

Special Care Dentistry Association

Starting a Student Chapter



What is the Special Care Dentistry Association?

- **Mission**

The Special Care Dentistry Association (SCDA) serves as a resource to all oral health care professionals who serve or are interested in serving patients with special needs through education and networking to increase access to oral healthcare for patients with special needs.

- **Vision**

To be the leading organization where oral health and other professionals meet, communicate, exchange ideas, and work together to improve oral health for people with special needs.

- **2013: Formation of Three Councils (previously ADPD, ASGD, AAHD)**

- SCDA Council of Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities
- SCDA Council of Geriatric Dentistry
- SCDA Council of Hospital Dentistry

Why is SCDA important to us as future dentists?

- *Every practice has patients with special needs.* These are patients with systemic disease, issues of aging, multiple medications, behavioral issues and many other special needs related circumstances. As this population continues to grow, there becomes an increasing need for future dentists to be trained in providing care for these patients.
- *Patients with special needs are at a higher risk for developing oral disease than is the general population.* In 2000, the United States Surgeon General issued a report, which discussed the oral health access disparity in patients with special needs. This report determined that this population generally possesses a higher incidence of systemic disease and is at a higher risk for developing oral disease than is the general population.¹ Furthermore, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resource Services Administration determined, “Disabled persons exhibit poor oral hygiene, more severe periodontal disease, more decayed tooth surfaces, and greater treatment needs than persons without disabilities.”² These patients also have more missing teeth and experience greater difficulty in finding dental providers than patients without disabilities.³
- *Provides education and resources encouraging students to treat individuals with special needs in future practice.* Historically, the treatment of this population has largely been performed by pediatric dentists. As patients with special needs transition into adulthood, it has become increasingly difficult, at times impossible to find a general dentist with the training or office environment to manage these patients in a safe and effective manner. The oral health care needs of the majority of individuals with special needs **can** be met in general practice settings. SCDA provides a network of mentors and leaders who can help future dentists feel comfortable in providing dental treatment for these patients in future practice.

1. Oral health in America: a report of the surgeon general. Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, National Institutes of Health, 2000.

2. Bonito AJ, Cooper LY. Dental care considerations of disadvantaged and special care populations. Baltimore (MD): U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Health Resources and Services Administration; April 2001.

3. Bernal C. Maintenance of oral health in people with learning disabilities. *Nursing Times*. 2005;101(6): 40.

Keys to a Successful Chapter

1) Motivated Leadership

- Leaders should be the most passionate, determined members of the group; their example and involvement determines that of the general members.
- Accountability, organization, and persistence are the keys for goals being met within a group.

2) Patience

- The positive changes that stem from a SCDA chapter often do not happen over night; stay the course and realize that everything we are doing is for the benefit of our favorite patients.

3) Perspective

- Each service event and lecture should help to communicate the point that patients with special needs need quality care, and that we have a responsibility to be well prepared providers for them and their families.

Step 1: Identify Student Leaders

- E-Board Members

- *President*
- *President-Elect*
- *Secretary*
- *Treasurer*



Executive Committee Members

Executive Committee

- *President and President-elect*

- President-elect will hold the position of president in the coming school year.
- Generally, these two students are in separate grades, with the President-elect being in the younger class.

- Oversees the group's activity

- Selects meeting days for the general body

- Maintains social and working relationships that are beneficial for the group

- As appropriate, work closely with the Faculty Advisor from the dental school.

- Stays connected with the national organization

Step 1: Identify Student Leaders

- E-Board Members

- President*

- President-Elect*

- Secretary*

- Treasurer*



Critical E-Board Members

Secretary

- *Someone who is very organized.*
- Maintains group calendar of events and sends out event reminders
 - Event reminders should be sent out 1 week before, 3 days before, and the morning of events.
- Organizes all online articles and resources
- Tracks meeting and event attendance
 - Recording attendance will increase group participation.
- Takes and distribute meeting minutes

Treasurer

- Maintains the chapter's finances in an established bank account
- Works with school administrators to ensure group funding if the dental school provides that for student groups
- Collects money during group fundraisers
- Organizes fundraising opportunities to raise money to support the chapter
 - Examples include:
 - Business card sale (use a website such as Vistaprint to create business cards for students to provide for patients)
 - ASL Classes (\$5/member \$10/non-member)
 - T-shirt Sale

Step 2: Select a Faculty Advisor

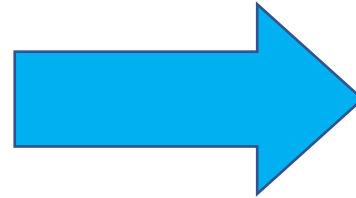
- *Faculty Advisor*

- Interest or experience in working with patients with special needs.
- Approachable and open to student ideas.
- Working relationship with school administration.
- Availability to meet regularly with E-Board.

Step 3: Registration

- Register for Membership

- *National Membership*

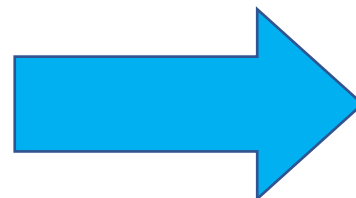


- ***Required*** for all E-Board members

- Interested general body members can register, but it is not required

- \$10 fee

- *Local Membership*



- ***Required*** for all general body members

- FREE!

Step 3: Registration

- *All E-Board members are required to register with the National Organization.*
 - \$10 annual fee good for membership from January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019.
 - Should provide information on the perks of membership and how to register under their student chapter here.
 - Also, should discuss if there is a discount for a participating faculty advisor.

Step 4: Establish Group Goals

- *E-Board is responsible for setting both long and short-term goals.*
 - Hold each other accountable for deadlines.
- Be realistic in the goal setting process. As a new group, it is good to be ambitious, but also important to be successful.
 - *General Goals*
 - *SMART Goals*

General Goals

- *General statements that are easy to formulate.*
- Examples include:
 - Create positive experiences for individuals with special needs and dental students.
 - Educate students about challenges facing patients with special needs and how best to care for them.
 - Create a sustainable student chapter.

SMART Goals

- Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Timely goals
- Steps in the goal-setting and planning process needed to accomplish general objectives.
- Specific goals should relate to recruitment, events, and participation.
 - What is a reasonable recruitment goal?
 - How many events can we put on a semester? How will we do this?
 - How many students do we want to participate in each event?

Step 5: Recruitment

- *Student recruitment is critical to the success and sustainability of your chapter.*
- **Recruitment opportunities include:**
 - Having a table at New Student Orientation
 - Introductory Lunch & Learn for interested students
 - Delegating projects to members to promote participation and accomplish more
 - Expanding your E-board as your chapter continues to grow
 - Obtaining Credit for School Service (if applicable to your school)

Step 6: Promote Interdisciplinary Communication

- Reach out to student leaders working with individuals with special needs across different disciplines.
 - *Promotes participation, enhances education, and builds partnerships.*
- Examples of Disciplines:
 - Medicine
 - Speech & Language Pathology
 - Occupational Therapy
 - Physical Therapy
 - Nursing
 - Dental Hygiene

Step 7: Partner with Local Organizations

- **Seek out local or regional groups** providing students with positive experiences and interactions working with individuals with special needs.
- Examples include:
 - Special Olympics Organization
 - Advocacy Organizations for autism, Down Syndrome, MS, CP, etc.
 - Nursing Homes/Assisted Living Facilities
 - Children's Hospital

Step 8: Be Proactive

- *Let's be real, dental students are busy!* It is up to you and your E-Board members to plan and coordinate activities for general body members.
 - Be organized.
 - Be enthusiastic.
 - No one wants to be part of a boring group.
 - Be positive.
 - *Remember, you are the face of your chapter!*
 - Promote participation.
- Reach out to the current student liaisons to the National SCDA Organization for resources and more information.
 - Taylor Velasquez (4th year dental student): tvelasquez@atsu.edu
 - Jeannette LaBelle (4th year dental student): jeannette.labelle@marquette.edu

The **MOST** Important Step

HAVE FUN!

