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AGD Master Spotlight

Achieving mastership in the AGD is a highly esteemed and extremely respected achievement. We would like to spotlight some of our long standing masters and give a brief glimpse into their career. Our first spotlight is Dr. Julian Dismukes, III DMD.



Dr. Dismukes graduated from University of Louisville School of Dentistry in 1971. That same year he began his practice with the US Army Dental Corps. His assignments included Fort Bragg, NC; Vicenza, Italy; Fort Sam Houston, TX (Officers Advanced Course); Fort Knox, KY (Advanced Education in General Dentistry, Two Year); Vint Hill Farms Station, VA; Munich, Germany; Giessen, Germany (Command); Fort Polk, LA (Command); Fort Hood, TX (Command); Carlisle Barracks, PA (US Army War College); Yongson, Korea (Command); Fort Campbell, KY (Command).

He retired from Army, 2001 and became a contract dentist at Fort Campbell, from 2001 to 2006 and then a Civil Service dentist at Fort Campbell, from 2006 to 2014. In this capacity he held positions including Clinician, Chairperson, a seat on the Clinical Quality Management Committee overseeing Patient Safety, Risk Management, Access to Care, Quality of Care, etc. He was also an Instructor at ACLS.

Dr. Dismukes and his wife of 46 years, Molly, have two children and five grandchildren.

Dismukes says dentistry is a family tradition for him. His great grandfather, grandfather, and father were all dentists.

Dismukes joined the AGD in 1978, upon beginning Advanced Education in General Dentistry, a two year residency. He says the AGD has offered the means to achieve credible and substantive professional education and development, an avenue to Board Certification, and an excellent network of colleagues.

Dismukes says the product or procedure which has had greatest impact on his practice would be the implementation of Universal Protocol and Team STEPPS to reinforce patient safety and prevent errors or harm reaching patients. Also, Colgate Prevident 5000 Plus, 3M ESPE Clinpro 5000, Chlorhexidine, fluoride varnish, multidisciplinary boarding protocol for Implant patient selection and Glass Ionomer restorative materials.

When asked what the biggest change in dentistry over last decade have been, Dismukes replied that the Emphasis on Evidence Based studies as basis for development of products, treatment protocols, and standards of care have changed drastically. Also, the long overdue more equitable representation of women into the profession and its leadership. (This from a very conservative grandfather of four little girls!) Finally, for better (or worse when improperly placed in load-bearing areas of posterior teeth /poor patient selection), improved composite resin materials and also implants.

In Dismukes' opinion, the biggest challenges facing the profession are the excessive government incursion in all aspects of health care delivery; the challenge of meeting the needs of underserved populations, particularly children; and balancing the realities of business demands of practice, predictable collection of fair fees for services, and meeting standards of care.

Dismukes says the best CE course or meeting he's ever attended was The OPCE Seminars: Dr. James Drummond and Dr. Douglas Damm, "Contemporary Clinical Oral Pathology" (Sponsored by Arkansas AGD). And the best dental speakers he's heard were Drs. James Drummond and Douglas Damm as noted above. As well as Dr. Hal Crossley (Pharmacology) and Dr. Charles Wakefield, Baylor College of Dentistry (General Dentistry topics).

We are proud to have so many AGD dentists in the state of Kentucky with long, successful and esteemed careers. Thank you Dr. Dismukes for your dedication to the field of General Dentistry and for sharing your career with us.

KY-AGD Board Members attend AGD Hill Day in Washington DC



Samantha Shaver, DMD, FAGD and Darren Greenwell DMD, FAGD attended the AGD's Hill Day. Forty-one attendees, including AGD leaders, students and staff traveled to Washington, D.C. to advocate on behalf of the general dentistry profession on April 8, 2014. While the AGD has held this event for eight years, this year's program was tailored differently so that only those members who lived in key legislative districts or were key advocacy volunteers for the AGD were invited to attend. Meetings took place with legislators who sit on committees of jurisdiction that are important to AGD's advocacy agenda.

This year's streamlined and targeted approach netted immediate benefits, including Congressional staff follow-up on oral health literacy and promotion in the Action for Dental Health Act of 2014, a request for more information on the oral health provisions in Healthy People 2020 and follow-up on the health education components of the Elementary and Secondary Education Reauthorization Act.

Drs. Shaver and Greenwell met with representatives in the offices of Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senator Rand Paul, Representative John Yarmuth and Representative Brett Guthrie.

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Local CE

September 26... Corvette Museum, Bowling Green, KY **New Dimensions in Endodontics** *This lecture will concentrate on two areas. 1) How to incorporate new material science, such as bioceramic technology and efficient rotary instrumentation into your clinical practice, and 2) How to perform root canal therapy in such a manner that you actually enhance the long-term prognosis of the tooth. The goal of this program is to have all dentists learn how to perform endodontics in such a manner that they can offer their patients a predictable way of preserving their natural dentition in the long run.* Click [here](#) for more information

October 10-11... Galt House **2014 Annual Meeting** *Separate courses for the entire staff! Featuring breakout courses for Office Managers/Staff, Assistants, Hygienists, and Dentists. Speakers Include Kevin Anderson, DDS speaking on Investment Strategies, Dr. Frank Shull, speaking on Contemporary Solutions for Restorative Dentistry, Janet Press, RDH speaking on Intro to Lasers for Dental Hygienists, Kim McQueen of the American Association of Dental Office Managers, and others. Plan to attend and bring your entire staff!* Click [here](#) for information

November 1... Ft. Knox, KY **Perio Course presented by Nobel Biocare**

Lots of exciting CE is being planned for 2015. Watch www.kyagd.org for an updated calendar.

Board Meetings *Our upcoming board meetings are as follows:*

Friday, September 26 at 6pm in Bowling Green, KY

Friday, October 10 at 7 pm at The Galt House in Louisville

Saturday, December 6 at 10 am at Generations Family Dental in Louisville.

All AGD members and potential members are welcome at all board meetings!

Times and dates of board meetings are subject to change. If you are interested in attending one of our meetings contact Maegan Bennett at mbennett@agd.org to verify the time and date.

AGD House Makes History

This year is sure to be an exciting one for the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD). Our focus will be on what the AGD needs to do to help our members deal with the vast number of changes and trends that are affecting the profession. We will be exploring and creating programs and infrastructure that will allow the AGD to be out front as a leader for the next decade.

The House of Delegates (HOD) at the AGD 2014 Annual Meeting & Exhibits demonstrated the vision and willingness to be proactive and forward-thinking as it took action that will change the face of this organization.

On Saturday, June 29, the HOD approved two historic, groundbreaking resolutions: one creating an international membership category, and the second to separate the annual meeting scientific session and convocation from the HOD and governance.

The AGD's new international membership category will provide opportunities for those dentists in the international community who share the values, goals, and mission of the AGD to become part of our family. The sharing of global ideas will enrich the AGD and serve us as we interact with an ever-growing global dental profession. Our goal is that next year's annual meeting, AGD 2015, in the international destination city of San Francisco, will be seen as a great opportunity for our new international members.

These members will be eligible for continuing education (CE) tracking and full website access, and they will receive online access to the AGD publications. They also will be able to attain AGD Fellowship and Mastership, as long as they meet the same stringent requirements as active and associate members. This new membership category will receive the regular member rate on all AGD goods and services, and their dues rates will be equal to those of full dues-paying U.S. members.

The AGD annual meeting will split into two separate meetings beginning in 2017, with the scientific session and convocation in the summer, and the HOD and governance perhaps in the fall. This will allow the AGD to concentrate more resources toward the scientific session, and provide the time and space flexibility to create new, dynamic CE offerings and learning opportunities. The Annual Meetings Council, the Board, and others are already engaged in incredibly exciting discussions of ideas for our meeting's transformation into the best scientific dental meeting anywhere!

Moreover, with the HOD occurring at a separate time, AGD leaders and staff will have more time to evaluate the budget, allowing them to be more cost-effective in developing timely and valuable programming for AGD members.

As the United States prepares to celebrate its heritage on July 4, the AGD celebrates not only its distinguished past, but also its bright future. Thank you to the HOD for helping us move our great organization forward, and thank you to all of our members for your continued support.



Sincerely,

W. Carter Brown, DMD, FAGD
AGD President

Would you like to be published? Show people how smart you really are? Be the envy of your study group? Please send your Management or clinical pearl to Executive Director, Maegan Bennett for placement in our next newsletter.

ADVOCACY: THE NUMBER ONE MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

What Have You Done for Me Lately?



Myron J. "Mike" Bromberg, DDS

Fifty years ago a group of general dentists formed the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) for the sole purpose of enabling general dentists to receive high quality continuing education in areas of expertise previously unavailable to them.

As time progressed, it became apparent that **entities outside of the profession**, as well as **some inside of the profession**, were advocating and promoting changes which would have a **profoundly negative impact on the manner in which general dentists practiced dentistry**. It was clear that, in addition to providing excellent continuing education, it was necessary for the AGD to represent the needs, interests, issues and concerns of general dentists. Hence, the advocacy arm of the AGD was formed.

In a recent survey, AGD respondents indicated advocacy was the number one membership benefit, the activity they felt was most important to them. The AGD has responded well, with two fully-functioning councils active in this area. The Council on Dental Practice and The Council on Legislation and Governmental Affairs, on a daily basis, confront the issues that general dentists face or will face in their practices. In light of that, AGD members from across the nation met in Washington, D.C. in April and interacted with legislators, regulators and lobbyists to discuss and attempt to influence the direction of legislative factors affecting dentistry generally and general dentistry, specifically. The AGD members expressed DR. MIKE BROMBERG concern over the fact that legislators are erroneously told (and some actually in Washington, D.C. believe) that there is, or will be, a shortage of dentists in this nation.

As a result of believing this inaccuracy, there is a feeling that to counter this **presumed shortage** it is okay for **high school graduates to attend a program for eighteen months and then be qualified to perform some of the operative procedures that dentists do**. AGD members shed light on this inaccurate claim as well as the inappropriate manner some suggest to deal with it. Additionally, solu-

tions and suggestions as to how to deal with the geographic imbalance of dentists in some regions were put forth. Although this is essentially a state issue, *there is a proposed study contained within the Affordable Care Act (OBAMACARE) to evaluate this so-called midlevel provider concept*. The lack of necessity for this study was discussed.

Another topic had to do with the need for legislation which would eliminate loopholes for carriers to hide behind and which would enable consumers to receive the full benefit of their dental insurance coverage. To that end, H.R.1798, The Dental Insurance Fairness Act of 2013, introduced by Congressman Paul Gosar (R-AZ), a dentist, was shown great support by the attendees. Another related area of support had to do with the elimination of legislation which gives medical and dental insurance carriers an arguably unfair anti-trust exemption.

Another subject discussed was the desire to eliminate the **unfair medical device tax** dentists now have to pay, which amounts to a 2.3% tax on certain items. This tax helps fund the Affordable Care Act (OBAMACARE). A major discussion with legislators had to do with the growing issue of **student debt**. Studies, such as one from the American Dental Education Association, show that upon graduating from dental school, it is not uncommon for these new dentists to have debt upwards of \$200,000. Given minimal employment opportunities in some regions, economic necessity as a result of this significant debt load can largely influence---- and in fact jeopardize---- the new dentist's ability to choose a preferred career path. AGD attendees promoted measures that reign in tuition costs, keeping federal student loans affordable and increasing funds to expand the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program. Most importantly, in following this direction, we encouraged House members to support and co-sponsor the Earnings Contingent Education Loans Act (ExCEL) which will be introduced shortly. Finally, a good deal of time was spent on finding and supporting effective mechanisms to promote Oral Health Literacy, which the AGD believes is a very important aspect, if not the most important aspect, in the prevention of dental disease, particularly amongst low income groups.

Dr. Bromberg is the Division Coordinator of the Advocacy Division for the Academy of General Dentistry. He is a Past President of the California AGD and is a practicing dentist in Reseda, California.