners are receiving now. How are patients with advanced periodontal needs going to be managed in the future? By the education our new dentists are receiving now. If our new dentists are not properly trained not only to diagnose, but also manage and REFER advanced periodontal issues, we can expect to find an entirely new generation of patients receiving sub-standard care. The predoctoral dental education experience is where our students are developing their patient care philosophies, and if periodontists are involved at this stage, we can positively influence how these students are learning about periodontal conditions and what the specialist can offer in terms of advanced patient care.

In the end, the preservation of our specialty should be a distant second compared to the needs and expectations of our patients, who trust and confide in us to do the one thing we should all do as health care providers; do no harm.

**Erik Sahl, DDS, MSD
Program Director, Advanced Education, Periodontics,
Assistant Professor,
Periodontics,
Loma Linda University
School of Dentistry**

Poll Question continued

places a deeper understanding of basic science upon our shoulders. Our specialty is on the forefront of this change, and we are uniquely positioned as a portal between dentistry and medicine. It is absolutely imperative that Periodontics be taught by periodontists because only a periodontist can appreciate these facts. Our techniques and manual dexterity represent only a portion of what we do; the observations, thought processes, and analyses are the defining features of our specialty.

**Craig Yonemura, DDS, MS
Private Practice, San Francisco, CA**

"It is very important for dental students to be taught by periodontists because it exposes them to a more sophisticated approach of treatment planning and delivery of periodontal care. This sets higher standard for general dentists in delivering periodontal treatment and increases their alertness about referring patients to periodontists. Additionally, by directly interacting with dental students in the various phases of periodontal therapy, periodontists have the ability to excite and guide them, in considering a career in Periodontics."

**Paulo M. Camargo, DDS, MS,
MBA, FADC**

Professor and Chair, Periodontics, UCLA School of Dentistry

This is a pretty complicated question actually. I don't know of any schools that don't have a periodontist on faculty but some of the schools teaching the Generalist Model I know don't have periodontists on the clinic floor. I may not be up to date on this and with 62 schools its getting harder to know but I believe the above is true. Hygienists can't diagnose and refer. They might be okay with data collection and teaching instrumentation. General dentists are not as interested in the nuances of data collection and analysis which is probably the major reason you need a periodontist. Also you may not get the important discussion surrounding when to refer a patient.

**David W. Richards, DDS,
PhD
Private Practice**

I believe dental students should learn Periodontics by periodontists because Periodontists have a deeper understanding about Periodontics.
**Flavia Pirih, DDS, PhD
Assistant Professor
Director of tge Pre-doctoral program - Section of Peridontics, UCLA School of Denistry**

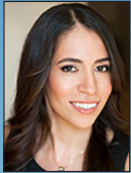


Region 4 Dinner & Meeting Basque Cultural Center 10/5/15

Pictured from left to Right Dr. Sarmad Paydar, Ed Zinman, Dr. Casey Herrera, Dr. Mark Ryder, Dr. Yoga Rajendran, Dr. Bob Parr, Dr. Marcia Wadell, Dr. Stacy Lee, Dr. Dan Clark, Dr. Iman Mohammadi, Dr. Ann Pham, Dr. Pickering, Dr. Tina Jung, Dr. Jonathan Weng, Dr. Shanne Sastiel, Dr. Connie Oh, Dr. Victor Lee, Dr. Craig Yonemura

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CSP Perio-Hygiene Collaborative
January 30, 2016 Westin San Francisco Hotel - Millbrae, CA
Periodontal Regenerative Strategies
Dr. Richard Kao
Contemporary Treatment of the Non-Typical Periodontitis Patient *Dr. Dee Nishimine*
Treatment Strategies for Periodontal Disease
Dr. Peter Warshawsky
4.0 Hours CE

CSP Perio-Hygiene Collaborative Calabasas October 2015 was sold out and received great reviews from the attendees. We greatly appreciate our members who helped make the meeting such a great success. Our volunteer speakers, Drs. Joan Otomo-Corgel, Erik Sahl and Elisa Sin. We couldn't have done the meeting without them. Special thanks to Dr. Merin for helping to organize the meeting and moderating the course, Drs. Abelson, Gross, Okui, Penhaskashi and Sobel for donating to our breakfast.

NEWS TIDBITS

- **Medicare:** Medicare status deadline extended to **June 1, 2016**. More information on the process is available on our website, www.calperio.org
- **Pharmacology Update:** Please click go to this link <http://bit.ly/1m1Goul> to find information about re-classification & guidelines for controlled medications.
- **Prescription Pain Management Guide:** ADA Guide to Substance Use Disorders available at www.adacatalog.org
- **Sick Leave Accruals:** How to handle sick leave accruals at this link <http://bit.ly/1k6BRpn> (courtesy of CDA)