



ADTA American Dental Therapy Association



VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

REGISTER NOW



ADTA Virtual Annual Meeting

Join us for our Virtual Annual Meeting on **Dec 11, 2023, 5:30 PM PT** for important ADTA updates and highlights for this year!

[Register now!](#)

Amy's Journey: Transforming Oral Health in Oregon through Dental Therapy Advocacy and Academia

By Chelsea Luong, ADTA Communications Associate

The profession of dental therapy is a growing and evolving field, with many passionate professionals dedicated to improving oral health. One individual is Amy Coplen, whose journey from a dental background to academia and, ultimately, dental therapy advocacy has made her an inspiring oral health care professional in the Pacific Northwest. In a recent interview, Amy walked us through her journey and shared insights into the profession of dental therapy and academia and developing Pacific University's Dental Therapy Program.



Amy's connection to the dental industry began at home.

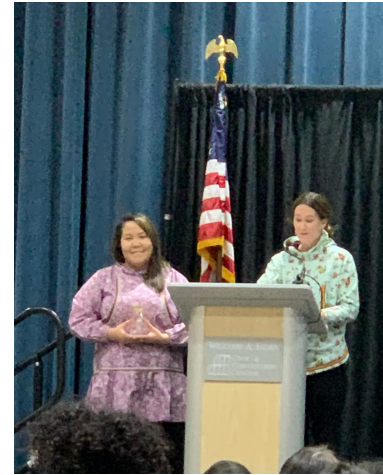
Her parents, who met while serving in the military, worked as dental lab technicians. Her mother furthered her dental career by attending dental hygiene school. This upbringing sparked Amy's fascination with the field, leading her to work in a dental office with the ambition of becoming a dentist.

[Click here to read more.](#)

Three Alaska Dental Health Aide Therapists Recognized for Exceptional Care

By Cristina Bowerman, ADTA Executive Director

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) celebrated Community Health Aides, Behavioral Health Aides, and Dental Health Aide Therapists (DHATs) at its annual awards ceremony on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, in Anchorage, AK. Three awards recognized dental health aides: The Rising Star, Shining Star, and Outstanding Accomplishment Awards.



The Rising Star and Shining Star Awards recognize employees who demonstrate excellence by continuously delivering exceptional patient care, have somehow improved the healthcare delivery system, enhanced the level of care in their community, and demonstrated balance in their work and professional lives. This year's Rising Star is Jerilyn Glenn, a DHAT with less than five years of experience who works with the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation in Emmonak, AK. Renee Cheemuk, a DHAT with over five years of experience, was awarded the Shining Star for her work with the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation in St. Mary, AK.

The Outstanding Accomplishment Award recognizes an event that has substantially impacted the community and/or patient care. A successful candidate will have demonstrated exceptional service that has influenced the health outcomes for an individual or the overall community. Leandra Beech, a DHAT with the ANTHC, received this year's award for her work in a new pediatrics program in Anchorage, AK.

The ADTA congratulates Jerilyn, Renee, and Leandra for their outstanding achievements in Alaska. Each of you is making a significant impact in your communities. Congratulations!

[Click here to read more.](#)



NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Did you know November is National Native American Heritage Month?

[To learn more, click here.](#)

WELCOME NEW & RENEWING ADTA MEMBERS



A big welcome to our new members. Your support makes our mission possible!



Aleah Diemand
Alyssa Klugman
Amy Tracewell
Andrea Jordan
Asiah Gonzalez
Aubrey Hopkins
Dr. Doug Wolff
Elizabeth Branca
Heather Luebben
Howard Notgarnie
Jan Carver
Kelsey Bauman
Lizette Nguyen
Marilyn Stolberg
Mia Sims
Rosalie Goode
Shannon English
Stephanie Woods
Tanya Firemoon

Webinar: Dental Therapy 101

Thursday, Nov. 30 | 3-4 p.m. ET



Webinar: Dental Therapy 101, Thursday, Nov. 30, 3-4PM ET

Join Community Catalyst and the Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN) on November 30 from 3-4 p.m. ET for a webinar, Dental Therapy 101.

Dental therapists are licensed oral health professionals who provide routine care, like exams and fillings, and have been working in the U.S. for almost 20 years. They are authorized to work in at least some settings in 13 states and that number is rapidly growing, but many are unaware of how their role fits in the oral health care team. As more states authorize dental therapists and the federal government calls for their expansion, this webinar will serve as a primer for advocates, policymakers, and dental professionals who are new to the topic of dental therapy or as a refresher course for those more familiar with the topic.

[Register Now!](#)

Jacksonville Oral Health Listening Session

Join Jacksonville community leaders for a small group discussion about Florida's oral healthcare crisis. Current challenges in accessing affordable dental care in the greater Jacksonville area will be discussed, and the latest statewide and local data will be shared. A boxed lunch will be provided. Seats are limited and going fast. Please register today!



COST: FREE

DATE: Friday, November 17, 2023

TIME: 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

LOCATION: Adam W. Herbert University Center, Room 1027, 12000 Alumni Dr, Jacksonville, FL 32224

A Boxed Lunch Will Be Served

Protect Your Instrument Investment

Hayes Handpiece Repair, Alaska

Ensure the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) during instrument cleaning. This includes goggles, or safety glasses, face shield, mask, heavy utility gloves, and an apron.



Pre-Soak - For pre-soaking, avoid allowing blood, mucus, or other bio-fluids to dry on instruments to prevent rust and corrosion. Do not use disinfectants for pre-soaking, and limit pre-soaking duration. Rinse instruments under warm water for 30 seconds after pre-soaking.

Clean - Use ultrasonic or automatic cleaners for effective cleaning, ensuring instruments are free from mixed metals. Avoid soaking instruments in tartar and stain remover. Change the ultrasonic solution daily or more frequently if cloudy.

Rinse and Dry - When rinsing, use distilled or demineralized water. Proper drying is crucial; air drying or patting dry with a chemical-free towel is recommended. Surgical towels without bleach or harmful chemicals should be used.

Lubricate - Lubricate all metal-to-metal contact areas, such as hinges, box locks, screws, and blades, with dental lubricant. Use water-soluble, non-silicone-based lubricant at least weekly to prevent spotting, staining, corrosion, and sticking.

Package and Wrap - Separate dissimilar materials, keeping instruments in an open/unlocked position. Wrap instruments in bags, cassettes, surgical towels, or containers with indicators.

Sterilize - Autoclaving is the only acceptable sterilization method; avoid chemical/cold sterilization and dry heat. Allow the sterilizer to complete the drying cycle to prevent bacterial transfer and corrosion.

American Dental Therapy Association Hosts Inaugural Conference

By Cristina Bowerman, Executive Director

On October 5-7, 2023, the American Dental Therapy Association (ADTA) held its inaugural Annual Conference, Dental Therapy: Unity for Oral Health Innovation in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Over 100 individuals nationwide attended the event, including students, dental



therapists, dentists, hygienists, medical and oral health care practitioners, Tribal members, citizens, and politicians interested in learning more about dental therapy.

In partnership with the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board and Native Oral Health Network, the ADTA began its conference with Native American leader and activist Brian Cladoosby. As former Chairman of the Swinomish Tribal Community from 1997 to 2020, Cladoosby has been a tireless advocate for bringing dental therapy not only to his community and Indian Country but to all communities in need across Washington.

Following Cladoosby's presentation, a panel discussion ensued with Dr. Robert Crittenden, a general practitioner with Community Dental Centers in Oklahoma City; Angela Johnson, a dental therapist with the Lummi Nation in Washington; Dr. Miranda Davis, director of the Dental Health Aide Program with the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board; Terri Parton president of the Wichita and affiliated tribes in Oklahoma; and moderator Bruce Pratt a policy analyst with the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board.

[Click here to read more.](#)

Interested in Volunteering with the ADTA?

The ADTA is accepting volunteers for its five committees: Annual Conference Committee, Editorial Committee, Education Committee, Governance Committee, and Speaker's Bureau. Fill out this application if you are interested in volunteering with the ADTA. **Volunteers must be active members of the ADTA. If you are not a member but are interested in joining, click here for membership information.**



Below are descriptions of each committee. **Please read before filling out the application:**

Annual Conference Committee - Meets bi-weekly beginning November 15. Committee members help identify prospective speakers/presenters, topics of interest, activities during the conference, prospective sponsors, etc. In exchange for volunteering, volunteers receive a discounted registration to the Annual Conference.

Editorial Committee - Meets monthly beginning January 2024. This committee will assist with ideas for blogs, e-newsletter content, and articles for the ADTA's bi-annual publication. If you have experience writing and/or editing, this is the committee for you!

Education Committee - Meets quarterly beginning in January 2024. Assists the ADTA with identifying topics for webinars that will be held throughout the year including live broadcasts and on demand programs in the ADTA's

Governance Committee - Meets quarterly beginning in January 2024. This committee is knowledgeable about the organization's bylaws and helps identify prospective candidates for committees and the Board of Directors. This is a great committee to become involved with if you are interested in joining the Board of Directors and want to know how governance processes work in a nonprofit, how bylaws are reviewed and updated, and how decisions are made to benefit the ADTA.

Speaker's Bureau - Receive training to advocate on behalf of the dental therapy profession. This opportunity is open to dental therapists, allies such as dentists, hygienists, medical assistants, and community members. The ADTA will provide training and inform speakers of opportunities to connect with their local communities nationwide.

Advocate for the growing profession of dental therapy by signing up to volunteer with the ADTA today!

[Volunteer Now!](#)



If you are in need of scholarship funding, continuing education, or are interested in becoming a dental therapist, click on the opportunities below.

- Michigan Community Health Centers are eager to hire dental therapists, and the Delta Dental Foundation will provide a \$5,000 Workforce Development Incentive to any dental therapist who accepts a position at a Michigan Primary Care Association (MPCA) member health center! **Watch MPCA's Career Center Page** for new career opportunities.
- The State of Vermont is in need of a dental therapy director at Vermont State University. Legislation passed in 2016 and filling this position will allow Vermont to begin its dental therapy education program. For more information, **click here.**
- HRSA National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Students to Service (S2S) Loan Repayment Program, Award Amount: up to \$120,000 in tax-free loan repayment. Application Deadline: December 7, 2023. For more information, **click here.**
- Compassionate Care: Treating Dental Patients with Head and Neck Cancer, Thursday, November 16, 2023 - 7:00 p.m. ET (1 CE credit). To register for the webinar, **click here.**

- Optimize Dental Teams with Dental Therapists: A free self paced 3 credit CE course. For more information, [click here](#).

2024 National Tribal Health Conference

Mark your calendars! National Indian Health Board will be hosting their National Tribal Health Conference on **May 19-23, 2024 in Rapid City, SD!**



ON DEMAND LEARNING



Below is a list of on demand webinars in the dental industry. To learn more, click on the event.

- [Minimally Invasive Care in Dentistry: Healing Tooth Decay with Brush On Therapies \(On Demand Webinar\)](#)
- [Caring for Individuals with Disabilities: Practical Considerations for Dental Providers \(On Demand Webinar\)](#)
- [Providing Oral Health Care to Autistic Individuals \(On Demand Webinar\)](#)

Join the ADTA in ensuring all Americans have access to high-quality oral health care.

[Click here to learn more!](#)



The ADTA proudly partners with



American Dental Therapy Association (ADTA)

www.americandentaltherapyassociation.org

Questions? [Click here](#) for more information.

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