

The Countdown Is On: The 2026 ADTA Annual Conference starts in less than one month!



The 2026 American Dental Therapy Association (ADTA) National Conference is just around the corner!

Join dental therapists, educators, researchers, students, policymakers, and oral health advocates from across the country for three days of learning, collaboration, and inspiration in Detroit, Michigan.

This year's conference will feature 13+ Continuing Dental Education (CDE) credits, nationally recognized speakers, networking opportunities, and discussions on the latest advances in dental therapy, workforce innovation, education, policy, and oral health equity. Attendees can also look forward to a special session exploring how dental therapists can help improve access to oral healthcare for our nation's veterans.

Whether you're a longtime ADTA member or attending for the first time, this is your opportunity to connect with colleagues and help shape the future of dental therapy.



August 10–12, 2026



The Westin Book Cadillac | Detroit, Michigan

13+ CDE Credits Available

[Register Here](#)

ADTA Conference Room Block Reservations End TODAY!

Last chance to reserve a discounted room for the 2026 ADTA Annual Conference! Standard and Government rates available. [Learn more here.](#)



The graphic is a vertical rectangle with a dark blue background. At the top left is the ADTA logo, a white tooth inside a circle with a laurel wreath. To its right, the text 'ADTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026' is in white, with the tagline 'Rooted & Rising: Dental Therapy Education, Identity & Opportunity' in smaller white text below it. In the center, the words 'ROOM BLOCK RESERVATIONS AVAILABLE NOW' are written in large, bold, orange letters. To the right of this text is a red, jagged-edged starburst containing the words 'ENDS TODAY!' in white. Below the main text, in white, it says 'Room block closes July 15th' and 'Reserve your discounted room today!'. Further down, it says 'Registration and room block information available at www.americandentaltherapyassociation.org'. At the bottom, there are four logos: the ADTA logo, the American Dental Therapy Association logo, the mpca virtuALLY logo, and the mqin mohn logo with the text 'SUPPORTING MICHIGAN HEALTH CENTERS'.

ADTA ANNUAL
CONFERENCE 2026
Rooted & Rising: Dental Therapy Education, Identity & Opportunity

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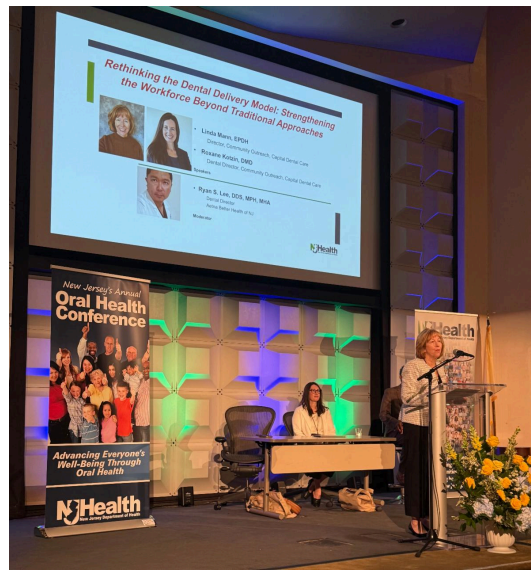
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ADTA American Dental Therapy Association
mpca virtuALLY
mqin mohn SUPPORTING MICHIGAN HEALTH CENTERS

[Reserve Your Spot](#)

ADTA In Action



ADTA Shares the Value of Dental Therapy at New Jersey Oral Health Conference

Earlier this July, the American Dental Therapy Association (ADTA) was proud to participate in the Second Annual New Jersey Oral Health Conference, where Executive Director Kari Ann Kuntzelman highlighted the role of dental therapy in expanding access to care and advancing oral health equity.

The conference brought together leaders from dentistry, medicine, public health, and policy to explore collaborative solutions for improving oral health across communities.

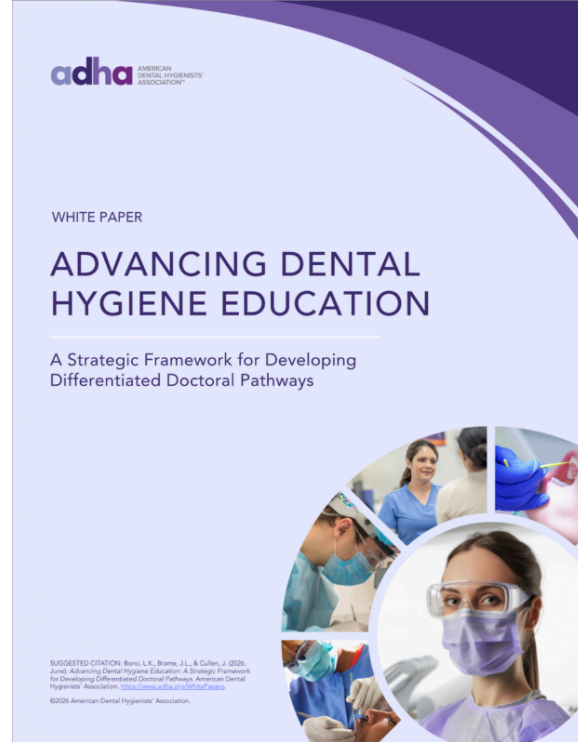
Thank you to the New Jersey Department of Health for bringing together partners committed to advancing equitable access to care.

Education & Professional Development

ADHA Releases White Paper on Doctoral Pathways for Dental Hygiene

The American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) has released a new white paper outlining a strategic framework for three doctoral pathways in dental hygiene. The proposal aims to advance the profession alongside nursing, physical therapy, and pharmacy while addressing faculty shortages and expanding opportunities in clinical practice, research, education, leadership, and policy.

The framework marks an important step in the ongoing evolution of dental hygiene education and professional practice.



[Read the Full White Paper](#)

University of Sunderland to Launch New Dental Academy

The University of Sunderland has announced the launch of a new Dental Academy, with programs in Dental Hygiene, Dental Therapy, and Dental Technology expected to begin in September 2027. The initiative aims to expand access to dental education, strengthen the oral health workforce, and improve access to NHS dental care through a greater emphasis on prevention and community-based care.

The new academy represents another important investment in the future of the dental therapy profession and the oral health workforce.

[Learn More About the Dental Academy](#)

Expand Your Skills with Free Online CE Courses

Looking to earn CE credits while exploring the latest in evidence-based oral health care? The Elevate Oral Care Continuing Education Library offers 58 free, self-paced CE courses covering topics such as minimally invasive dentistry, silver diamine fluoride (SDF), caries prevention, patient communication, geriatric care, infection control, and more.

Explore the library and start learning at your own pace!

[Explore Available CE Courses](#)

Research Opportunitites

Dental Professionals: Share Your Experience!

What helps dental professionals manage demanding workdays, reduce stress, and maintain their energy?

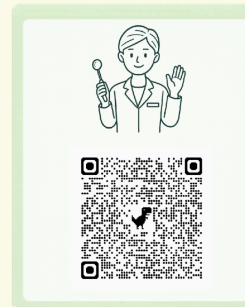
Researchers at The University of Queensland are inviting practicing dental professionals and final-year dental students on clinical placement to take part in a confidential study exploring workplace well-being.

The online survey takes less than 10 minutes and should be completed on a day you are working with patients. For every completed survey, the research team will make a small donation to a charity selected by the participant.

Dental Professionals!

Share Your Experience

Join a quick 10-minute confidential study designed to improve dental professionals' workplace well-being!



Scan the QR code or copy the link to participate

<https://go.psy.uq.edu.au/dentist-job-demands-study>

Take the 10-Minute Survey

Upcoming Events

Discover Careers in Dental Health with Indigenous Oral Health Leaders



Curious about a career in dental health?

Join We Are Healers for a 90-minute virtual panel featuring an Indigenous dentist, Dental Health Aide Therapist (DHAT), dental health aide, and dental hygienist. Hear their personal stories, explore diverse career pathways, and learn how Indigenous practitioners are advancing oral health in their communities.

 **Thursday, July 23, 2026**
 **12:00 PM MT | Virtual (90 minutes)**

Learn from their experiences and be inspired by their stories!

[Register for the Healers Hangout](#)

Call for Abstracts: Showcase Your Work at AAC 2026

The American Academy of Cariology (AAC) is now accepting abstract submissions for its 10th Annual Conference, taking place October 22–23, 2026.

Dental therapists engaged in Minimal Intervention Dentistry (MID), caries prevention, caries risk assessment, and evidence-based cariology are encouraged to submit their work and share their expertise. This is a great opportunity to present your research, connect with leaders in the field, and help shape the future of prevention-focused oral health care.



[Submit Your Abstract Today](#)

Career Opportunities & Job Openings

The Society of American Indian Dentists (SAID)

The Society of American Indian Dentists (SAID) is hiring for two roles supporting its mission to advance oral health and strengthen pathways for American Indian and Alaska Native dental professionals.

Executive Director

Lead SAID's strategic direction, operations, fundraising, communications, annual conference, and community and student outreach.

Ideal for candidates with:

- 5+ years of nonprofit management experience
- Experience working with a Board of Directors
- Strong leadership, fundraising, financial management, and communication skills

Student Programs Manager

Part-time | Remote | Term Position

Develop and manage programs that support American Indian and Alaska Native students on their journey to becoming dental professionals.

Ideal for candidates with:

- A bachelor's degree and 2+ years of student affairs experience, or a master's degree in Higher Education or College Student Affairs
- Experience in program planning, student support, and mentorship
- Ability to travel and attend occasional evening or weekend events

Application Deadline: July 31, 2026

More information and application details can be found [here](#)

Oral Health Partnership (OHP)

Position:

Dental Therapist

Oral Health Partnership (OHP)

Location: Green Bay, Wisconsin

Schedule: Full-time or Part-time (Monday–Friday, no weekends)

Oral Health Partnership (OHP) is seeking a compassionate and dedicated **Dental Therapist** to join its nonprofit team providing preventive, diagnostic, and restorative dental care to uninsured and underinsured children. The position offers opportunities to serve patients in clinics, schools, and community-based settings while helping expand access to oral health care.

Qualifications:

- Graduate of an accredited Dental Therapy program

- Licensed (or eligible for licensure) as a Dental Therapist in Wisconsin
- Current CPR/BLS certification

More information and application details can be found [here](#)

Community Dental Care

Position:

Dental Therapist (ADT)
Community Dental Care

Location: Rochester, Minnesota

Schedule: Full-time

Highlights:

- \$146,636–\$232,368 annual salary
- Practice at the top of your scope
- Comprehensive benefits & 401(k) match
- Paid time off & professional development

Qualifications:

- Active Minnesota Advanced Dental Therapist license
- Current CPR/AED certification
- Experience working with children and culturally diverse populations preferred

More information and application details can be found [here](#)

Policy and Advocacy Updates



"A People's Solution": California Leaders Champion Dental Therapy

A new commentary from the California Oral Health Equity Coalition urges California policymakers to authorize dental therapists as part of the solution to the state's oral health workforce shortage. The authors highlight dental therapy's potential to expand access to preventive and routine dental care, strengthen the oral health workforce, and improve equity in underserved rural, Tribal, and urban communities.

[Read the Full Article](#)

ADA Supports Federal Bill to Strengthen the Oral Health Workforce

The American Dental Association (ADA) has endorsed the Primary Care Team Education Centers Act (S. 4370), legislation that would expand education and clinical training opportunities for oral health professionals.

The bill aims to strengthen the dental workforce, support training in community-based settings, and improve access to care in underserved communities.

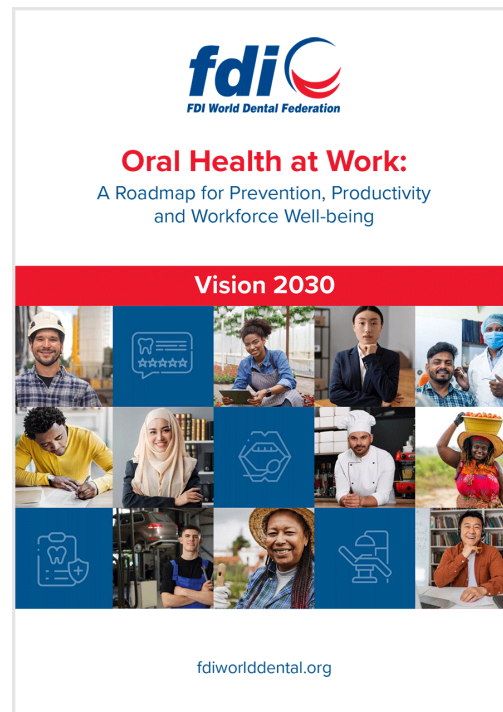
The legislation reflects growing national efforts to invest in the future oral health workforce and expand access to care where it is needed most.

[Read More About the Legislation](#)

Putting Oral Health on the Workplace Agenda

We spend nearly one-third of our adult lives at work—yet oral health is still largely missing from workplace wellness programs.

A new report from FDI World Dental Federation calls for stronger action to integrate oral health into workplace policies, prevention programs, and employee benefits. With oral diseases driving an estimated \$323 billion in global productivity losses each year, the report offers a roadmap for employers, insurers, policymakers, and oral health leaders to move prevention beyond the dental office and into the workplace.



[Read the Full Report](#)

In the News

New Leadership at the University of Minnesota Division of Dental Therapy

The University of Minnesota School of Dentistry has named Dr. Michael Henderson as Director of the Division of Dental Therapy, effective June 15, 2026. Dr. Henderson brings extensive experience in community-based care, rural oral health, dental education, and mobile dentistry. He succeeds Dr. Karl Self, whose visionary leadership helped establish the nation's first CODA-accredited dental school-based dental therapy program and advance dental therapy education across the country.

Congratulations to Dr. Henderson on this exciting new role, and thank you to Dr. Self for his lasting contributions to the dental therapy profession.

[Learn More](#)

New ASTDD Foundation to Invest in Oral Health Leadership

The Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors has launched a new philanthropic foundation to strengthen public oral health programs nationwide. The foundation will invest in leadership development, education and training, technical assistance, and capacity-building—helping state and territorial programs respond to workforce challenges, funding uncertainty, and persistent oral health disparities.

[Learn More About the ASTDD Foundation](#)



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