

WHERE  
**Big**  
**IDEAS** ARE  
**Brewing**

APRIL 30 - MAY 2, 2026 | GRAND RAPIDS, MI

*2026 Annual Session Preview*



2026 **ANNUAL  
SESSION**



michigan dental  
ASSOCIATION  
YOUR CONNECTION TO ORAL HEALTH®

# Message from the Chair . . .

## Experience Michigan's Largest Dental Meeting! Grand Rapids 2026

It's my pleasure to invite you to Michigan's largest dental conference. I'm honored to chair the 2026 Annual Session and serve on the Committee on Continuing Education and Events. This year we'll gather in Grand Rapids — known as Beer City USA and a hub for innovation and culture. Our theme, "Where Big Ideas Are Brewing," blends regional identity with professional ambition. This theme reflects the momentum of Michigan dentistry: a place where innovation, leadership, and collaboration are constantly taking shape. The metaphor of "brewing" captures the anticipation of new ideas, the craft of professional excellence, and the energy of connection — all of which define the Annual Session experience.

I'm excited to share all the new things happening this year with fellow dentist colleagues and staff members. Take a few moments to review this preview. There's something for everyone, and early bird pricing makes it affordable for the entire team to attend. Please join me April 30-May 2, 2026, in Grand Rapids. See you there!



**Emily Varsanik, DDS**  
**Chair, 2026 MDA Annual Session**

## Inside your *Annual Session Preview*

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## Here's What's **NEW** at this Year's Meeting!

- **NEW Shortened Schedule:** The Annual Session is now 2.5 days instead of four, running Thursday through Saturday (half-day).
- **NEW CE Course Updates:** Most continuing education sessions have been streamlined to 1 to 1.5 hours, allowing you to absorb a variety of topics in less time.
- **NEW Exclusive Reception:** The full conference package includes access to the Friday night reception, Runway on Tap – a fun, comedic fashion show featuring dental professionals as models, hosted by a local celebrity MC. (A \$150 value!)
- **NEW Keynote Speakers:** Enjoy three engaging keynote addresses, one each day of the conference.
- **NEW Lunch Included:** Lunch will be served in the Exhibit Hall for both one-day pass holders and full conference package attendees.
- **NEW Additional CE Opportunities:** Extra free continuing education sessions will be available during midday breaks inside the Exhibit Hall.
- **NEW Course Registration:** Individual (a la carte) course purchases are not available. There is no pre-selection of sessions for one-day passes or the full conference package. This structure allows flexibility to create a schedule that suits you best on-site. To ensure availability, we recommend arriving early to classrooms. Room monitors will scan badges upon entry for CE credit.
- **NEW Exhibit Hall Access:** Exhibit Hall-only badges will not be issued. To access the exhibit floor, you must purchase either a one-day pass or the full conference package.
- **NEW Table Clinics:** The popular Table Clinics will take place on Friday from 4 – 6 p.m., rather than during the lunch hour.
- **NEW Interactive Exhibit Hall Activities:** Enjoy a scavenger hunt and a digital gaming wall in the Exhibit Hall.
- **NEW Recharge Stations:** Convenient recharging stations will be available inside the Exhibit Hall for resting or charging your devices.
- **NEW Early Bird Pricing:** Take advantage of discounted rates for the full conference package – early bird pricing ends on March 23, 2026.

## 2026 MDA Committee on Continuing Education and Events

### Chair:

Dr. Emily Varsanik

### Members:

Dr. Cindy Bauer  
Dr. Pranit Bora  
Dr. Linda Dobis  
Dr. Martin Murad  
Dr. Michael Nykamp  
Dr. John Pogoncheff  
Dr. Soha Shamas  
Dr. James Sill

### Student Members:

Claire Kostecki  
Herchel Patel  
Jade Patel

### Consultants:

Brittany Lane  
Elizabeth Milewski

### MDA Staff:

Andrea Sundermann  
Jody Marquardt  
Amanda Mclean  
Marcia Bethea

# Check Out these Special Events

## Don't miss out — enhance your 2026 Annual Session experience!

### Welcome Reception!

The MDA will hold a Welcome Reception in the back of Exhibit Hall C on Thursday, April 30, from 4:30 until 6 p.m. All pass-holders are invited! During the reception, complimentary hors d'oeuvres will be provided, with a cash bar.

*Co-Sponsored by MDA Insurance and MDA Services.*



### Prayer Room

Need a moment of peace and quiet . . . a place to relax, rest, or even to focus on your spiritual being? Visit the prayer room. It will be available from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 30 and Friday, May 1, at DeVos Place.

## Affiliate Events

**Thursday, April 30** — University of Detroit Mercy Alumni Reception — Time and location TBD. Contact: Amy Percha, [perchaee@udmercy.edu](mailto:perchaee@udmercy.edu).

**Thursday, April 30** — 6:30 p.m. — ACD, ICD, and PFA Combined Dinner at Real Seafood. Contact: Dr. Patricia Boyle, [patboyle50@att.net](mailto:patboyle50@att.net).

**Friday, May 1\*** — 7 a.m. — International College of Dentists Breakfast. Contact: Dr. Steve Sulfaro, [drsulfaro@comcast.net](mailto:drsulfaro@comcast.net).

**Friday, May 1\*** — 7:30 a.m. — American College of Dentists Breakfast. Contact: Dr. Sherill Behnke, [behnkedds@aol.com](mailto:behnkedds@aol.com).

**Friday, May 1\*** — 12:30 – 2 p.m. — U of M Alumni Luncheon. Contact: Gretchen Hannah, [yankleg@umich.edu](mailto:yankleg@umich.edu).

**Friday, May 1\*** — Michigan Dental Assistants Association Student Day. Contact: Dr. Ona Erdt, [onarene@gmail.com](mailto:onarene@gmail.com).

**Saturday, May 2\*** — Noon – 1 p.m. — Pierre Frauchard Academy Luncheon. Contact: Dr. Ben Underwood, [underwbj@gmail.com](mailto:underwbj@gmail.com).

\*These events will be held at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel.

**Event Code EV02** — Friday, May 1, 2026 • 1:15 – 2:45 p.m.

**Women in Dentistry Event — Own Your Swag: Become Unstoppable in Your Achievements and Unshakeable in Your Confidence to Make an Unforgettable Mark on the World**  
Amelia "Mimi" Brown

Want to be seen as confident, poised, and powerful? When doing a good job isn't enough, it's time to elevate your presence. This high-energy, hands-on session will help you communicate your value, boost credibility, and project confidence in every interaction. Through practical strategies and interactive exercises, you'll learn how to stand out, connect authentically, and influence with impact.

Learning objectives:

- Enhance professional credibility and visibility.
- Engage effectively by adapting communication styles.
- Build confidence through networking, negotiation, and personal presence planning.

**Event code EV03** — Registration required

**New Dentist Network Lounge (Dentists only)**

Friday May 1, 2026 • 4:30 – 6 p.m.  
IDC Grand Rapids

This is a great time for new dentists to network, relax, and enjoy their colleagues all in one place together. There will be food, drinks, and camaraderie. Attendance is FREE when you register for a one-day pass or full conference package.

**Event code EV04** — Registration required

**Runway on Tap**

Friday May 1, 2026 • 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.  
DeVos Place, Grand Rapids

Raise a glass and celebrate with MDA President Dr. Cheri Newman at Runway on Tap! This high-energy evening blends Grand Rapids' craft-beer culture with runway flair for a one-of-a-kind celebration of style and smiles. Sip your favorite drink, cheer on your colleagues as they strut their signature looks, and soak up the fun, laid-back atmosphere that makes this event a crowd favorite. Whether you're walking the runway or raising a toast from the sidelines, you'll be part of a night overflowing with laughter, confidence, and community. Serving great looks — *one pour at a time!*

*Co-Sponsored by Mcomb District Dental Society, MDA Insurance, and MDA Services.*



WHERE  
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APRIL 30 - MAY 2, 2026 | GRAND RAPIDS, MI



**FROM BURNOUT TO BRILLANCE:  
HEALTH, ENERGY & RESILIENCE FOR  
DENTAL TEAMS**

Thursday, April 30 | 11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

**Zonya Foco, RDN**

See page 17 for more details.



**WINNING THROUGH UNCERTAINTY**

Friday, May 1 | 11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

**Sam Goodwin**

See page 24 for more details.



**GO FOR GOLD: TEAMWORK,  
TOUGHNESS, AND TENACITY**

Saturday, May 2 | 8 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

**Lindsay Tarpley**

See page 30 for more details.

*Keynote Speaker*

2026 **ANNUAL  
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# New Dentists! Annual Session Is for You!

There are many great continuing education courses and events for all dentists at the MDA Annual Session. In addition to the wide variety of CE courses offered throughout the event, here are specific opportunities designed especially for new dentists and recommended by MDA's New Dentist Committee. Take a look!

## Events:

### New Dentist Network Lounge (Dentists only)

Event code EV03 – Registration required  
Friday May 1, 2026 • 4:30 – 6 p.m.  
IDC Amway Grand Plaza Hotel

This is a great time for new dentists to network, relax, and enjoy their colleagues all in one place together. There will be food, drinks, and camaraderie. Attendance is FREE when you register for a one-day pass or full conference package.

*Co-sponsored by MDA Insurance and MDA Service.*

## CE Courses:

**Course Code T01** – 8 – 9:30 a.m.

### Keeping Patients Comfortable When the Local Anesthesia Wears Off – Appropriate Analgesic Prescribing

Mark Donaldson, BSP, ACPR, PHARMD, FASHP, FACHE  
See Page 14 for complete description.

**Course Code T05** – 9:30 – 11 a.m.

### Transformational Teamwork: Strengthening Trust, Communications, and Collaboration

April Callis-Birchmeier, PMP, CCMP, CSP  
See Page 16 for complete description.

**Course Code T08** – 12:15 – 1 p.m.

### Own Your Future: Making Practice Ownership Possible

Stefan Green and Jeff Cornell of Bank of America  
See Page 17 for complete description.

**Course Code T14** – 3 – 4:30 p.m.

### READY to Lead: Confident Leadership in Times of Change

April Callis-Birchmeier, PMP, CCMP, CSP  
See Page 19 for complete description.

**Course Code F19** – 8 – 9:30 a.m.

### From Distracted to Productive: Finding Your Focus in a Hyper-Interrupted, e-Distracted World

Randall Dean, MBA, CVP  
See Page 20 for complete description.

**Course Code F21** – 8 – 10 a.m.

### The Mental Dental Connection: The Secret to Being a Better Clinician and Leader

Joshua Austin, DDS  
See Page 21 for complete description.

**Course Code F23** – 8 – 10 a.m.

### To Pull or Not to Pull

Daniel G. Pompa, DDS, MS  
See Page 21 for complete description.

**Course Code F24** – 8 – 10:30 a.m.

### The Truth about Occlusion and Rethinking “Normal”

Kelly Tanner, PhD, RDH  
See Page 21 for complete description.

**Course Code F37** – 3 – 4 p.m.

### Chairside Yoga Techniques for Mental and Physical Wellness

Rachel S. Sinacola, DDS, MS  
See Page 25 for complete description.

**Course Code F40** – 3 – 4:30 p.m.

### Holy \$%&@!, I Didn't Know You Could Do that with Composite (Hands-On)

John Gammichia, DMD, FAGD  
See Page 26 for complete description.



**Course Code F45** — 3 – 4:30 p.m.

**The Comedy Project — Unscripted Smiles: Improv for Better Chairside Communication**

Joe Anderson and Kristin Hirsch

See Page 28 for complete description.

**Course Code S49** — 9 – 10 a.m.

**DDS Unleashed, Future In Sight, Create the Life and Practice You Want**

William E. Mason, DDS, MS

See Page 30 for complete description.

**Course Code S51** — 9 a.m. – noon

**The Anterior Composites Playbook: Mastering Class IV Restorations (Hands-On)**

James Wanamaker, DDS

See Page 31 for complete description.

**Course Code S53** — 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

**Love Dentistry, Have Fun, and Prosper!**

Richard Madow, DDS

See Page 31 for complete description.

## Find Your CE Track

A broad choice of speakers and topics are offered during the MDA's Annual Session. To make your selection easier, look for the initials on pages 12 and 13 that match the course tracks in which you are interested.

- **Leadership Track (LT)** — Join the leadership community! Whether you are a leader in organized dentistry, in another volunteer capacity, or want to apply what you learn in your practice — these courses will help you hone your leadership skills.
- **New Dentist Track (ND)** — Courses targeted specifically for the young dentist, dental residents, and dental students. Selected and recommended by the MDA New Dentist Committee.
- **Certified Dental Business Professional Track (C)/Front Office Team (FOT)** — Courses designed to meet CDBP program requirements. In addition to CDBP participants, these courses will help any front office team member be more effective and efficient.
- **Hygienists (H)/Assistants (A)** — See Schedule-at-a-Glance on Pages 12-13 for hygiene and dental assisting courses.

# New Dentist Network Lounge

**Friday, May 1, 2026**

**4:30 - 6:00 PM**

**IDC Grand Rapids**

187 Monroe Avenue NW  
Grand Rapids, MI

**FREE with the purchase of a  
one-day pass or full  
conference package.**

**(Dentists only)**



**2026 ANNUAL  
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### A special note for CDBP participants

When you register for the 2026 Annual Session, receive a gift bag on site specifically designed for you! More details to follow once registered.



### MDA Foundation Sparkling Smiles Celebration

**Wednesday April 29, 2026**

**6 – 9:30 p.m.**

**Grand Rapids Public Museum**

Mark your calendar for a very special celebration to recognize and thank MDA Foundation donors, grant recipients, and scholarship recipients.

Join us for a sit-down dinner gala! You'll walk away knowing more about the Foundation, its donors, its recipients, and how the MDA Foundation is making our state a better place through improved dental health.

Hope to see you there! Watch for a save-the-date in your mail and email follow-up. For more information, scan the QR code to the right.

Questions? Email the MDA Foundation at [foundation@michigandental.org](mailto:foundation@michigandental.org) or call 517-346-9423.



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*Sparkling Smiles Celebration*

**A NIGHT AT THE  
MUSEUM**

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Grand Rapids Public Museum

Grand Rapids, Michigan

2026 **ANNUAL  
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## Experience all Grand Rapids has to offer!

Before your visit, explore [GrandRapidsAttendee.com](https://GrandRapidsAttendee.com) — your one-stop resource for dining options, family activities, things to do, local attractions, discounts, DASH schedules, and more.

While you are there be sure to sign up for **GR Attendee Exclusives** at [visitingexperiencegr.com/exclusives/](https://visitingexperiencegr.com/exclusives/). You'll gain access to special discounts at restaurants, breweries, and a variety of area attractions.





**Runway  
ON TAP**

Friday, May 1, 2026  
Devos Place, Grand Rapids  
6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

**2026 ANNUAL SESSION**  
michigan dental  
ASSOCIATION  
YOUR CONNECTION TO ORAL HEALTH™

Raise a glass and celebrate with MDA President Dr. Cheri Newman at **Runway on Tap!** This isn't your typical reception — it's where Grand Rapids' craft-beer vibe meets high-energy runway fun. Sip, cheer, and watch your colleagues strut their stuff in signature style as we toast to confidence, community, and a little bit of sparkle.

\$150 or included with full conference package



## Michigan Dentistry's Largest Exhibit Hall

Here's where you'll discover the latest dental products, services, and techniques, plus many MDA Annual Session show specials.

### Exhibit Hall

You'll find more than 100 exhibitors at this year's MDA Annual Session Exhibit Hall. They're offering great deals, helpful advice, and the chance to see the newest products "up close and personal." You can get your questions answered, talk with product representatives, and see what's new in dentistry. It's all at the MDA Annual Session Exhibit Hall – Michigan's largest dental expo!

A full listing of exhibitors appears on the Annual Session website, and will be included in the MDA Event app, available in early 2026.

Take advantage of this great resource for your practice! Be sure to stop by the exhibits, conveniently located near CE classes, right inside Hall C, DeVos Place.

**Remember! No exhibits on Saturday! Exhibits open Thursday at noon. The MDA Exhibit Hall will be open Thursday and Friday only.**

### NEW HOURS!

- Thursday, April 30: Exhibits open noon until 6 p.m.
- Friday, May 1: Exhibits open 9 a.m. until 6 p.m.

### Come to the Table Clinics

See the listing of table clinics on the Annual Session website at [annualsession.michigandental.org](http://annualsession.michigandental.org) or on the MDA Event app (coming in early 2026). Table Clinics will take place Friday, May 1, from 4 – 6 p.m., with FREE CE credits.

### Free Coffee, Welcome Reception, and Membership Matters Counter

**Free coffee** will be available each morning in Exhibit Hall C and the Center Concourse on the main floor.

Don't forget to enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar at the **Welcome Reception** on Thursday, April 30 from 4:30 – 6 p.m. in the Exhibit Hall. All pass-holders are invited! Food and beverages will be available in the back of Hall C in DeVos Place.

Stop by the **Membership Matters Counter** located in Hall C of DeVos Place, where you can ask staff questions, pick up information including a CE recordkeeping folder, Delegation of Duties chart, Insurance Tips, and more. We'll have resources for front office staff, too. Discover ways the MDA can help you make your team's jobs easier. MDA staff members will be standing by to assist you.

### Endorsed Provider Aisle

Come visit the MDA Insurance and MDA Services area just inside the entrance to the MDA Annual Session Exhibit Hall April 30 – May 1 in Hall C of DeVos Place. Discover the many ways you can save money and enjoy great service working with MDA Insurance, MDA Services, and endorsed vendors. Check out the show specials and fun activities, and bring your supplies shopping list or your technology wish list to discover the solutions you need from trusted vendors. Look for the MDA-Endorsed banners.



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## 2026 Annual Session Exhibitors (and more to come)

3DL - Dynamic Digital Dental Lab  
 AFLAC  
 Air Techniques  
 Bank of America Practice Solutions  
 BCF Wealth Strategies  
 Best Card  
 BISCO  
 Brasseler USA  
 Carestream Dental  
 Clinical Supply Company  
 Cloud Dentistry  
 Colgate  
 Core Scientific  
 Crest + Oral-B  
 DBS Investment Advisors  
 DDSmatch  
 Dental ROI Associates  
 Designs for Vision, Inc.  
 Expertec Dental Laboratory, Inc.  
 Garrison Dental Solutions  
 Glidewell Dental  
 Huntington Bank  
 Kettenbach  
 MedDent Specialty Services  
 MEDVA  
 MDA Health Plan-Priority Health  
 MDA Insurance  
 Michigan Dental Law  
 Orascope  
 Patterson Dental  
 Professional Sales Associates Inc.  
 Professional Solutions Insurance Company  
 RGP Dental, Inc.  
 Shofu Dental Corporation  
 Sodium Dental  
 SurgiTel  
 Techinnovation  
 Transworld Systems, Inc. (TSI)  
 U.S. Bank Healthcare Business Banking  
 Ultradent Products, Inc.  
 Ultralight Optics, Inc.  
 VOCO America, Inc.  
 Weave

**Exhibitors as of Dec. 11, 2025**

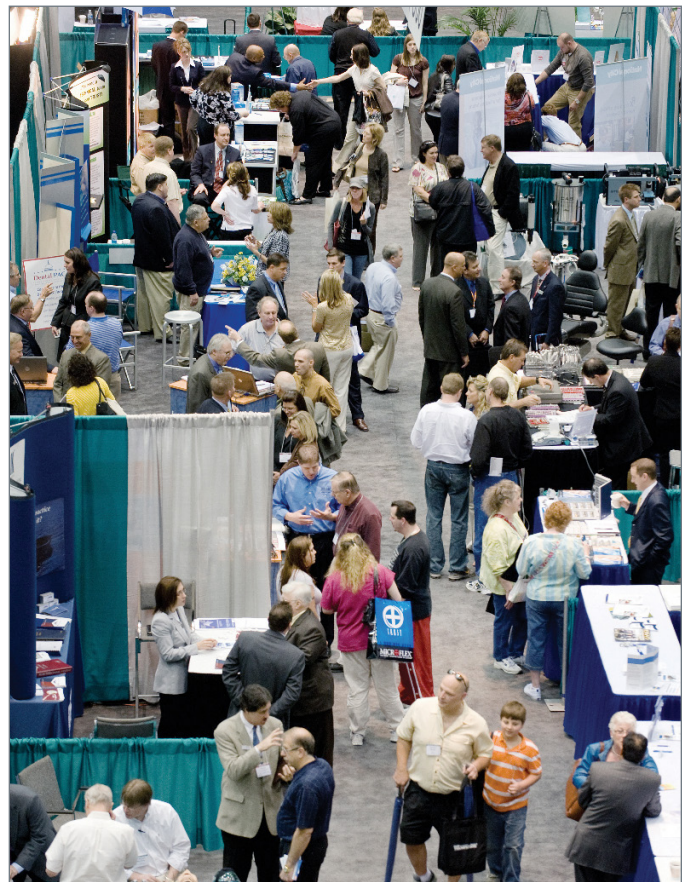
### **NEW** Exhibit Hall Hours:

**Thursday, April 30**

**Exhibits open noon until 6 p.m.**

**Friday, May 1**

**Exhibits open 9 a.m. until 6 p.m.**



### **Your Exclusive Dental Marketplace!**

Take advantage of this great resource for your practice. Support the exhibitors that support the Annual Session and check out show specials.

# CE Courses and Events

| Thursday, April 30 |   |                 |          |                   |                         |
|--------------------|---|-----------------|----------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Course #           | Course Title                                  | Track*          | AGD Code | Speaker           | Times                   |
| T01                | Keeping Patients Comfortable                  | D, ND, H, A, LR | 340      | Donaldson         | 8 – 9:30 a.m.           |
| T02                | The Profile of HPV Oral Lesions               | EDT             | 730      | Lukes             | 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.       |
| T03                | Growth and Development/Pediatric Dentistry    | D, H, A         | 430      | Anamelechi        | 8:30 – 11 a.m.          |
| T04                | Transitioning into Medicare                   | D               | 130      | Fulger            | 9 – 11 a.m.             |
| T05                | Transformational Teamwork                     | EDT, ND, C      | 550      | Callis-Birchmeier | 9:30 – 11 a.m.          |
| T06                | Cannabinoids                                  | D, H, A         | 134      | Donaldson         | 9:45 – 11:15 a.m.       |
| T07                | <b>Keynote:</b> From Burnout to Brilliance    | EDT             | 770      | Foco              | 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. |
| T08                | Making Practice Ownership Possible            | D, ND           | 550      | Green/Cormell     | 12:15 – 1 p.m.          |
| T09                | Liability Lifeline: A Dental Risk Masterclass | EDT, C          | 565      | Farnen/Peskin     | 1 – 5:30 p.m.           |
| T10                | Saving on Payments in the Practice            | D, FOT, C       | 550      | Nieto             | 1:15 – 2 p.m.           |
| T11                | OSHA Annual Training                          | EDT, C          | 566      | Fluent            | 2 – 5 p.m.              |
| T12                | Modern Practice Growth/Virtual Staffing       | D, FOT, C       | 550      | Deain/Richards    | 2:15 – 3 p.m.           |
| T13                | Lip and Tongue Ties                           | EDT             | 430      | Anamelechi        | 3 – 4:30 p.m.           |
| T14                | Confident Leadership in Times of Change       | EDT, ND, C      | 550      | Callis-Birchmeier | 3 – 4:30 p.m.           |
| T15                | Finding an Extra Hour Every Day               | EDT, C          | 550      | Dean              | 3 – 4:30 p.m.           |
| T16                | Elevate Focus, Mood, and Memory               | EDT             | 150      | Foco              | 3 – 4:30 p.m.           |
| T17                | GI Track Pathologies                          | EDT             | 730      | Lukes             | 3 – 4:30 p.m.           |
| Friday, May 1      |   |                 |          |                   |                         |
| F18                | Cardiac Resuscitation Training (CPR) (BCLS)   | EDT, LR         | N/A      | Gadioli/Gadioli   | 8 – 9 a.m.              |
| F19                | From Distracted to Productive                 | EDT, ND, C      | 550      | Dean              | 8 – 9:30 a.m.           |
| F20                | Advanced Digital Marketing Strategies         | EDT             | 550      | Roletto           | 8 – 9:30 a.m.           |
| F21                | The Mental Dental Connection                  | EDT, ND         | 750      | Austin            | 8 – 10 a.m.             |
| F22                | Dentistry Outside the Box (Hands-On)          | D, H, A         | 250      | Gammichia         | 8 – 10 a.m.             |
| F23                | To Pull or Not to Pull                        | D, ND, H, A     | 690      | Pompa             | 8 – 11 a.m.             |
| F24                | The Truth about Occlusion                     | D, ND, H, A     | 180      | Tanner            | 8 – 10:30 a.m.          |
| F25                | Dental Office Ethical Issues                  | EDT, LR         | 555      | Murphy            | 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.        |
| F26                | Oral Radiology: Lesions of the Jaws           | D, H, A         | 730      | Yepes             | 8:30 – 10 a.m.          |
| F27                | Do's and Don'ts in Real Estate                | D               | 550      | Herrema           | 9 – 9:45 a.m.           |
| F28                | Implicit Bias Awareness, Part I               | EDT, C, LR      | 558      | Gadioli           | 9:45 – 11:15 a.m.       |
| F29                | Unlock Your Practice's Revenue Potential      | D, FOT, C       | 550      | iCore/TBA         | 10 – 10:45 a.m.         |
| F30                | Air and Suction                               | D               | 250      | Fluent            | 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.      |
| F31                | Diagnose with Confidence                      | EDT             | 490      | Sinacola          | 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.      |
| F32                | <b>Keynote:</b> Winning through Uncertainty   | EDT             | 770      | Goodwin           | 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. |
| F33                | Uncover the Secret of PPO Plans               | D, FOT, C       | 550      | Casasanta         | 12:15 – 1 p.m.          |
| F34                | Infection Control Check-Up                    | EDT, LR, C      | 566      | Fluent            | 1:15 – 2:45 p.m.        |

**Tracks:** D = Dentists, ND = New Dentists, H = Hygienists, A = Assistants, LT = Leadership Track, C = CDBP, FOT = Front Office Team, LR = License Requirement, EDT = Entire Dental Team

# CE Courses and Events

| Friday, May 1 (cont'd) |   |  |          |                 |                         |
|------------------------|---|--|----------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Course #               | Course Title                                | Track*                                   | AGD Code | Speaker         | Times                   |
| F35                    | Minimizing Taxes in Retirement              | D  | 550      | Schumann II     | 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.        |
| F36                    | The Opioid Epidemic                         | D, H, A, LR                              | 346      | Benivegna       | 3 – 4 p.m.              |
| F37                    | Chairside Yoga Techniques                   | EDT, ND                                  | 770      | Sinacola        | 3 – 4 p.m.              |
| F38                    | What's New? Materials and Tech              | D, A                                     | 250      | Austin          | 3 – 4:30 p.m.           |
| F39                    | Implicit Bias Awareness, Part II            | EDT, C, LR                               | 558      | Gadioli         | 3 – 4:30 p.m.           |
| F40                    | You Can Do What with Composite? (Hands-On)  | D, ND                                    | 250      | Gammichia       | 3 – 4:30 p.m.           |
| F41                    | Treating the Diabetic Patient               | D, H, A                                  | 750      | Pompa           | 3 – 5 p.m.              |
| F42                    | Reputation Management in Digital-Age        | EDT                                      | 550      | Roletto         | 3 – 4:30 p.m.           |
| F43                    | Hygiene Essentials                          | H  | 490, 250 | Tanner          | 3 – 4:30 p.m.           |
| F44                    | Use of Nitrous Oxide                        | D, H, A                                  | 340      | Yepes           | 3 – 4:30 p.m.           |
| F45                    | Unscripted Smiles: Improv                   | EDT, ND, C                               | 550      | Anderson/Hirsch | 3 – 4:30 p.m.           |
| F46                    | Approaches to Leadership                    | EDT                                      | 770      | Murphy          | 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.        |
| Saturday, May 2        |   |  |          |                 |                         |
| S47                    | <b>Keynote Breakfast:</b> Go For Gold       | EDT                                      | 770      | Tarpley         | 8 – 8:45 a.m.           |
| S48                    | Cardiac Resuscitation Training (CPR) (BCLS) | EDT, LR                                  | N/A      | Gadioli/Gadioli | 9 – 10 a.m.             |
| S49                    | Creating the Life and Practice You Want     | EDT, ND                                  | 550, 770 | Mason           | 9 – 10 a.m.             |
| S50                    | How to Create a Memorable Patient Exper.    | EDT                                      | 550      | Madow           | 9 – 10:30 a.m.          |
| S51                    | Anterior Composites Playbook (Hands-On)     | D, ND                                    | 780      | Wanamaker       | 9 a.m. – Noon           |
| S52                    | Innovative Techniques for Atraumatic Extr.  | D, H, A, LR                              | 310, 340 | Mason           | 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. |
| S53                    | Love Dentistry, Have Fun, and Prosper!      | EDT, ND                                  | 550      | Madow           | 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. |
| S54                    | Crown Lengthening: How, When, and Why       | EDT                                      | 780      | Dobis           | 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. |
| Special Events         |   |  |          |                 |                         |
|                        | Sparkling Smiles Celebration – Wednesday    | Grand Rapids Public Museum               |          |                 | 6 – 9:30 p.m.           |
| EV01                   | House of Delegates Leadership Training      | D, LT                                    | 770      | Peters          | 4 – 6 p.m.              |
|                        | Welcome Reception – Thursday                | Back of Exhibit Hall C, DeVos Place      |          |                 | 4:30 – 6 p.m.           |
| EV02                   | Own Your Swag – Women in Dentistry          | D  | 770      | Brown           | 1:15 – 2:45 p.m.        |
|                        | Table Clinics – Friday                      | Exhibit Hall C                           |          |                 | 4 – 6 p.m.              |
| EV03                   | New Dentist Network Lounge – Friday         | IDC Amway Grand – See details on Page 28 |          |                 | 4:30 – 6 p.m.           |
| EV04                   | Runway on Tap – Friday Night Social Event   | DeVos Place – See details on Page 28     |          |                 | 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.        |

**Tracks:** D = Dentists, ND = New Dentists, H = Hygienists, A = Assistants, LT = Leadership Track, C = CDBP, FOT = Front Office Team, LR = License Requirement, EDT = Entire Dental Team

**All courses generously co-sponsored by MDA Insurance and MDA Services unless otherwise noted in course description.**

## Thursday, April 30, 2026 — Exhibits Open Noon – 6 p.m.

**Course Code T01 — 8 – 9:30 a.m.**

### Keeping Patients Comfortable When the Local Anesthesia Wears Off — Appropriate Analgesic Prescribing

Mark Donaldson, BSP, ACPR, PHARM.D, FASHP, FACHE

The opioid epidemic continues to impact health care, and dentistry plays a vital role in prevention. This evidence-based course provides dental professionals with the knowledge and tools to manage pain effectively while minimizing opioid use. Participants will learn the ideal “analgesic recipe” for predictable pain control, understand when and why narcotics should be avoided, and review the role of state prescription drug monitoring programs. Attendees will leave empowered to prescribe responsibly, protect their patients, and avoid becoming part of the opioid crisis.

Learning objectives:

- Explain the pathophysiology of dental pain and the mechanism of non-opioid analgesics.
- Identify evidence-based strategies for safe, effective, and responsible pain management.
- Understand the role and importance of prescription drug monitoring programs in opioid stewardship.

**Course counts towards Michigan’s pain management requirement, and the DEA MATE requirement to obtain or renew the controlled substance pharmacy license for dentists.**

**Course Code T02 — 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.**

### The Sky Isn’t Falling! The Profile of HPV Oral Lesions

Sherri M. Lukes, RDH, MS, FAADH

Human papilloma virus–related oral lesions are a growing concern in dentistry, requiring clinicians to confidently recognize, diagnose, and discuss them with patients. This interactive course reviews the oral manifestations of both low- and high-risk HPV subtypes, including squamous papilloma, verruca vulgaris, and HPV-induced oropharyngeal cancer. Through case images and clinical examples, participants will learn to identify lesion characteristics, explore treatment options, and communicate effectively with patients about HPV-related oral health concerns and cancer risk.

Learning objectives:

- Identify oral lesions associated with various HPV subtypes.
- Describe clinical features and treatment options for HPV lesions.
- Communicate effectively with patients about HPV and oral cancer risk.

**All courses generously co-sponsored by MDA Insurance and MDA Services unless otherwise noted in course description.**

### For On-Site Information, Download the MDA Event App

Download the MDA event app for quick access to the most important Annual Session information.

There will be no on-site printed program this year, so be sure to download the app!

Download the MDA Event App at the Apple App Store or Google Play. Available in early 2026.



**Course Code T03 — 8:30 – 11 a.m.**

### Growth and Development through the Eyes of a Pediatric Dentist: Feed, Speak, Breathe, Smile

Jonelle Anamelechi, DDS, MSPH

Baby teeth matter — but so does understanding the broader impact of early oral health on lifelong wellness. This session explores how early screening and intervention for feeding, speech, and airway issues can prevent adult co-morbidities. Participants will learn how routine dental visits can evolve into comprehensive assessments that consider the whole child. The course emphasizes the dentist’s role in growth and development, empowering dental teams to identify concerns early and support children in achieving optimal oral and overall health.

Learning objectives:

- Explain the dentist’s role in the pre-orthodontic phase.
- Evaluate the growing child holistically beyond the teeth.
- Apply tools for assessment and treatment of developmental issues.



Donaldson



Lukes



Anamelechi



## House of Delegates Information

### Course Code EV01

4 – 6 p.m. (reception at 4 p.m.; training at 5 p.m.)

### House of Delegates Leadership Training/ Meet the Candidates

Debra Peters, DDS  
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel

This engaging, hands-on session helps participants strengthen their understanding of parliamentary procedure within the House of Delegates setting. Through discussion, role-play, and group exercises, attendees will practice applying basic parliamentary procedures to conduct effective meetings, demonstrate proper debate and decorum techniques, and strengthen leadership communication skills. Designed for both new and experienced members, this interactive program builds confidence and promotes fairness, efficiency, and professionalism. A networking hour with light appetizers and a cash bar precedes the one-hour session.

#### Learning objectives:

- Apply basic parliamentary procedures to conduct effective meetings.
- Demonstrate proper debate and decorum techniques.
- Strengthen leadership communication skills.

**This course is designed for MDA member dentists.**



**Peters**

### MDA House of Delegates

The first meeting of the MDA House of Delegates will take place Thursday, April 30, beginning at 8:30 a.m. The second meeting will take place Saturday, May 2, beginning at 1:30 p.m. The House of Delegates will be located in Ballrooms C/D, in DeVos Place.

### Candidate Forum

The MDA will hold a Candidate Forum for any contested elections. The forum will be held following the first meeting of the House of Delegates on Thursday, April 30, in Ballrooms C/D, in DeVos Place.

### MDA Reference Committee Hearing

There will be one reference committee hearing, taking place on Thursday, April 30, in Ballrooms C/D, in DeVos Place.

### Regional Caucuses

Regional caucuses will be held the morning of Saturday, May 2 in the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel. Check the MDA Event App or Delegate Digest for exact times and rooms.

**\*Special CE package pricing for HOD members  
(Check your email *Delegate Digest* for details.)**



## Thursday, April 30, 2026 (cont'd)

**Course Code T04** — 9 – 11 a.m.

### **Reduce Confusion and Avoid Mistakes as You Transition into Medicare**

Steve Fulger

Transitioning into Medicare requires careful planning to protect your health coverage and finances. This information-rich program helps participants navigate enrollment timelines, understand Medicare parts, and identify coverage gaps to avoid costly mistakes. Attendees will learn how to select supplemental coverage, anticipate out-of-pocket expenses, and ensure timely enrollment to prevent penalties. Practical guidance and strategies will empower individuals to make informed decisions, safeguard their health care benefits, and optimize financial security for themselves and their families during Medicare transition.

Learning objectives:

- Understand Medicare enrollment timelines and requirements.
- Identify coverage gaps and out-of-pocket expenses under original Medicare.
- Evaluate supplemental coverage options to optimize health care and financial protection.

**Course Code T05** — 9:30 – 11 a.m.

### **Transformational Teamwork: Strengthening Trust, Communication, and Collaboration**

April Callis-Birchmeier, PMP, CCMP, CSP

Dental practices thrive when communication, trust, and collaboration are strong, yet high-pressure environments can challenge teamwork. In this practical session, change management expert April Callis-Birchmeier shares strategies to strengthen dental team cohesion and foster a positive work environment. Participants will explore how perception, bias, and emotional contagion affect interactions, and learn resilience-building techniques to enhance confidence, creativity, and connection. Real-world examples and interactive activities provide actionable tools to improve teamwork, communication, and staff morale in clinical settings.

Learning objectives:

- Recognize how perception and bias impact teamwork and communication.
- Apply strategies to strengthen trust, connection, and collaboration.
- Implement techniques to reduce negativity and build emotional resilience.

**Counts toward the Certified Dental Business Professional program, customer service/communication category, for one and one-half credits.**

**Course Code T06** — 9:45 – 11:15 a.m.

### **Cannabinoids and What Oral Health Care Professionals Need to Know**

Mark Donaldson, BSP, ACPR, PHARMD, FASHP, FACHE

Treating medically complex dental patients can be challenging — especially when multiple chronic conditions, polypharmacy, and cannabinoid use intersect. This dynamic, case-based course explores how marijuana and other substances influence dental treatment planning, patient management, and risk assessment. Participants will learn practical strategies to identify oral signs of cannabinoid use, minimize complications, and ensure safe, effective care. Attendees will leave with confidence to manage even the most complex patients — successfully, safely, and compassionately — starting Monday morning.

Learning objectives:

- Identify key risk factors and oral signs associated with cannabinoid use.
- Evaluate treatment considerations for medically complex patients using multiple medications.
- Apply evidence-based strategies to improve outcomes and safety in challenging dental cases.



Fulger



Callis-Birchmeier



Donaldson



Foco



Green



Cormel



## Thursday, April 30, 2026 (cont'd)

**Course Code T07** — 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

### **SPECIAL KEYNOTE**

#### **From Burnout to Brilliance: Health, Energy, and Resilience for Dental Teams**

Zonya Foco, RDN

Dental professionals face intense physical and emotional demands that can drain energy and reduce well-being. In this keynote, Zonya Foco delivers practical strategies and inspiration to help dentists, hygienists, assistants, and staff reclaim health, joy, and resilience. Participants will learn science-backed techniques to reduce stress, improve sleep, and boost mental and physical vitality. This session provides tools to enhance personal wellness, strengthen team performance, and model healthy habits that benefit both staff and patients.

Learning objectives:

- Apply strategies to reduce stress, fight fatigue, and build resilience.
- Implement daily habits from the 28-Day Daily Defender Challenge to support health and well-being.
- Promote personal and team wellness for greater focus, morale, and performance.

### **AFTERNOON SCHEDULE**

**Course Code T08** — 12:15 – 1 p.m.

#### **Own Your Future: Making Practice Ownership Possible**

Stefan Green and Jeff Cormell of Bank of America

When purchasing or building your first practice, know your options. Join the speakers for a discussion about the various advantages and challenges with start-ups and acquisitions. Learn about the team of professionals that will help with starting a new dental practice, what to expect when applying for financing, and more.

Learning objectives:

- Compare the benefits and challenges of start-ups vs. acquisitions.
- Identify key professional advisers and their roles.
- Explain the financing process and lender expectations.

**Course Code T09** — 1 – 5:30 p.m.

#### **Liability Lifeline: A Dental Risk Masterclass**

Robert Peskin, DDS, and Lynda Farnen, JD

This risk management course, presented by the MDA-endorsed Dentists Choice professional liability program, is for the entire dental team and promotes a proactive approach to enhancing patient care while minimizing liability exposure. Attendees will learn effective communication strategies, documentation standards, and legal fundamentals. Techniques to strengthen

patient relationships, manage grievances, and ensure compliance with safety protocols will also be discussed and supported with real-life case studies and examples.

Learning objectives:

- Recognize risks and apply effective strategies to reduce liability exposure.
- Implement consistent office protocols that promote safety and compliance.
- Understand legal and ethical principles, including informed consent, among others.

Dentists insured with the MDA-endorsed Dentists Choice program will receive a 10% professional liability premium discount for three consecutive years by attending.

**Counts toward the Certified Dental Business Professional program, risk management category, for four credits.**

Co-Sponsored by MDA Insurance and Dentists Choice.

**Course Code T10** — 1:15 – 2 p.m.

#### **Saving on Payments in the Practice – Mistakes to Avoid and Tips to Lower Your Cost**

Phil Nieto of Best Card

Payment processing can be a deceptive and expensive service. Confusing costs, constantly increasing fees, and opaque pricing structures can be hard for a successful practice to navigate. This course will explain which fees are real, negotiable, and even made-up in the payment industry. You'll also learn the red flags to avoid and the opportunities to lower costs that every practice should know when evaluating a payment provider.

Learning objectives:

- Distinguish between legitimate, negotiable, and unnecessary payment processing fees.
- Recognize red flags and deceptive pricing tactics.
- Apply strategies to evaluate and negotiate better payment processing terms.

**Counts toward the Certified Dental Business Professional program, finance category, for three-quarters credit.**



**Peskin**



**Farnen**



**Nieto**

## Thursday, April 30, 2026 (cont'd)

**Course Code T11** — 2 – 5 p.m.

### OSHA Annual Training: Ensuring Your OSHA Program Runs “Fluently”

Marie T. Fluent, DDS, CDIPC, FACD

Maintaining OSHA compliance in the dental office is a shared responsibility that protects both patients and staff. This course provides an overview of key OSHA regulations and infection control standards specific to dental settings. Attendees will learn how to implement, document, and sustain an effective safety program that meets legal requirements and promotes a culture of accountability. Practical guidance and actionable strategies will be shared to help the entire dental team work “fluently” toward maintaining a safe, compliant, and efficient workplace.

Learning objectives:

- Differentiate between CDC infection control guidelines and OSHA standards.
- Understand and apply the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard in the dental setting.
- Develop and maintain a written, office-specific infection control and safety program with required documentation.

**Counts toward the Certified Dental Business Professional program, OSHA/HIPAA/OIG category, for three credits.**

**Course Code T12** — 2:15 – 3 p.m.

### Modern Practice Growth through Virtual Staffing — Leveraging Virtual Assistants for Efficiency, Staffing Stability, and Revenue Expansion

Jayce Deain and Amanda Richards of MEDVA

Dental and orthodontic practices face mounting challenges, from staffing shortages to administrative overload. This course explores how virtual assistants (VAs) and digital systems can streamline operations, enhance productivity, and support clinical workflows such as aligner management, digital lab coordination, and virtual case tracking. Attendees will learn how to optimize efficiency, maintain HIPAA compliance, and deliver

exceptional patient experiences through effective virtual integration, creating a scalable, future-ready practice model.

Learning objectives:

- Identify practice workflows best suited for virtual delegation.
- Strengthen digital communication and patient management systems.
- Implement HIPAA-compliant strategies for virtual staffing and workflow optimization.

**Counts toward the Certified Dental Business Professional program, customer service/communication category, for three-quarters credit.**

**Course Code T13** — 3 – 4:30 p.m.

### Lip and Tongue Ties: It’s All Tied Together! (Considerations for the Dental Team and Dental Professional)

Jonelle Anamelechi, DDS, MSPH

This course provides dental professionals with a comprehensive understanding of lip and tongue ties, emphasizing anatomical, functional, and developmental considerations. Participants will learn to recognize signs and symptoms, conduct assessments, and evaluate the impact on oral health, breastfeeding, and speech. Treatment options, both conservative and surgical, will be reviewed, along with strategies for effective interdisciplinary collaboration. The course equips dental teams to confidently communicate with patients and families, supporting informed decisions and improved outcomes for individuals affected by lip and tongue ties.

Learning objectives:

- Identify and differentiate lip and tongue tie anatomy and variations.
- Conduct assessments and recognize signs and symptoms across age groups.
- Evaluate treatment options and communicate care plans effectively with patients and families.



Fluent



Deain



Richards



Anamelechi



Callis-Birchmeier

## Thursday, April 30, 2026 (cont'd)

**Course Code T14 — 3 – 4:30 p.m.**

### **READY to Lead: Confident Leadership in Times of Change**

April Callis-Birchmeier, PMP, CCMP, CSP

In today's rapidly evolving environment, successful leadership requires adaptability, composure, and purpose. In this interactive session, change management expert April Callis-Birchmeier introduces the READY framework to help leaders navigate uncertainty with confidence and clarity. Through real-world insights and practical tools, participants will learn how to build trust, communicate effectively, and inspire resilience — empowering themselves and their teams to thrive through transformation, rather than simply manage it.

Learning objectives:

- Apply the READY framework to lead confidently through change.
- Strengthen communication, trust, and team engagement.
- Build resilience and inspire commitment during transformation.

**Counts toward the Certified Dental Business Professional program, customer service/communication category, for one and one-half credits.**

**Course Code T15 — 3 – 4:30 p.m.**

### **Finding an Extra Hour Every Day: Time Management Tips and Tricks for Busy Professionals**

Randall Dean, MBA, CVP

Feeling overwhelmed by endless emails, constant interruptions, and competing priorities? In this fast-paced and humorous session, productivity expert Randy Dean shares proven strategies to “find an extra hour” each day. Participants will learn how to manage email overload, prioritize projects, and declutter mental chaos using practical, easy-to-implement techniques. With real-world tips tailored for Microsoft and Google users, this program provides tools to reduce stress, regain focus, and enhance daily productivity and efficiency.

Learning objectives:

- Apply practical strategies to reduce email and task overload.
- Implement methods to minimize interruptions and improve daily focus.
- Utilize digital tools to streamline workflow and boost productivity.

**Counts toward the Certified Dental Business Professional program, customer service/communication category, for one and one-half credits.**

**Course Code T16 — 3 – 4:30 p.m.**

### **Brain Boost Mastery: Elevate Focus, Mood, and Memory with Food and Movement**

Zonyia Foco, RDN

As dental professionals, maintaining focus, energy, and emotional balance is vital for patient care and personal well-being. This engaging session explores how everyday choices in nutrition, movement, and mindset can dramatically improve brain health and reduce the risk of depression, anxiety, and cognitive decline. Backed by cutting-edge science, participants will learn practical, sustainable habits to boost mental clarity, resilience, and performance — both chairside and beyond. Leave inspired with simple strategies to protect and strengthen your brain every day.

Learning objectives:

- Identify foods and habits that enhance cognitive health and emotional resilience.
- Understand the gut-brain connection and ways to reduce brain inflammation.
- Apply science-based strategies to improve focus, memory, and long-term brain vitality.

**Course Code T17 — 3 – 4:30 p.m.**

### **End to End: GI Tract Pathologies and their Oral Manifestations**

Sherri M. Lukes, RDH, MS, FAADH

Because the gastrointestinal tract is one continuous system beginning in the mouth, many GI disorders present with oral manifestations. This course takes participants on an engaging journey through the tract — from the esophagus to the intestines — exploring how conditions such as GERD, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, and Peutz-Jegher's syndrome can appear in the oral cavity. Using vivid clinical cases and comparative imagery, Lukes will guide participants in developing comprehensive differential diagnoses and interdisciplinary treatment strategies that enhance patient care and diagnostic accuracy.

Learning objectives:

- Recognize oral manifestations of common gastrointestinal disorders.
- Incorporate systemic health information when forming differential diagnoses.
- Apply interdisciplinary strategies for improved patient outcomes.



Dean



Foco



Lukes

## Friday, May 1, 2026 — Exhibits Open 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**Course Code F18 — 8 - 9 a.m.**

### Cardiac Resuscitation Training (CPR) (BCLS)

Elizabeth Gadioli and Lesley Gadioli, CPR and More

This comprehensive CPR/AED course provides essential lifesaving training tailored for health care providers. Participants will gain hands-on experience in performing adult, child, and infant CPR, using an automated external defibrillator and managing choking emergencies. The program emphasizes understanding the chain of survival and emergency response protocols through instructor-led demonstrations and practice. Upon successful completion, participants will earn a two-year certification, equipping them with the confidence and skills to respond effectively in real-life medical emergencies.

Learning objectives:

- Perform adult, child, and infant CPR accurately and effectively.
- Demonstrate proper use of an automated external defibrillator.
- Recognize and respond to choking and cardiac emergencies following established protocols.

**Note: CE credit is not granted for CPR courses for dental professionals.**

**Course Code F19 — 8 – 9:30 a.m.**

### From Distracted to Productive: Finding Your Focus in a Hyper-Interrupted, e-Distracted World

Randall Dean, MBA, CVP

In today's hyper-distracted world, constant "squirrels" — emails, texts, notifications, clutter, and interruptions — threaten productivity and focus. In this high-energy session, time and technology management expert Randy Dean, MBA, shares proven strategies to manage distractions, reclaim focus, and boost performance. Learn how to control your digital and mental clutter, create intentional focus time, and build habits that lead to greater clarity, efficiency, and balance, giving you a lasting competitive edge both professionally and personally.

Learning objectives:

- Identify key sources of distraction that reduce productivity and focus.
- Implement strategies to minimize digital, environmental, and mental clutter.
- Develop daily habits to sustain focus and improve professional performance.

**Counts toward the Certified Dental Business Professional program, customer service/communication category, for one and one-half credits.**

**Course Code F20 — 8 – 9:30 a.m.**

### Advanced Digital Marketing Strategies for Exceptional New Patient Attraction

Cory Roletto, MBA

This course demystifies digital marketing for dental practices, helping attendees create effective strategies to attract and retain patients. Participants will learn how to evaluate vendors, optimize websites, leverage social media, and implement SEO and Google Ads campaigns. Emphasizing actionable insights and the strategic use of AI, the program simplifies complex technologies and trends, enabling dental professionals to achieve measurable growth, enhance online visibility, and maintain a competitive edge in today's rapidly evolving digital landscape.

Learning objectives:

- Apply digital marketing strategies to attract new patients and grow procedural services.
- Understand key demographics and platforms for targeting specific dental procedures.
- Utilize AI and emerging marketing trends to optimize online visibility and ROI.

**Counts toward the Certified Dental Business Professional program, marketing category, for one and one-half credits.**



Gadioli



Dean



Roletto



Austin

**All courses generously co-sponsored by MDA Insurance and MDA Services unless otherwise noted in course description.**



## Friday, May 1, 2026 (cont'd)

**Course Code F21** — 8 – 10 a.m.

### **The Mental Dental Connection: The Secret to Being a Better Clinician and Leader**

Joshua Austin, DDS, MAGD

Dentistry can take a toll on mental health — and it's time to talk about it. In this candid and engaging program, Dr. Joshua Austin uses humor and insight to address the mental and emotional challenges faced by dental professionals. Attendees will learn how to recognize mental health concerns in themselves and their patients, identify effective coping strategies, and understand when and how to seek help. Together, we'll remove the stigma and strengthen our collective mental wellness.

Learning objectives:

- Recognize common mental health conditions and their signs in dental professionals and patients.
- Identify coping mechanisms and practical tools to support personal and professional well-being.
- Learn when and how to seek support or refer patients.

**Course Code F22** — 8 – 10 a.m.

### **Conservative Dentistry: Thinking Outside the Box (Hands-on)**

John Gammichia, DMD, FAGD

Dr. Gammichia, a pioneer in adhesion dentistry since 1995, presents a hands-on approach to conservative posterior composite restorations. Attendees will explore techniques for restoring 1–4 cusp molars with bonded composites, offering durable, cost-effective alternatives to crowns and onlays. Through case examples, long-term follow-ups, and step-by-step demonstrations, participants will learn practical strategies for maximizing tooth preservation, addressing non-cavitated lesions, and applying the latest cariology research. This course empowers dentists to deliver predictable, beautiful, and minimally invasive restorations immediately in their practice.

Learning objectives:

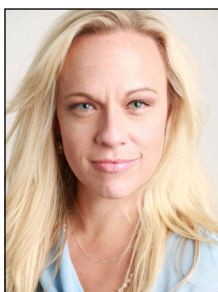
- Understand the principles of adhesion and the products used for posterior composite restorations.



Gammichia



Pompa



Tanner

- Learn step-by-step techniques for 1–4 cusp molar restorations that are durable and cost-effective.
- Apply conservative dentistry strategies, including sealing non-cavitated lesions and managing caries with modern materials.

**Course Code F23** — 8 – 11 a.m.

### **To Pull or Not to Pull**

Daniel G. Pompa, DDS, MS

When initial endodontic treatment fails, determining the best next step can be challenging. This course explores evidence-based options for managing compromised teeth, including retreatment, apical surgery, implant placement, and regenerative procedures. Participants will learn to evaluate prognosis, recognize key diagnostic indicators, and apply principles of bone physiology and guided tissue regeneration. Through case examples and clinical data, attendees will gain a systematic approach to complex decision-making that supports long-term functional and esthetic success.

Learning objectives:

- Differentiate between endo/perio and perio/endo lesions and assess their impact on prognosis.
- Evaluate when to pursue retreatment, surgery, or implant placement based on diagnostic indicators.
- Apply principles of guided tissue regeneration and bone physiology to improve treatment outcomes.

**Course Code F24** — 8 – 10:30 a.m.

### **The Truth about Occlusion and Rethinking "Normal"**

Kelly Tanner, PhD, RDH

Malocclusion and misalignment can have profound effects on oral and overall health, contributing to tooth wear, gum recession, periodontal disease, TMJ disorders, airway issues, and even migraines. This course explores how to assess occlusion, interpret enamel loss and gum recession, and identify the underlying risk factors that may threaten long-term oral health. Participants will gain practical strategies to educate patients, develop effective treatment plans, and support them in achieving healthier, more functional smiles while preventing future complications.

Learning objectives:

- Analyze tooth wear and gum recession to identify underlying occlusal issues.
- Understand the relationship between occlusion, dental health, and overall systemic wellness.
- Develop strategies to educate and treatment-plan for patients with malocclusion or misalignment.

## Friday, May 1, 2026 — Exhibits open 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**Course Code F25 — 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.**

### Helping the Modern Dental Practice Recognize Certain Ethical Issues

Sean Murphy, JD

This engaging course explores contemporary ethical issues in dental practice, offering attendees practical options for addressing these challenges. Using real-world hypotheticals, participants will examine common dilemmas and consider multiple perspectives to enhance decision-making. The interactive format encourages discussion, critical thinking, and problem-solving, making the session both entertaining and educational. Dental professionals will leave better prepared to navigate ethical situations with confidence, integrity, and professionalism in their daily practice.

Learning objectives:

- Analyze common ethical dilemmas in dental practice.
- Evaluate practical options for resolving ethical challenges.
- Apply ethical reasoning to improve decision-making and professional conduct.

**Course counts toward Michigan's ethics requirement.**

### About CE Credits

One hour of class attendance equals one credit of continuing education.

No CE vouchers will be issued on-site.

The Michigan Dental Association is a nationally approved continuing education provider in the ADA Continuing Education Recognition Program (ADA CERP).

•ADA CERP is a service of the American Dental Association to assist dental professionals in identifying quality providers of continuing dental education. ADA CERP does not approve or endorse individual courses or instructors, nor does it imply acceptance of credit hours by boards of dentistry.

•Please note that the Michigan Board of Dentistry does recognize ADA CERP for continuing education credits toward license renewal.

The MDA is an AGD Accepted Program Provider for FAGD/MAGD credit (provider number 219252)

**ADA CERP**® | Continuing Education Recognition Program

**Course Code 26 — 8:30 – 10 a.m.**

### Oral Radiology: Benign and Malignant Lesions of the Jaws

Juan F. Yepes, DDS, MD, PMH, MS, DrPH

This course presents the most common radiographic lesions found in children and adults through an engaging, case-based learning format. Participants will explore a wide range of topics across oral and maxillofacial radiology, emphasizing radiographic interpretation, diagnostic reasoning, and differential analysis. Real-world examples will guide attendees in recognizing characteristic patterns and variations in radiographic presentations, enhancing diagnostic accuracy and confidence in clinical practice.

Learning objectives:

- Understand how to build an effective differential diagnosis in radiology.
- Identify common radiographic lesions in infants, children, and adults.
- Apply case-based interpretation skills to improve diagnostic outcomes.

**Course Code F27 — 9 – 9:45 a.m.**

### Do's and Don'ts in Real Estate When Buying or Selling a Practice

Clint Herrema of Bridge Commercial Realty

Buying or selling a dental practice involves complex real estate decisions that can significantly impact your financial success. This course outlines key strategies for avoiding common pitfalls — such as poor lease structures, inaccurate valuations, and lack of professional guidance — while providing practical tools to protect and enhance property value. Participants will learn how to approach negotiations with transparency and fairness, ensuring smoother transitions and stronger outcomes for both buyers and sellers.

Learning objectives:

- Identify and avoid common real estate pitfalls in dental practice transitions.
- Apply effective valuation and leasing strategies to protect long-term property value.



Murphy



Yepes



Herrema



## Friday, May 1, 2026 (cont'd)

- Demonstrate transparent and emotionally intelligent negotiation techniques for successful outcomes.

### Course Code F28 — 9:45 – 11:15 a.m.

#### Implicit Bias Awareness, Part I

Elizabeth Gadioli

Unconscious attitudes and assumptions can unintentionally influence patient interactions, treatment decisions, and workplace culture. This interactive seminar explores the concept of implicit bias and its effects in both historical and modern health care contexts. Participants will learn to recognize and address bias within their own practices while developing strategies to promote equitable access and inclusive care. Through reflection and guided discussion, attendees will complete pre- and post-assessments to measure personal growth and gain actionable steps toward fostering fairness and respect in patient care.

#### Learning objectives:

- Define implicit bias and its relevance in health care settings.
- Recognize how implicit bias affects patient care and professional relationships.
- Develop strategies to mitigate bias and improve equitable access for all patients.

**This course counts toward the Certified Dental Business Professional program. Earn one credit in the customer service/communication category and one-half credit in the human resources category.**

**This course also counts towards Michigan's implicit bias requirement for licensed health care professionals. Implicit bias training is in addition to any continuing education training required for your profession.**



Gadioli



Fluent

### Course Code F29 — 10 – 10:45 a.m.

#### Unlock Your Practice's Revenue Potential: An RCM Masterclass

iCore RCM Expert

Running a successful dental practice requires more than excellent patient care — it demands effective Revenue Cycle Management to protect and maximize income. Inefficiencies in insurance verification, claims processing, and payments can cost practices thousands annually. This course equips participants with practical strategies to optimize RCM, including automation, outsourcing, and streamlined payment processes. By implementing these techniques, practices can reduce denials, improve cash flow, ease staff workload, and enhance the overall patient experience.

#### Learning objectives:

- Understand the fundamentals of RCM and its impact on practice profitability.
- Learn how automation and outsourcing optimize billing and collections.
- Identify strategies to streamline payments, reduce denials, and increase revenue.

**Counts toward the Certified Dental Business Professional program, finance category, for three-quarters credit.**

### Course Code F30 — 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

#### Air and Suction: The Unseen Heroes of the Dental Office

Marie T. Fluent, DDS, CDICP, FACD

Reliable suction and clean air are essential for efficient, safe, and productive dental care. This course explores how proper air and vacuum systems enhance performance, protect health, and reduce downtime. Attendees will learn key factors in selecting and sizing equipment, maintaining suction from the HVE tip to the central vacuum, and improving overall air quality. Practical maintenance strategies and best practices will be shared to help dental teams ensure consistent, high-quality performance and a healthier operatory environment.

#### Learning objectives:

- Explain the function and importance of the central vacuum and compressor in dental operations.
- Identify key factors that contribute to optimal suction performance during procedures.
- Apply maintenance protocols to improve system reliability and indoor air quality.

### Course Code F31 — 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

#### Diagnose with Confidence Using the Updated Periodontal and Peri-Implant Disease Classification

Rachel S. Sinacola, DDS, MS

This course provides an in-depth review of the 2017 Classifica-

## Friday, May 1, 2026 (cont'd)

tion of Periodontal and Peri-Implant Diseases and Conditions, developed by the American Academy of Periodontology and the European Federation of Periodontology. Participants will learn how to apply the updated multi-dimensional staging and grading system to accurately diagnose periodontal conditions. The course will also cover the new classification for peri-implant diseases and conditions. Through case-based examples, attendees will gain the confidence to identify and diagnose periodontal and peri-implant health and disease chairside.

Learning objectives:

- Understand the key concepts of the 2017 AAP/EFPP classification system.
- Apply staging and grading criteria for periodontal disease diagnosis.
- Differentiate between periodontal and peri-implant diseases using real-world case examples.

**Course Code T32** — 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

### **SPECIAL KEYNOTE**

#### **Winning through Uncertainty**

Sam Goodwin

Uncertainty isn't just inevitable — it's a hidden opportunity for growth and innovation. In this course, Sam Goodwin shares powerful strategies to help leaders and teams adapt, stay focused, and thrive in unpredictable environments. Through inspiring stories and actionable insights, participants will learn how to transform disruption into progress, foster resilience, and lead with clarity and purpose. This energizing session equips professionals with the mindset and tools to not just survive uncertainty, but to win through it.

Learning objectives:

- Reframe uncertainty as a catalyst for growth and innovation.
- Apply actionable strategies to strengthen adaptability and resilience under pressure.
- Cultivate confidence, clarity, and purpose when leading through change.



Sinicola



Goodwin



Casasanta



Fluent

## AFTERNOON SCHEDULE

**Course Code F33** — 12:15 – 1 p.m.

### **Uncover the Secret that PPO Plans Do Not Want You to Know**

Tricia Casasanta of PPO Negotiation Solutions

This life-changing presentation is a must for you, your associates, and your practice. Many practices either feel victimized by the PPO plans they participate with or do not know which plans to credential with — if any at all. Learn the secret insurance companies go out of their way to protect, and impact your practice's claim reimbursement anywhere from 24% to 43% depending on participation.

Learning objectives:

- Identify key factors that determine whether PPO participation benefits or harms practice profitability.
- Analyze insurance strategies that influence claim reimbursements and practice revenue.
- Apply methods to optimize insurance participation and increase reimbursement rates.

**Counts toward the Certified Dental Business Professional program, insurance/billing/coding category, for three-quarters credit.**

**Course Code F34** — 1:15 - 2:45 p.m.

### **Infection Control Check-Up for the State of Michigan**

Marie T. Fluent, DDS, CDICP, FACD

This essential infection control update reviews CDC guidelines and OSHA standards to help dental professionals minimize risks to patients, staff, and themselves. The course emphasizes the science behind infection prevention and compliance with Michigan's continuing education requirement for license renewal. Topics include proper hand hygiene, use of personal protective equipment, sterilization of handpieces, and environmental safety protocols. Participants will leave with practical strategies and reliable resources to maintain the highest standards of infection control in the dental setting.

## Friday, May 1, 2026 (cont'd)

### Learning objectives:

- Apply CDC and OSHA infection control standards to ensure a safe dental environment.
- Implement best practices for hand hygiene, PPE, and sterilization of instruments and handpieces.
- Understand Michigan's infection control CE requirement and identify trusted infection prevention resources.

**Counts toward the Certified Dental Business Professional program, OSHA/HIPAA/OIG category, for one and one-half credits. Also counts toward Michigan's infection control requirement.**

**Course Code EV02 — 1:15 – 2:45 p.m.**

**Women in Dentistry Event — Own Your Swag: Become Unstoppable in Your Achievements and Unshakeable in Your Confidence to Make an Unforgettable Mark on the World**

Amelia "Mimi" Brown

Want to be seen as confident, poised, and powerful? When doing a good job isn't enough, it's time to elevate your presence. This high-energy, hands-on session will help you communicate your value, boost credibility, and project confidence in every interaction. Through practical strategies and interactive exercises, you'll learn how to stand out, connect authentically, and influence with impact.

### Learning objectives:

- Enhance professional credibility and visibility.
- Engage effectively by adapting communication styles.
- Build confidence through networking, negotiation, and personal presence planning.

**Course Code F35 — 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.**

**Minimizing Taxes in Retirement**

Ted Schumann II, MBA, MSF, CFP®, AIF® of DBS Investment Advisers, LLC

Tax planning for dentists is a lifelong process, but retirement brings new challenges and opportunities. This session explores

the tax realities retirees face and provides strategies to minimize taxes while maximizing spending. Participants will learn how to manage Required Minimum Distributions, leverage the "Senior Bonus Deduction" from the One Big Beautiful Bill, and take proactive steps before retirement to protect their nest egg. Practical insights will help dentists preserve resources, reduce tax drag, and enjoy financial confidence throughout retirement.

### Learning objectives:

- Understand the key variables affecting income taxes in retirement.
- Learn strategies for managing Required Minimum Distributions and long-term tax planning.
- Apply pre-retirement steps and deductions to maximize retirement resources.

**Course Code F36 — 3 – 4 p.m.**

**The Opioid Epidemic**

Vincent Benivegna, DDS

Persistent opioid use following dental and surgical procedures remains a serious concern. This course provides dental professionals with evidence-based strategies for responsible opioid prescribing and effective pain management. Participants will learn to counsel patients on the risks of opioid use, comply with state and federal regulations, and explore alternative therapies for managing pain. Emphasis will be placed on Michigan's prescribing requirements and use of the Michigan Automated Prescription System (MAPS) to promote safe, informed, and compliant patient care.

### Learning objectives:

- Understand best practices for safe and compliant opioid prescribing.
- Identify non-opioid and multimodal options for effective pain management.
- Apply Michigan's opioid prescribing laws and MAPS monitoring requirements.

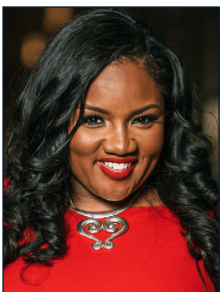
**This course counts toward the Michigan Board of Dentistry's pain management requirement and the training requirement to obtain and renew the controlled substance pharmacy license for dentists.**

**Course Code F37 — 3 – 4 p.m.**

**Chairside Yoga Techniques for Mental and Physical Wellness**

Rachel S. Sinacola, DDS, MS

Working in dentistry is rewarding but physically and mentally demanding. Long hours, repetitive motions, and awkward positions can cause strain and tension. This interactive course teaches simple chairside yoga poses and breathing techniques to reduce stress, improve posture, and enhance well-being.



Brown



Schumann II



Benivegna

## Friday, May 1, 2026 (cont'd)

Designed for all dental team members — whether new to yoga or experienced — participants will learn how brief, effective “microbreaks” can promote lasting comfort, resilience, and overall wellness throughout the workday.

Learning objectives:

- Recognize common sources of musculoskeletal strain.
- Learn simple workday yoga poses and breathing techniques.
- Understand how microbreaks can improve focus, reduce stress, and enhance wellness.

**Course Code F38 — 3 – 4:30 p.m.**

### **What's New: Materials and Tech that Expedite Excellence**

Joshua Austin, DDS, MAGD

With a constant influx of new dental products and technologies, it can be difficult to determine which innovations truly improve clinical outcomes and efficiency. In this dynamic, evidence-based course, Dr. Joshua Austin, *Dental Economics* editorial director and author of *Pearls for Your Practice*, shares unbiased insights into the latest trends shaping modern dentistry. Attendees will learn to evaluate new materials, understand their impact on practice performance, and apply a clear framework for making informed, cost-effective purchasing decisions.

Learning objectives:

- Recognize trends and innovations in dental materials/tech.
- Assess the impact of new products on efficiency, outcomes, and profitability.
- Use criteria to balance time savings with financial investment.

**Course Code F39 — 3 – 4:30 p.m.**

### **Implicit Bias Awareness, Part II**

Elizabeth Gadioli

Part II of this course will continue to delve into implicit biases and how they can influence interactions, treatment decisions, and overall care in medical and dental settings. Participants will explore the historical and current effects of bias, learn to identify its presence within their own practices, and develop

actionable strategies to reduce its impact. The session also includes a pre- and post-assessment to help measure personal growth and support the creation of a more inclusive, equitable, and respectful environment for all patients.

Learning objectives:

- Define implicit bias and its relevance in health care.
- Recognize how bias impacts patient care and practice culture.
- Apply strategies to mitigate bias and improve equitable access for all patients.

**This course counts toward the Certified Dental Business Professional program. Earn one credit in the customer service/communication category and one-half credit in the human resources category.**

**This course counts towards Michigan's implicit bias requirement for licensed health care professionals. Implicit bias training is in addition to any continuing education training required for your profession.**

**Course Code F40 — 3 – 4:30 p.m.**

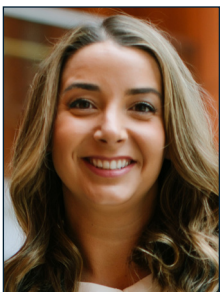
### **Holy \$%&@!, I Didn't Know You Could Do that With Composite (Hands-on)**

John Gammichia, DMD, FAGD

Rediscover the artistry and profitability of posterior composites with Dr. Gammichia in this dynamic, image-driven course. Through more than 1,000 before-and-after photos, attendees will learn to create functional, aesthetic, and efficient restorations. This lecture revitalizes everyday “bread-and-butter” dentistry with practical, immediately applicable techniques and strategies. Participants will leave confident, inspired, and prepared to deliver beautiful, predictable composites that impress patients and boost practice profitability.

Learning objectives:

- Master techniques for creating durable, aesthetic posterior composite restorations.
- Address common misconceptions and challenges, including sensitivity, longevity, and profitability.
- Implement efficient, patient-focused strategies to elevate the quality and enjoyment of everyday restorative procedures.



Sinacola



Austin



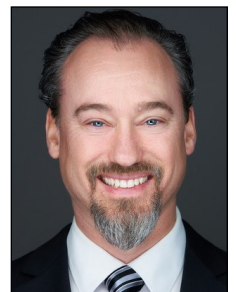
Gadioli



Gammichia



Pompa



Roletto



## Friday, May 1, 2026 (cont'd)

**Course Code F41** — 3 – 5 p.m.

### **The Role of the Dental Professional in Treating the Diabetic Patient**

Daniel G. Pompa, DDS, MS

With diabetes affecting a growing number of dental patients, understanding its impact on oral and systemic health is essential for every dental professional. This course explores the bidirectional relationship between diabetes and oral disease, emphasizing the critical role of dentists and hygienists in early detection and management. Participants will review oral manifestations, patient care modifications, and strategies to improve outcomes for diabetic patients through comprehensive, collaborative care and effective communication within the dental team.

Learning objectives:

- Identify the oral and systemic implications of diabetes and their impact on dental care.
- Recognize the role of dental professionals in early detection and patient education.
- Apply appropriate treatment and management strategies for diabetic patients in clinical practice.

**Course Code F42** — 3 – 4:30 p.m.

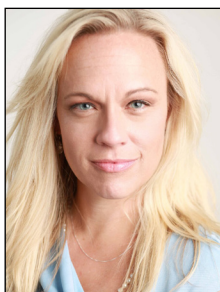
### **Reputation Management with a Digital-Age Perspective**

Cory Roletto, MBA

A dental practice's reputation is critical to its success. This course examines the latest trends in online reviews across platforms such as Google, Facebook, Yelp, and Healthgrades, teaching participants how to manage, foster, and protect their professional image. Attendees will learn practical strategies for responding to reviews, how to leverage reputation management technologies, and understand their impact on SEO (Search Engine Optimization). By integrating simple internal systems and best practices, dental professionals can build trust, attract patients, and maintain a competitive advantage.

Learning objectives:

- Evaluate online review factors that influence patients.
- Implement professional protocols for responding to reviews.
- Apply reputation management technologies to enhance SEO and online visibility.



Tanner



Yepes

**Course Code F43** — 3 – 4:30 p.m.

### **Hygiene Essentials**

Kelly Tanner, PhD, RDH

This dynamic course is designed for dental hygienists seeking to expand their expertise and stay current with evolving best practices. Through engaging discussion, hands-on demonstrations, and cutting-edge technology, participants will enhance their clinical skills and confidence. The course covers key areas including periodontal treatment, occlusal dysfunction, implant care, and caries management, and providing a comprehensive understanding of dental hygiene principles. Attendees will leave equipped to deliver advanced, patient-centered care and elevate the quality and outcomes of their daily practice.

Learning objectives:

- Apply evidence-based strategies for periodontal treatment, diagnosis, and management.
- Identify and manage occlusal dysfunction to reduce risk of tooth loss.
- Implement best practices for dental implant care and caries management.

**Course Code F44** — 3 – 4:30 p.m.

### **Everything that You Want to Know about the Use of Nitrous Oxide in the Practice of Dentistry**

Juan F. Yepes, DDS, MD, MPH, MS, DrPH

This course provides dental professionals with the essential knowledge and practical skills to safely and effectively use nitrous oxide in clinical practice. Participants will gain a clear understanding of the pharmacology, indications, and contraindications for nitrous oxide administration. Emphasis will be placed on best practices, patient safety, and techniques to optimize patient comfort. Practical tips and strategies will be shared to ensure predictable and successful use of nitrous oxide in everyday dental procedures.

Learning objectives:

- Understand the pharmacological basis of nitrous oxide.
- Identify key indications and contraindications for its use in dentistry.
- Apply practical strategies for safe and effective administration in clinical practice.

## Friday, May 1, 2026 (cont'd)

**Course Code F45** — 3 – 4:30 p.m.

### **New Dentist Event — Unscripted Smiles: Improv for Better Chairside Communication**

The Comedy Project's Joe Anderson and Kristin Hirsch

Workshops with The Comedy Project provide a fun, non-threatening way for groups to explore the principles of improv. Through engaging, interactive activities, participants play, connect, and experience the communication and collaboration benefits of improvisation. Exercises gradually build in complexity, from energizing warm-ups to activities that reinforce key takeaways.

Improv is not about being "fast" or "funny." Its core principles help participants become more authentic, creative, and effective co-workers, friends, partners, and people.

Workshop objectives:

- Strengthen active listening and attentiveness.
- Improve collaboration using the "Yes, and" approach.
- Redefine success by prioritizing group-win over self-win outcomes.
- Learn to respond authentically, moving beyond scripted behaviors.

**Counts toward the Certified Dental Business Professional program, customer service/communication category, for one and one-half credits.**

**Course Code F46** — 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

### **Approaches to Leadership — At Your Practice, On Your Team, and as a Volunteer**

Sean Murphy, JD

This course explores pathways to leadership for dental professionals, offering practical strategies to enhance skills and expand influence. Participants will learn how to develop leadership abilities within their dental practice and engage in broader professional opportunities. The session emphasizes self-assessment, goal-setting, and actionable steps to make a meaningful impact. Attendees will leave empowered to take initiative, strengthen their leadership presence, and contribute positively to their teams, patients, and the wider dental community.

Learning objectives:

- Identify pathways to leadership within dental practice and professional organizations.
- Apply strategies to enhance leadership skills and effectiveness.
- Engage in opportunities to make a positive impact locally and beyond.

*Co-sponsored by MDA Insurance, MDA Services, and the American Academy of Dentists.*

### **Table Clinics**

4 – 6 p.m. • Exhibit Hall C

See the listing of table clinics in the MDA Event App (available in early 2026) or the Annual Session website at [annualsection.michigandental.org](https://annualsection.michigandental.org). Table Clinics will take place Friday, May 1, from 4 – 6 p.m.

### **New Dentist Network Lounge (Dentists only)**

**Event code EV03** — 4:30 – 6 p.m. Registration required  
IDC Amway Grand Plaza Hotel

This is a great time for new dentists to network, relax, and enjoy their colleagues all in one place together. There will be food, drinks, and camaraderie. Attendance is FREE when you register for a one-day pass or full conference package.

### **Friday Night Social Event — Runway on Tap**

**Event code EV04** — 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Registration required  
DeVos Place, Grand Rapids

Raise a glass and celebrate with MDA President Dr. Cheri Newman at Runway on Tap! This high-energy evening blends Grand Rapids' craft-beer culture with runway flair for a one-of-a-kind celebration of style and smiles. Sip your favorite drink, cheer on your colleagues as they strut their signature looks, and soak up the fun, laid-back atmosphere that makes this event a crowd favorite. Whether you're walking the runway or raising a toast from the sidelines, you'll be part of a night overflowing with laughter, confidence, and community. Serving looks — one pour at a time!

*Co-sponsored by Macomb District Dental Society, MDA Insurance, and MDA Services.*



Anderson



Hirsch



Murphy



# 2026 ANNUAL SESSION



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## TABLE CLINIC/POSTER APPLICATION

2026 MDA ANNUAL SESSION

APRIL 30 - MAY 2, 2026

DeVos Place, Grand Rapids

The MDA Committee on Continuing Education and Events invites you to share an improved technique, procedure, clinical skill or research topic regarding dentistry and the scope of practice, by presenting a table clinic/poster at the 2026 MDA Annual Session in Grand Rapids. The 2026 Annual Session will be held April 30 – May 2, 2026. Why not consider sharing your knowledge with your colleagues and earn CE credit doing it. An application appears below or online at [annualsession.michigandental.org](http://annualsession.michigandental.org). For more information, contact the MDA at 517-346-9401, or email [mbethea@michigandental.org](mailto:mbethea@michigandental.org).

■ **NOTE:** Table Clinics/Posters will be judged. Prizes will be awarded. The MDA will send a press release to the winner's local newspaper or digital media outlet and receive recognition in the MDA *Journal* (monthly magazine).

Event time: Friday, May 1, 2026, 4 – 6 p.m. \*Presenter must be present during the entire two hours.

☐ Clinic ☐ Poster (check one), Title of Clinic/Poster\*\*:

Lead Contact: Email Address:

On-site Presenter Names (include credentials):

Address: City: ZIP:

Telephone: ( ) Fax: ( )

Professional Discipline\*: ☐ Dentist ☐ Hygienist ☐ Assistant ☐ Student: Name of School:

☐ Other: Name of Organization:

■ **NOTE: Table Clinics/Posters must be educational in nature.** No advertising matter, commercial promotion, solicitation or sales of any type are permitted as part of a Table Clinic/Poster presentation.

One table/poster clinic title sign is provided. The MDA will provide the equipment listed below. All other equipment must be supplied by the presenter. Contact the MDA for audio/visual equipment and pricing at 517-346-9401.

Presenters shall be provided with:

■ 6' x 3' Tackboard (for posters) ■ 6' High Top Table w/chairs (for clinics)

Please check below if you will need:

☐ Electrical Outlet ☐ Table-top Screen

Any other equipment required will be the financial responsibility of the presenter.

■ **NOTICE:** Table Clinics/Posters are limited to approximately 30 clinics; presenters are urged to apply early. Applications due by Feb. 14, 2026. Mail completed application to: Michigan Dental Association, 3657 Okemos Road, Suite 200, Okemos, MI 48864-3927, send an email to [mbethea@michigandental.org](mailto:mbethea@michigandental.org), or go to [annualsession.michigandental.org](http://annualsession.michigandental.org).

\*\*The Michigan Dental Association reserves the right to shorten titles if necessary.



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## Saturday, May 2, 2026 — No Exhibits

**Course Code S47** — 8 – 8:45 a.m.

### **SPECIAL KEYNOTE BREAKFAST**

#### **Go for Gold: Teamwork, Toughness, and Tenacity**

Lindsay Tarpley

*Go for Gold: Teamwork, Toughness, and Tenacity* is an inspiring keynote that unlocks the mindset and strategies behind Olympic-level success. Drawing from real-world experiences in elite competition, Lindsay Tarpley reveals how discipline, adaptability, and mental toughness fuel achievement in any field. Participants will learn how to set ambitious goals, perform under pressure, and thrive through teamwork and resilience — transforming challenges into opportunities for growth and excellence.

Learning objectives:

- Apply proven strategies for goal-setting, adaptability, and overcoming obstacles.
- Strengthen teamwork and communication across diverse personalities.
- Cultivate mental toughness and sustained motivation for long-term success.

**Course Code S48** — 9 - 10 a.m.

#### **Cardiac Resuscitation Training (CPR) (BCLS) (REPEAT)**

Elizabeth Gadioli and Lesley Gadioli, CPR and More

This comprehensive CPR/AED course provides essential lifesaving training tailored for health care providers. Participants will gain hands-on experience in performing adult, child, and infant CPR, using an automated external defibrillator (AED), and managing choking emergencies. The program emphasizes understanding the chain of survival and emergency response protocols through instructor-led demonstrations and practice. Upon successful completion, participants will earn a two-year certification, equipping them with the confidence and skills to respond effectively in real-life medical emergencies.

Learning objectives:

- Perform adult, child, and infant CPR accurately and effectively.

- Demonstrate proper use of an automated external defibrillator.
- Recognize and respond to choking and cardiac emergencies following established protocols.

**Note: CE credit is not granted for CPR courses for dental professionals.**

**Course Code S49** — 9 – 10 a.m.

#### **DDS Unleashed: Future In Sight, Create the Life and Practice You Want**

William E. Mason, DDS, MS

You are not in the dental business — you are in the people business doing dentistry! This engaging and lighthearted course explores how mindset, structure, and vision shape both professional and personal success. Through practical strategies in goal-setting, time management, and behavior design, participants will learn to create rather than react to life's demands. You'll leave inspired to rediscover joy in your daily practice, achieve balance, and build a more fulfilling career rooted in purpose and productivity.

Learning objectives:

- Develop a creating vs. reacting mindset to enhance professional fulfillment.
- Apply the 80/20 principle to improve time management and productivity.
- Implement goal-setting and life structure strategies to achieve meaningful results.

**Course Code S50** — 9 – 10:30 a.m.

#### **How to Create an Incredibly Memorable Patient Experience in Your Practice**

Richard Madow, DDS

Creating patients who say “yes,” refer friends, and consistently reappoint begins with delivering a memorable experience from the first phone call to the final smile. This interactive course uses humor, music, and practical strategies to help dental teams “wow” patients and grow the practice. Attendees will



Tarpley



Gadioli



Mason



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## Saturday, May 2, 2026 (cont'd)

discover easy-to-implement techniques for increasing referrals, improving treatment acceptance, enhancing hygiene programs, and optimizing patient interactions to create loyal, enthusiastic, and satisfied patients.

Learning objectives:

- Implement strategies to enhance the patient experience and increase treatment acceptance.
- Apply methods to boost referrals and strengthen patient loyalty.
- Optimize hygiene and financial protocols to improve practice efficiency and profitability.

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**Course Code S51** — 9 a.m. – Noon

### **The Anterior Composite Playbook: Mastering Class IV Restorations (Hands-on)**

James Wanamaker, DDS

This interactive, hands-on course provides general dentists with a practical “playbook” for creating lifelike Class IV composite restorations. Participants will refine anterior esthetic techniques, from accurate shade selection using photography to mastering multi-layered composite application. Through guided exercises, attendees will fabricate lingual putty matrices, restore natural form and translucency, and perfect finishing and polishing skills for predictable, high-quality results in everyday practice.

Learning objectives:

- Apply advanced shade selection and layering techniques for Class IV restorations.
- Fabricate and utilize lingual putty matrices for accurate form and contour.
- Implement finishing and troubleshooting strategies for natural, durable esthetic outcomes.

Co-sponsored by MDA Insurance, MDA Services, and Ivoclar.

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**Course Code S52** — 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

### **Innovative Techniques for Atraumatic Extractions**

William E. Mason, DDS, MS

This course introduces the Atraumatic Extraction Technique and Root Space Creation Extraction Technique — innovative approaches designed to minimize trauma during tooth removal. Participants will learn how gentle anesthesia, precise root sectioning, and strategic instrumentation can prevent root fractures, preserve socket walls, and enhance healing. By reducing surgical trauma, clinicians can improve patient comfort, facilitate socket preservation, and support immediate implant placement. Unique instruments used in these techniques will be demonstrated and available for inspection following the lecture.

Learning objectives:

- Explain the principles and benefits of atraumatic anesthesia and extraction techniques.
- Describe step-by-step methods and instrumentation for root sectioning and root space creation.
- Recognize how reduced trauma improves healing, socket preservation, and implant outcomes.

**Course counts towards Michigan's pain management requirement.**

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**Course Code S53** — 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

### **Love Dentistry, Have Fun, and Prosper!**

Richard Madow, DDS

Join Dr. Rich Madow for a high-energy, interactive session designed to transform your dental practice. Using humor, music, and real-world examples, participants will learn how to overcome workflow challenges, improve team dynamics, boost treatment acceptance, and enhance the patient experience. This dynamic program provides actionable strategies to increase efficiency, foster a happier, more motivated team, and reignite passion for dentistry, leaving attendees inspired, energized, and equipped to create a thriving, joyful, and profitable practice.

Learning objectives:

- Apply techniques to strengthen team performance, loyalty, and morale.
- Implement strategies to improve treatment plan acceptance and patient satisfaction.
- Utilize practical tools to enhance efficiency, workflow, and workplace enjoyment.

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**Course Code S54** — 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

### **Crown Lengthening: How, When, and Why**

Linda Dobis, DDS

When possible, saving a natural tooth is often the best option. This course explores the role of crown lengthening in preserving teeth, improving esthetics, and supporting prosthetic success. Attendees will learn how to identify ideal candidates for crown lengthening, understand surgical techniques and materials, and incorporate proper planning and coding into their practice. Practical pre- and post-operative recommendations will also be discussed to help ensure optimal outcomes for both the clinician and the patient.

Learning objectives:

- Identify clinical indications and limitations for crown lengthening.
- Evaluate when to maintain vs. extract a tooth.
- Review surgical techniques, materials, and patient care protocols.

## Registration Information

**Save money by registering early** — Early bird pricing ends at midnight on Monday, March 23, 2026. Rates for the full package increase \$100 and the one-day pass rates increase \$50.

**Exhibit Hall Access** — Exhibit Hall-Only badges will not be issued. To access the exhibit floor, you must purchase either a one-day pass or the full conference package.

### Full-Conference Package

Full-conference package extends over 2.5 days starting Thursday, April 30 through Saturday, May 2, 2026. It includes up to 20 continuing education credits, three keynote presentations, exhibits, two lunches and one breakfast, Welcome Reception on Thursday, New Dentist Network Lounge (dentists only) and Runway on Tap special evening event on Friday and more.

### Registration Categories

**Note:** A badge is required for all lectures and Exhibit Hall. Fees are as follows:

- **Students** — Dental, hygiene and dental assisting students are welcome to attend

the conference at a flat discounted rate of \$99. A student can attend any day or all days for the same low price of \$99. That is the total price paid, not a per-day charge. Registration includes one meal each day, continuing education and admission to the exhibits, and all evening special events including the New Dentist Network Lounge (dentists only) on Friday. Please note that complimentary course attendance is no longer available. Dental students will not be permitted at any Annual Session activities, events or continuing education without registering and paying the \$99 flat rate.

- **Member Dentists** — Receive discount pricing on the full conference package described above for \$550. A one-day pass for Thursday or Friday is \$299 and includes up to eight CE credits, lunch, and exhibit hall admission. The Saturday one-day pass is \$199 and includes up to 4 CE credits and breakfast. No exhibits on Saturday.

- **Dental Team Members** — the full conference package for dental team members is \$499; a Thursday or Friday one-day pass is \$209 and Saturday one-day

pass is \$129. Same inclusions apply for dental team members purchasing a full conference package or one-day pass as described above.

- **Non-Member Dentists** — the full conference package for nonmember dentists is \$750; a Thursday or Friday one-day pass is \$399 and Saturday one-day pass is \$249. Same inclusions apply for nonmember dentists purchasing a full conference package or one-day pass as described above. Additional fees paid can be applied to membership within 30 days.

- **House of Delegates Dentists** — Special package pricing is available for HOD members (check the *Delegate Digest* for details). Dentists participating in the House of Delegates register separately with a link provided in the *Delegate Digest*.

- **Individual course purchases are not available.** There is no pre-selection of sessions for one-day passes or the full conference package. This structure allows flexibility to create a schedule that suits you best on-site. To ensure availability, we recommend arriving early to classrooms. Room monitors will scan badges upon entry for CE credit.

No packets will be mailed ahead of time. Badges will be printed at self-serve kiosks on-site. On-site registration will be available at self-serve kiosks or be assisted by MDA staff. Please allow for extra time if registering on-site.

### On-site Registration

On-site registration is located in Exhibit Hall C of DeVos Place.

Hours are:

- Wednesday, April 29: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Thursday, April 30: 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Friday, May 1: 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Saturday, May 2: 7 – 11:30 a.m.

A name badge is required for all CE courses, events, and exhibits. A driver's license or photo ID may be requested for on-site registration or for a replacement badge.

## Find Your CE Track

A broad choice of speakers and topics are offered during the MDA's Annual Session. To make your selection easier, look for the initials on pages 12 and 13 that match the course tracks in which you are interested.

- **Leadership Track (LT)** — Join the leadership community! Whether you are a leader in organized dentistry, in another volunteer capacity, or want to apply what you learn in your practice — these courses will help you hone your leadership skills.
- **New Dentist Track (ND)** — Courses targeted specifically for the young dentist, dental residents, and dental students. Selected and recommended by the MDA New Dentist Committee.
- **Certified Dental Business Professional Track (C)/Front Office Team (FOT)** — Courses designed to meet CDBP program requirements. In addition to CDBP participants, these courses will help any front office team member be more effective and efficient.
- **Hygienists (H)/Assistants (A)** — See Schedule-at-a-Glance on Pages 12-13 for hygiene and dental assisting courses.



## Additional Information

### Cancellation Policy

For a cancellation refund, a written request must be mailed and/or emailed to the MDA office no later than April 22, 2026. A \$50 administration fee will be charged per package cancellation. No refunds will be granted after April 22, 2026.

### Communication

All registrants will receive an email confirmation with selections upon registration completion. One week before the event you'll receive a "know-before-you-go" email with on-site details including parking.

### Call for Hosts!

Volunteer to host a speaker and earn FREE CE credit. For more information about hosting, contact the MDA's Marcia Bethea at [mbethea@michigandental.org](mailto:mbethea@michigandental.org).

### Disabilities or Special Accommodations

If you have a disability and require special accommodations, please check the box when registering or contact the MDA Continuing Education Department at 800-589-2632, ext. 408 or email [jmarquardt@michigandental.org](mailto:jmarquardt@michigandental.org). Advance notice is required by March 31, 2026.



### Disclaimer

Neither the Michigan Dental Association nor its component societies or committees accept responsibility for the information presented, either orally or in writing, at any program sponsored, supported or publicized by any of them;

## 2026 ANNUAL SESSION



and the information and views expressed are those of the presenter and not necessarily the positions of the MDA, its component societies, or committees.

### Questions?

Call the MDA at 517-346-9402 or email the MDA's Amanda Mclean at [amclean@michigandental.org](mailto:amclean@michigandental.org).

## DOES YOUR FRONT OFFICE STAFF HAVE THEIR CDBP?

The MDA **Certified Dental Business Professional** program is a service designed to help your practice succeed. Available exclusively through the MDA!

Dental office business staff can earn the CDBP credential by taking just 30 credits of MDA continuing education courses. Pay-as-you-go classes are value-priced and available at Annual Session, at MDA CE seminars, and online.

The MDA - as always, your first choice for quality continuing education!

**ENROLLMENT IS OPEN NOW!**



**GET STARTED TODAY!**

# 2026 ANNUAL SESSION



## HOTEL REGISTRATION FORM 2026 ANNUAL SESSION Grand Rapids, MI

Reservations must be made directly with the hotel and by the cutoff date listed below to receive the group rate. Rooms have been blocked for the MDA. Rates do not include sales or occupancy taxes.

**Note: All rooms must be guaranteed with a credit card.**

RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE BY PHONE OR ONLINE.  
SEE HOTEL INFORMATION LISTED BELOW:

| Hotel   | Rate  | Reservation Deadline |
|---|-------|----------------------|
| <b>Amway Grand Plaza Hotel*</b><br>187 Monroe, N.W.<br>Grand Rapids, MI 49503<br>616-774-2000<br>Online reservations:<br><a href="http://michigandental.org/Annual-Session">michigandental.org/Annual-Session</a> | \$179 | April 8, 2026        |
| <b>J. W. Marriott</b><br>235 Louis St., N.W.<br>Grand Rapids, MI 49503<br>616-242-1500<br>Online reservations:<br><a href="http://michigandental.org/Annual-Session">michigandental.org/Annual-Session</a>        | \$249 | April 8, 2026        |
| <b>Holiday Inn</b><br>310 Pearl Street, N.W.<br>Grand Rapids, MI 49504<br>616-235-7611<br>Online reservations:<br><a href="http://michigandental.org/Annual-Session">michigandental.org/Annual-Session</a>        | \$144 | April 7, 2026        |

\*Headquarters hotel

A map with hotel locations is available on the MDA website at  
[annualsession.michigandental.org/Hotels](http://annualsession.michigandental.org/Hotels)

**April 30 – May 2, 2026**

## Annual Session Early-Bird Pricing\*

Choose from two options:

Full conference package is a savings of \$647 for member dentists!

### Full Conference Package\*\*

Up to 20 credits • Includes lunch daily

|            |       |
|------------|-------|
| Members    | \$550 |
| Staff      | \$499 |
| Nonmembers | \$750 |

### One-Day Pass – Thursday or Friday

Up to 8 credits • Includes lunch daily

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Members (Th or F) | \$299 |
| Staff (Th or F)   | \$209 |
| Nonmembers        | \$399 |

### One-Day Pass – Saturday

Up to 4 credits • Includes breakfast

|            |       |
|------------|-------|
| Members    | \$199 |
| Staff      | \$129 |
| Nonmembers | \$249 |

### Students (dental, hygiene, dental assisting)

\$99 for one-day pass or full conference package

\*Early-bird pricing ends at midnight March 23, 2026. Register early for these reduced rates!

\*\*Full conference package also includes:

Friday evening social event – a \$150 value (see Page 28 for details.)

\*Special package pricing for HOD members (Check your *Delegate Digest* for details.)

**Register online at**  
**[annualsection.michigandental.org](https://annualsection.michigandental.org)**  
**or call 517-346-9402**





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Okemos, MI 48864-3927  
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**Please share with your entire dental team**

**REGISTER NOW! EARLY-BIRD PRICING ENDS MARCH 23, 2026!**

## Featuring these speakers:

Mark Donaldson • Sherri Lukes, RDH, MS, FAADH • Jonelle Anamelechi, DDS, MSPH  
April Callis-Birchmeier, PMP, CCMP, CSP • Marie T. Fluent, DDS, CDIPC, FACD  
Joshua Austin, DDS, MAGD • Kelly Tanner, PhD, RDH • Rachel Sinacola, DDS  
Special Keynote presentations by Zonya Foco, RDN, Sam Goodwin,  
American Football Player Lindsay Tarpley, and others . . .

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