

December
2023

The Periodontal Advocate

Conversation with CSP President Dr. Erik Sahl



What has CSP been focused on in the past year?

For CSP, 2023 has been a lot of work in progress and building

on what we've been doing since the pandemic. We continue to put a lot of effort into advocacy—we've been involved in the sedation permit discussions with both the DBC and the CDA. We haven't forgotten about Delta, and we have evaluated and supported numerous bills from the California legislature. CSP's Management Team and Executive Director maintain a consistent presence at the Dental Board meetings. And of course, we've held our 2023 Annual Meeting and are actively planning for the 2024 Annual Meeting and beyond. Our Perio-Hygiene Collaborative meetings have been particularly successful, with attendance coming back to pre-COVID levels. I'm especially happy to report this, because PHCs are great marketing tools that are exclusive to our members. They're one of the few benefits that non-members can't also take advantage of (laughs).

What are your goals for the next year?

CSP will lobby hard for improvement to the sedation permit process, and we will also be pushing for more of our members to become sedation examiners, which are desperately needed. In response to member requests, we're going to add a forum for job-seekers on the website—we'll have sections for periodontists and auxiliary staff. We're looking at new strategies to promote Gum Disease Awareness Month in March, with an updated press release and media kit. I want to see more PHC meetings and more involvement with the RDH community. Our Annual Meeting will be held in Yosemite and will offer great education at a destination location. The schedule is arranged to make sure our attendees will have time to enjoy the location, too! And behind it all is a steady undercurrent of what we do best--advocating for periodontists. We will be at the Board meetings, CDA-IAF, basically anywhere we can make a difference for our members.

What do you see as the biggest challenge CSP faces?

Right now, I would say that membership is a key issue.

We need better continuity and more participation from periodontists across the state both as members and attending our Annual Meetings. When our members are taking a year off from paying dues or when a member retires and sells to a younger periodontist who does not join, we become a weaker organization both in terms of numbers and finances. I hate to bring the budget into it, but obviously we can't do more with less. We can't do big promotions with small funds. The same goes for our meetings. With meeting attendance down, we lose exhibitor funds as well, which really strains our ability to bring in quality speakers in destination locations at a reasonable fee. And if we are limited, the specialty as a whole is ultimately limited. I know we're in a difficult spot, and perio is getting pinched on all sides—declining insurance reimbursement, general dentists doing more implants, staff shortages—and we need a strong organization more than ever.

What can the membership do to help?

Be a member, stay a member, and ideally, be an active member. Even the smallest contributions of time and

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energy can benefit us all. Attend and sponsor a PHC. Volunteer to speak at a PHC or the Annual Meeting. Serve on a committee or run for a spot on the board of directors. Help promote Gum Disease Awareness Month. And get your non-member colleagues to join! Practically every periodontist is an AAP member, but we're not getting close to that level of membership on the state level.

Why isn't AAP membership enough?

Well to begin with, I'm not even sure everyone realizes that it doesn't work like the tripartite ADA. CSP membership doesn't come along with AAP membership. We have run into more than a few people who believe it does. And by definition, AAP is an academy, not an association. They don't get involved in advocacy on the state level. We do. We're not being academic, we're being present and active. We represent California periodontists where nobody else does. Dental Board of California? We're there representing. CDA-IAF? We're there too. Sedation laws? We were there for the meetings. Gum Disease Awareness Month? That's us too. And don't get me started on Delta? We were there with the OS and endo specialty organizations from the beginning? What did AAP do? They referred their members to CSP, whether they were also CSP members or not! Can you believe that? There is a great example of why you should encourage your non-member friends to join--we were there for them when AAP was not. So I don't have any qualms about saying that CSP does more for your practice than AAP--and we cost less, too.

SB 501: What We Know, What We Don't Know, and What We Can Do

What's new:

The passing of SB 501 will affect periodontists who provide IV sedation to their patients. The conscious sedation permit will be replaced by a new moderate sedation permit. The bill describes moderate sedation as "a drug-induced depression of consciousness during which a patient responds purposefully to verbal commands, either alone or accompanied by light tactile stimulation, no interventions are required to maintain a patient's airway, spontaneous ventilation is adequate, and cardiovascular function is usually maintained."

Clinical changes for sedation

For patients ages 13 and older, the procedural differences between the conscious sedation permit and the new moderate sedation permit are minimal. The bill requires that the dentist who orders administration of moderate sedation must be physically present in the treatment facility while the patient is sedated, monitoring via pulse oximeter and evaluation of ventilation via two of three measures: capnography, precordial stethoscope, or verbal communication with the patient.

A pediatric endorsement is required to provide sedation to patients under 13 years of age. To obtain a pediatric endorsement, the dentist must have successfully completed a residency in pediatric dentistry and completed at least 20 cases of moderate sedation on patients under 13 years of age. SB 501 also requires that for patients under 13 years of

age, the dentist and two other personnel must be present during sedation, the dentist must have certification in Pediatric Advanced Life Support and airway management (PALS), and a PALS-certified auxiliary must be assigned the sole task of monitoring the patient's vital signs.

SB 501 makes similar changes to the general anesthesia permit by requiring additional PALS-certified personnel for treatment of children under 13 years of age. While this is unlikely to affect periodontists directly, it may be a consideration for periodontists who bring in outside anesthesiologists, as they must ensure that appropriately trained auxiliaries are present.

Application for a moderate sedation permit

Like the conscious sedation permit, the moderate sedation permit requires proof of at least 60 hours of training in conscious sedation, completion of at least 20 moderate sedation cases, and a renewal requirement of 15 hours of sedation training. It also requires an onsite inspection and evaluation every six years. This may present a number of issues to periodontists who have existing conscious sedation permits. As a new entity, the moderate sedation permit does not allow for grandfathering of conscious sedation permits. So even if a periodontist has held a conscious sedation permit for many years, he or she will be required to apply for

a moderate sedation permit. While this is relatively easy for newer graduates, it may present a challenge to older doctors whose records may no longer be available at their training institution, and several CSP members have reported difficulties obtaining them. **Our recommendations for renewal are outlined below:**

1. Email dental board staff (Dental Board Anesthesia Unit) au.program@dca.ca.gov to request a copy of your original certificate of conscious sedation training. Be sure to include your full name and current conscious sedation permit number in your email request. This will provide you with your proof of completed cases.
2. Upon receipt of your original certificate of conscious sedation training from the dental board staff, forward a copy to the program director at your institution along with the completed moderate sedation training certificate ([msp2_form.pdf](#)) and ask the director to sign the section certifying your anesthesia training and return the form to you.
3. Once you receive the signed certificate form, send the completed application ([msp1_form.pdf](#)) and the signed certificate form ([msp2_form.pdf](#)) and payment to Dental Board of California, 2005 Evergreen St., Suite 1550, Sacramento, CA 95815.

SB 501 allows the board to require a site evaluation prior to issuance of a moderate sedation permit or issue a one-year temporary permit prior to

site evaluation and inspection. The temporary permit will be revoked if the dentist is unsuccessful in passing the site evaluation. Site visits under conscious sedation permits will not fulfill the requirements of a moderate sedation permit. As a new moderate sedation permit holder, you will be required to pass a site evaluation regardless of how recent your last site visit may have been. This is a concern to our members due to the considerable expenses involved in a site evaluation, especially if the last evaluation was recent. In addition, the Dental Board of California is experiencing a shortage of sedation examiners, which is likely to affect scheduling and cost of a site evaluation and may result in general anesthesia examiners conducting site evaluations for moderate sedation permits. We encourage our members to become sedation examiners to help alleviate this shortage. If you are interested in becoming a site examiner, please contact CSP or the dental board directly.

What can CSP do?

Because SB 501 has been passed, it is now law and can only be amended by further legislation. The Dental Board of California is charged with instituting SB 501, but also cannot change it. Based on our members' feedback, as well as our own observations, CSP believes that on an administrative level, this bill makes the delivery of conscious sedation unnecessarily complicated and expensive and could ultimately result in limited access to care and/or additional costs in the form of outside anesthesia providers. We will be following this bill closely

and working with organized dentistry within the state and will continue to provide updates on any changes in the coming legislative year.

New Employment Laws to Comply with in 2024

- ◆ Five days (40 hours) of Paid Sick Leave for all employees.
- ◆ Protections for employees' off-duty use of cannabis.
- ◆ Pre-employment inquiries about cannabis use will be unlawful
- ◆ Leave for qualifying reproductive loss must be granted
- ◆ Noncompete agreements declared unlawful
- ◆ Law amends arbitration procedure
- ◆ Unenforceability of restrictive covenants
- ◆ Minimum wage \$16/hr in 2024 *May be higher in some counties/cities. Visit this website for more information* <https://bit.ly/minimumwage-CA>

Courtesy of California Dental Association - cda.org

A quick view summary is available on CSP's website or here: <https://bit.ly/Employment-Law-Summary>

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CSP ANNUAL MEETING YOSEMITE

MAY 3 - 5, 2024

FEATURING: BIOACTIVE BIOMATERIALS, AUGMENTATION OF SEVERELY DEFICIENT RIDGES, LATEST SURGICAL TECHNIQUES, MODERATE SEDATION REVIEW, DIGITAL DENTISTRY, DEMYSTIFYING CANNABIDIOL

SPEAKERS: DRS. LEAVITT, GRUWELL, LOW, MIRELEZ, ARCEO, SALATINO, PUTERMAN, INDECH, SCHOENBAUM

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