

## Treatment Considerations for the Atrophic Mandible, Dr. Philip Hedger

Wednesday, March 6th  
6:00pm Social Hour  
7:00pm Lecture & Business  
The Club at TI, 400 Treasure Island Causeway, Treasure Island



RSVP at [smilepinellas@gmail.com](mailto:smilepinellas@gmail.com) or (727) 342-0374 with your attendance and any dietary restrictions or requests.

Utilize CBCT technology to provide a customized approach to properly treatment plan surgical and prosthetic options for the atrophic mandible. Focus will be on implementing key radiographic diagnostics to determine the best treatment option(s) for the patient. Conventional dentures, implant overdentures, fixed hybrids, and subperiosteal implant overdentures will be reviewed.

As a prosthodontist, it is my goal to provide patients with the highest level of compassion, empathy, and care. I am blessed with the opportunity to change lives on a daily basis by providing individuals with optimal esthetic, functional, and healthy smiles. This provides me with great personal satisfaction.” -Dr. Philip J. Hedger

Dr. Philip J. Hedger was born in St. Petersburg, Florida and grew up in Palm Harbor, Florida. He attended the University of Florida for his undergraduate studies in Nutrition and received his dental doctorate from the University of Florida College of Dentistry. Dr. Hedger then completed an Advanced Prosthodontics Residency at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry.

Dr. Hedger maintains an active involvement within the dental community, serving on committees and providing educational lectures to peers. He lives with his wife Stacy (his high-school sweetheart) and their four daughters in Odessa. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family and friends.



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# President's Message

I hope you are off to a great start in 2019! I know that many of you attended the WCDDA meeting in Tampa- I have heard good reports from colleagues about both the meeting and the venue at the CAMLS center.

I had the opportunity to visit the St. Pete Free Clinic Health Center on 4<sup>th</sup> Street N recently and view the plans for the new dental clinic. The plans are for 3 dental chairs, an x-ray unit, sterilization area and a small lab. There is an office for Claudia Rosas, the Dental Project Coordinator, and an office for a full-time dentist. It is currently in the permitting process. The Director of Development, Debbie Sokolov, shared with me the goal is to raise 1.5 million dollars to fund the clinic for 3 years and to build an endowment for future sustainability. They currently have approximately 700,000 dollars raised. I learned that their budget is 85% private donations from the community and 15% grants, but not federal or state grants. The grants they have right now are from Delta Dental and will run out soon. They are constantly seeking and applying for other possible grants like that. Because they don't take government grants, they have more autonomy over the operation of the clinic as compared with the Health Department. The purpose of the St. Pete Free Clinic is to help members of our community who "fall through the cracks" in our health care system. Most patients have jobs, but their earnings are 100-200 % below the federal poverty level. They pay nothing for their dental or medical care.

## How can PCDA members help? In 3 ways:

- 1) Volunteer to work in the clinic. As you know, patients are currently seen at the Health Department facility in downtown St. Pete on Fridays and Saturdays- Call Claudia to schedule your day! 727-327-0333
- 2) Donate money- many of you already volunteer and give. It would be a tremendous outreach to our community if we as individual business owners donate to help raise the other \$800,000 they need. When an organization is raising that kind of endowment, they are looking for donations in the \$5,000.00 or more range, although they will certainly accept any amount. Contact Debbie Sokolov (727) 821-1200 ext 110 or email [Debbie.Sokolov@stpetersburgfreeclinic.org](mailto:Debbie.Sokolov@stpetersburgfreeclinic.org)
- 3) Tell your friends, associates, and philanthropic patients about the new Dental Clinic, the fund-raising effort, and the benefit to the community

Thank you for the great response to our volunteer efforts!

Dr. Jeff Scott  
PCDA President



Jeff Scott, DMD

## Classifieds:

**Volunteers Needed:** Pinellas Technical College, St. Petersburg will be providing low cost dental care at our clinical facility to members of the community. We are asking for dentists to volunteer their time, 3 Fridays a month from 8:00 am-12:00 pm. Please call as soon as possible to schedule the Friday that will work for you to participate in our Community Dental Services Program. 727-893-2500, ext. 2578 or ext.2573

## Pro Bono Reporting:

Do you volunteer your time and skills or donate dentistry in your office or away from the office? The Florida Dental Association has offered a pilot Pro-Bono reporting tool to the Pinellas County Dental Association. The form is brief, concise and the amount of hours donated can be used as a powerful tool when speaking to legislators. PCDA will include the link in each issue of the newsletter. You may report here, <https://form.jotform.com/82544603162149>.

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# What's Happening in the Florida Legislature Today

**Classifieds  
Continued:**

Florida's legislature is once again in session. It is so important that all dentists are familiar with what is happening in our state and to get out there and have our voice heard. There are several bills the FDA supports and opposes. Whether or not you are a board member or a legislative contact dentist, you can do your part. If you know a member or someone affiliated with a member of the Florida legislature, it is your responsibility to inform them of what is happening and what our association supports and opposes. In addition, if you are interested in becoming a legislative contact dentist, please contact **Joe Anne Hart, Chief Legislative Officer**, [jahart@floridadental.org](mailto:jahart@floridadental.org), Alexandra Abboud, Governmental Affairs Liaison, [aabboud@floridadental.org](mailto:aabboud@floridadental.org) or Courtney Thomas, Legislative Assistant, [cthomas@floridadental.org](mailto:cthomas@floridadental.org), phone (800) 326-0051 – or – (850) 224-1089. We also ask that if you receive any Call to Action notices from the FDA that everyone responds quickly. These policies can become law very quickly, and we need all our voices to be heard. **Dentists Day on the Hill will take place on March 12 in Tallahassee, and I encourage as many as can to attend. In addition, the Mission of Mercy event will take place in Orlando on March 22-23 at Edgewater High School – see [www.flamom.org](http://www.flamom.org) for more details.** I have laid out legislation that the Florida Dental Association is supporting and opposing this legislative session. Unlike past years, the FDA is proposing a multi-part legislation - FLORIDA'S ACTION FOR DENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT. This program is a comprehensive plan developed to improve the oral health and resulting overall health of all Floridians.

## **FLORIDA'S ACTION FOR DENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT:**

### **1) DENTAL STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM SUPPORT**

The FDA supports legislation that reinstates the dental student loan repayment program, which encourages dentists to work as full-time Medicaid providers in rural and underserved areas. In return, a dentist will be eligible to receive financial assistance from the state for repayment of their dental student loan in an amount no less than \$50,000 per year for a maximum of five years. This legislation will increase access to dental care in underserved areas and also will address the financial constraints dentists face after dental school.

### **2) DONATED DENTAL SERVICES PROGRAM**

The FDA supports state funding for two full-time coordinators and operational expenses for the Donated Dental Services (DDS) Program through the Dental Lifeline Network at approximately \$180,000. The DDS Program allows dentists and dental laboratories to donate free comprehensive treatment to people who are disabled, elderly, or medically compromised, and are unable to afford dental care.

Currently, more than 400 Florida dentists and over 200 Florida dental labs participate in the DDS Program. They have helped over 1,765 patients in Florida with seriously neglected dental problems and have donated almost \$7.6 million in dental services. These individuals would end up seeking dental care in the emergency room if it were not for the volunteers who donate their services free of charge to patients through this program. Seeking dental care through an emergency room setting is cost prohibitive and would not resolve the patient's underlying issue.

Nationwide, with 15,000 dentists and 3,500 dental labs, the program has provided almost \$360 million worth of donated dental services.

**Seeking to Purchase:** I am a relationship-driven general dentist looking to purchase a practice from a like-minded individual with a strong reputation in the community. I value clinical excellence and outstanding patient care while fostering camaraderie amongst the team. I am boutique-minded, and this would be my only practice where I would expend all of my time and effort to ensure consistency and quality care. I am ready to begin the transition immediately and look forward to speaking with you if you feel we are a good fit. Please find my contact info. below:  
Monica Babilonia, DDS  
(813) 924-4410  
[monbabilonia@gmail.com](mailto:monbabilonia@gmail.com)

**Seeking Associate Position:** My name is Maggie Peng. I graduated from the University of Florida College of Dentistry in May 2018. I am currently doing a general practice residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and am looking to move back to Florida after my program ends July 2019. I look forward to beginning my career and establishing myself as a clinician in the Tampa bay area. I am seeking an associate dentist position. Please contact

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### 3) COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION

The FDA supports \$1,000,000 in state funding for community water fluoridation efforts through the Department of Health. For more information on community water fluoridation, visit: [www.floridafluoridation.org](http://www.floridafluoridation.org). Proclaimed as one of the 10 greatest public health achievements of the 20th century by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), community water fluoridation has proven to be one of the most efficient and safest ways to prevent dental decay, which is one of the most common childhood diseases. Studies show that for more than 70 years, community water fluoridation has resulted in a significant reduction of tooth decay amongst individuals of all ages, and especially those without access to routine dental care.

### 4) COMMUNITY DENTAL HEALTH COORDINATOR

The FDA supports adding curriculum to existing dental, dental hygiene and dental assisting programs to integrate Community Dental Health Coordinators (CDHCs) into the dental workforce. CDHCs have proven to benefit patients who struggle to find adequate access to routine dental care in their communities.

It would cost approximately \$50,000 to add the CDHC curriculum to an existing program. Funding would cover: faculty development; curriculum training; books; tuition assistance; internship overhead (travel for outreach projects) coupled with student recruitment; and IT costs to host online modules.

CDHCs are trained to interact with individuals, with cultural competence, in dental underserved communities where they work. They understand the people, language and barriers to oral health in those communities. They serve as “patient navigators” to individuals who struggle to find dental care or who may not be educated about the benefits of maintaining good oral hygiene.

### 5) FLORIDA MISSION OF MERCY

The FDA encourages the state to allocate \$1 million in funding for the Florida Mission of Mercy (FLA-MOM). Programs like the FLA-MOM provide a significant impact for individuals who struggle to find routine dental care in their communities. The two-day dental clinic helps relieve thousands suffering from dental pain and provides them some relief from their constant discomfort. Additionally, people are able to receive care and be diagnosed on their dental condition instead of going to the emergency department, only to receive antibiotics and pain medication and not having their dental condition treated. The FLA-MOM also helps to reduce unnecessary costs affiliated with emergency room visits, which sometimes becomes a repeated incident for those who are not treated by a dentist.

#### **The FDA also supports:**

#### 1) CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR THE PRESCRIBING OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

The FDA supports requiring dentists to take 2-hour of continuing education (CE) on the safe and effective prescribing of controlled substances. Dentists that prescribe controlled substances to their patients should be aware of the emerging changes with drug interactions and other signs that help in their clinical judgement and treatment planning for their patients.

#### 2) INCREASE MEDICAID DENTAL FUNDING

Florida’s \$28 billion Medicaid program does not provide adequate resources for dental care. Funds appropriated to dental care in the Medicaid program make up only about 1% of the overall Medicaid budget. The FDA supports an increase in the overall funding of the Medicaid dental program and a thorough assessment of the policies and administration of the program. Extremely low reimbursement rates for Medicaid dental providers have been a significant barrier for increasing the number of dentists willing to participate in the Medicaid program.

me at (352) 514-3378 or at [maggipengmp@gmail.com](mailto:maggipengmp@gmail.com) if you have any questions at all, thank you so much!

**Seeking Hygienist:** Office seeking a dental hygienist for 1 to 4 days a week. Located in St Petersburg. Please call 727-521-1616 to inquire.

**Direct all classified and ad inquiries to:**  
PCDA/Kelsey Bulnes, CMP:  
[smilepinellas@gmail.com](mailto:smilepinellas@gmail.com) or  
(727) 342-0374

During the 2011 Legislative Session, the Legislature approved a \$56 million reimbursement fee increase for children dental services only. The FDA applauds the Legislature's effort to address an area of the Medicaid program that has not seen any significant changes in over 20 years. However, even with this fee increase, Florida still ranks in the bottom of all states for Medicaid reimbursement rates. Current Florida Medicaid reimbursement rates are roughly 36 percent of private dental insurance rates. Even under the statewide dental managed care program, the plans contract directly with the dentists and a majority of the plans continue to set the reimbursement rates at the Florida Medicaid rate.

**DIRECT PRIMARY CARE** - The FDA supports legislation that allows consumers to directly contract with a primary care provider and eliminate any involvement from insurance plans. Primary care contracts would allow a patient to enter into an agreement with their primary care provider for a specific monthly fee, for a specific list of services that would be covered under that monthly fee. Primary care agreements are not insurance, will not be regulated under the Florida Insurance Code, and do not satisfy the minimum essential coverage for health care as directed by the Affordable Care Act and is not considered worker's compensation. The FDA is supportive of legislation that will help provide consumers with additional health care options.

**MAINTAIN EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS FOR INTERNATIONALLY-TRAINED DENTISTS** - Current law requires that graduates of non-accredited dental schools complete a 2-year supplemental general dentistry education program before taking the Florida licensure exam. The purpose of the supplemental education program is to: 1) ensure that internationally-trained dentists attain the same knowledge and skills as graduates of accredited programs and 2) familiarize internationally-trained dentists with the oral health care delivery system in the U.S., including the techniques, procedures and standards of oral health care.

The FDA supports maintaining the current supplemental education requirement for internationally-trained dentists.

The FDA **opposes** the following current items introduced in the legislature.

#### 1) **DENTAL THERAPY**

The FDA does not support adding dental therapists as a new licensed dental provider in Florida. Touted as a solution to address access to dental care in underserved and rural areas, dental therapists are educated for only three-years out of high school and would be authorized to perform surgery or major irreversible procedures like extractions and partial root canals. The FDA is concerned that this would lower the standard of care for dentistry – particularly among our state's most vulnerable populations, who often suffer from the most complex problems and higher rates of tooth decay. As last year, bills have been introduced in both the House and Senate. **Please contact your representatives and ask them to oppose SB 684 and 686 and HB 649 and 471.**

#### 2) **MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR DENTAL HYGIENISTS**

The FDA opposes issuing a separate Medicaid provider number to dental hygienists for the limited services that may be provided in public health access settings. Current law is adequate and flexible enough to allow hygienists to collaborate as needed in order to utilize existing provider numbers that are already assigned to dentists and physicians in these settings.

**Dr. Rita Hurst**  
**PCDA Immediate Past President**

## **Special Note from Dr. John Harrison**

The History of the PCDA, by Jon Wilson is now completed and with the inclusion of selected photographs, will be ready for publication. There are two possibilities for your consideration; an electronic version or paperback book. We hope you will value having the book at \$25 to cover the printing costs. Electronic copies are available for \$5. The proceeds will go toward funding complimentary copies to other organizations such as the ADA, FDA, state dental schools and history museums. Please indicate with a reply email your preference and payment. This has been a very worthwhile project, and all of us should be proud of the contribution our dental association has made to our community and profession. Thankfully, we have preserved it for the future generations.

**Dr. John Harrison**

Contact [smilepinellas@gmail.com](mailto:smilepinellas@gmail.com) or (727) 342-0374 to obtain your copy today.

# PCDA's 2018-2019 Meeting Schedule

Social hour is 6:00 p.m. Lectures begin at 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 6, 2019**

The Club at Treasure Island

Treatment Considerations for the Atrophic Mandible, Dr. Philip Hedger

**Wednesday, April 3, 2019**

The Club at Treasure Island

Oral Facial Pathology, Dr. Matthew Mahoney

Staff is invited!

## Other Important Dates

Mardi Gras, President's Trip  
February 28- March 3, 2019  
New Orleans, LA

Dentists' Day on the Hill  
March 11-12, 2019  
Tallahassee, FL

Florida's Mission of Mercy  
March 22-23, 2019  
Edgewater Highschool, Orlando

WCDDA's Summer Meeting  
July 26-28, 2019  
The Ritz-Carlton, Naples

## Worthy Websites

[www.smilepinellas.com](http://www.smilepinellas.com)

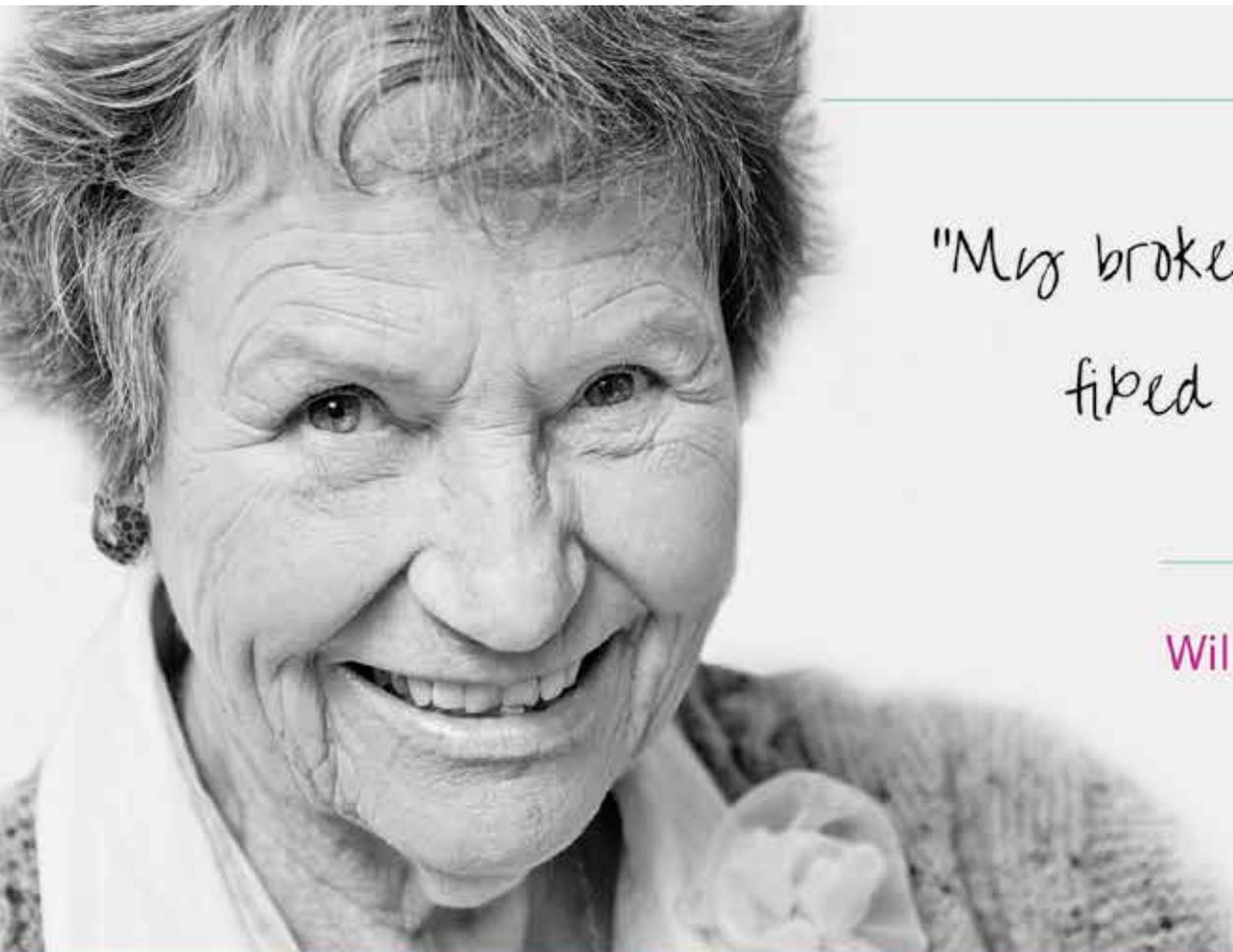
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[www.wcdental.org](http://www.wcdental.org)

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# Dentists' Day on the Hill

Participating in Dentists' Day on the Hill is more important than ever! Registration for the **2019 Dentists' Day on the Hill (DDOH)** is open - The 2019 DDOH will take place on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, with a 6:00 PM legislative briefing the night before. To register, please [click here](#). To book your hotel room at the Doubletree by Hilton Tallahassee for a rate of \$219, please call 850.224.5000 and use group code "AFD" or [click here](#). The PCDA has funding available for first time attendees! Let the association know you are interested in attending as a first timer and your expenses will be reimbursed! Email, [smilepinellas@gmail.com](mailto:smilepinellas@gmail.com) or call (727) 342-0374.



## VOLUNTEER FOR FLA-MOM 2019!



**ORLANDO**  
**MARCH 22-23, 2019**  
**EDGEWATER HIGH SCHOOL**

### WHAT IS THE FLORIDA MISSION OF MERCY?

Florida Mission of Mercy (FLA-MOM) is a large-scale, two-day, professional dental clinic that provides care to any patient at no cost, with the goal of serving the underserved and uninsured in Florida – those who would otherwise go without care.

With a goal of treating 2,000 patients, FLA-MOM seeks to have a positive impact on the Central Florida community by providing important access to dental care.

Treatments offered at FLA-MOM include: cleanings, fillings, extractions, limited root-canal therapy and pediatric dentistry.



### YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Help us provide dental care to those in greatest need. We need the following types of volunteers:

- dentists, hygienists, dental assistants
- dental lab technicians
- physicians, nurses, EMTs
- general community
  - patient and volunteer registration
  - patient escorts
  - interpreters
  - parking attendants and more!

# 2019 FLA-MOM

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