

Year-End Message From the President



Year-End Message from the President

As 2025 came to a close, I want to sincerely thank you for the honor and privilege of serving the

California Society of Periodontists as our President. Through the decades, I have participated as a student, professional member, director, board member, and now, as our President. When I first joined the CSP, I remember one of our leaders recommending that we all participate in organized dentistry. At that time, I wasn't entirely sure what that meant or why it would be important. Once I chose to commit my professional life to periodontics, I began to look around at all the opportunities and different pathways our industry was diverging into. It was at that time that I realized it is better to participate personally in shaping our future rather than to sit back and let outside forces shape our profession for us. Today it is no different; in fact, I believe it is more important than ever that the future of periodontics in California be influenced by our licensed professionals versus the "provider adjacent" entities that have had increasing influence on shaping our profession.

By simple analysis of our current

professional landscape, it is clear that the challenges of today are far more abundant and strenuous than simply choosing a professional pathway and location. Most of us began with a singular focus on developing our knowledge base and skills to provide optimal healthcare for our patients, without a network of professional colleagues as supporting or active members of our board of directors and management team. Because of this, the challenges that are within the CSP's ability to influence for our benefit become unchallenged opportunities for non-providers, and obstacles for both our profession and clinical care providers.

Regardless of the stages of our careers, we are all exposed to the stresses and influences of countless forces complicating our patient care—from emerging technologies to emerging regulations, to choosing between being an employee, employer, or independent contractor, to developing and maintaining a steady base of referrals or patient flow. We all engage in some level of faith and gratitude that the governing bodies of our profession are advocating for us and preventing abuse of regulations and professional fees. And although there are many organizations indirectly involved in keeping the practice of periodontics regulated, the California Society

of Periodontists is a resource unique to our specialty. This year, there have been several legal and professional battles within our industry, such as insurance fee reductions and sanctions, restrictions and regulations on education, and services and sedation requirements. The CSP has closely monitored and engaged to the highest extent possible to be the voice that advocates for California periodontists. Although many of the controversies are currently ongoing and will continue to require resources and efforts of ours and other professional organizations, the fights are not unchallenged. We will continue to update our website and newsletter for resources and announcements as they develop into substantial decisions.

I want to thank everyone on the board and our members for all their efforts and support this year. I thank everyone for participating in this year's meeting at Disneyland Grand Hotel and encourage everyone to participate in and support all our new programs in hygiene and wellness in the new year, as well as join us in Monterey for an exceptional program in a beautiful location.

Individually, we have all worked hard and sacrificed extensively to become the professionals we are. Because of that, we enter

Continued on next page

CSP Leadership Profiles: Dr. Steve Detsch

David Corradi, DDS, MS

As part of a series looking at the history of California Society of Periodontists and its leaders, we caught up with Dr. Steve Detsch, who served as president of CSP in 1992. Dr. Detsch's resume is formidable: in addition to maintaining a private practice from 1980-2007, he is an inventor with over 40 patents to his credit and served as head of R&D for the California Dental Association. He later moved into a role in dental hygiene education, and has since retired. Steve shared some of his insights with the Periodontal Advocate on the past and future of periodontics and CSP.

PA: How did you get involved in CSP?

SD: I was trained under Gerald Bowers—it was like living in a textbook! Even now, when I tell periodontists that, a respectful pause always follows. When I came to California, nobody was grafting bone. I started using fibronectin for regenerative cases, and word got around. A colleague, John Chrispens, told me, “you have to share this!” So he brought me into study clubs, and eventually CSP. In a sense, intellectual property is what really got me involved in CSP.

PA: What were the major issues facing the specialty during your presidency, and what are you most proud of accomplishing?

SD: We worked extra hard to partner professional society, academia, and the industry that supports us. During my presidency, waterline contamination was one of the main issues of the day. I had invented some surgical products, and my understanding of corporate policies and intellectual property allowed me to float between the professional and corporate worlds. I was able to convince the companies to fund and name awards for

residents in 5 subject areas. We introduced all the program directors to CSP through this program, and everybody was active. Tom Kepic and I reviewed 15-20 papers per year, and to keep the CSP Board involved, we gave the president the deciding vote in case of a tie. CSP continued these awards for 25 years. It was a nice combination of industry dollars benefitting students as well as their programs--win-win-win, really. Everybody involved came out ahead. Among the award winners, both Perry Klokkevold and Hessam Nowzari became program directors at UCLA and USC, respectively.

We also encouraged people to take the Boards. In those days, Board certification was required by the military but was not so popular in private practice. I had been Board Certified since 1982, and Dr. Bowers had asked me to get the California schools more interested in certification. We needed to find a way to make certification valuable, and the way you do that is with deeds, not just words. We set up a course and essentially introduced Board preparation training to California.

PA: What can our current leaders take away from your experience?

SD: Early on, when interest in regeneration increased, people like John- Chrispens and Irwin Wedner started to help push these ideas into schools. The question was, “How do we get kids interested?” The answer is this: if you want to get people interested in you, you must show interest in them. People remember when someone has done something nice for them, which is why the awards worked. And we found that by highlighting excellent work, we were able to make a lot of friends and future leaders.

Continued from front page.

our profession with optimism and opportunity. Although our individual ambitions and obligations vary greatly, we all have chosen this profession, in some part, because we believe we can improve the lives of others. And, in doing so, develop a prosperous personal lifestyle. Although I believe this to be true, I have also seen the evolution of our profession become increasingly fragmented over the years. Within a growing profession of peers with unified objectives and influence to achieve them, our organization is only as influential as our membership supports us to be. As your president, I have committed well over a decade to participating and supporting our profession and colleagues, and nothing has been more rewarding than knowing I've made the effort to do my part in keeping the advocacy, awareness, political, and professional support of our California Society of Periodontists alive and well for future generations. Now, as I step aside from my role, I highly encourage all of you to continue to commit to our membership and your profession. The evolution of our profession is in all our hands. It is our duty to give back and use our voices to help shape our profession from within. Whether through your supporting membership or if you serve on our board, it is the continued growth of our organization that allows the CSP to continue to work behind the scenes to fight for all our California Periodontists. Remember, engagement is the essence of achievement.

Thank you all for your support.

Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Pat

Patrick L. Huston DDS MSD

Request for Suggestions: Planning the Future of CSP

*Inviting Member Input
for Strategic Growth and
Improvement*

Dear CSP Members,
As we look ahead to the future of our organization, your insights and ideas are invaluable. We are seeking suggestions from all members on how we can plan effectively for the continued growth, improvement, and success of CSP.

Areas to Consider

- 1. Strategic Goals:** What should be our primary objectives over the next few years?
- 2. Innovation:** Are there new initiatives or technologies we should explore? What changes should be made to the annual meeting?
- 3. Member Engagement:** How can we foster a more inclusive and active member community?

How to Submit Your Suggestions

Please share your thoughts, proposals, or questions by replying to the email CSP will send to members in February, participate in a brainstorming meeting May 15, 2026 (in-person), or contacting any board member directly. All ideas are welcome and will be considered as we shape the future of CSP together.

Thank You

Your participation is essential for the success of CSP. We appreciate your commitment and look forward to hearing your valuable suggestions.

Call for volunteer speakers

The Perio-Hygiene Collaborative program is relaunching this year and we're seeking volunteer speakers now. If you're interested, please send an email to csp@calperio.org

What will 2026 bring for you and I?

Dee Nishimine, DDS

I wish I knew, but I know CSP will continue to provide a service that is unique to Periodontists. CSP provides services and advocates for us in California as no other group or organization does. Not the AAP, ADA or CDA. CSP is our voice as a Periodontist in California that provides representation and is recognized as a "Stakeholder" in all political, economic and regulatory affairs. This is what your membership dues go towards in addition to education and programs that hopefully benefit you, your practice, and your community. As we start 2026 it will be a great year for CSP with the meetings in Maui, the annual meeting in Monterey May 2026 and Bio-Symposium in Newport Beach July 2026. I think that we often forget that your membership allows us to put on a great meeting but what it really does is help you, as a Periodontist practicing in California via these benefits.

1. Professional Advocacy & Voice

- We are fortunate, CSP is the advocate for Periodontists in California
- We monitor or attend meetings that impact Periodontics/ Dentistry in California
- CSP represents its members' interests with regulatory and governmental bodies that affect practice conditions (e.g., California Dental Board, CalOSHA, CDA, EPA). As a member you help strengthen that voice and influence policies impacting your practice and patient care.

2. Practice Visibility & Marketing Support

- Only members have access to CSP's hygiene collaborative meetings that help educate dental hygienists and support the periodontal team concept, which can enhance patient care and practice success
- Members can be listed on the CSP's consumer-oriented Oral Health Expert™ website to help patients find your practice, which may improve online visibility and SEO.

3. Sharing Common Ideas and Challenges

- Membership offers opportunities to connect with other periodontists across California, share best practices, build referral relationships, solve common practice problems, and form lasting professional relationships.

4. Wellness & Practice Support Programs

- CSP has developed wellness seminars and collaborative programs aimed at supporting both professional and practice wellness (e.g., new wellness initiatives for members).

Summary

Being a CSP member means advocacy, professional development, reduced education costs, enhanced visibility, networking, and access to practice-support resources designed specifically for California periodontists. It's a way to stay connected, informed, and professionally supported within your specialty.

Editors

Dee Nishimine, DDS
David Corradi, DDS, MS

Managing Editor
Laura Purcell

Published By
California Society of Periodontists

All expressions of opinions and all statements of supposed facts are published on the authority of the writer over whose signature they appear and are not regarded as expressing the view of the California Society of Periodontists unless such statements have been adopted by its representative. Questions or concerns, contact us 951-371-4321 or csp@calperio.org

Navigating the Future of Perio

CSP 2026 Annual Meeting

May 16-17, 2026 - Monterey, California



Join us in Monterey! We've curated a great line up of speakers and topics with two full days of continuing education. Check out the topics below and visit our website to download the detailed meeting program. Monterey is a coastal city gem and one of the best places to visit in California with beaches, a unique ocean-life sanctuary, golf and wineries. We hope you'll join us and bring family, a friend or colleague to learn more about navigating the future of periodontics.

Speakers and topics include: Designing Implant Sites - Dr. Sonia Leizy
Regenerative Solutions for the Compromised Implant Patient - Dr. Robert Miller
Peri-implantitis - Dr. Irina Dragan; A.I. in the Dental Practice - Mr. Ahmed Reza
Tunnel Technique and Gingival Grafting - Dr. E. Pat Allen
Dental Practice Transitions - Mr. Brian Christensen & Ms. Christy Ratcliff
Oral Pathology & Oral Medicine - Dr. Mark Bernstein

Program dates: May 16th 8:00am to 5:00pm | May 17th 8:00am to 4:00pm

Continuing education credit: Earn up to 15 hours of C.E.

Location: Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa, 400 Cannery Row, Monterey, CA 93940

Room rates: Inland view: \$349 | Partial ocean view: \$399 | Ocean view: \$589

All room rates are subject to applicable taxes. Valet parking \$25/night



Registration options: Please see refer to the meeting program and website for registration options including special offers. Scan the QR code to register Questions? Contact us by calling 951-371-4321 or email: csp@calperio.org