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

From the President...

Hello all.



It's been a very busy time for general dentistry. The Academy has been working hard to protect the interests of dentists and our patients. I recently returned for Washington DC to discuss many issues, first and foremost the legislation to amend McCarren-Ferguson. If you're not familiar with the act, I encourage you to do your research. At the heart of the act, passed in 1949, is to allow insurance companies the ability to ignore anti-trust law. They have the ability to collude together to fix prices and negotiate fee schedules. This has been a thorn in our sides for many years. This has passed the House of Representatives several times, but has never been supported in the Senate. However, this year is different. It is supported by both parties in the Senate. It has a good chance of passing. I met with Sen. McConnell, Sen. Paul, and Cong. Guthrie. I encourage everyone to reach out to their representatives and encourage them to support this legislation. If you have any questions, or just need help, please don't hesitate to call or email me.

The Kentucky AGD has been working on new CE courses. Look out for any updates. We will be having our reception at the KDA annual session at the Galt House. Please come by and say hello and have a drink or two. If you have any ideas for CE please reach out to the board. We really want to know what our members want and need. I hope everyone has a great summer. Hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

Darren Greenwell, DMD, MAGD
President, KY-AGD

Academy of General Dentistry Heads to Capitol Hill

Chicago, IL (05.01.2019) —The Academy of General Dentistry recently announced that about 40 of their general dentists and dental student members from across the country traveled this week, April 29 and 30 to the nation’s capital to meet with national legislators to discuss policies and issues related to dentistry. In 2018, legislators gave more attention to dental policies with the U.S. Surgeon General VADM Vice Admiral Jerome M. Adam, MD, MPH, commissioning a new Surgeon General Report on Oral Health to the Congress. The Action for Dental Health Act which amended the Public Health Service Act reauthorizing oral health promotion and disease prevention programs through FY2022 also passed. During their engagement with lawmakers, the group discussed the various sections of existing policies that threaten the stability of the dental industry, and legislative obstacles that create insurance barriers to reliable and consistent economic growth for dental professionals. The AGD Governmental Affairs department has identified other critical areas impacting the future growth of professionals and the expansion of the industry. During the visit to the hill AGD’s executive and constituent leaders focused on three topics with national legislators:

- 1. Federal Oral Health Literacy Program** – The AGD urges Congress to sponsor legislation that establishes a 5-year, evidence-based national, public education campaign focusing on oral healthcare prevention and education, including the prevention of oral diseases such as early childhood and other caries, periodontal disease, and oral cancer. Surveys concerning consumer dental practices are showing that regular visits and dental check-ups to the dentist are not considered a priority as regular visits to medical doctors. Dentists play a key role in identifying other life-threatening and chronic illnesses. A 2012 study showed that nearly one in five Americans 65 and over had untreated cavities and over 40% had gum disease.
- 2. Repeal The Competitive Health Insurance Reform Act of 2019 (McCarran Ferguson)** – The AGD supports amending the McCarran Ferguson Act to empower the Federal Trade Commission and Department of Justice to enforce federal antitrust laws against health insurance companies engaged in anticompetitive conduct, addressing the end to unfair insurance practices. It is critical to untangle the debate on determining which level of government can impose what regulations, and identifying that a lack of federal regulation can substantially create bias and pose adverse outcomes on industry providers.
- 3. Resident Education Deferred Interest (REDI) Act** -The rising cost of dental education and subsequent debt among dental school students and how that debt could hinder new doctors from providing dental care to underserved populations throughout the country; Dental school tuition has doubled since 2000. Dental students dependent upon student loans reportedly have seen debt rise as high as \$216k after dental school. The REDI Act allows borrowers to qualify for interest-free deferment on their student loans while serving in a medical or dental internship or residency program.

“We cannot influence legislation to improve the state of oral health in the United States if we are not engaging and discussing solutions with national lawmakers,” said AGD President Neil J. Gajjar, DDS, MAGD. “In the past year, quite a bit of attention has been on oral health legislation and by going to Washington, D.C. we can provide lawmakers with insight on the issues that are important to the AGD and our members. Our priority is to make sure that views on the issues are expressed and taken into consideration.”

As the largest association for general dentists, the AGD holds a level of responsibility to affect change concerning legislation impacting the industry. The AGD staff and attending local constituents traveling and meeting with lawmakers in Washington, D.C., positions the AGD in a place where it is possible to have on-going interaction and dialogue at the national and state levels pertaining to issues impacting general dentistry and oral health.



Sit, stay, brush: Golden retriever helps teach kids oral hygiene habits in Kentucky

By Michelle Manchir
Originally appeared on ada.org

Bowling Green, Ky. — A dentist and community educator, Dr. Matthew Riley knows elementary school students aren't usually captivated by spiels on oral hygiene.

That's why he brings his affable partner, a three-year-old golden retriever named Bennett, who helps the message sink in.

For the past year or so, Dr. Riley and Bennett have been making the rounds to grade schools in the south central parts of Kentucky where he lives and works. There, the two teach children about oral hygiene techniques. The highlight of the show occurs when Dr. Riley brushes Bennett's teeth.

"He behaves so well and is so inviting to kids," Dr. Riley said. "I get dog-specific toothpaste. It's a way to make oral health and oral hygiene interesting and fun."

Dr. Riley adopted Bennett while he was still in dental school at the University of Louisville School of Dentistry. On snow days, he found time to train the well-behaved boy, which has made the pup a trustworthy – and, yes, adorable – companion for the school programs. Bennett is close to receiving his certification as a therapy dog, Dr. Riley said, and in addition to the school programs also visits the assisted living facility where his mother works and makes regular appearances in Dr. Riley's dental office.

An associate in Briarwood Dental in Bowling Green, Dr. Riley said he brings Bennett with him to the office when he knows a young patient with a big treatment plan ahead could use the extra comfort (and after he gets permission from the children's parents or guardians.)

"We have a special harness I put him in, and then he knows he's going somewhere fun," Dr. Riley said. "He loves the attention."

Dr. Riley, who entered private practice right after graduating from dental school in 2016, said visiting classrooms is one way to contribute to community health. He also serves as dental director for his local public health department.

Dr. Riley said he knows the K9 assistance is a little unorthodox, but he thinks having Bennett is a way to make the oral health lessons engaging. Often after visiting a school, Dr. Riley said he hears from parents of students who were eager to brush their teeth that night, citing Bennett's endorsement.

"It's hard to teach kids oral health," he said. "Here you have something that's fun and exciting that they can remember."

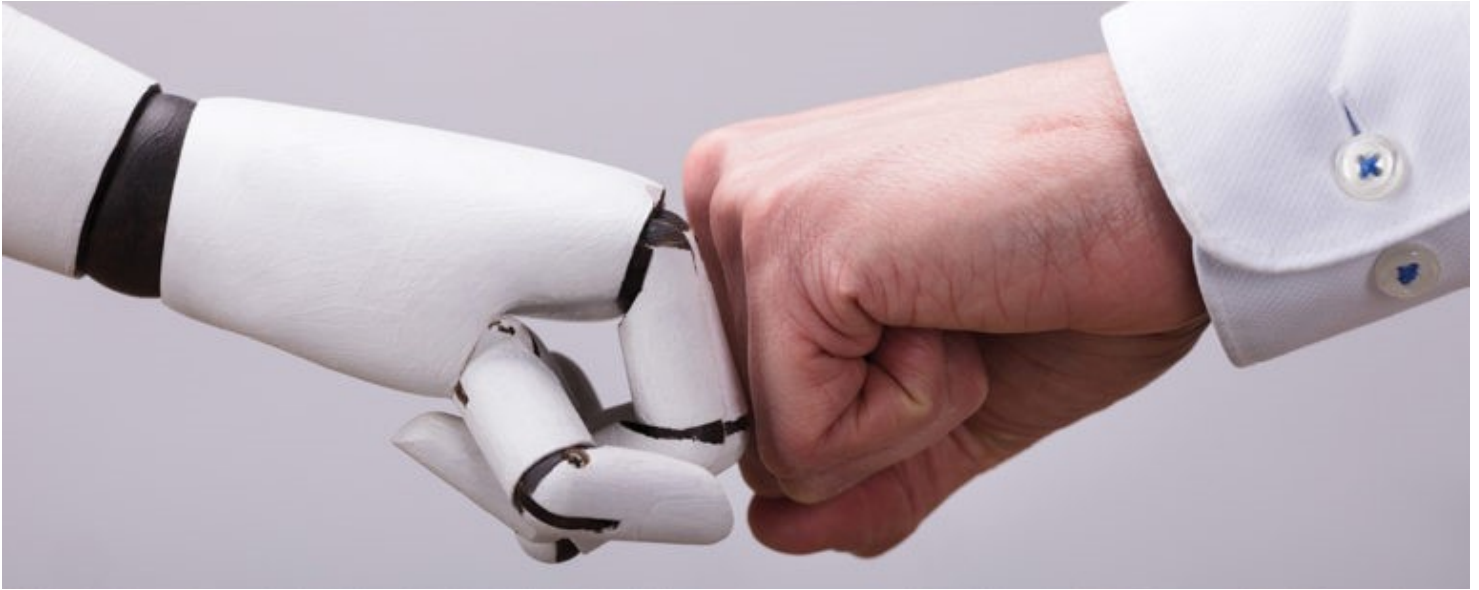
The effort has drawn attention of media, which featured him on one of his school visits on the local TV news, which was picked up by CNN. The clip has been featured on local news channels throughout the country since then.

The media attention has made Bennett, and Dr. Riley, even more popular in southern Kentucky. Dr. Riley said he's been getting more and more requests from schools to visit. Dr. Riley said he's happy to take the requests and will fit in all the visits he can on his days off from practice.

"This allows me to get to those kids I might not otherwise see," he said.



Good boy: Bennett, left, accompanies Dr. Matthew Riley to schools in Kentucky to help children learn about oral hygiene techniques.



Imagining Robots in the Dental Office

by Zeyrep Barakat, DMD, FAGD
May 16, 2019, 12:25 PM

Imagine if a robot were more accurate in doing sinus lifts than our surgeons, would patients be open to having a robot treat them? Would it be peculiar if a robot gave suggestions to a surgeon on how to extract a complicated third molar extraction after scanning a panoramic x-ray with zero error and post op complications? Or imagine if you replaced your assistant with a “humanoid” who could stock all the office cabinets and walk patients to the front desk?

I happened to catch the recent “PBS News Hour” segment on robots and was fascinated by the research on artificial intelligence in the workplace. The story discussed how robots could precisely perform many human tasks without becoming fatigued. It came as no surprise that robots were employed in mass commercial industries, warehouses and assembly lines. More amazing was their role in the medical arena, particularly in performing surgeries and staff assignments in hospitals.

My father underwent radiosurgery via the CyberKnife®—a robotic radiation delivery system—and was quite impressed by it. Robotic technology is currently used to perform less invasive surgeries where precision is paramount. And precision is a concept at the very core of dentistry.

I think about a robot scanning an edentulous site and not only planning implant surgery with impeccable accuracy, but also performing multiple surgeries in a row without getting either mentally or physically fatigued. I dream about my assistant being able to focus on chairside patient care and delegating stocking cabinets and cleaning rooms to Rosie the robot.

We dentists often fret about whether we got precisely one drop of bonding agent in our adhesives or counted exactly 15 seconds of etching. Human error is inevitable.

Still, I shudder to think about a humanoid performing dental surgeries and can’t quite picture a dental patient consenting to treatment from a robot. Then again, I never imagined self-driving cars.

Perhaps robots will rule dental practices someday, but, until then, our assistants will stock our cabinets, and we human dentists will execute sinus lifts. In the meantime, I would definitely welcome any robot that can do my household chores.

Originally printed in the San Diego County Dental Society Newsletter, Facets, March 2019.

THOROUGHBRED

How Do You Spend Your Time?

Whether you are planning for the weekend or for retirement and beyond, AGD's Exclusive Benefits program provides you with a number of options to help make the most of your time and money. If your goal is to save a little extra, you may be interested in the insurance programs. If you're seeking relaxation, we can even help you get travel discounts and ticket deals. Or, if you're looking to streamline some of your business expenses, a number of practice management products and services are available.

See what [AGD's Exclusive Benefits program](#) has to offer you.

AGD2019 Live Operatory

[AGD2019](#) is taking hands-on learning to a new level. For the first time at an AGD meeting, a [live operatory](#) resembling an actual dental office will be constructed in the exhibit hall. Forget theater-style presentations you have seen at other meetings — this unique opportunity will allow you to see how the latest equipment is used as a clinician performs cutting-edge procedures on a live patient while another clinician narrates. Operatory clinicians will also be presenting lectures later in the meeting to supplement their live operatory courses.

[Register for AGD2019 today.](#)

Supporting the Oral Health of Our Community

The Academy of General Dentistry works to ensure that general dentists can speak up when it matters most. That means making participation easy so that our members can unite their voices on legislative and regulatory activities affecting their practice. As a member, you can access the information and tools to quickly and conveniently impact legislative activities that are underway.

We need our members to get involved and make sure that legislators in our states and on Capitol Hill understand the issues affecting oral health, dentistry and issues affecting general dentists and their patients.

Watch for regular updates as well as the latest news on more urgent issues that need your assistance by contacting legislators.

[READ THE LATEST ISSUE OF AGD CAPITOL CONNECTIONS](#)

Board Meetings...

Next KYAGD Board Meeting— Exact time and location TBD. 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— May 18, 2019, 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.



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Upcoming Continuing Education

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September 21, 2019

Tekscan and TMD Course taught by Dr. Robert Kerstein
4411 Poplar Level Rd. Louisville, KY 40213

[More details on website soon.](#)

TNAGD Fall MasterTrack

October 25 - October 27

TN-AGD Fall MasterTrack covers 18 hours of CE on Orthodontics and Pediatric Dentistry. These hours are great for anyone who: is a Fellow looking to be a Master or is a Master looking for a Lifelong Learning and Service Recognition Award or just plain needs great CE hours.

Dr. Lance Kirsby will discuss:

Practical and Simple Interceptive Orthodontic Treatment for the General Practitioner, A Hands-on Course and...

A Hands On Course in Pulp Therapy and Restorative Dentistry in Pediatric Dentistry

Email: nagdmastertrack@gmail.com

Website: www.tnagd.org

IN AGD is proud to present:

Friday, June 28th, 2019

Dr. Alex Fleury

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Sponsored by: Real World Endo and Brasseler USA

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HANDS-ON COURSE

Click the following link for course information and online payment option:

https://www.indianaagd.com/event/1069/?instance_id=116

The KY AGD is planning an **ACLS** certification/re-certification course for later this year. If you are interested, watch the kyagd.org website or contact Maegan Bennett at agdkentucky@gmail.com.

 **ACADEMY
of GENERAL
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THE PREMIER MEETING FOR
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JULY 18-20**

