



# SOUTH CAROLINA DENTAL ASSOCIATION

## Bulletin

### August 2025

Volume 53, Issue 8

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#### Presidents Message

By Dr. Deidre Crockett, SCDA President



#### Our future Dentists

This summer is going by fast! In May, I attended and spoke at the outstanding hooding ceremony for the MUSC CDM class of 2025. I remember when ours was held at the MUSC chapel. We had a much smaller class with a few guests. The current ceremony had so much parental, friends, and extended family support for the students. It was touching to see the doctors that are parents and relatives on stage to place the hood on their family member. In June, I also attended the MUSC CDM class of 2027 white coat ceremony marking the start of third year. The Students were so happy to receive their new white coats that were gifted by the SCDA members. The coats looked sharp, and it was an honor to be a part of these important ceremonies that mark the end of four years of dental school for these talented students, and the beginning of clinics for the third year students.

I believe the students and faculty know the value of membership in organized Dentistry. They see this through our efforts and our support of the school. When you go to the annual session this month, there will be several Technical school and MUSC dental students presenting their scientific posters. Please stop by and look at the posters and speak with the students. They're very excited about meeting South Carolina Dentists, and would love to interact with our members. The MUSC students will also be attending our Thursday night event, so please come so you can meet and tailgate for your favorite team with the students and your colleagues.

#### Fluoridation

Fluoridation in the water continues to be a hot topic around the country. The ADA constantly updates their website with information on fluoridation. The ADA also has a fluoridation booklet that is free to members. The ADA website says to "Access your free Fluoridation Facts e-book by visiting your [ADA E-Bookshelf](#) and logging in to the system with your ADA credentials."

#### Legislation

Recently there was an action email sent by the ADA advocacy concerning the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act, H.R. 1." I definitely took the less than one minute of time to fill out my information to contact Representatives and Senators concerning this legislation. It's easy and an effective way to communicate. You can sign up here: [ADA Legislative Action Center | American Dental Association](#) to receive notifications to take action.

The ADA recently sent a communication update on the ADA efforts concerning the bill and results. From the ADA: "Because of ADA's tireless lobbying and strong grassroots advocacy since passage of the House's version of the OBBB in May, we successfully secured the restoration of the Pass-Through Entity Tax (PTET) deduction in the Senate bill – avoiding a nearly 5 percent tax increase on S-Corporations and partnerships and preserving tax parity with other pass-through entities (pending final passage). The ADA's leadership on this issue was crucial to its preservation. PTET was under siege, but we led a broad coalition of 31 health care groups, organized cross-industry action for affected pass-throughs, and utilized detailed data from the ADA's Health Policy Institute to make our case to Congress. In addition, state executive directors from dental associations across the country contacted their Senators about PTET (and other pressing

reconciliation issues) and a grassroots alert directed our members to send more than 11,000 letters to their members of Congress in support of the PTET deduction.”

Also from the ADA News: “The ADA sent an Advocacy Update to membership on the Senate’s passage of H.R. 1, outlining both the Association’s wins and remaining challenges in the bill. These include a major win with the full restoration of the pass-through entity tax deduction and other favorable tax provisions for dental practices such as a permanent 20% small business income deduction, a restoration of full bonus depreciation, new domestic research deductions and a 21% corporate tax rate. The bill also includes challenges for dental education, such as the elimination of the GradPLUS loan program, a reduction to two loan repayment options and proposed aid caps.”

### **Leadership Annual Session**

An advocacy luncheon will be held at our Annual Session in Columbia on Friday, August 15th. Please check to make sure you are registered. Also, we will have an information booth concerning our state and each district’s leadership network. Information about our upcoming HOD on December 5th will also be available. We will have a sign up for each district where you can let us know your willingness to serve, and any issues that concern you as a member dentist.

### **Appreciation**

Finally, I’m grateful that we have a very experienced hard working SCDA staff that has, especially in this last year, kept us efficiently organized. As President, I am in contact several times a week with our Executive Director, Associate Executive Director, and staff at the SCDA office. The amount of work they do for our membership is incredible. One thing I have learned is that our staff at the SCDA truly cares about our members and our organization. If you see someone wearing a staff shirt at the annual session, please thank them for their tireless, dedicated work towards our Association.



*We are pleased to announce...*

**Matthew E. Boller, D.M.D.**  
has acquired the practice of  
**James R. Decker, D.M.D.**  
Charleston, South Carolina

**Family Dental Health &  
Rob M. Safrit II, D.M.D.**  
have acquired the practice of  
**Samuel N. Pratt Jr., D.M.D.**  
Moncks Corner, South Carolina

*We are pleased to have assisted  
in these practice transitions.*

### **Practices For Sale**

**REAL ESTATE AVAILABLE LEXINGTON COUNTY:** GP with high visibility & growth potential in freestanding 1,200 sq. ft. office with 4 ops, digital equipment, and room to expand. Great location with ample parking. PPO/FFS patient base, 20 new patients/month. Collected \$465K in 2024 on 3 days/week.

**Opportunity ID: SC-02559**

**LAURENS/GREENWOOD, MOTIVATED SELLER - PRICE REDUCED!** 100% FFS General Dental Practice with 1,337 active patients and strong growth potential. 2024 revenue: \$560K on 4 doctor + 6 hygiene days/week. Digital X-ray, pano, 5 ops in 2,700 sq. ft. (+600 sq. ft. storage). Many procedures currently referred out. Merger potential. Real estate also available. Call AFTCO

**Opportunity ID: SC-02536**

**COLUMBIA, SC POTENTIAL MILLION-DOLLAR GP:** This practice collects \$900K annually on a 4-doctor, 8-hygiene day schedule. Patient base is 80% PPO / 20% FFS with 4 equipped ops and 1 unequipped. Strong hygiene and recall systems in place. Seller open to staying on post-sale. Big opportunity for the right dentist—call AFTCO! **Opportunity ID: SC-02273**

**\$1.4M+ CHARLESTON METRO, SC GP:** Price Cut, Motivated Seller! Thriving digital practice in a 2,800 sq. ft. stand-alone building with 7 ops, CEREC, and great visibility. Over 2,100 active FFS/PPO patients and 30+ new patients/month. Collected \$1.4M on 7 doctor and 6 hygiene days/week. Room to expand, well-maintained, and real estate available. **Opportunity ID: SC-02666**

**Go to our website or call to request information on other opportunities!**



# Nitrous Oxide Monitoring

Gabriel Ross, D.M.D., and Deirdre S. Williams, D.D.S., MS

Department of Advanced Specialty Sciences, Section of Pediatric Dentistry

CE credits: 4 hours

## Course learning objectives:

1. Understand basic physiology and anatomy with the use of nitrous oxide analgesia.
2. Review indications and contraindications for its use and safety measures.
3. Demonstrate proficiency in administration and use within a dental setting with simulation exercises.
4. Be prepared to complete the State Board Nitrous Oxide Monitoring Examination.

**October 10, 2025**

**9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

**James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine**

**Dental Clinic Building DC446**

**Register at [dentistry.musc.edu](https://dentistry.musc.edu)**

For more information: [dannera@muscd.edu](mailto:dannera@muscd.edu)

**\$150 Early Registration**

Ends Aug 31, 2025

**\$200 Late Registration**

Ends Oct 3, 2025



**James B. Edwards  
College of Dental Medicine**

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The MUSC College of Dental Medicine is an ADA CERP recognized Provider. ADA CERP is a service of the American Dental Association to assist dental professionals in identifying quality providers of continuing dental education. ADA CERP does not approve or endorse individual courses or instructors, nor does it imply acceptance of credit hours by boards of dentistry. The MUSC College of Dental Medicine designates this activity for continuing education credits.



# Understanding the Value of SCDA Supplies: A Resource for SCDA Members

By Mark Brown, CAE, Associate Executive Director



In any dental practice, the efficiency of day-to-day operations often relies on the availability and cost-effectiveness of supplies. Whether you're handling routine exams, performing complex procedures, or managing patient care, having reliable and affordable resources is essential. One solution that many SCDA Members are turning to is SCDA Supplies, a service designed to streamline procurement and maximize savings while ensuring quick access to high-quality dental products.

## **The Challenges of Managing Dental Supplies**

For many dental practices, managing supply chains and keeping overhead costs in check can be time-consuming and stressful. Practices often have to juggle multiple suppliers, deal with fluctuating delivery times, and navigate complex return policies. This can lead to inefficiencies and unnecessary expenses—ultimately impacting the ability to provide the best possible care for patients.

SCDA Supplies aims to alleviate many of these challenges by offering a simpler, more transparent solution.

## **Key Benefits of SCDA Supplies**

### **1. Free Shipping & Fast Delivery**

One of the most significant challenges practices face is the unpredictability of delivery times. With SCDA Supplies, members can rely on a 2-3 day delivery window. Additionally, the service includes 100% free shipping on all orders, ensuring members can plan and budget more effectively.

### **2. Cost-Effective Solutions**

Cost management is critical in any healthcare setting. SCDA Supplies offers savings of up to 20% on over 60,000 dental products, which can add up significantly over time. These savings are available on products from more than 500 well-known brands, giving members access to top-quality materials at a more affordable price.

### **3. Streamlined Returns & No Restocking Fees**

Unlike many traditional supply channels, SCDA Supplies makes returning items simple and hassle-free. With no restocking fees and an easy return process, dental practices don't have to worry about being stuck with products they no longer need. This flexibility can help maintain cash flow and reduce waste.

### **4. Comprehensive Product Range**

SCDA Supplies offers a wide range of products necessary for daily practice, from gloves and sterilization equipment to more specialized items such as dental instruments. Having access to such a comprehensive catalog allows practices to consolidate their orders, reducing the time spent searching for various items across multiple suppliers.

### **5. No Gray Market, Expired, or Counterfeit Items**

All products are from direct manufacturers and authorized dealers.

## **A Resource for SCDA Members' Practices**

SCDA Supplies was created with the specific needs of SCDA Members in mind. The goal is not only to provide cost-effective solutions, but also to foster an environment where members can focus more on patient care and less on logistical challenges. By taking advantage of SCDA Supplies' benefits, dental offices can reduce procurement time, improve cost efficiency, and ensure they have access to the right tools when they need them.

## **How to Get Started**

For those interested in exploring SCDA Supplies further, it's easy to browse their catalog of products online at [scdasupplies.com](https://scdasupplies.com). Just have your ADA number available. If you have questions or would like a detailed cost comparison, you can reach out directly to me at [brownm@scda.org](mailto:brownm@scda.org). Additionally, the SCDA Supplies support team is available at [support@SCDAsupplies.com](mailto:support@SCDAsupplies.com) or by phone at 888-804-1046 to assist with any inquiries.

By taking the time to review and utilize SCDA Supplies, members can help ensure their practice is running efficiently and cost-effectively, ultimately enhancing patient care and practice profitability.



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## Contact Dentist Needed

By DenPAC Chair, Dr. Chris Griffin, Legislative Chair, Dr. Thomas Edmonds and Executive Director, Phil Latham

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The South Carolina Dental Association (SCDA) has enjoyed a very strong presence at the South Carolina Legislature and the main reason is due to our contact dentist system where a South Carolina dentist is assigned to each Senator and Representative across the State.

Our contact system needs to be updated and strengthened as South Carolina saw many new faces elected to the 2025 legislature and having a contact dentist for each of them is very important. In addition, many new legislative bills introduced in 2025 will carry over until next year so a solid contact system will be needed.

The contact dentist is usually someone who knows the legislator and is willing to pick up the phone and call them about any legislative issue that directly or indirectly affects dentistry. However, you do not need to personally know the legislator but be willing to make contact with them if needed and be willing to deliver a campaign check when appropriate. This is extremely important. Without a good contact system, legislation can get passed that may be detrimental to dentistry.

**PLEASE** review the list below and let Phil Latham ([lathamp@scda.org](mailto:lathamp@scda.org)) know who you know or who you are willing to be the contact dentist for.

### SENATORS

Sean Bennett – Charleston & Dorchester  
\*Allen Blackmon – Chesterfield, Kershaw, Lancaster  
\*JD Chaplin – Darlington, Lee, Sumter  
\*Tom Fernandez – Berkeley, Orangeburg  
\*Jeffrey Graham – Kershaw, Lee

\*Russell Ott – Calhoun, Richland  
\*Everett Stubbs – Chester, Fairfield  
\*Ed Sutton – Charleston  
\*Overture Walker – Richland

### **\*NEWLY ELECTED 2025**

### REPRESENTATIVES

Gary Brewer – Charleston, Dorchester  
Brandon Cox – Berkeley  
\*Adam Duncan – Oconee, Pickens  
Thomas Harnett, Jr. – Charleston  
\*Jason Luck - Chesterfield  
Donald McCabe - Lexington  
James Neese – Lancaster  
Jordan Pace – Berkeley  
\*Robert Reese – Kershaw, Richland  
Seth Rose – Richland

\*Richard Sanders - Anderson  
Keishan Scott - Sumter  
Marvin Smith - Berkeley  
\* Tiffany Spann-Wilde – Charleston, Dorchester  
\*James Teeple - Charleston  
David Vaughn - Greenville  
\*Courtney Waters - Charleston  
Elizabeth Westmore – Folly Beach  
Paul Wickensimer - Greenville

### **\*NEWLY ELECTED 2025**



**Award Categories:**

**George P. Hoffmann, Jr. - Distinguished Dentist Award**

This award is the premier and most prestigious award presented by the South Carolina Dental Association. It is to honor a member or former member for years of outstanding service to the SCDA, the dental profession, and the community. Nominees must have practiced dentistry in South Carolina for a minimum of ten years.

**Meritorious Achievement Award**

The nominee must be a member in good standing of the SCDA who has demonstrated in recent years significant achievement in dentistry in the areas of professionalism, leadership, academics, research, or health care delivery.

**James B Edwards Citizenship Award**

The nominee must be a member in good standing of the SCDA who has served the citizens of South Carolina in a manner that reflects a positive image of dentistry. Areas of achievement include humanitarian and religious activities, civic affairs, community service, or cultural contributions.

**New Dentist Award**

The nominee must be a member in good standing of the SCDA who has been in practice ten years or less or who is under forty years of age. The nominee must have demonstrated leadership qualities through service to dentistry.

**Dental Team Award**

Team members in a private office. The nominee must be from an office of a SCDA member and nominated by an SCDA member. The criteria for evaluation include:

- The nominee demonstrates the he/she holds the profession of dentistry in the highest regard.
- The nominee has five or more years of experience in the dental field.
- The nominee promotes the interest and betterment of the profession through the team concept of dentistry.
- The nominee participates in community activities that bring credit to the dental profession.
- The nominee demonstrates enthusiasm for his/her work and creates innovative ideas about patient relations and managerial modifications that improve the delivery of patient care.

**Special Recognition Award**

The nominee may be any individual who deserves recognition for special achievement or an extraordinary deed related or unrelated to dentistry. This award provides for special circumstances that do not conform to the other awards.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Category of Award*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name of Nominee*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Nominee Address*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Nominee Email Address*

*Please attach your typed letter of recommendation and the nominee's CV.*

*Awards may or may not be granted at discretion of the Board. A sitting Board member may not be nominated.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*SCDA Member Nominating Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name (Print)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Phone Number*

*Do you wish to remain anonymous? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_*

***Your nomination form, letter of recommendation, and the nominee's CV must be returned by October 1, 2025 to the SCDA office. Nominator must be an SCDA Member.***

***These awards will be presented during the 2025 SCDA House of Delegates Meeting.***



# Extraction Error Leads to Lawsuit: Overview of Litigation Process

By Marc Leffler, DDS, Esq., MedPro Group an SCDA Endorsed Company

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We turn slightly away from our usual format, based upon some ongoing inquiries from our insureds regarding the litigation process, and explore what that process entails from an overview perspective at MedPro.

While each case situation is treated uniquely due to the individual circumstances, our goal here is to provide a general sense of the start-to-finish approach to the process, with the understanding that not every potential scenario will be addressed here. A set of background facts is provided to set the stage for the potential litigation pathways. These facts involve an oral and maxillofacial surgeon as the defendant, but they could just as readily involve other types of dentists.

## Key Concepts

- General overview of litigation procedure
- Understanding pure consent policy provision
- Importance of collaboration in litigation process

## Background Facts

T was an 18-year-old male, who recently consulted an orthodontist with esthetic dental concerns, mostly due to an asymmetry of the maxillary teeth that resulted from a congenitally missing upper left bicuspid that skewed the dental midline to his left. The orthodontist concluded that, given the mildly increased over jet as well, T would best be treated with the extraction of the upper right first bicuspid, after which that space would be closed orthodontically with a rightward set of forces that would also set back the upper anterior teeth.

To carry out the pre-orthodontic treatment, the orthodontist's receptionist, at the orthodontist's request, called a local OMS's "front desk," and asked that T's "tooth 5 on the upper right" be extracted. The OMS's staff member noted the request, exactly as stated, in the schedule for the upcoming appointment. When T presented, the OMS was confused as to whether the orthodontist wanted "tooth #5" or the "upper right 5" to be removed, so she asked her office manager to call the orthodontist's office to clear that up. In response, the orthodontist's office manager looked at the chart notes and transmitted back that the OMS should remove "the upper right 5 tooth." Although still somewhat confused, given dentistry's multiple systems of numerically identifying teeth, the OMS nevertheless proceeded to obtain informed consent by explaining that "a tooth" would be extracted, and having T sign a "consent form" which listed "tooth extraction" as the procedure, and then uneventfully extracting the upper right second bicuspid (UR5 a/k/a #4). When the patient returned to the orthodontist several weeks later and was examined, the orthodontist called the OMS and said, "I wanted the first bicuspid removed, not the second, and that mistake will make the outcome less desirable in the end."

## MedPro's Involvement

Immediately upon learning of the problem from the orthodontist, the OMS (Dr. K), telephone-contacted her malpractice carrier, MedPro, and spoke with the claims intake representative to advise of the situation. Because Dr. K had not, as of that time, been informed by T or a lawyer on his behalf that there was an intention to sue, the situation was noted in Dr. K's policy file as an incident, with no further steps taken as of that time.

Less than 3 months later, Dr. K received a letter from T's attorney, stating an intention to file an action in dental malpractice, unless T was paid a stated sum of money. Dr. K again contacted MedPro and forwarded the attorney's letter, along with a copy of her records for T. Now, the matter was a claim, and assigned to the claims consultant who manages claims within the state where the events occurred. The claims consultant telephoned Dr. K, and the two had a detailed conversation about the dental events and the potential procedures that might follow. Dr. K made it very clear to the claims consultant that she believed that the communication errors emanated from the orthodontist's office, and that she was of the opinion that she had "done nothing wrong." Therefore, she wished to exercise her pure-consent malpractice policy provision and withhold consent to settle "under any circumstances." The claims consultant explained to Dr. K that, while her right to exercise would be fully respected by MedPro, that meant that, unless a case, if formally started in court, were voluntarily withdrawn by T or dismissed by a court, it would proceed to trial. Dr. K said that she understood and was fervent in her decision.

The claims consultant spoke with T's lawyer and advised that no settlement offer was forthcoming. Shortly thereafter, a process server appeared at Dr. K's office and served her with a copy of the initiatory documents, often called a Summons and Complaint, in which T claimed that Dr. K was negligent, thereby causing injury to T, and also asserting a claim of lack of informed consent. Those documents were forwarded to the claims consultant, who discussed with Dr. K that defense counsel would be assigned to represent her as the case moved forward. Dr. K was now the defendant. Upon receiving the case to defend, Dr. K's new attorney, who was very experienced in defending dental malpractice actions, met with Dr. K to review the entirety of her chart for T, discuss all that took place in terms of the inter-office communications, and explain all that would follow.

After that meeting, the defense lawyer timely served on T's attorney a document known as an Answer, in which all claims of malpractice/wrongdoing/lack of informed consent were denied. Dr. K's defense counsel also served a number of information-seeking documents to begin the litigation phase of Discovery, during which each party would provide



documents and other requested information, all overseen by a judge. The Discovery phase provides each party with the opportunity to learn their adversary's litigation approach, by having them share demanded information for the ultimate purpose of eliminating any "ambush at trial." Perhaps the most consequential portion of Discovery is the taking of depositions of all parties, and sometimes of experts as well. Depositions are under-oath question-and-answer sessions during which the person being deposed provides spoken responses to relevant questions put to them by opposing counsel, and which are then transcribed by stenographers. Because deposition responses can be read to trial juries with the same force and effect as though they were stated in court, pre-deposition preparation by counsel of all witnesses – including the defendant dentist – is critical.

Completion of discovery is reported to the judge, at which time a trial date is assigned, with some judges bringing counsel (and sometimes the parties too) together to discuss settlement prospects. If expert reports and theories have not yet been exchanged between the parties, this is the time to do so. Motions seeking dismissal, if made, are generally submitted now. This time, known as the pre-trial phase, lends itself to further discussions between the parties and their attorneys, as well as the insurance carrier, to again consider whether a settlement is to be a consideration. Dr. K continues to be able to exercise her pure-consent provision, thereby moving the case to trial. Defendant dentists often make determinations regarding whether to seek a potential settlement based upon such issues as their assessment of treatment events with all positions now in the open, their weighing of the competing expert opinions, and personal concerns (time out of office for trial, reputational worries, stress, etc.), all in conjunction with their attorneys. MedPro tracks all litigation steps along the way, often seeking and considering dental, medical, and legal viewpoints from in-house or other sources. It is important to note that insured dentists with pure-consent policies can properly withhold consent to a settlement, but if they agree to seek a settlement, the ultimate decisions as to whether to settle and for what amount then lie exclusively with MedPro, as the insurer.

Trial starts with the jury selection process – voir dire – and then proceeds into what is traditionally viewed as the trial proper. At times, certain motions to exclude evidence are presented to the presiding judge, to be addressed outside of the jury's presence, and then decided. First, the plaintiff presents his case – documentary and other tangible evidence, fact witnesses, expert witnesses – with the defense attorney able to cross-examine all witnesses who appear and testify on behalf of the plaintiff. At the conclusion of "plaintiff's case," defense attorneys usually seek dismissal of the entire case, claiming that the plaintiff, who has the burden of proof, failed to meet that burden to the satisfaction of the court. If granted, the case ends. But if denied, as it statistically most commonly is, the defendant's attorneys present the "defense case," offering their own evidence and witnesses, the most important of which is the defense expert dentist, to counter the claims that the defendant dentist was negligent, thereby causing injury to the plaintiff.

It is then time for the jury to do its job, after lawyers' summations are heard and its members are instructed by the judge on the law applicable to the case. But even while the jurors deliberate, a settlement agreement between the parties can still be reached, presuming here that this defendant, Dr. K, waives her consent option, up until the time that the jury renders its collective decision as a verdict. A verdict for the plaintiff is almost always accompanied with an amount of money for compensation, but a verdict for the defendant means that the plaintiff has not proven that he has been injured at the negligent hand of the defendant dentist, and therefore gets no money. Post-trial motions are often presented to the judge by the losing side, either orally or in writing, with reversal of the jury's determinations fairly uncommon. And then, the option for appeal hangs in the balance, asking a higher court to correct the trial judge's improper trial decisions and/or the jury's verdict, occasionally but not frequently resulting in a new trial from scratch or an alteration of dollar amount.

### **Final Points**

To reiterate, it is more than possible, and in fact realistic, that the exact steps as discussed here will be at least slightly different in every case. But this general "big picture" is emblematic of how cases progress, from incident to claim to suit to discovery and to trial. MedPro takes the position that sued dentists, who are as knowledgeable as possible about the litigation process they are about to enter, are better advocates for themselves, assist their attorneys more effectively, and endure less stress until they emerge on the other side.

Finally, we conclude with a couple of points, the first of which was alluded to earlier: while dentists and specialists insured by MedPro may choose to withhold their consent to settle such that it is a trial jury who makes the ultimate determinations, waiving that consent does not force MedPro to settle on their behalf, but rather only permits it, should MedPro determine that settlement is the best approach. The entire litigation process – whether it concludes with a dismissal, a settlement, or a jury verdict – is a collaborative one, between the insured dentist, counsel, experts, and MedPro. MedPro handles more dental malpractice claims than any other carrier and closes 80% of those claims without payment. For the claims that do make it to trial, our insureds win 95% of the time. As the nation's leading dental malpractice insurance carrier, MedPro Group has unparalleled success in defending malpractice claims and providing patient safety & risk solutions. MedPro is the nation's highest-rated malpractice carrier, rated A++ by A.M. Best. The Berkshire Hathaway business has been defending dentists' assets and reputations since 1899 and will continue to for years to come.

Note that this case presentation includes circumstances from several different closed cases, in order to demonstrate certain legal and risk management principles, and that identifying facts and personal characteristics were modified to protect identities. The content within is not the original work of MedPro Group but has been published with consent of the author. This document should not be construed as medical or legal advice and should not be construed as rules or establishing a standard of care. Because the facts applicable to your situation may vary, or the laws applicable in your jurisdiction may differ, please contact your attorney or other professional advisors if you have any questions related to your legal or medical obligations or rights, state or federal laws, contract interpretation, or other legal questions. MedPro Group is the marketing name used to refer to the insurance operations of The Medical Protective Company, Princeton Insurance Company, PLICO, Inc. and MedPro RRG Risk Retention Group. All insurance products are underwritten and administered by these and other Berkshire Hathaway affiliates, including National Fire & Marine Insurance Company. Product availability is based upon business and/or regulatory approval and/or may differ among companies. © MedPro Group Inc. All rights reserved. 6/2025

### **Leadership Update**

The ADA is currently under the capable leadership of Dr. Elizabeth Shapiro, D.D.S., J.D., who has been serving as Executive Director. Dr. Shapiro has provided steady guidance during a time of transition — bringing stability to both staff and operations while implementing key changes.

In preparation for long-term leadership, an Executive Director Search Committee has been formed and has met multiple times. At their most recent meeting, the committee selected a search firm to conduct a national search for the next Executive Director of the ADA.

### **Commitment to Transparency**

At the beginning of this term, I pledged accountability and transparency—a commitment upheld by your Board of Trustees, President, and President-Elect.

We're committed to open communication as we work through key initiatives like the Association Management Software (AMS) implementation and financial recovery. Recent steps to keep you informed include:

- Treasurer's Newsletter – Sent Friday, May 9
- Message from the President and President-Elect – Sent the week of May 12
- ADA News – Published overview message the week of May 12
- Morning Huddle – Summarized key points the week of May 12
- Webinar: ADA State of Affairs – Recording shared week of May 12
- "Ask Us Anything" Town Hall – June 2

### **Association Management Software (AMS) Transition**

In October 2024, the ADA and most state societies transitioned to a new AMS, Fonteva, due to incompatibility with our prior system.

We recognize that this shift has not been seamless and has caused member frustration, especially around renewal and registration processes. We apologize for this disruption and are taking aggressive steps to improve the system's stability and functionality.

By October 2025, our goal is to have a fully functional and reliable AMS, backed by a consulting firm specializing in platform stabilization and data quality improvements.

### **Financial Sustainability**

AMS issues have also had a significant financial impact on the ADA, particularly affecting member renewals and dues collection across states.

After conducting a financial review, the Board found key discrepancies between the approved Q1 2025 Financial Operating Plan and actual financial performance. In response:

- ADA will return to a 12-month budgeting cycle
- Q1 2025 Operating Plan approval has been rescinded
- Expenditures will be reduced by \$20 million, in addition to \$9 million in previously announced cuts
- The Finance Committee is providing oversight, clarity, and creating a re-forecasted budget for 2025 led by Treasurer Dr. Cody Graves to be approved at the August Board of Trustees meeting

These actions will allow us to refocus on strategic priorities while ensuring fiscal responsibility.

### **SmileCon and Future Meetings**

After careful consideration, the ADA has decided to sunset SmileCon as its annual meeting in 2026 and beyond. However, SmileCon 2025 and the House of Delegates will proceed as planned in Washington, D.C.

Going forward, the House of Delegates will continue to convene annually. In 2026 the HOD will convene in Indianapolis October 10-13, 2026, as planned.

The ADA is exploring new meeting models to keep members engaged with the latest in science and innovation. Details on the 2026 scientific session will be announced following SmileCon 2025.

### **In Closing**

While this is a time of change, it is also a time of renewed focus, resilience, and progress. Together, we are laying the foundation for a stronger, more transparent, and member-focused ADA.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication.

This is your ADA, and I want to hear from you.

- Email: [mercercj@ada.org](mailto:mercercj@ada.org)
- Cell: 803-960-2296

## **Save the Date**

**SCDA Annual Session  
Columbia, SC  
August 14-15th**

**Pee Dee Fall Meeting  
Florence Country Club  
September 5th**

**Piedmont Fall Meeting  
Southern First Bank, Greenville SC  
September 12th**

**Central Fall Meeting  
Stone River, Columbia SC  
September 19th**

**SCDA House of Delegates  
Hilton Garden Inn Columbia Airport  
December 5th**



## Celebrating One Year of Providing Dental Care in Summerville, SC

By Dr. Sarandeep Huja, Dean, James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine Medical University of South Carolina



Dear SCDA member:

We begin the new school year having recently celebrated the first year of serving the **Summerville** community at MUSC Dental and Oral Health – Nexton.

The practice has added part-time specialists in orofacial pain management, periodontics, and urgent care to complement our **comprehensive care**.

Our model of small-footprint clinics and short rotations gives **students and residents** the opportunity to learn from more practitioners, receive more individual attention, and work with different patient populations. With four operatories, the environment at Nexton gives our students an experience similar to that of a private practice. While many of our students choose to augment their excellent, state-of-the-art education with extracurricular experience outside MUSC, ranging from international service trips to part-time assistantships at local practices, we are pleased to be able to grow our curriculum to support experiences that will make our future alumni exceptional oral health care providers.

In a time when the South Carolina legislature has recognized the critical need to support South Carolina's future dentists to **receive their education in-state** and most SCDA regions have stepped up to establish scholarships, we are pleased to be able to bring our care and training to more communities. As we continue to fulfill our calling to serve the state, the college will continue to implement community-minded models designed to enhance education and bring new professionals into communities where **provider shortages** are most severe.

I remain grateful to the SCDA. Together, we are supporting the development of South Carolina's future leaders and oral health providers. Please feel welcome to reach out to me any time at [huja@musc.edu](mailto:huja@musc.edu).



MUSC Board of Trustee members Dr. James Lemon and Dr. Paul Davis joined us on June 6 to celebrate one year of providing care in Summerville.



Russ Touchberry, Mayor of Summerville, SC, learned about the comprehensive approach and specialties available from Dr. Hee Young Hwang, an assistant professor and the practice director.

# THANK YOU SC DONATED DENTAL SERVICES VOLUNTEERS!



Dental Lifeline Network • South Carolina (DLN • SC) extends its heartfelt thanks to the incredible dentists who joined the SC Donated Dental Services (DDS) program this fiscal year! Your generosity is already making a life-changing difference for vulnerable individuals in our state who cannot afford the care they desperately need.

While we celebrate this growth, more dentists are needed statewide, particularly in Anderson, Barnwell, Berkeley, Charleston, Chester, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Darlington, Lexington, Richland, and York counties. Dentists able to provide dentures are especially needed in Richland and Lexington to help restore smiles and confidence.

Thank you to the 202 dentists who currently volunteer! Over 900 South Carolinians have been helped through the DDS program. Interested in joining? Learn more at [WhyIDental.org](https://www.whydental.org) or use the QR code below to sign-up today.

## NEW SOUTH CAROLINA DDS VOLUNTEERS BY COUNTY:

### BERKELEY

Dr. Serge Gauthier

### CHARLESTON

Dr. Reed David

### DORCHESTER

Dr. Samuel Brunson

### FLORENCE

Dr. Mary Lee

### GREENVILLE

Dr. Mary Okuley  
Dr. Gabriel Holley

### HORRY

Dr. Steven Lantham  
Dr. William Temple  
Dr. Alex Black  
Dr. Thomas Rollar Jr.

### KERSHAW

Dr. Deidre Crockett

### RICHLAND

Dr. Timothy "Drew" Edwards  
Dr. Donald Hogan

### SUMTER

Dr. Nabil Moussa



# Classified Ads

## Dental Related Services

**Intraoral X-Ray Sensor Repair/Sales-** We repair broken sensors. Save thousands in replacement costs. Specializing in Kodak/Carestream, major brands. We buy/sell sensors. American SensorTech 919-229-0483 or [www.repairsensor.com](http://www.repairsensor.com).

## Local Tenens

**Fill-In Dentist Available:** Leave your practice in good hands. Twenty years GP experience with 10 years of locums work. Covering mainly upstate and midlands. Let your hygienist work while you vacation. Call or text 864-871-4774.

## Positions Available - Dentists

**St George/Santee/Holly Hill, SC-** Looking for dentist to expand our staff at growing dental group. 4-5 days per week. Prefer to live within 25 miles of practice. 8 dental hygienists/19 op practice. Contact 843-560-2226 or [drscottgarris@gmail.com](mailto:drscottgarris@gmail.com).

Come work with us and achieve greatness. We are seeking a FT dentist to join our busy general practice in **Columbia, SC**. Simply Smile is an updated practice with an energetic atmosphere. We offer great benefits, compensation, and the ability to work independently with a supportive and trained staff. Mon-Fri. new grads welcome. Send resume to [simplysmile7457@gmail.com](mailto:simplysmile7457@gmail.com).

Well-known **pediatric dental** office looking for partner. Perfect for work/life balance, office is 1.5 hrs from the beach. Competitive salary, benefits, and practice buyout available. Motivated individuals looking to practice pediatric dentistry in the Pee Dee region, email CV and cover letter to [stewartbryant2020@gmail.com](mailto:stewartbryant2020@gmail.com).

**FT Associate Dentist Lexington-** Ideal candidate must be committed to providing exceptional patient care and continued professional development. A well established family practice (over 45 years) caring for multi- generational families. We value relationship based care with current digital technologies: CBCT and intraoral scanners, 8 operatories. Privately owned practice, full benefits including 401k. [Heyrob.sr@gmail.com](mailto:Heyrob.sr@gmail.com)

We are a fast growing, privately owned dental office in **Indian Land** seeking a talented & enthusiastic Associate Dentist to join us FT/PT fast growing, top quality, privately owned office, limitless income potential! Enjoyable, respectful & professional environment, newest most advanced instruments/procedures, flexible hours. [dentalrecruitingervicesfmsc@gmail.com](mailto:dentalrecruitingervicesfmsc@gmail.com)

Flexible job opportunity for dentist seeking PT or FT work. We are a privately-owned general dentistry practice located in the Market Commons area of **Myrtle Beach**. We are seeking a compassionate dentist to work with adults and children of all ages. If interested in joining our team, please contact [happyteethmb@gmail.com](mailto:happyteethmb@gmail.com) for more information.

**Irmo Smiles** is a privately owned, multi-specialty dental practice located near Columbia. We are seeking an experienced FT Associate Dentist. The ideal candidate should be proficient in cosmetic and restorative dentistry, with an eagerness to step into a high-producing, patient-centric practice. Excellent compensation/benefits package offered. Interested applicants please contact [Heather@irmosmiles.com](mailto:Heather@irmosmiles.com).

Seeking PT/FT GP with Sedation/surgical/implant skill and PT Oral Surgeon/Endodontist near Charleston, SC. Brand new facility with state of the art technology and fully digital workflow. CBCT, Digital Scanner, 3D Printing. Fee for Service Practice focused on delivering high levels of surgical and implant care as well as IV sedation comprehensive general dentistry. Please send CV to [gillytooth@gmail.com](mailto:gillytooth@gmail.com)

Charleston area, SC practice seeking PT/FT Associate Dentist- Opportunity in highly visible, established, busy, advanced digital practice located near Charleston SC. Must be proficient in all phases of general dentistry. Experience or GP residency preferred but not required. Competitive pay, 401k, high growth potential, with owner/equity possibility. Focus on patient care delivering excellence. Send CV [gillytooth@gmail.com](mailto:gillytooth@gmail.com)

Looking for a General Dentist to join our amazing 5 star team in **Florence, SC**. Strong patient flow in a family focused, established practice. Top notch benefits including health, retirement, paid malpractice, in house CE's including an implant residency. Quick path to partnership. Send resume to [kasey.huber@guardiandentistry.com](mailto:kasey.huber@guardiandentistry.com).

We are looking for a FT General Dentist to provide quality, comprehensive dentistry in a busy, well established FFS private practice in **Florence**. Potential partnership opportunity. Mentorship in endo and implants. Send CV for compensation and benefits packages [practice.manager1693@gmail.com](mailto:practice.manager1693@gmail.com).

**Midlands Orthodontics** needs an orthodontist to join our outstanding team Monday-Thursday. Our very busy state of the art office is located in Northeast Columbia. Dentist will have clinical autonomy. Compensation- guaranteed daily rate plus monthly bonus program. Benefits- health insurance, 401K, PTO, etc. Email [ellis3dmd@gmail.com](mailto:ellis3dmd@gmail.com) for more information

Established FFS dental practice in **coastal Carolina** seeks experienced dentist (2-4 days/week). High-tech, high quality multi-million dollar office. Strong team culture. Advanced CE a plus. Just 50 minutes from Savannah & Beaufort. Future ownership opportunity. Send resume and cover letter to Eliza at [info@c3results.com](mailto:info@c3results.com).

Dentist Needed in **Pee Dee Region**  
The SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs is seeking a Dentist for the Pee Dee (Florence) and Saleeby (Hartsville) Regional Centers. 4-5 days/week preferred. Excellent state benefits including insurance, retirement, 15 days annual leave, 15 days sick leave, and 13 paid holidays. Apply now at [joinddsn.sc.gov](http://joinddsn.sc.gov) contact: [acarpenter@ddsn.sc.gov](mailto:acarpenter@ddsn.sc.gov)

Join our team as an Associate Dentist! Lead patient care, promote oral health, and drive a positive office culture. Collaborate with office managers, guide staff, and provide top-notch dental services in a supportive, patient-centered environment. Must have DMD/DDS, valid license, and CPR certification. Located in **Columbia, SC**. [lauren.nann@brushandfloss.com](mailto:lauren.nann@brushandfloss.com)

Established (40 yrs) FFS private practice seeking **compassionate dentist** ready to join our patient centered practice. Must be proficient in all aspects of dentistry and restorative care. CBCT and scanning technology in place to support excellent care and patient experience. GPR or experience preferred. Endo and surgery skills a plus. FT/PT opportunity. Send inquires to [palmettodentalassociates@gmail.com](mailto:palmettodentalassociates@gmail.com)

Upstate opportunity seeking a General Dentist for well established private practice in **Rock Hill, SC**. Current Associate is transitioning to a specialty program. Must be proficient in all aspects of dentistry. Over four decades of trusted community care, FFS and personalized patient experience. Send resume: [office@culpdental.com](mailto:office@culpdental.com).



Exciting **Associate Dentist** opportunity- Join our thriving, modern practice in a vibrant lakefront community just minutes from Charlotte. Enjoy supportive team, great patients and room to grow. Full-time position. Learn about us at [lakewyliesscdentist.com](http://lakewyliesscdentist.com). Email resume: [smile@carolinafamilydentistry.com](mailto:smile@carolinafamilydentistry.com).

#### **Positions Available- Staff**

**West Columbia, SC**- looking for a full or part time Hygienist to join our family practice. Fun, low stress environment. 401k, health insurance and monthly bonuses included. Call 803-755-3953 or email [airportfamdentistry@sc.rr.com](mailto:airportfamdentistry@sc.rr.com).

Indian Land- **RDH wanted** Mon-Wed, flexible hours, work half day and paid for full day. [cbmcdonalddds@gmail.com](mailto:cbmcdonalddds@gmail.com).

East Cooper Community Outreach seeks a certified **Dental Assistant** for 16-20 hours/week. Duties include assisting providers, scheduling patients, and maintaining clinic operations. Pay: \$19.10-\$22.75/hr. Must have radiology certification and 1+ year experience. Email resume: [jobs@ECCOcharleston.org](mailto:jobs@ECCOcharleston.org). Learn more at [www.ECCOcharleston.org](http://www.ECCOcharleston.org).

#### **Practices/Office Space Available**

A profitable periodontal practice situated in the **Upstate** Region of South Carolina, where 2022 collections totaled nearly \$1 million seeing patients 4 days per week. The one-story, stand-alone facility is 2,200 sq. ft., with 4 fully-equipped operatories. CS 8200 3D Neo Edition. Contact [matt.kosciewicz@mcgillhillgroup.com](mailto:matt.kosciewicz@mcgillhillgroup.com) for more information.

Million-Dollar Opportunity: **Beaufort County** GP located in a retail center with great visibility and ample parking. There are 5 ops in 1,600 sq. ft. with digital X-ray and Pan. This practice has 2,700+ active FFS/PPO patients. The practice operates on a 4 doctor and 8 hygiene workweek. Contact: AFTCO 800.232.3826

**Columbia, SC** Dental Practice for Sale Well-established general dental practice just 20 miles from Columbia, SC, featuring 5 operatories (room for 2 more), \$1.447M collections, and \$360k EBITDA. With 2,000 active patients, real estate available, and flexible transition options, this is a prime opportunity. Contact Professional Transition Strategies: [bailey@professionaltransition.com](mailto:bailey@professionaltransition.com) or 719.694.8320. #SC11724

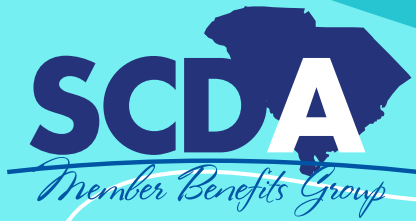
**Coastal SC** Dental Practice for sale. Wonderful practice for sale near the coast. 45 minutes from Beaufort and 1.5 hrs from Charleston. Collecting approx. \$1,200,000 in a stand-alone brice buliding on main thoroughfare with excellent visibility. This location offers an ideal balance between rural charm and coastal living. Contact Dr. Rod Strickland 843-290-8584 or [rod@legacypractice.transitions.com](mailto:rod@legacypractice.transitions.com).

**N.E. Columbia** Dentist looking to retire. Great opportunity to own your own practice and be your own boss. Dentist and great staff willing to stay and help with the transition. Practice and stand alone building for sale. Reasonable price! [Brushandfloss@hotmail.com](mailto:Brushandfloss@hotmail.com) or 803-920-6669.

For-Sale **well established GDP** (between Charlotte and Greenville) Annual collections 1.27M (3 days Tues/Wed/Th) fee for service (no network). Experienced/certified staff willing to stay. 9 operatories stand-alone building-real estate also available. Modern well-equipped facilities-all digital. For detail contact [coopdent69@gmail.com](mailto:coopdent69@gmail.com)

**Spartanburg** county dental practice for sale with high visibility on a main thoroughfare. 1350 square foot office with 3 operatories for sale or lease, reasonably priced. 864-494-6165.

410 Pelham Rd **Greenville SC**- 6,000 sq ft 2 story building (3,000 each floor) dentist office layout. .92 acres with free on-site parking. [lnicholson@windsoraghttry.com](mailto:lnicholson@windsoraghttry.com).



**In 2025, SCDA Members  
Will Be Saving on Products  
and Services such as:**

- Accounts Receivables/Collections
- Appliances
- Business and Personal Credit Cards
- Computers and Technology
- Credit Card Processing
- Dental Embezzlement Protection and Investigation
- Dental Supplies
- Electronic Prescribing
- HIPAA and OSHA Compliance Training
- HIPAA Compliant, Secure Email
- Insurance Products and Services
- Interpretation Services
- Medical Evacuation
- Medical Kits
- Office Supplies
- Patient Financing
- Payroll Processing
- Precious Metal Refining



Visit the Member  
Savings page at  
**[scda.org](http://scda.org)**  
for further information  
and free cost comparisons.

Contact the SCDA at **803.750.2277**  
or by email at **[scda@scda.org](mailto:scda@scda.org)**  
to learn how much your membership could save you.