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Special Care Dentistry Association Announces Name Change, Expanded Focus

CHICAGO – As of January 1, 2007, Special Care Dentistry (SCD) will be known as the Special Care Dentistry Association (SCDA). “Our members’ areas of practice are expanding and changing,” said SCDA president Dr. Roseann Mulligan, “and we felt it appropriate to recognize that fact with a new name, a new logo and a new focus on integrating all aspects of caring for dental patients with special needs. For example, all SCDA members will now have full access to our three formerly separate component organizations: American Association of Hospital Dentists (AAHD), American Society for Geriatric Dentistry (ASGD) and the Academy of Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities (ADPD).”

Because many of the goals and activities of these three practice areas overlap, the component groups joined forces and formed SCDA. By fully integrating these groups, SCDA will benefit its members – and the patients they serve – by having a united leadership and a single mission. Additionally, members will have more opportunities for open discussion, networking and knowledge sharing.

Mulligan explains, “Our focus is on the patients who need special care, regardless of the particular practice setting. For example, an SCDA member could easily be caring for a disabled, geriatric, hospitalized patient. This one patient incorporates all three components – hospitals, geriatrics and disabilities. However, the key is the patient and his or her needs – which transcend the particular practice setting.”

To further strengthen its identity, Special Care Dentistry Association will officially be referred to as SCDA rather than SCD. A new Web site will reflect the change (www.scdaonline.org) and content will be reorganized to increase its value as a resource for all dental professionals serving patients with special needs. Staff and board e-mail addresses will also switch to “name”@SCDAonline.org.

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Special Care Dentistry Association is a unique international organization of oral health professionals and other individuals dedicated to providing service to and promoting the oral health of special needs patients. Headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, SCDA has a wide-ranging membership that includes dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, non-dental healthcare providers, health program administrators, residents, students and others who share in the mission. A participating membership category is available for hospitals and agencies that serve people with special needs, and other advocacy and healthcare organizations. For more information, visit SCDA’s Web site at www.scdaonline.org.