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Susan E. Hudak Boss, DMD – Immediate Past President and Alternate Delegate



*You and a guest are invited to attend the  
Pinellas County Dental Association's End of the Year Party,*

**The Hollander Hotel**

421 4th Ave N, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

*Friday, May 6, 2016 • 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.*

Hors d'oeuvres and drink tickets will be provided. Members and Non-member dentists are invited to attend. Attire is casual.

Please kindly RSVP with Kelsey at [smilepinellas@gmail.com](mailto:smilepinellas@gmail.com) or call (727) 342-0374 by May 2nd.

# “El Presidente” Letter



**Dr. Alberto Bird**

March was a landmark month for Washington regulations, aimed to decrease the effects of death and destruction of lives that opioids have caused in this country. The use of Heroin, Morphine and synthetic derivatives like OxyContin, Vicodin and Percocet have increased not only on low income population but the drug abuse crisis has touched middle class, small towns and rural areas across the country. Opioid overdoses kill more people than motor vehicles accidents in the US. These deaths can be prevented.

A national drug summit in Atlanta brought together all agencies involved with production, distribution and regulations. Even the White House gave a major address. Opioids are among the world’s oldest known drugs used in acute and palliative care. Opioids play an important role in the management of pain. We as dentists should understand opioids as well as alternative medications that are non-narcotic based to help manage our patients more effectively and safely. The way opioids are prescribed was revised in 2014, converting medications like Vicodin to class II from Class III. This change was instituted to regulate the uncontrolled dispensing of these medications and make it more difficult to reach the street level.

At the Atlanta summit, one of the recommendations was to move away from interdiction and criminalization and to institute access to treatment, especially in rural and underserved areas. The idea behind this is to provide treatment to people with substance use disorders, and at the same time, collaborate and increase coordination with the Justice Department. Recently, it was announced that 60 medical schools have committed to educate their students on prudent prescribing of opioids.

Next time you come across the situation to relieve dental pain to one of your patients, consider if a non-narcotic could be used to manage the situation. We can help as health care providers to decrease this epidemic of opioid abuse.

This will be my last letter as president of the PCDA. I am truly honored that you have allowed me to be your PRESIDENTE for this year. I would like to thank all the great people that gave me support throughout this year, especially to the wonderful PCDA Board, Kelsey, our Executive Secretary, my staff and especially my wife Frances who has shown me how to overcome any obstacle no matter how challenging it may be in our lives.

We look forward to meeting everybody at our end of the year party at the Hollander Hotel, May 6, 2016. I promise it will be a great evening at this recently remodeled downtown St. Petersburg hotel. Have a great and active summer!

Sincerely,  
**Alberto M. Bird DMD, MScD**  
PCDA President

## PCDA Membership

### **Invite a Colleague!**

Have you met a new dentist in the area? Invite them to our upcoming End of the Year Party at the Hollander Hotel. They will have a great time and quickly learn the benefits of strong organized dentistry! It is important to keep our voices strong and loud so that our politicians have our best interests at heart.

### **Become a Member**

Please contact Kelsey at [smilepinellas@gmail.com](mailto:smilepinellas@gmail.com) or PCDA Membership Chairman, **Dr. Mike Insoft** at [minsoft@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:minsoft@tampabay.rr.com) for more information about attending a meeting or becoming a member. Membership applications may also be located online at [www.smilepinellas.org](http://www.smilepinellas.org).

# GKAS Recap



GKAS in Pinellas County took place at three different health department locations and volunteers were able to treat over 160 kids. All children received exams, x-rays and prophys. The children will be returning to the health department for restorative treatment, extractions and other needs.

Although we felt that we were at maximum capacity this year, we are re-visiting how we run GKAS for next year and for years to come. I am making this a personal goal of mine to coordinate with other important organizations like Healthy Start, the Department of Health and the school nurses, to create a “template” on how GKAS will run. It would be much easier to have a set protocol for who’s in charge of what every year instead of asking different people for help each time we plan the event.

We have some new ideas in place that will allow us to use our volunteer dentists more wisely. For example, one initiative is to have the Department of Health dentists take the radiographs, perform the exams and enter this information into the computer the week BEFORE the PCDA and UPCDA dentists volunteer to treat these needy children. The kids will then be given an appointment on the following Saturday to have the local dentists do the restorative work that is needed. This will be one way to use our dental volunteers to their full potential! If you have any ideas that you would like to share with me, please email me. I am open to suggestions, as this will be a new “job” for me, and I need all the help I can get!

Thank you to those who have ever volunteered – it always seems to be a success!

**Dr. Amy Anderson**

## Settlement Agreement Reached in Florida Medicaid Case to Improve Medical and Dental Care for Florida Children

Tallahassee, April 5, 2016 - The Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (“FCAAP”), the Florida Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (“FAPD”), Boies Schiller & Flexner LLP and the Public Interest Law Center announced that a settlement has been reached in a 10-year-old class action suit brought on behalf of the more than two million Florida children who depend on the state’s Medicaid program for their health care. The settlement agreement provides for the Agency for Health Care Administration (“AHCA”) and other state agencies to make substantial improvements in the access of children on Medicaid to medical and dental care throughout the state, and is designed to raise Florida to at least national norms over several years. [View key aspects and agreement here.](#)

## CDC Guidelines Update: Summary of Infection Prevention Practices for Dental Settings

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) held a webinar on its new resources on infection control in dental settings. The CDC released a new document to supplement its 2003 guidelines, titled, [Summary of Infection Prevention Practices for Dental Settings: Basic Expectation for Safe Care](#). The document combines recommendations from the 2003 guidelines with additional CDC recommendations published since 2003. The new document is not a replacement for the 2003 recommendations, but rather provides handy checklists and helpful tools to help dental health care professionals. For additional resources on infection control, visit <http://www.ada.org/en/member-center/oral-health-topics/infection-control-resources>. There is also an Infection Control toolkit available on [ADA Connect](#).

## HIPAA Compliance

Federal Government Could Audit Dentists for HIPAA Compliance. The ADA News (3/24, Soderlund) reports, “The federal government has begun auditing some health care providers, including dental practices, to ensure they are complying with patient privacy laws and health care information security laws.” On March 21, the Department of Health and Human Services’ Office for Civil Rights announced in a news release that it has begun its second phase of audits to assess compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act’s Privacy, Security and Breach Notification Rules. “We want dentists to be aware that this is happening and to take HIPAA compliance seriously,” said Dr. Andrew Brown, chair of the ADA Council on Dental Practice. “There are steep consequences for health care providers that don’t comply with the law and we don’t want to see any dentists having to pay tens of thousands of dollars in a penalty.” Paula Tironi, senior associate general counsel in the ADA Division of Legal Affairs, said that “at least one dental practice” was included in the first phase of audits, which began in 2012. Visit [hhs.gov/hipaa](http://hhs.gov/hipaa) to learn more about the second phase of audits. [ADA.org/hipaa](http://ADA.org/hipaa) provides free HIPAA resources, and ADA members have access to exclusive HIPAA tips on the ADA Center for Professional Success website.

## Medicare Part D Deadline Extended

Dentists now have until Feb. 1, 2017 to make a decision about Medicare Part D, otherwise Part D prescription drug claims for Medicare eligible patients will not be covered. If dentists want Part D plans to continue covering drugs prescribed for their Medicare patients, they must either enroll as an ordering/referring provider by filling out form 855O or enroll as a Medicare provider through form 855I. Otherwise, they must opt out of the program. CMS encourages health care providers to submit their Medicare enrollment applications or opt-out affidavits to their Medicare administrative contractors before August 1<sup>st</sup> to allow time for processing. It’s the fourth time CMS has delayed the deadline. Visit [CMS.gov](http://CMS.gov) for more information and to access forms 855O and 855I. The ADA Center for Professional Success also has links to the forms and a video tutorial on the process at [Success.ADA.org/practice/Medicare/Medicare](http://Success.ADA.org/practice/Medicare/Medicare). [Read the full story here.](#)

## Dental Forensics

Bite Mark Evidence: Will it continue to be admissible in court? I have always been a follower of forensic TV shows like CSI Vegas, Miami, NCIS, Law and Order, Dexter and the list goes on. However, these shows misinterpret the forensic profession by making us believe that all cases are solved quickly and by using sophisticated high tech equipment. Since the mid 2000's a real controversy exists on cases involving bite marks and how this evidence could have convicted and sentenced innocent people to prison. There have been several articles published regarding this matter recently, including the Wall Street Journal and a magazine for the alumni at Buffalo also reported on several cases. In 1997 a prominent doctor in Akron, Ohio was found shot 6 times in the parking lot of her medical office. There were no witnesses, no fingerprints nor weapons except the bite mark imprinted on her left arm. This bite mark was inflicted through the victim's blouse and lab coat. Based largely on this evidence, Douglas Prade, ex-husband of the victim, was convicted and sentenced to life in prison. Mr. Prade, former police Captain, maintained his innocence regardless of the evidence.

In 1987 Steven Mark Chaney was convicted for the slaying of John and Sally Sweek after forensic dentist linked him to a bite mark on Mr. Sweek's arm. A Texas judge set free Mr. Chaney in October 2015 more than 28 years into a life sentence after an expert that matched him to the bite mark evidence filed an affidavit disallowing the testimony in light of today's "Scientific Standards". A recent survey of forensic dentistry showed that bite mark evidence figures into about 100 to 400 cases in the US each year.

Current research by Peter and Mary Bush at State University of New York in Buffalo, questions the basic assumptions at the foundation of Bite Mark Analysis: that teeth, like fingerprints are unique to a person and that bites can be reliably recorded on skin.

To date, no U.S. court has ruled bite mark evidence inadmissible but all eyes are on Texas in term of the future use of bite mark analysis. Based on new research, the team of Peter and Mary Bush using clasp like devices with dental models and cadavers found no two marks made by a dentition were the same. They found no proof that human dentition is unique to a person or that human skin can record bite marks that can be matched to a suspect. Prior to the Bush's experiments, scientists conducted investigations with dental models engineered to bite in surfaces surrogate to human skin, such as pig and dog or styrofoam and/or wax. University of Buffalo researchers were among the first to seek answers to their questions using human skin from donated cadavers approved for academic research.

If this goes through, a Texas commission will soon be weighing a request to curb the use of bite mark evidence in criminal cases. This means that the American Board of Forensic Odontology may need to revisit the guidelines and find new studies to show how bite mark methodology could improve solving future cases.

In the afternoon of January 29, 2013, former police Captain Douglas Prade was released from Madison Correction Institute. The release was based on the assumption that there is "no validated and reliable science supporting bite mark evidence".

**Dr. Alberto Bird**  
PCDA President

# Endo Post

## QUALIFIED DENTAL ASSISTANT SEEKING FULL-TIME WITH BENEFITS:

I'm looking for an established, busy dental office to obtain a challenging career position that will correspond with my current abilities and skill. I am a graduate of PTEC, and have experience in assisting with a variety of dental procedures and oral surgeries. I am highly skilled in preparing dental materials, collecting patient health histories, and taking impressions and radiographs. I am available for full time with the ability to work over time when needed. Please contact Stacey Goodman Wilson, CDA at 727-345-4134.

### Direct all classified and ad inquiries to:

PCDA/Kelsey Bulnes: [smilepinellas@gmail.com](mailto:smilepinellas@gmail.com) or (727) 342-0374

# Other Important Dates

PCDA End of the Year Party, [Hollander Hotel](#) May 6, 2016

Florida Dental Convention (FDC), Orlando June 16-18, 2016

PCDA Officer Installation, [Duncan McClellan Gallery](#) September 9, 2016

# History Book Progress

