

Enough SAID

SAID's 51st Meeting had an International Flair By Bob Leonetti

On November 12th, 2016, President Paul Kovalski convened the 51th annual session of **SAID**. The group has come a long way since its first meeting in Houston in 1966. At that time there was no organization that dealt with the issues involved in dental care for patients with disabilities in institutional settings. Dr. Gerald Bensberg convened that first **SAID** meeting to address the specific needs of this dedicated group of dental professionals and their patients. Fifty-one years later, that group is still active, still relevant and still meeting annually. In the interim, its members have written & updated a set of 15 educational modules designed to assist dental professionals in the care of patients with disabilities. It has also changed its name while maintaining its acronym. Formerly the *Southern Association of Institutional Dentists*, **SAID** has now become *Special Care Advocates in Dentistry* to reflect the changing, more diverse makeup of the organization. No longer just dentists, **SAID** includes among its members dental auxiliaries, manufacturers, physicians, administrators all with the common goal of improving both access to and quality of dental care for those with disabilities. No longer serving the needs of just institutional dentists, **SAID** has an increasing number of dental professionals that serve these clients in less traditional settings. Neither is the group exclusively Southern numbering among its members, people from all over the United States and Canada.

This year's session took place in beautiful Savannah Georgia and featured speakers from Canada and Australia. The Annual Strategic planning meeting took place at dinner on Wednesday evening and featured a lively exchange about the future of SAID and its continued relevance in the current healthcare landscape.



The lecture portion of the meeting began on Thursday morning with breakfast and a warm welcome from Dr. Paul Kovalski, SAID's President.

The entire morning session came in the form of a three hour lecture by Dr. David Clark, Clinic Director of Dental Services at Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences and a faculty member at the University of Toronto. His talk entitled "*Mental Health Issues and the Special Care Patient in the Dental Setting*" addressed concerns common to all members who treat not just patients with mental illness, but all patients with "special needs".



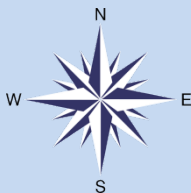
After lunch, there was a talk entitled "*The World of Restraints; Down Under in Western Australia*" given by Dr. Phillip Chantler from Perth Australia. His talk centered on issues surrounding protective restraints and different solutions that have been employed in Western Australia. It became quickly apparent that many issues surrounding the use of restraints are universal.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent discussing infection control and the ever-tightening grip on the practice of dentistry particularly in hospital settings. Peggy Spitzer, a dental hygienist with a Master's in Education presented a somewhat sobering look at infection control practices past, present, and future. She offered practical advice for practitioners regarding the latest trends in infection control including the more rigorous AIMEE guidelines now being employed by JCAHO in evaluating dental clinics. It is not known whether or not these guidelines will affect (infect?) private practice settings but attendees should now be prepared for anything!





After a short business meeting, attendees shifted their focus from erudition to amusement. President Paul had arranged a dinner cruise on the Savannah River Queen. There was food, music camaraderie and door prizes. What's not to like? Members universally reported what a great time they had.



After breakfast on Friday, Dr. Solon Kao presented a lecture on antibiotic management in the patient with special needs. Dr. Kao, a professor at the Dental College of Georgia at Augusta University gave an excellent review of antibiotic usage and over usage as they apply to the special needs population. Next came a presentation by SAID's own Beverly Holloway who along with Erin Boyleston gave an informative talk on medical histories and medications as they apply to oral health and treatment.



The meeting concluded with a lively Pearls session hosted as always by SAID's own Dr. Itzkoff as well as the Annual Review of dental Literature presented by Drs. Veazey & Levi

Dr. Kovalski adjourned the 2017 SAID Annual Session with an invitation to meet again in Asheville, North Carolina November 15th-17th 2017.



- Those of you coming to Asheville....
- Don't forget to bring a door prize.....
- Something from your home city or state that shows off your hometown pride....
- We promise you'll leave with something equally as wonderful!



And don't forget
your pearls...when
you come to
Asheville!!



Not those pearls.....

*....short (4-6 minutes)
bits of information,
products or techniques
that you think may be
a help to others. You
can present your pearl
on Friday afternoon.
You never know what
just might be an
inspiration to someone*



Meet the SAID Officers for 2017 (From Left)

Secretary-Risa Levi, President-Betsy White,
Treasurer- Kristi Collins, Immediate Past President-
Paul Kovalski, President-Elect Kim Espinoza

E-mail us photos of **you** hard at
work. SAID is revising our
website collage to include more
present members.....

drrobrtleonetti1978@gmail.com



President's Letter

By Betsy White



It is an honor to serve as President of Special Care Advocates in Dentistry (SAID) this next year. More than 50 years ago, Dr. Gerald Bensberg assembled a group of dental and medical professionals to learn how to better serve the oral health needs of those institutionalized individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. During the last 52 years, we have been part of an ever changing evolution of care. Our challenge this year is to understand the appropriate use of Medical Immobilization and Protective Stabilization (MI/PS). We have established a study committee to review MI/PS and have been invited by American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry (AADMD) to join in the efforts to establish, together or separately, guidelines for MI/PS.

This year we will meet in beautiful Asheville, North Carolina, November 15 - 19, 2017, and continue to learn and fellowship with special care colleagues. Our Thursday lecture topics will include information and discussions on Medical Immobilization and Protective Stabilization as well as our treasured Literature Review and Pearls session. Friday we have lined up speakers on Cone Beam Technology, an Oral Health Aide Program, Caries Detection and more.

The best part of being involved in Special Care Advocates in Dentistry is enjoying the family of providers. That family thrives on past friendships and incorporates new members quickly. SAID has always been a comfortable place where we can learn from one another and share stories with people that understand.

I look forward to seeing you in Asheville!

Warmest Regards,

Betsy Lee White, RDH, BS



Two SAID members Honored at 2016 Meeting

Since 2009, SAID has been honoring the Dental Auxiliary who has demonstrated dedication & loyalty to the organization. The award is named after deceased member Sarah Bradshaw and is presented to a SAID member Dental Auxiliary who has distinguished oneself in the field of Dentistry for Patients with Disabilities while making significant contributions toward the advancement of the mission of SAID which is “to improve the oral health of people with disabilities through service, education, and advocacy”. This year’s honoree was Jen Hew. Jen is a long-time SAID member and someone who has worked extensively with Special Needs patients. Jen has a Masters’ degree from UNO and is an associate professor in LSU’s Dental School. She has served SAID as Secretary, President and currently develops our course evaluation questionnaires.



Jenni Hew



George Johnson (R) talks with Tom McIver

In 2015, the Awards committee decided to inaugurate a new award honoring the Dentist member who “exemplifies the qualities to which all SAID members can aspire”. Recipients will be dedicated dentists who have distinguished themselves while serving patients with special needs in an institutional or other setting, will be members in good standing of SAID and have contributed to SAID by taking on organizational responsibilities helping to advance the mission of SAID. The award is named in honor of Dr. F. Thomas McIver who is one of SAID’s most tenured members.

This year’s McIver Award winner was Dr. George Johnson, long-time SAID member who produced the first SAID newsletter and did so for many years. George gave SAID its first web presence in the early 90’s. He wrote the first federal grant for block assignments in dental Schools for patients with disabilities. He has contributed to several of SAID’s modules & has been to 50 of SAID’s 51 meetings. He will be acting as host and contact person for this year’s SAID Meeting.

The awards committee will continue to present these two awards whenever a worthy candidate has been identified. If you have any potential nominees, please contact Bob Leonetti, Carolyn Fetter or David Itzkoff.

Welcome to Asheville

By George Johnson



We would like to take this opportunity to welcome SAID members and others to the 2017 Annual Meeting, held in Asheville, NC located in the Great Smoky Mountains of Western North Carolina home of the 2017 NCAA National Basketball Champions. Asheville is a diverse regional hub with excellent medical facilities and numerous award winning breweries. It has also been referred to as the San Francisco of the East and Beer City USA.



The meeting this year will be held at the new Hampton Inn in the Biltmore



section of Asheville. The hotel is on the edge of the Historic Biltmore Village District, near the Biltmore House, the largest privately owned house in the United States, built by George Vanderbilt around the end of the 19th century. In the Village, which is located only yards from the Hotel, you will find many small boutique shops, restaurants with outstanding cuisine, and art galleries. All Souls Cathedral, an Episcopal Church founded by George Vanderbilt in 1896,

is adjacent to the Hotel property and has served as the parish for the Village for over 100 years. Note that your special hotel room rate will be good through Sunday June 19th.

If you are a beer connoisseur you will be in hog (or beer) heaven. For those of you that are adventurous I recommend the Pub Cycle Tour or the La Zoom Band Beer Bus Tour of downtown Asheville.

You will be arriving at the tail end of the leaf season in our area, but hopefully there will still be some color left for you to see. Candle Light Tours at the Biltmore House will have just begun, and I highly recommend taking advantage of group pricing for this tour on Friday night. More details will follow about making reservations for the tour.



Asheville is the 11th largest city in NC with a population of about 90,000. Most major airlines serve the Asheville Regional Airport (AVL) some 15 miles south of town just off I26. Some people may elect to fly into Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT) in Charlotte NC about a 1.5 hour drive by interstate or Greenville Spartanburg Regional Airport (GSP) located in Greenville SC about 50 miles from Asheville. Uber service is available from the Asheville airport for about \$15 dollars.

I think you will find the program informative and exciting with topics that have not appeared on our program before. Can you make a definitive diagnosis of a carious lesion in a tooth without using an x-ray? It might be possible! There will be the usual excellent Table Clinics and Vendor displays, as well as Davis & Mary's Pearls along with Doug & Mannie's literature Review. This year's program will be supported by the local Mountain Area Health Education Center, MAHEC, which is located just up the hill from the hotel. Transportation to and from the building will be provided during meeting hours for those of you that do not wish to hike up the hill.

SAID has not held a meeting in Asheville since 2004. We are looking forward to seeing all of you this fall, where we will have an exciting educational experience and hours of fellowship with old and new friends. See you at the Hampton Inn Biltmore November 15th-17th. Wishing all of you safe and happy traveling to the beautiful Land of The Sky. Your local contact will be **George Johnson, drbimini@gmail.com**. He will be happy to answer any questions that you might have. Please feel free to contact him. See y'all in Asheville!



Please join us for this year's educational seminar,
SAID's 52nd Annual Meeting
November 15-17th, 2017

