



# Explorer

## Expanding *Our* Network





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The Los Angeles Dental Society (LADS) is a local component of the California Dental Association and the American Dental Association. We are dedicated to helping our member dentists provide excellent patient care and providing the Los Angeles community with dental resources and information.

## Explorer

Published by

**Los Angeles Dental Society**

### Editorial Staff

Rachelle Kim, DDS – Editor

Gregg Orloff – Executive Director

### Officers

Abraham Nobel, DDS, MPH, FICD – President

Howard Kim, DDS – President Elect

Parvaz Mizrahi, DDS, MPH – Vice President

Na Eun (Sarah) Chung, DMD, MS – Secretary

Holly Moon, DDS – Treasurer

Clark Martin, DMD – Immediate Past President

## Calendar of Events

### August

**August 14** - LADS Board of Directors Meeting

**August 22** - Dinner with 10 Docs

### September

**September 11** - LADS Executive Committee Meeting

**September 28** - Radiation Safety Class

### October

**October 7** - CPR Class

**October 9** - LADS Board of Directors Meeting

**October 15** - LADS Webinar – CE Course

### November

**November 2** - Presidential Installation

**November 8-9** - CDA House of Delegates

**November 13** - LADS Executive Committee Meeting



## Editor's Corner

Rachelle Kim, DDS

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Dr. Rachelle Kim joined LADS in 2019 and has been editor of the Explorer since 2023. She also serves on the Social Media and New Professionals Committees. Dr. Kim is a board-certified dental anesthesiologist, providing mobile concierge anesthesia services in the greater Los Angeles area and also works at a pediatric dental surgery center.

### Preparing for the Inevitable: The Importance of Disability Insurance

Shortly after I graduated, a colleague of mine, also a recent dental school graduate, began experiencing severe eyesight problems. What started as minor issues quickly escalated into a condition that severely impaired their vision, making it impossible for them to continue practicing dentistry. Watching them struggle not only with their health but also with the financial implications of their sudden disability was a sobering experience.

This personal encounter was a wake-up call for me. It highlighted the vulnerability we all face and the importance of being prepared for such life-altering events. Witnessing my friend's hardship motivated me to take immediate action and secure disability insurance through TDIC. Knowing that I have this safety net in place provides me with invaluable peace of mind, reassuring me that I am protected if the unexpected happens.

Life is unpredictable. While we may currently enjoy good health and the ability to work, the reality is that most of us will face some form of disability during our lives. Whether it's due to an accident, illness, or the natural process of aging, the possibility of becoming disabled is a concern that many overlook until it's too late. As dental professionals, it is crucial to recognize this risk and take proactive measures to protect our financial stability and peace of mind.

Statistics show that one in four adults will experience a disability before reaching retirement age. For dental professionals, the physical demands of the job can increase the likelihood of injury or musculoskeletal issues. Simple actions such as bending over patients, repetitive motions, and the stress of long hours can lead to chronic conditions that may impact our ability to practice. The financial consequences of a disability can be devastating. Without the ability to work, maintaining our lifestyle, paying for ongoing expenses, and providing for our families can become overwhelming challenges. In addition, medical bills and specialized care costs can add to the financial burden. This is why planning ahead with a reliable safety net is essential.

One of the most effective ways to safeguard against the financial repercussions of disability is through comprehensive disability insurance. The Dentists Insurance Company (TDIC) offers tailored disability insurance plans designed specifically for dental professionals, ensuring that you receive coverage that meets your unique needs. It's never too early to start planning for the unexpected. As dental professionals, we understand the importance of prevention and proactive care in maintaining oral health. The same principles apply when it comes to our financial well-being. By investing in disability insurance, you are taking a crucial step in safeguarding your future.

By being proactive and securing disability insurance, we ensure that even if life takes an unexpected turn, we are prepared to face it with confidence and resilience. Don't wait for the unexpected to happen—take steps now to protect your future.

*Sincerely, Dr. Rachelle Kim*



# President's Message

Abraham Nobel, DDS, MPH, FICD

.....

Dr. Abraham Nobel joined LADS in 2010 and currently serves as President. He has served on the LADS Executive Committee since 2021 and was chair of the 2023 Nominating Committee. Dr. Nobel has a private practice in Los Angeles.

## A Year of Progress for Los Angeles Dentistry

As we navigate through 2024 the Los Angeles Dental Society remains steadfast in its commitment to advancing oral health care for our community. This year has been marked by significant strides in several key areas, and I am proud to share our accomplishments with you.

### Elevating Oral Health Care/Community Outreach and Engagement

Giving back to our community is a core value of the Los Angeles Dental Society. One of our primary focuses has been on improving access to quality dental care for all residents of Los Angeles. Through **Let Your Kids Smile Day** and **ADA Lunchbox Day**, we have made our presence seen and heard in the Community

### Advocacy and Policy

The Los Angeles Dental Society has been actively engaged in advocating for policies that support the dental profession and benefit our patients. We have successfully written and sponsored legislation that will make it harder for insurance companies to use predatory virtual credit card reimbursement. Once again this year, LADS members participated in **CDA Advocacy Day** in Sacramento and met with some of our California legislators and their staff. Our efforts to advocate are ongoing, and we remain committed to working with policymakers to create a favorable environment for dental practice.

### Continuing Education and Professional Development

We recognize the importance of staying at the forefront of dental advancements. This year, we have offered a robust lineup of continuing education programs, covering a wide range of topics from artificial intelligence to opioid use and everything in between. Learning has been done virtually as well as in-person at our LADS sponsored **Study Clubs**. We are also interested in the professional development of our members, with LADS hosting networking events and the **Mentorship Program**. Our commitment to providing our members with the latest knowledge and skills enables them to deliver exceptional care to their patients.

### Looking Ahead

As we look ahead to the remainder of 2024, we are excited about the opportunities to further serve our members and our community as a whole. I want to express my sincere gratitude to our members, staff, and partners for their unwavering dedication to our mission. Together, we are making a positive impact on our community.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Sincerely, Dr. Abraham Nobel*



Los Angeles  
DENTAL SOCIETY

SAVE THE DATE

*Gala*  
NIGHT

SATURDAY

NOV | 2 | 2024

AT 5:00PM



Huffington Center  
1324 Normandie Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90006

THE PRESIDENTIAL INSTALLATION OF  
**DR. HOWARD KIM**  
AND THE INSTALLATION OF  
OFFICERS FOR 2025





# From the Executive Director

Gregg Orloff

.....  
Gregg Orloff has served the Executive Director of the Los Angeles Dental Society since May 2020. Gregg can be reached in the LADS office at (213) 380-7669 or [gregg@ladental.com](mailto:gregg@ladental.com)

Dear LADS Members:

One of the great benefits of being the Executive Director of the Los Angeles Dental Society is getting to know so many LADS members and their staff. During this 2024 year, there have been a wide variety of opportunities to connect with you, as seen by the photos of the various LADS events in this newsletter. For those of you who attended one or more of these events, it was a pleasure meeting you. And to everyone, I look forward to seeing you at a future LADS event!

Two in-person LADS events that provide me with an opportunity to meet you and your staff are at the very popular CPR Training and Radiation Safety courses (please see accompanying pictures). The CPR classes are held at the LADS office and may be attended by both dentists and their staff members. The Radiation Safety classes are held at the dental office of LADS President Dr. Abraham Nobel and are offered for your dental staff. To register for one of these classes, please contact the LADS office at **213-380-7669** or [info@ladental.com](mailto:info@ladental.com).

*Sincerely, Gregg Orloff*

## CPR Training Classes

.....  
LADS hosts CPR Training classes for our members and staff at the LADS office. Come join us along with our instructor of many years, Danny Guezubeuyukian.



## Radiation Safety Classes

.....  
LADS hosts Radiation Safety classes for the dental staff members of our members. Kristi Gallo, our long-time instructor, provides hands-on instruction for the students.





Los Angeles  
DENTAL SOCIETY



# A Review on Oral Cancer, HPV and Red/White Lesions of the Oral Cavity

With **Jasjit Dillon, MBBS, DDS, FDSRCS, FACS**

**When:** Oct 15th, 2024

**Time:** 6:30-7:30 PM

**Location:** Webinar

1 Units of Continuing Education

**Fee:** \$10 Students, \$20 Retired

\$30 WLADS & LADS Members & Staff

\$40 Non-Members & Staff

Oral cancer is deadly and is unfortunately often missed. This lecture will focus on a comprehensive review of oral cancer including risk factors as well as what's new in red and white lesions that you need to know about. It will also review HPV and highlight its significance to your patients and oral cancer.





## *New Professionals Social Mixer*

In June, LADS hosted a social mixer event at the Sofitel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills. The dentists and USC dental students who attended enjoyed the camaraderie, networking, and good food. Thank you, Dr. Rachelle Kim, for organizing the event. And special thanks to Sofitel Hotel for hosting us in style and TDIC for sponsoring the event.





# Shred & E-Waste Disposal Event

In June, LADS hosted a Shred & E-Waste Disposal Event in the office parking lot of LADS member Dr. Greg Kaplan. It was wonderful to see so many LADS members disposing of their documents and e-waste. Thank you Dr. Kaplan for hosting us and to Paper Cuts for their efficient shredding services.





## CDA Presents

In May, LADS members attended CDA Presents in Anaheim. We hope everyone had an opportunity to meet many of the vendors at the event as well as attend some of the CE courses that were offered. Seen attending the event were Dr. Abraham Nobel, (LADS President), Dr. Howard Kim (LADS President Elect), Dr. Scott Kim (LADS Past President and current CDA Treasurer), and Dr. Sonia Molina (LADS Past President and current LADS Program Committee Chair).





## LADS Study Club

In May, LADS dentists and USC dental students attended a Study Club at the office of LADS member Dr. Chantal Hakim. Thank you Dr. Hakim for hosting and teaching on the subject of “Success with Clear Aligners”. Everyone who attended had an enjoyable evening of learning with their fellow members.





## CDA Advocacy Day

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In May, representatives from LADS and several other local dental societies met in Sacramento to advocate for dentistry and better dental health of patients. Representing LADS were Dr. Sherwin Matian, LADS Legislative Committee Chair, Dr. Silvia Erickson and Gregg Orloff, LADS Executive Director. After a meeting at the CDA office, the LADS representatives had productive meetings with the office staff members of State Senators Maria Elana Durazo and Lola Smallwood-Curevas as well as State Assemblymembers Migual Santiago and Rich Chavez Zbur. Thank you to our LADS reps for advocating on behalf of your fellow LADS members.





## Friends of Dentistry

In March, the USC Friends of Dentistry hosted their 2024 Scholarship Dinner at The Majestic Downtown. Congratulations to LeWan Ma, USC D4 Dental Student and recipient of this year's LADS Foundation Student Leadership Scholarship Award. Special thanks to Dr. M. Navid Mapara, LADS Foundation President, for representing the LADS Foundation at the event.





## ADA Lunchbox Day

In March, LADS partnered with Western LADS for ADA Lunchbox Day to educate children about careers in dentistry, healthy eating habits and the importance of proper oral hygiene. Thank you Dr. Joan Otomo-Corgel for organizing as well as our dedicated dentists and hygienists for volunteering their time.





## Let Your Kids Smile Day

In February, LADS hosted its 3rd annual community event in honor of National Children's Dental Health Month. Information was provided on establishing care with community dental clinics, oral hygiene instructions, and nutritional counseling. Thank you Dr. Na Eun (Sarah) Chung for organizing this worthwhile event, Via Care Community Health Center for graciously hosting it and the LADS Foundation for providing the needed funds. And a special thanks to our sponsors, Darby Dental, Henry Schein Dental and Colgate for supplying the oral hygiene products.





## Continuing Education Courses

LADS has hosted a wide variety of continuing education webinars so far in 2024. Thank you to all of our wonderful presenters who provided us with such wonderful topics. And a special thanks to Western LADS for co-hosting the July webinar.



### January Webinar

**Topic:** Laser Therapy for Peri-Implantitis  
**Presented by:** Dr. Sharona Dayan



### February Webinar

**Topic:** Sexual Harassment and Abusive Prevention Training  
**Presented by:** Ken Schames



### March Webinar

**Topic:** Say Goodbye to Mechanical Retention  
**Presented by:** Dr. Ashley Chung



### April Webinar

**Topics:** California Dental Practice Act and Infection Control  
**Presented by:** Lloyd Smith and Eiman Rahnama



### June Webinar

**Topic:** AI and Automatic Processes at a Dental Practice  
**Presented by:** Pedro Becker



### July Webinar

**Topic:** Requirements and Responsibilities for Prescribing Schedule II Opioids for CA Dentists  
**Presented by:** Dr. Steve Yun



## Board Retreat

In March, the LADS Board of Directors met at the Wilshire Country Club for its annual Board retreat. It was an enjoyable experience and a great opportunity for board members to bond. Thank you to the American Dental Association for moderating the retreat and the Wilshire Country Club for hosting it.





# Welcome New Members

**LADS** welcomes the newest members to our Dental Society.  
Looking forward to meeting each of you personally!

**Arin Alexander, DMD**

UNLV School of Dental Medicine, 2016  
Loma Linda University School  
of Dentistry, Endodontics, 2018

**Nikki Aflatooni, DMD**

Harvard School of Dental Medicine, 2023

**Samira**

**Afsharhashemkhani, DDS**

Universidad De La Salle School of  
Dentistry, 2023  
1423 E. Gage Ave., Ste. A, Los Angeles,  
CA 90001

**Diana Cabrera, DDS**

University of Iowa College of Dentistry,  
2010  
11301 Wilshire Blvd. Bldg. 500, Room  
0042, Los Angeles, CA 90073

**Michelle Cotler, DDS**

NYU College of Dentistry, 2023

**Silvia Erickson, DDS**

Instituto Metodista de Ensino Superior  
School of Dentistry, 1994

**Lacey Ferguson, DMD**

University of Kentucky College of  
Dentistry, 2015

**Ekaterina Gabashvili, DMD**

Midwestern University College of  
Dental Medicine, 2023

**Tinoush Hedayat, DMD**

University of Pennsylvania School of  
Dental Medicine, 2021

**Amanda Jacovani, DDS**

Loma Linda University School of  
Dentistry, 2021  
1050 Lakes Dr., Ste. 140, West Covina,  
CA 91790

**Jenny Jeon, DDS**

NYU College of Dentistry, 2018  
UCLA School of Dentistry,  
Orthodontics, 2021

**Vandan Kasar, DDS**

UCSF School of Dentistry, 2021  
Herman Ostrow School of  
Dentistry of USC, General, 2022  
Herman Ostrow School of  
Dentistry of USC, Endodontics, 2025

**Byoungsoo Kim, DDS**

UCSF School of Dentistry, 2023

**Jeojjin Kim, DDS**

NYU College of Dentistry, 2021  
UNLV School of Dental Medicine,  
Orthodontics, 2024

**Susan Kim, DMD**

University of Pennsylvania School of  
Dental Medicine, 1992  
11900 South St., Ste. 122, Cerritos, CA  
90703

**Seounghui Lee, DDS**

UCSF School of Dentistry, 2020  
3845 E. 3rd St., Ste. A, Los Angeles,  
CA 90063

**Sylvia Lee, DMD**

University of Pennsylvania School of  
Dental Medicine, 2009  
3663 W 6 St., Ste. 204, Los Angeles,  
CA 90020

**Nicolette Mahboubian,**

Loma Linda University School of  
Dentistry, Endodontics, 2021

**Sadegh Namazikhah, DMD  
(Welcome Back)**

National University of Iran School of  
Dentistry, 1974  
Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of  
USC, Endodontics, 1980  
16661 Ventura Blvd., Ste. 606, Encino,  
CA 91436

**Israel Navarro, DDS**

University of the East Quezon City  
College of Dentistry, 1990

**Michael Nedjat-Haiem, DDS**

UCLA School of Dentistry, 2020  
University of Connecticut School of  
Dental Medicine, Orthodontics, 2023

**Rabbith Risemberg, DDS**

UCLA School of Dentistry, 2023  
1530 S. Olive St., Los Angeles, CA  
90015

**Jee Yoo, DDS**

UCLA School of Dentistry, 2010  
Meharry Medical College School of  
Dentistry, General, 2011  
Meharry Medical College School of  
Dentistry, General, 2015  
12000 Long Beach Blvd., Lynwood,  
CA 90262

**Madonna Zaki, DDS**

Howard University College of  
Dentistry, 2015  
6438 Rita Ave., Huntington Park, CA  
90255

# In doubt about how to navigate an issue?

**We're here for you!** The Dentists Insurance Company offers tools to navigate potential liabilities in the areas of documentation, employment, patient care, property and more. TDIC policyholders can tap into resources, guidance and education to mitigate the risks of practicing dentistry today.

## Time-saving Resources

- Dentistry-specific reference guides
- Multilingual informed consent forms
- State-specific forms and templates

## One-on-One Guidance

- No-cost Risk Management Advice Line
- Dedicated analysts with unique expertise
- Convenient online appointment scheduling

## Ongoing Education

- C.E.- eligible live, expert-led seminars
- Convenient on-demand eLearning options
- Articles and insights on trending risk topics

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