



Contact Point



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"In Pursuit of Excellence Through Continuing Education"

Annual UAGD meeting recognizes the Dentist of the Year

This year's UAGD annual meeting was a great event. The CE speaker was John Farah, DDS, Ph.D.. Dr. Farah addressed the attendees on the subject of dental materials. The course gave a discussion of traditional and adhesive resin cements and indications of each, guidelines for the use of ceramic materials, composites, fracture rates and esthetic success rates. Several pearls to enhance practice were offered such as a method for producing tight, predictable interproximal contacts in composite materials.

A graduate of the University of Michigan and a practicing dentist in Ann Arbor, Dr. Farah founded *The Dental Advisor* in 1984 to report on new products, equipment and techniques, helping dentists nationwide stay abreast of the latest developments in their profession. His presentations are based on laboratory data and clinical observations obtained from the newsletter and from his daily practice.

The editors, staff and clinical consultants (more than 250 practitioners nationwide) of *The Dental Advisor* evaluate dental products by objective clinical and laboratory research protocols. The motto of *The Dental Advisor* is "Improved Patient Care through Research". Its

mission states the belief that dental professionals can improve patient care by using products and techniques that have been tested scientifically and evaluated clinically.

The annual business meeting took place at Dr. Farah's course also. Dr. Lynn Walker of Midvale has been serving as President and passed the torch on to Dr. Duane Callahan of Sandy to serve as UAGD President for the next year. We all extend a warm thank you to Dr. Walker for his outstanding service and leadership and welcome Dr. Callahan into the same position with our support.

As always, the highlight of the day was in the recognition of the Dentist of the Year award. Dr. Van Johnson of Logan was honored as the 2005 recipient. Dr. Johnson is admired by his patients, staff and colleagues. He has been serving faithfully on the UAGD board for years in various capacities and has recently been chosen to serve on the Fellowship Exam board in addition to Delegate duties. Van has organized the highly successful UAGD Cruises and is an avid fly fisherman. Family, friends and patients all wish him well and pray that his example of excellence in dentistry and in continuing education continue for a long time to come. Congratulations Dr. Johnson!



John W. Farah, DDS,



Examine These

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Past UAGD President, Lynn Walker honors Van Johnson as the 2005 Utah Dentist of the Year

President Callahan Speaks

Its been a pleasure to serve in the AGD and to be a part of a group of men and women that are dedicated to improving themselves through continuing education. Over the years I've taken a lot of classes and some have certainly been better than others. Most of the best ones are those I have taken as a member of the UAGD. As president this coming year, it is my goal to help the AGD stay strong and make it possible for all of our members to feel like they will get the best classes here at the Utah AGD. Recently, I attended a UDA CQI (continuous quality

improvement) meeting and they passed around some cases from a local lab that had most of us shaking our heads. I remember thinking to myself "whomever did this work needs to be a member of the UAGD and take some classes". I'm sure most of us got a great dental education but we forget so much. We try to do things we should be prepared but aren't to do or we try to save teeth that should be removed. Taking courses on a regular basis

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The AGD Means Serving Others

As we get ready for the end of year holidays, let us remember to be thankful for all that we have. The practice of dentistry is so rewarding in so many ways other than just the money. I hope that we are in dentistry mainly to help others by using experience and skills to improve their health and image. There is that famous saying about "Doctor, first do not harm" which I think should be the mantra for all of us. With so many different ways to treat the conditions of the mouth available, especially with all the new technological gadgets, I think that we sometimes forget that there is a living person attached to all those teeth. At the last Mastership course with Dr. Lloyd Tilt, we reviewed the steps for a comprehensive periodontal examination. There were steps there that I do not always consider--such as the amount of recession and the clinical attachment loss. Do we really take the time to get to know our patients--what their needs and concerns are, or are we too much in a hurry to make sure we have convinced them of the newest and greatest whatever there is in dentistry.

To change subjects slightly, as many of you know I own an airplane and have enjoyed the time spent going to so many wonderful parts of this country. Well, about 1 year ago I decided to have an Air Festival in Cache valley, I had gone to one in Boise and wondered why there had not been one in Utah, so after talking with the Utah Department of Transportation people that were there, they stated that there had never been one in Utah and that if I wanted one, I needed to do it. So on the trip back from Boise I decided to do it. Since then I have written to various sponsors, have affirmed a location at Briderland Applied Technology College in Logan and have talked to various speakers to see what can be done. The end result is: there will be a Northern Utah Regional Air Festival in Logan next August. The one thing that I cannot seem to get accomplished is public restrooms at the airport. I have gone to the Airport Authority Board and asked for ideas of what can be done to have a 24 hour restroom available. Now you would think that the board would like help in getting restroom facilities out there for pilots and passengers to use, but they really have resisted the idea. I guess the trees surrounding the area have always grown so well with human fertilizer that they hate to see all that waste go down the pipe. I will have to keep you posted on the continuing saga of the airport restrooms.

What does this has to do with you and the AGD and dentistry? EVERYTHING. Do you want a dental school in Utah? Do you want to see a certain speaker for a C. E. Course? Do you want to improve insurance benefits for your patients? Do you want to have a better study club? Do you want to do more endo, perio, ortho, implants, etc.? The list could go on. THEN GET INVOLVED AND SPEND SOME TIME HELPING OTHERS. In Logan, the city fathers are

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Dr. Callahan recovers in the grass after being gored by this good tasting rhino

President's message continued from pg. 1

has really helped me and I find that it helps me keep my confidence up and keeps my passion for dentistry.

Many of our members go to lots of classes but have not taken the Fellowship exam or don't turn in their credits. We all deserve to get recognition for our efforts and our patients should know of our commitment to learning and that they are going to a dentist that is doing their best to stay current with the best that dentistry has to offer. I challenge any of you who have not taken the Fellowship exam to do so this coming year. A great place to plan to take it is in Denver Colorado at the annual meeting.

I hope that we can make this coming year the best ever and I would be happy to listen to any comments or questions you might have. My email is cdwane6@msn.com
All the best,
Dr. Duane D. Callahan DDS, FAGD

Exploitation vs. Altruism

I recently made an expensive mistake in my choice of some dental equipment. The sales representative and marketing people did a fantastic job of covering certain details, obscuring the truth and blinding me to what was important in my choice. In the same way, we hear of dentists who market to their patients and "sell them the moon" only to disappoint them and cheapen the profession as a whole. Dentistry used to be the most trusted profession, but that has changed as our mortgages have grown, expenses have deepened and our financial stresses have compounded. We often look at our supply bills and wonder how a certain item can cost ten or thirty times more in the dental supply catalog than it does at the local box store selling to the public. Of course, there are many factors involved, but one wonders...

Personally, the one thing that keeps me from doing the same thing to my patients is my deeply held feeling that we can be above the shady methods that some employ. The education I've received helps me appreciate the difficulty in which some people live. It makes me want to help in some way beyond any monetary reward. Sometimes this is recognized by the recipient. Continuing education helps me stay a little more focused on others and to do a better job of it. -Paul Harris, Editor



“What Matters Most?”

Several months ago, my wife suddenly appeared at my office and informed me that the paramedics were loading our oldest son on the Air Med helicopter, and were taking him to the University of Utah Hospital. Although I was extremely busy at the time, my perspective suddenly changed. When we arrived at the Emergency Room, we learned that he had been involved in a dirt bike accident at the Sand Dunes, and had compound fractures of both femurs, and 17 of his vertebrae were broken. For several days, we didn't know whether he would survive, and if he did, what would his life be like. For the next several weeks, we spent many hours in the hospital as he underwent multiple surgeries. During those long hours, I had a lot of time to reflect on “What Matters Most...”

I started to realize that it is very easy to lose sight of what really matters in this life. It's easy to bury ourselves in our work or in other activities that preoccupy us and miss out on the beauty of the life right in front of us. We live our lives teetering on the edge of burnout, stressed to the max by our work, church, and family schedules, but when do we take time to slow down and reflect? When do we create space for moments with God and the people most precious to us? What ever happened to surprises and spontaneity? It appears that during and after dental school, many of these things seem to have become lost to us.

Dentistry has changed greatly over the last 20 years. Rotary Nickel-Titanium endodontics, digital x-rays, implants, computers to electronically store all of the patients information are some of the hallmarks of the change. With the constant influx of new information, technology and materials, continuing education is one of the keys to keeping abreast in this modern age. It also becomes important to share and exchange information with your colleagues. Dentistry can be a very lonely profession. It is emotionally and physically exhausting. As we work together and compare notes, we not only learn how to be better dentists, but we realize that the problems we encounter are not unique.

So what is the AGD? It is Excellence in General Dentistry. It is the aspiration of improving the profession through education, it is a commitment to excellence.

The story is told about the Baby Tiger who said to his Mama Tiger in the Jungle, “What are we going to do? Here comes a hunter, and he has five rifles, three special sighting scopes, and devices to allow him to see in the dark!” “Hush!” answered Mama Tiger and she taught her cub how to sneak up from behind and pounce. The hunter was never heard of again. All of which goes to prove that technology may be fine, but it will never be a substitute for a good basic education.

The Academy of General Dentistry is all about education. Whatever we do in life requires preparation and dedication. For dentistry, education never ends. The same applies to medicine, with the technology and education that the physicians and hospital staff have acquired at the University of Utah over many years, our son Jason is again walking and has gone back to being a father and husband. After only 3 months, he is again working as a computer consultant.

--Lynn Walker DDS, MAGD

AGD Fellowship Award Requirements (simplified)

1. Current AGD membership for three (3) continuous years
2. Completion of 500 hours of FAGD/MAGD-approved continuing education credit, with at least 350 hours earned in course attendance. Mastership credit begins to accrue on the date that the 500-hours requirement has been met.
3. Successful completion of the Fellowship Examination.
4. Attendance at a Convocation Ceremony, held during the AGD Annual Meeting, to receive the award

AGD Mastership Award Requirements (simplified)

600 hours of MAGD-approved continuing dental education credit, 400 of which must be in participation courses.

Mastership credit begins to accrue on the date that the 500-hour Fellowship Award requirement has been met. The 600 credit hours must be earned in specific disciplines, as outlined under “Subject Category requirements.”

	Hands On	Total Hrs
Endodontics	30	46
Electives	30	46
MPD/Occlusion	30	46
Operative Dentistry	30	46
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery	30	46
Orthodontics	12	12
Pediatric Dentistry	12	12
Periodontics	30	46
Practice Management	0	24
Fixed Prosthodontics	30	46
Removable Prosthodontics	30	46
Implants	30	46
Oral Med/Oral Diagnosis	12	12
Special Patient Care	12	12
Esthetics	30	46
TOTAL HOURS	360	544
TOTAL REQUIRED	400	600



“It's true! Our clothes, the curtains, the carpeting in the waiting room . . . they're all made out of recycled dental floss!”

CALENDAR

National Annual Meetings

August 2-6, 2006
June 27-July 12 2007
2008

Denver, CO
San Diego, CA
Orlando, FL

For Fun

Friday, September 8, 2006 Homestead
Golf Tournament
Friday, February 10, 2006 AGD Luncheon at the
UDA Convention

\$30 per person, Joseph Smith Memorial Bldg. Pre-pay by
sending checks c/o David Powell, 7478 S Campus View Dr.
West Jordan, UT 84084 or stop by the AGD booth @ the convention.

Utah Academy of General Dentistry Officers

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Cruise, Delegate	Van Johnson	435-752-4370

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starting to look at our waste lines to see if we are getting mercury into the sewage system. They, in typical government style, are just going to charge a new fee to help clean up the mercury. They have not tested the water before it enters our offices and after it leaves to see if dental offices are the problem. They just think that dentists make a lot of money so we should be the ones to pay for it. The First District Dental Society is trying to be proactive on this subject and I hope that we can show how dental offices are doing a good job of keeping our water safe. Look around and pick some activity in dentistry to help--of course I would love you if the activity is with the Utah AGD. Show up to our meetings--they are good C. E. courses for a very reasonable price. Start on your fellowship or mastership. Get out of your office and start visiting with other dentists. Go on the UAGD Cruise. GET INVOLVED! I hope that all of us have a very happy holiday season and work harder in making 2006 a great new year for learning and making dentistry a better profession.

--Dan Boston DDS, MAGD

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