THE CHRONICLE MONTHLY

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN DENTISTS



Embracing Change and Looking Ahead: A Message from the Executive Director

As we continue to navigate a rapidly changing landscape, I want to address AAWD's recent decision to cancel the upcoming conference. This difficult decision was made after careful consideration, keeping in mind the evolving needs of our members, attendees, speakers, and sponsors. We recognize the growing demands on dentists' time and resources and remain committed to bringing valuable opportunities to our members and the dental community.

Looking ahead, AAWD is planning several initiatives designed to keep our community engaged, informed, and supported. We will continue our webinar and listening session series in the fall. AAWD is also eager to continue its collaboration with associations like the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA)*. By fostering partnerships with medical associations and promoting interdisciplinary collaboration, AAWD can help bridge the gap between dental and medical care, ensuring better health outcomes for patients.

AAWD is in the process of establishing a mentorship program. This initiative aims to create valuable relationships between early career and seasoned dentists. Please fill out this interest survey to help us launch. Your involvement will be crucial in shaping a program that benefits all participants.

Our new AAWD Member Portal is another dynamic space for members to connect virtually, access a wealth of resources, and stay engaged with our community activities. I encourage each of you to explore the portal and take advantage of the opportunities it presents.

AAWD is committed to evolving to meet your needs and to continue supporting you in your professional journey. Your dedication and resilience inspire us daily, and together, we will continue to thrive and advance dentistry.

Thank you for your ongoing support and engagement with AAWD. We look forward to a bright and collaborative future.

Lindsay Abeln, MOL | AAWD Executive Director

*Members can watch the previous AAWD+AMWA webinar on Sleep Apnea in the resources area in the AAWD Member Portal

Meet the 2024 AAWD Eleanor J Bushee Senior **Dental Award Winners!**

The American Association of Women Dentists proudly presents the 2024 Eleanor J. Bushee Senior Dental Student Awards, celebrating senior dental students who exemplify academic excellence and outstanding leadership. Named in honor of Dr. Eleanor Bushee, a trailblazing dentist and esteemed academic, this award recognizes students who, like Dr. Bushee, demonstrate remarkable enthusiasm in their careers and lives, embodying the spirit of mentorship and collegiality. Join us in congratulating this year's awardees who continue to inspire and lead in the field of dentistry.

Dr. Aubree Capen A.T. Still University Arizona SDOH



Aubree will be joining private practice in St. Johns, Michigan. Aubree's advice to 1st year students is be proud of how far you've come in making your dental dreams reality. Make connections through AAWD, where you'll be surrounded by other awesome, strong, motivated women who will support

Dr. Brianna Jean Sammon Tufts University



Brianna is continuing her dental journey in an OMFS program. Brianna has always been attracted to beating the stigma that "women can't do it." We can, and I am. She served on the 1st all-woman class e-board at Tufts. Brianna's advice: Once you realize you can do it — whatever the "it" means to

Dr. Meredith Darwin Texas A&M University SoD



Meredith will be moving to Clarksville, TN to begin practicing. Meredith's advice to 1st year women dental students is to prioritize self-care and mental health above all. You've already done the hard part of getting into dental school. Don't be afraid to

you throughout your journey. you —		it makes all the difference. have fun and do things you love!		
Dr. Olivia Howard Ohio State University CoD	Dr. Colleen Behan James B. Edwards CoDM	Dr. Pooja Bharadwaj University of Michigan SoD	Dr. Brenda Huynh Creighton University SoD	Dr. Rochelle Bubis NYU College of Dentistry
Dr. Teresa Cerchiara The Dental College of Georgia	Dr. Joy Jinyoung Chang Rutgers SoDM	Dr. Jenna Yu Chun Virginia Commonwealth University SoD	Dr. Ashley Brown A.T. Still University Missouri SDOH	Dr. Olivia Gajewski University of New England CoDM
Dr. Pauline M. Kalta University of Buffalo SoDM	Dr. Mia Morris Howard University CoD	Dr. Sapna Nath Harvard SoDM	Dr. Emma Coburn University of Iowa	Dr. April Johnson University of Louisville SoD
Dr. Stephanie Govea Western University of Health Sciences	Dr. Hannah Watson Southern Illinois University SoDM	Dr. Kelbe Shelton Logan University of Mississippi Medical Center	Dr. Alexandra Metzger Midwestern University CoDM	Dr. Liza Harutyunyan University of California SoD
Dr. Johanna Bassil Nova Southeastern University CoDM	Dr. Jasmine Nevil Adams School of Dentistry, UNC	Dr. Chinonye Cecilia Osenghae UT Health San Antonio	Dr. Shivangi Patel University Of Pittsburgh SoDM	Dr. Tyler Jay Pisciotta University of Nevada, Las Vegas SoDM
Dr. Kristen A. Ramirez UTHealth Houston SoD	Dr. Nicole Riggs University of Missouri – Kansas City	Dr. Ciara Sandefur University of Kentucky CoD	Dr. Catherine Scanapico Stony Brook SoDM	Dr. Rachel Schneider University of Maryland SoD
Dr. Rachel Sebastian Touro CoDM	Dr. Kaitlyn Solano University of Connecticut SoDM	Dr. Kailey Marie Vredenburg University of Florida	Dr. Anna Kay Langworthy Marquette University SoD	

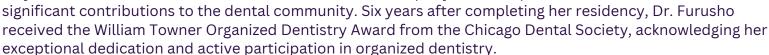
A Legacy of Leadership:

Dr. Cissy Furusho's Impact on AAWD and the Gillette Hayden Memorial Foundation

By Dr. Trucia Drummond

If you have not met AAWD Past-President and current Chair of the Gillette Hayden Memorial Foundation (GHMF), you are missing a special opportunity. Dr. Cissy Furusho is a remarkable leader and a dynamic force.

From the moment Cissy graduated from dental school in 1996, she was recognized for her exceptional contributions, receiving four prestigious awards. Only four years after receiving her specialty degree in Pediatric Dentistry, she was given the William J. Greek Memorial Leadership Award by the Illinois State Dental Society. This award is presented to a dentist less than 10 years out of dental school who has demonstrated exemplary leadership and



In the ensuing years, she has had many honors bestowed on her. She holds fellowships in the Pierre Fauchard Academy, the American College of Dentists, and the International College of Dentists. In 2004, she received the President's Award from AAWD.

These only represent the material contributions Cissy has made. Her dedication and alignment with the American Association of Women Dentists has always been foremost in her efforts. If Gillette Hayden was the "Soul of AAWD," Cissy Furusho is the "Heart of AAWD." Dr. Furusho was elected to the AAWD executive board in 2002, probably before she really wanted to advance. With some persuasion of her mentors, she picked up the reins and served with the passion she always demonstrates. She was installed as AAWD President in 2005. She was appointed to the Board of the Gillette Hayden Memorial Foundation in 2010 and became Chair in 2018. The GHMF has thrived under her leadership.

All of Dr. Furusho's accomplishments cannot be recognized in one short article. She has capped off her achievements by being named as a member of the Strategic Forecasting Committee of ADA, a committee at the forefront of establishing the direction of services provided by the ADA.

The genesis of GHMF has been profiled in previous Chronicle issues. GHMF is a vital foundation of AAWD, dedicated exclusively to charitable, scientific, literary, and educational activities.

The GHMF Board of Trustees is developing new programs in collaboration with AAWD. The current board members are Dr. Cissy Furusho (Chair), Dr. Tawana Lee-Ware (Secretary), Dr. Krista Jones (Treasurer), Dr. Maxine Feinberg (Trustee), Dr. Judith Fisch (Trustee), and Dr. Lilia Larin (Trustee). This is an illustrious group assembled for the furtherance of the mission of the GHMF and the support of AAWD.

The new programs being offered are:

- The GHMF-June Warren Lee AAWD Student Leadership Scholarship which sponsors an AAWD student member to attend the AAWD Annual Meeting.
- The ADEA Woman Dentist Faculty Tuition Scholarship for Professional Development. This program is jointly sponsored by GHMF/AAWD and ADEA Emerging Leaders Program. This scholarship supports professional development activities for women dentist faculty in dental and allied dental education in the early stages of their careers.
- The GHMF Practice management Scholarship for New Dental Practice owners. The goal is to support a woman dentist practice owner in her efforts to learn the business of dentistry and also encourage applicants to practice in health professional shortage areas.

These are exciting and innovative programs and you are invited to participate.

(Nelcome hew Members!

AAWD is Growing! Say ♦ hello to our newest members!



Dr. Neetha Santosh

Dr. Armida Dano

Dr. Perien Tarek

Srushti Patel

Dr. Farida Sherif

Dr. Devinn Geeson

Dr. Maram Azmy

Dr. Melissa Roe

Dr. Gail Cherry-Peppers

Dr. Jill Schabert

Celebrate Pride Month

As we celebrate Pride Month, AAWD reaffirms its commitment to inclusiveness, diversity, and creating a welcoming environment for all patients. This month is a reminder of the importance of recognizing and respecting the diverse identities and experiences of the LGBTQ+ community.

In the field of dentistry, fostering an inclusive and supportive environment is crucial. Every patient, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, deserves to feel comfortable and respected when seeking dental care. By embracing diversity, we not only uphold the principles of equality and human dignity but also enhance the quality of care we provide. Read on for some simple inclusivity tips.

- 1. Inclusive Language: Using inclusive language in patient interactions and medical documentation can significantly impact a patient's comfort level. Simple changes, such as asking about preferred pronouns and using gender-neutral terms, demonstrate respect and inclusivity.
- 2.Safe Space: Creating a visibly welcoming environment can make a significant difference. This can include displaying Pride flags or inclusive posters in waiting areas.
- 3. Patient Education: Providing resources and information tailored to the specific health needs of LGBTQ+ individuals helps in addressing any unique dental health concerns they might have.



At AAWD, we celebrate the diversity of our members and patients. We believe that embracing and understanding different perspectives enriches our profession and our ability to serve the community. As we honor Pride Month, we encourage all dental professionals to continue striving towards inclusivity, understanding, and respect in their practices.

Mocoming Events

<u>July</u>

1-7: Write a LetterAppreciation Week4: Independence Day6: InternationalKissing Day24: International Self

Care Day

August

6: National Fresh Breath Day 11: National Align Your Teeth Day 22: Tooth Fairy Day

We want to hear from you! What events would you like to see AAWD host? Click here to share your feedback!

Want to be featured or recommend someone as the next member or chapter spotlight?

Click here to submit to the next edition!

Promote the Future of Women in Dentistry



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