



NEWSLETTER

Volume XXIX, Issue III

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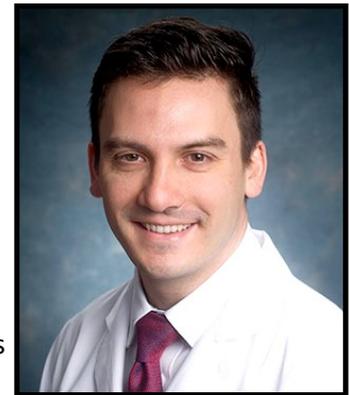


“All About Zirconia”

with Dr. Nate Lawson

**Tuesday, October 9th, beginning at 6:30 p.m.
Chattanooga Golf & Country Club**

Nathaniel Lawson DMD PhD is the Director of the Division of Biomaterials and the Program Director for the Masters in Biomaterials at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry. He has over 40 peer reviewed publications, 60 published abstracts, 15 articles in trade journals and 3 book chapters related to dental materials. He is a reviewer for several journals and serves on the editorial board of the journal Compendium. He was the 2016 recipient of the Stanford New Investigator Award and 2017 recipient of the 3M Innovative Research Award, both from the American Dental Association. He serves as the President of the Alabama chapter of the American Association of Dental Research. He serves as the Primary Investigator on several industry sponsored clinical and laboratory trials. He also treats patients as a General Dentist at the UAB Faculty Practice.



*Thank you
to this month's
Sponsors:*





**President's Message:
Dr. Charles McBrayer**

Hello CADS Members,

Fall is in the air, and I'm sure everyone is looking forward to cooler weather and the beautiful colors that come with Autumn. We are very blessed to live and work in a great city that offers a multitude of outdoor activities.

We had another great turnout for Dr. Marcus Wagner's presentation on Radiation Therapy for the Head and Neck. Once again, Ken Randall has done an outstanding job putting together pertinent lectures.

Speaking of timely topics, mark your calendars for the CADS October 9th meeting. Dr. Nate Lawson's lecture will be on "All about Zirconia."

Don't forget about the ADA Annual 2018 meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii: another beautiful landscape with great outdoor events. The event takes place from Oct. 18th to Oct. 22nd.

Once again, the Board and I would like to express our gratitude for the outstanding attendance to the CADS meetings. Your commitment and involvement will keep CADS successful for many years to come.

**Charles McBrayer, DDS
CADS President 2018-19**



**Next CADS Board Meeting
will directly follow our Program Meeting on October 9th, at CGCC.**

“Dental Standard of Care ”



by Heath Blockley, DDS



You know October is in the air as movie theaters and television screens begin to fill with tales to startle and terrify us. While there is no *real* masked killer hunting us (hopefully), there is a word that can strike terror into the heart of the most

fearless dentist: **lawsuit**. Dealing with the public has its many privileges and annoyances. Dentistry is no exception. We are all members of a special branch of medicine that practices complicated and invasive surgical procedures on oftentimes fully conscious patients (*some more than others*) directly in their personal space. In fact, we are all *but* making direct eye-contact with them as we strain to extract a 3rd molar, access the sensitive pulp chamber of an infected premolar, or drastically reshape their front teeth in preparation to fit a restoration. Typically, these procedures are done right after the patient has told us how much they hate dentists. Most often, our skills, education, and experience carry us through to a successful treatment outcome. Few of us would practice dentistry if it were not the case. But, as can happen in the mouth and with teeth in particular, the outcome can be unpredictable, and a result may be obtained that is less than desirable both for the patient and the dentist. What happens next is often a function of the personalities of both the patient and the dentist and the rapport that they have built.

Forensic odontology has four basic branches: dental identification, dental age assessment, bite-mark analysis and comparison, and civil litigation. While the first three branches rely most heavily on forensic science technique and application, civil litigation hinges on our education, training, and experience. It is also an aspect of forensic odontology that is heavily reliant on one’s knowledge of the law as it pertains to clinical practice and meeting the standard of care for our patients. While I have not served as an expert witness in a dental civil litigation case, I have picked up many invaluable pearls from those who have

been heavily involved for many years. As with all things, understanding and education can help us avoid future pitfalls, and I would like to share a few things I have learned that may help us all in dealing with the public and avoid being named a defendant in a civil litigation suit.

As mentioned previously, failure to meet the standard of care lies at the heart of every malpractice suit against a dentist or corporate dental organization. What is the “standard of care”? It can be broadly defined by the actions any reasonable and prudent dentist would perform in the same or similar circumstances. We all deal with certain limitations in the treatment of patients, but given these generally similar limitations and our similar professional education backgrounds, there are things that must be taken into account with certain clinical procedures regardless of the specific situation. Dr. Tom David, a dentist who has served as an expert witness throughout his career and a teacher in the University of Tennessee Forensic Odontology Fellowship program, has noted ten basic things common to all standard of care breaches:

- Failure to diagnosis
- Failure to refer
- Failure to provide emergency care
- Failure to provide post-op care
- Failure to provide informed consent
- Failure to advise patient of undesirable treatment outcome
- Failure to protect against aspirated/swallowed objects
- Failure to adequately maintain patient records
- Patient abandonment
- Improper surgical technique

These ten instances can all constitute professional negligence in clinical dentistry. The legal requirements for professional negligence are fairly straightforward, consisting of four basic things that must be proven: association, breach, causation, and damage. For there to be an association, a professional relationship must be established between the dentist and the patient, possibly through a scheduled appointment or financial transaction for services rendered. A breach occurs when one (*next page*)

or more of the previously listed standards of care are broken. A breach may occur through either an act of commission or omission. It is worth noting that the majority of the standard of care breaches are acts of omission where a vital task was not performed but should have been. In order to prove causation, it must be established that a breach is responsible for the negative outcome. This negative outcome must be manifest at least in part by actual damages resulting from the breach. Once all four have been proven, professional negligence can be legally established.

Though the primary responsibility for the treatment outcome is placed on the dentist, the patient can also bear responsibility for a negative result. This is recognized by the concept of contributory negligence or comparative negligence, and the patient's share may vary as determined by a judge or jury. Contributory negligence can be established by any action or failure to act by the patient as determined to contribute to the damages cited in the suit. However, the burden of proof would be on the dentist to prove that the patient's

actions or inactions contributed negatively to the treatment outcome. Generally speaking, this would be any form of non-compliance with treatment instructions or recommendations given to the patient. A failure to show for scheduled oral hygiene appointments, which would go along with a lack of appropriate oral hygiene, as well as a failure to take a complete regimen of prescribed medications would both contribute negatively to treatment outcome.

The primary manner of defense against any and all accusations of professional negligence lies in thorough and complete documentation. Proper documentation of all patient refusals and broken appointments can establish a pattern of non-compliance, which may prove helpful if the patient's reliability comes into question. Generally speaking, it is always best to document as thoroughly as possible in the treatment notes so that an accurate picture of the events in question can be understood by those who were not present.

~Dr. Heath Blackley



Find A Dentist



Did you know that when patients go to “Find A Dentist” they are more likely to click on the one that has a profile picture and skip over the ones that do not???

So say cheese! The patients, ADA, TDA and CADS would like to see your smile! You are your best advertisement! Too shy?

Put up your office team picture or logo!

Remember: no pic may mean no click! We would love to have CADS with 100% ADA Profile updated participation!

~ Thank you, Rhonda!

<http://ebusiness.ada.org/myada/myada.aspx>

2018-2019 Membership Lecture Dates

Chattanooga Golf & Country Club

Registration and social hour open at 5:30 pm, dinner begins at 6:30 pm,
and lecture starts at 6:45 pm

Tuesday, October 9	Dr. Nate Lawson - "All About Zirconia"
Tuesday, November 13	Dr. Alex Sokohl - "Evaluation and Management of the Maxillary Sinus"
Thursday, December 6	Holiday Social at Manker-Patten Tennis Club
Tuesday, February 12	Dr. Michelle Pardue "Silver Diamine Fluoride"
Tuesday, March 12	Dr. David Dean - "Medical Management of Common Orofacial Conditions"
Tuesday, April 9	Officer Installation and Awards & TDA Corporate Dentistry

What you need to know about the October lecture...

Thanks to everyone who came out last month to hear Dr. Marcus Wagner discuss radiation oncology and its role in treating head and neck cancer. Hopefully Dr. Wagner's program was able to help all of us get a better understanding of the radiation oncologist's perspective on treatment so we can manage these patients more effectively before, during, and after their treatment.



We're looking forward to welcoming Dr. Nate Lawson to our next meeting. Dr. Lawson is one of the leading researchers on dental materials in the world and publishes/speaks about zirconia regularly.

He will explain why all zirconias are not created equal and address any questions you may have about its use. Dr. Lawson's lecture should be beneficial to everyone whether you're bonding brackets to zirconia crowns, making endo accesses through existing zirconia bridges, or prepping teeth for a zirconia restorations. I look forward to seeing everyone on October 9th!

Ken Randall, DDS, CADS Program Chairman





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October 9, 2018 CADS Membership Meeting

Team members are always welcome!

“All About Zirconia”

with Dr. Nate Lawson

Tuesday, October 9th, 2018

Chattanooga Golf & Country Club

Registration will open at 5:30 pm

Chattanooga Golf and Country Club

For 2 Hours of Continuing Education Credit

Social Hour at 5:30 pm, dinner begins at 6:30 pm, and CE Program starting promptly at 6:45 pm

Registration Fees Per Person:

\$40.00 ADA/CADS Member & Staff w/ dinner

\$70.00 Non-Member & Staff w/ dinner

Please pre-register no later October 4th

If paying via credit card:

Please email CADS at CADS@peacecom.net to reserve your spot by the deadline listed above, including the names of all those attending.

Credit card payments will be made at the door, and a \$1.25/per person fee will be applied.

Be advised that once you reserve a spot, you will be required to pay a registration fee of \$25, if you do not attend the meeting and not have cancelled by above deadline date.

If paying via check:

Please complete the following information and mail this page along with check to the address below:

CADS

P.O. Box 841

Chickamauga, GA 30707

Name of dental practice:

Name(s) of those attending: (Please print legibly)

Have you registered for this year's ADA Conference?



Save the date

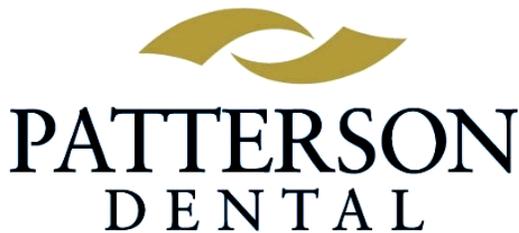
TDA Annual Session
Franklin Marriott Cool Springs
June 7-9, 2019

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