

THE CHRONICLE MONTHLY

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highlights



@womendentists

NEW DENTISTS, HERE'S HOW TO FIND YOUR TECH FIT

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As a new dentist and new associate, every office you interview at is going to have a different workflow, and with this comes different options for technology. Some of these may be familiar from school or may be something you read about on the internet or in a dental social media group. As you peruse articles and interact with you peers, remember what works for someone else might not work for you.

Think about what specific areas of dentistry interest you and what technology supports these interests. I've had dentists ask me what they should look for in a new office when it comes to tech, and I always recommend learning as much as you can about as many different systems as you can, especially when you're an associate.

It's likely (especially for all of you near major metro areas) that you'll be working in more than one office. Use this time to get familiar with what works for you, and ask questions about things that are interesting.

To start, explore the incredible amount of continuing education available now, both remotely and in person. Some states still allow you to take a certain amount of these credits online toward your requirements for renewing your dental license. Take this opportunity to study cases done in different ways, with different systems, by different clinicians before committing to time off from work to spend in hands-on training.

Is a lack of technology a deal breaker for signing a contract to work in an office you're otherwise interested in? I would take it into consideration, but I would also tell you to look at the big picture. Is there room for growth? Is this a practice you're considering buying into in the future? Is your boss open to investing in new technology and willing to contribute to training you on it?

We are happy to help our associates grow; after all, it contributes positively to the forward progression of our profession. Never stop learning and exploring new opportunities, shiny or otherwise!





According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one in six U.S. children has an intellectual or developmental disability (IDD). Dental care tops the list of unmet care needs among children with special health care needs

According to the National Survey of Children’s Health in 2017-2018, approximately 13.6 million children (18.5 percent) had a special health care need (SHCN). One in four children with SHCN (26.6 percent) had functional limitations, one in five (19.9 percent) were consistently or significantly impacted by their health condition(s), and nearly half (46.0 percent) were sometimes/moderately impacted by their health condition(s). [1]

Previous studies have shown that the rate of unmet oral health needs is higher in children with SHCN compared with the general population. Despite the growing number of children with disabilities living longer and healthier lives with medical advancements, it is a constant challenge for individuals with SHCN to receive comprehensive dental care. Multiple barriers have been identified, including a lack of trained clinicians who can accommodate these special health care needs and challenging behaviors characteristic to this population. [2]

Providing oral care to patients with SHCN requires adaptation of the skills you use every day. Most people with mild or moderate SHCN can be treated successfully in the general practice setting. [3]

As a dental professional, you also need to be aware of the special challenges – behavioral, physical, and cognitive – that someone who arrives at the dental office with SHCN may have. Learning appropriate skills and techniques to meet the unique oral health needs of children with SHCN will help you be successful in delivering care to these patients. [3] Consider the following tips from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research:

- Determine your patient's mental capabilities and communication skills. Talk with the patient and their caregivers about how the patient's abilities might affect oral health care. Be receptive to their thoughts and ideas on how to make the experience a success.
- Set the stage for a successful visit. Involve the entire dental team--from the receptionist to the dental assistant.
- Observe if physical manifestations of the disability(ies) are present. How does the patient move? Look for challenges such as uncontrolled body movements or problems with sitting in the dentist’s chair.

References on page 4

Congratulations!

Dr. Amrita Patel, DDS
Fellow of the American College of Dentists

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AAWD is thrilled to invite you to meet with our National Board of Directors and candidates for our 2022 Member Meeting! We are happy to share what AAWD has accomplished so far in 2022 and the organization's goals for 2023. We are also excited to introduce our candidates for the upcoming Board of Directors elections! Keep an eye out for an email with the registration link!



Salted ~~CARAMEL~~ Brownie Bites



This sweet treat is sure to impress at the Halloween Office Party or any event. Double or triple the recipe to make sure everyone gets a bite!

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, melted
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs, room temp
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 20 soft caramel candies, unwrapped
- 3 Tbsp heavy cream
- Sea salt for topping

HOW TO PREPARE

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray a 24-count mini muffin pan with nonstick cooking spray; set aside.
2. In a large bowl, mix melted butter and sugar. Add in eggs and vanilla extract; mix until well combined. Sift in flour, cocoa powder, and salt; mix until just combined.
3. Evenly distribute brownie batter between all 24 mini muffin cavities. Bake 12 to 15 minutes or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean.
4. Remove from oven; gently press in the center of each brownie with the bottom of a measuring teaspoon.
5. Transfer pan to a wire rack and allow to cool in the pan for at least 45 minutes.
6. Remove cooled brownie bites from pan and put back onto the wire rack.
7. Add caramels and heavy cream to a microwave safe bowl. Microwave in 20 to 30 seconds increments, stirring well after each, until completely melted and smooth.
8. Evenly distribute caramel between all 24 brownie bites (about 1 teaspoon per bite).
9. Allow to cool for at least 15 to 20 minutes so the caramel can firm up, then top with sea salt as desired.

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MEMBER BENEFIT

spotlight



Hopetown Dental Lab is a state-of-the-art digital dental laboratory located in Ft. Worth, Texas. They originally partnered with AAWD in 2019 offering excellent customer service and a HIGHLY competitive fee schedule that is exclusive to AAWD members.

In their words:

"Our team of experienced technicians handle each case with full attention and care from start to finish. We use the best materials available, state-of-the-art equipment, and with our well executed systems, you are guaranteed consistency. We live for the happiness and success of our customers and we love building those relationships.

We also take a lot of pride in being "THE LAB THAT THINKS LIKE DENTISTS". Each and every day we work with and train our staff to see each case through the eyes of the clinical team, and recognize the struggles that can occur chair-side. This mantra helps us to better serve our customers and produce restorations that take the least amount of chair-time to deliver."

"We are very excited to earn your trust and build a relationship for years to come!"

