



THE THOROUGHBRED

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**WE WANT YOU!!!
LOOKING FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

From the President...



Recently, while talking with friends of mine that are dentists for the Department of Veterans Affairs, I learned they went to a policy where by “all” dental burs would be single use pre-sterilized. This move was likely the result of research regarding biofilm present in diamond burs as well as sterilization issues with the VA. This move increased the cost of providing care exponentially and the question is does it really matter? I’ve been using non-sterile carbide burs one time only essentially since graduating dental school. For me it’s never been a matter of cleanliness or sterility but rather as every Eagle Scout can attest a dull knife is more dangerous than a sharp knife. I’d rather have the control and speed from using a fresh bur each time. However, diamond burs maintain their cutting ability longer and as a result I’ve autoclaved them after each use and replaced them when they were no longer serviceable.

After reading from the Journal of Clinical and Diagnostic Research in June of 2014 I was left with two questions. First, why did the researchers only use one method for “sterilizing the burs” instead of, for example, using both the ultrasonic and autoclave. Secondly, why did he not evaluate the use a cleaning stone prior to using the ultrasonic and autoclave as well as any of the other methods and might this have made a difference in the reduction of bioburden and improvement of sterility.

Finally, have there been any issues of an individual becoming ill following a dental appointment as a result of what is a currently widespread practice of sterilizing and re-using diamond burs. Furthermore, if there have been issues with this would they have occurred if a barrier such as a rubber dam was used or if the bur didn’t contact the pulp. If you’re wondering why I’m writing this article it’s because I believe that as dentists we need to look closely when we’re told something.

Could this move affect us all by creating a standard of care that may not be based on sound scientific knowledge? We need to go back to our basic science backgrounds and ask how well-controlled the study was and we need to not be afraid to challenge the research. Maybe the research was good and we just lacked some “common knowledge” that wasn’t included to be able to fully understand it. On the other hand maybe it was a good starting point but we shouldn’t draw conclusions from it just yet. Or perhaps the person or group presenting the research has a personal agenda that they are trying to promote. Therefore, my call to you is to ask the tough questions. Does the article or argument make since, was the study well controlled, do the authors have an agenda? The AGD requires our CE speakers to disclose any interest in any company they may be involved with. In this way it insures full disclosure. We should always do our due diligence and rely on our education and training. There is a reason they call us “Doctor”.

Sincerely,
Geoffrey S. Ball, DMD, MAGD
President, Kentucky Academy of General Dentistry

The importance of Advocacy



Advocacy Advocacy Advocacy. I routinely hear non-members ask, “what does organized dentistry do for me?”. In an era of constant changes in healthcare and managed care, organized dentistry provides the most for your membership costs. Being involved with the Academy of General Dentistry at a national level has opened my eyes to the constant assault from other organizations trying to dictate policy concerning dentistry. There are insurance companies, large charitable groups, and mid-level groups trying to usurp dentistry. We as dentists are the only people who truly understand the needs of our patients and have the greatest concern for their well being. Many of these organizations are motivated by greed and others by misguided belief that we can fix the access of care issues by placing more un-qualified providers into the arena. Advocacy is what protects your patients and your practice. Many hours and dollars are spent on your behalf. I have met with legislators in Washington DC and Frankfort. We must continue to educate our politicians on the importance of great quality care, not motivated by money or turf, but for the proper care of our families and citizens of the nation.

During a recent meeting of the Legislative and Governmental affairs council in Chicago this past February, we discussed several topics related to dentistry. We were updated about forthcoming legislation in Congress by Patrick O’Conner. Pat is the head of our lobbyist group hired by the AGD to look out for upcoming bills and to help us strategize our response to specific items. Clearly the mid-level provider issue is high on our radar. Another topic we are paying attention to is Dental Health Providers Shortage Areas (DHPSA) . Our biggest concern with DHPSA is how these shortages are calculated. Also, we worked on developing a plan for our National Hill Day in Washington DC. The Hill day is our chance to speak with the Congressional leadership on matters relating to dentistry. ERISA reform is also on the agenda and H.R. 1677 sponsored by Dr. Rep. Paul Gozar. There are too many other issues for me to list in this newsletter, but you can rest assured that the KY- AGD and AGD are working hard on your behalf. Your membership in the AGD helps to support our efforts.

Thank you,
Darren Greenwell, DMD, MAGD

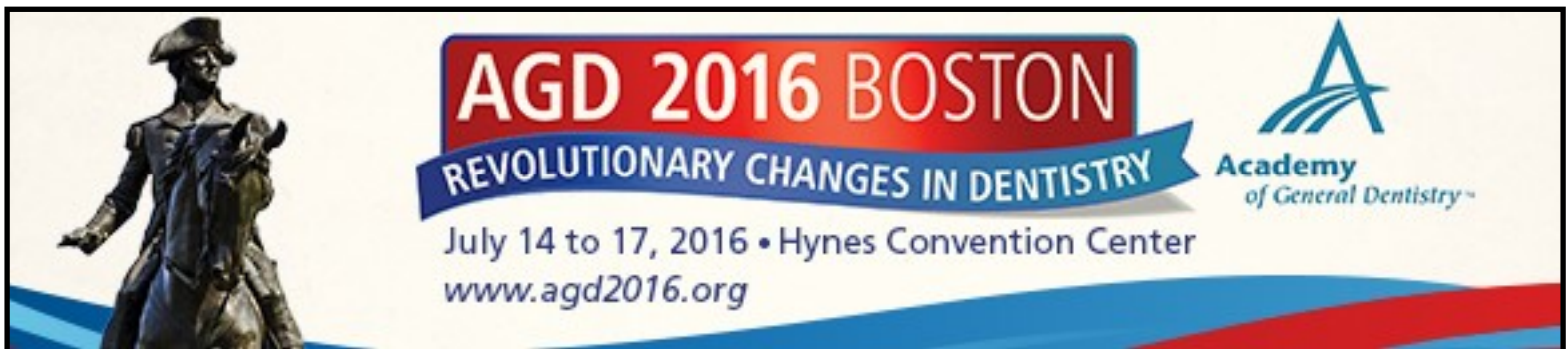
For more information on the AGD’s advocacy efforts please visit
<http://cqrcengage.com/agd/home>

Donate to the AGD Advocacy Fund

Advocacy is everyone’s responsibility. Donate to the AGD Advocacy Fund today and help support our efforts to represent our profession and the interests of general dentist members. Your donation will not only help to further define the AGD as the voice of general dentistry by allowing for increased advocacy efforts, but it will also boost recognition among the public and other dental professions of general dentists as the primary oral health caregiver.

Please take this opportunity to donate to the AGD Advocacy Fund. Click [here](#).

For more information, contact the Advocacy department at 888.AGD.DENT (888.243.3368), ext. 4973, or advocacy@agd.org.



The Academy of General Dentistry's 2016 annual meeting, AGD 2016, is planned for July 14 to 17 at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston. With an exhibit hall floor to feature highlights such as educational Learning Labs, daily dedicated networking events, and the Scientific e-Poster Session, AGD 2016 attendees will have numerous opportunities to meet with other dental professionals and students, as well as product and service representatives.

AGD 2016 also will offer clinical and practice management lectures, hands-on courses, live patient demonstrations, and educational opportunities for the entire dental team. Some of AGD 2016's educational highlights will include:

- "The Do's and Don'ts of Porcelain Laminate Veneers," with Gerard Kugel, DMD, MS, PhD.
- "DENTSPLY 360," a full-day educational program for the entire dental team. (DENTSPLY International is the presenting sponsor of this course.)
- "WOW! Complete Dentures in One Hour," with Lawrence N. Wallace, DDS, developer of the Larell One Step Denture™. This course sold out shortly after registration opened for AGD 2015 in San Francisco.
- Register for AGD 2016 at agd2016.org starting Feb. 2, and visit the AGD 2016 blog, agd2016.blogspot.com/, for weekly updates on courses and news for attendees

Donate in Honor, Memory, or Tribute

The AGD Foundation is committed to raising awareness of oral cancer and educating the public about oral cancer risk factors and prevention. AGD members are encouraged to show their support for this important initiative throughout the year by donating to the AGD Foundation in honor or memory of, or in tribute to, a friend or loved one. Your U.S. tax-deductible donation will help the AGD Foundation enhance public awareness—through public service announcements, free oral cancer screenings, and patient education tools for underserved populations, including school-age children and young adults. Thank you for supporting the AGD Foundation's lifesaving work.

'360 Experience' to Emphasize Practice Functionality

A full-day interactive course for the entire dental team will be offered Friday, July 15, at AGD 2016. Dentists, hygienists, assistants, and business staff members will have the opportunity to participate in role-specific breakout sessions and total-team learning exercises at "The 360 Experience: Working Together to Enhance Practice Functionality," presented by DENTSPLY International. Four industry-recognized speakers will share best practices for increasing production and treatment acceptance, as well as tips for developing the skills necessary for effective office communication to strengthen relationships among team members and with patients.

About the AGD Online Learning Center

The AGD Online Learning Center allows you to take quality continuing education (CE) anytime and anywhere. Visit agd.org/olc to explore three years' worth of courses on topics including pediatric dentistry, coding, implants, dental sleep medicine, and more. Registering for a course is simple. Select "Programs" from the top menu bar, choose "On-Demand Library," and start adding courses to your cart. Once you've completed your purchase, you'll receive an email with instructions on how to access your webinar. Check out the AGD Online Learning Center and experience the convenience of online CE today.

Memoirs



Terry G. Box, DDS, MAGD

One of my most enjoyable patients with whom to visit came in last week for his recare appointment. He is a psychologist by profession, an avid reader, and the author of at least one non-psychology book. His “Red Ribboned Letters,” a gift he gave me a few years ago, was an interesting read, based on letters he wrote during World War II.

This patient always is sincere when asking about my family, as I’ve known him since a few years before my 18-year-old daughter was born. I am always equally eager to see if he has any new projects in the works, and I asked him this question during his last visit. He said he was working on another book. He told me that he is part of a dwindling population of people born shortly after World War I. He grew up in a post-war recovery period, a child of the Roaring ’20s; witnessed the greatest stock market crash in history; and struggled through the Great Depression. He

participated in World War II and witnessed every military conflict of our country since World War I. He remembers the Cold War well, including homemade bomb shelters, and the nuclear threat feared by so many. He can recount with detail the civil strife of the 1950s and the social and political protests of the ’60s.

He said that with this wealth of experience and observation, he feels it is his generation’s responsibility to share what it knows with the younger generations. Thus, he said he is going to write his memoirs to share his history, experience, and wisdom, and perhaps have a positive impact on those who read his work. I know that reading his memoirs will be enjoyable, informative, and inspirational. We both agreed that we hope the youngest generation will not repeat the errors of the past and that they will build upon the great ideas of our forefathers.

This all got me to pondering the current atmosphere of our dental profession. Having been in practice now for 40 years, I don’t think anyone who has been in practice more than 20 years would disagree that changes in business practice, management, ownership, and technology have been occurring exponentially during the past two decades. I think that it behooves us to be mentors for new dentists. I am being told that solo practices like mine are becoming a thing of the past, and that may be true. I disagree that corporate dentistry, run by nontdentists, is the only way to see the future of dentistry. I realize that most new dentists graduate with a heavy debt burden and opening up a new solo practice is not as feasible as it was in my starting years. I believe it is possible for new graduates, with proper guidance and encouragement, to find ways to partner and share facilities with one another. We all need to be less competitive. New graduates need to “make the rounds” of as many dentists in their geographic area as they can and introduce themselves. They would be surprised at how much help they would receive in the way of practice tips and referrals. On the same note, the established dentists should seek out the new dentists and make them feel like a part of the local dental community and a respected doctor, not a competitor. Maybe this is an old-fashioned idea, but it worked for me, and I think it will still work now and in the future.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Kentucky AGD Continuing Education...

The Future of Private Practice: How will the Affordable Care Act, the rapid rise of Corporate Dentistry, and the Dental Insurance Business impact the private practice of dentistry

Dr. Wes Coffman

Saturday, March 26th, 2016 9:00 AM–12:00 PM

Click [here](#) for more info.

SAVE THE DATE! The 2016 KY AGD Annual Meeting

September 30, 2016 UofL Shelby Campus

Stay tuned for more details.

Come see us at the KY-AGD member appreciation reception at the KDA!

Join us Friday evening, March 4th for pre-dinner drinks and hors d'oeuvres from 5-7 pm at the Hyatt Regency Louisville during the KDA meeting.



Board Meetings...

Next KYAGD Board Meeting– March 3rd, 2016 at 6:00 pm at Doc Crows, Louisville, KY. If you are interested in getting involved with the board and attending our board meeting please contact Maegan Bennett at maegan03@hotmail.com or 270-401-3928.

Next KYBOD Board Meeting– March 12th, 2016 at 9:00 am at 312 Whittington Parkway First Floor - Board Meeting Room Louisville, Kentucky 40222. For more information about attending a Board of Dentistry board meeting please contact the Board at 502-429-7280.