



August, 2014

Enough SAID

SAID Finds their True North at 2013 Meeting

By Bob Leonetti



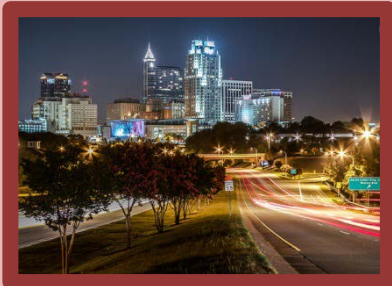
Last fall, SAID once again ventured north of the Mason-Dixon Line for their annual meeting as Philadelphia played host to the 48th Annual Session. The “City of Brotherly Love” did not disappoint. Those arriving on Wednesday evening were pleased to find an abundance of fine restaurants awaiting them in the Old City Section of the city within minutes of the hotel. After dinner, Bob & Joyce Leonetti conducted an impromptu walking tour, introducing attendees to Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, Elfreth’s Alley, George Washington’s “White House”, Christ Church and the Betsy Ross House, along with a wealth of small art galleries; all within walking distance of the hotel.



The meeting began on Thursday with President Mannie Levi calling the Strategic Planning meeting to order. He walked members through an agenda which included online CE, module modifications and website upgrades. The biggest change that came out of the executive session involved a format change for the 2014 meeting. Next November, the Annual Session will kick off on Wednesday evening with the Strategic Planning Meeting over dinner. This will be followed by two full days of Continuing education on Thursday and Friday. It



Don't forget to register today for the Annual SAID conference. Go to www.saident.org and click on "Annual Seminar Registration". Then click where it says "click here to register." This takes you to a "PayPal page" where you can both pay your dues for the year and register for the conference.



was thought that the new format would result in less office down time for meeting attendees while increasing overall attendance.

Thursday afternoon, the educational portion of the conference began with George Martinez speaking about the "Power of Prevention". This was followed by a presentation by Dr. Evan Spivak talking about treatment planning dilemmas when dealing with complex geriatric patients. The Thursday session ended with the annual SAID Business meeting where membership approved the actions of the Strategic planning committee. Also introduced SAID's 2013-1014 Officers:



Bob Hollowell- President

Jen Hew- Vice-President

Betsy White-Secretary

Frances McClure-Treasurer

-Mannie Levi-Immediate Past President

Thursday ended with the Annual President's reception hosted by President Mannie Levi. Held at the Wyndham's Sherman-Hancock Room, the food was great and the camaraderie even better. There were door prizes galore either from the host city or brought by attendees from their home states. The highlight of the festivities was a visit from a Philadelphia's iconic mummers.



The Hegeman String Band regaled attendees with mummers' favorites like Alabama Jubilee and Oh 'Dem Golden Slippers.

The Friday full-day session started with a lecture on Pharmacology given by Pharmacist Tom Viola entitled *Pharmacology De-Classified*. The

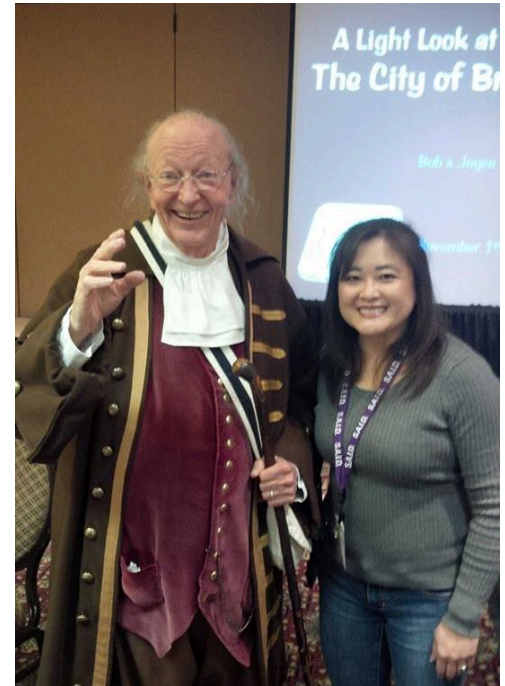


morning session ended with a presentation by eminent provider of special needs dentistry, Dr. Burt Nussbaum who spoke about the importance of involving a team of experts in the care of patients with disabilities. During lunch, Bob & Joyce Leonetti



presented a Light-hearted look at the history, lore, & myths surrounding the host city of Philadelphia. Their talk was interrupted by a special guest. Dr. Benjamin Franklin took time away from his duties at the Constitutional Convention to address the group about the importance of what we do as advocates for those with disabilities.

After lunch, Dr Sam Zwetchkenbaum along with Dr. Rita Jablonski gave a presentation on The Patient with Dementia. It included an easy-to-use tool to measure the cognitive status of a patient.



1. Orientation to time- ask each separately

"Please tell me the *year, month, day of the week, date, season.*"

2. Orientation to place- ask each separately

"Please tell me the name of *the state we are in, the county, the city, the building, the floor*"

3. Register three words

"I am going to say three words and I would like you to remember these words because I am going to ask for them again. When I give you the words, please repeat them. Those words are APPLE, PENNY and TABLE."

(Let the patient repeat those words.)

"Now I want you to remember those words because I'm going to ask for them in a couple of minutes"

4. Distraction

"Please spell WORLD backwards" (Patient says D-L-R-O-W)

5. Recall the three words

"A minute ago I gave you three words to remember. Can you tell me what those words were?"

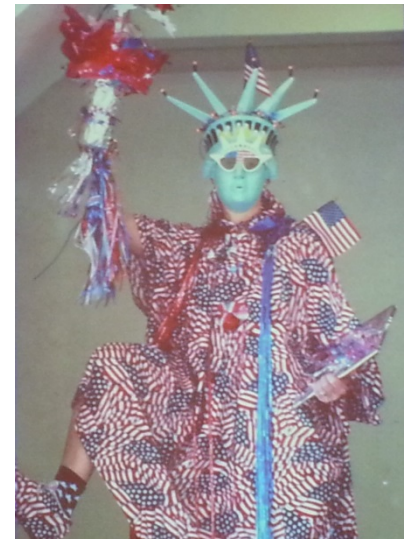
Don't forget to bring door prizes from your hometown to this year's seminar November, 5-7 2014





The day closed with a presentation by the irrepressible Patty Doyle on mental illness and dental care that she called the Dental-Mental connection. Patty brought out a number of excellent points regarding the “special needs” of patients with mental

illness. The presentation also reinforced exactly what makes Patty so very special to us.



After Patty’s talk, the large group broke up into smaller ones for dinner on-their own in Philly’s Olde City section. Later that evening they reconvened for a nighttime trolley tour of the city. The guide immediately engaged the group with tales of Philadelphia past and present including a look at all of the finest sights in “the Cradle of Liberty”. A particular favorite of the group was a stop at Philadelphia’s famed art museum complete with photo ops on the steps and in front of the Rocky Statue.



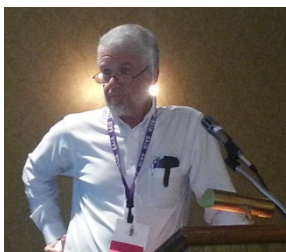
We all had a great time and I had the joy of seeing Philadelphia through new eyes. It made the long days of preparation for the meeting so worth it for me.



Saturday came and with it a most interesting lecture on Forensic odontology given by Said’s own Dr. Paul Kovalski. Paul has served as a dental consultant to medical examiners in New Jersey and his lecture made us realize the importance of

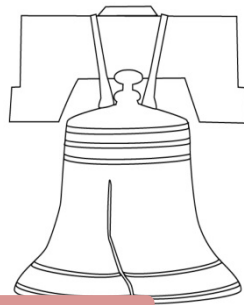
meticulous record keeping especially with our very special patients.

The next presentation was the Annual Literature review presented this year by Dr. Doug Veazey who did a phenomenal job reviewing all of the pertinent articles involving Dentistry for patients with disabilities. This was followed by the annual Pearls presentation where members bring products, techniques, and cases to the group’s attention. It is a feature that never fails to





teach us something we didn't know before. Dr David Itzkoff (The "I"-Man) did his usual masterful job navigating through approximately 10-12 short presentations. After "Pearls", it was sadly time to go our separate ways promising to meet next year in Raleigh, NC for the 48th Annual SAID Seminar and Convention. President Bob Hollowell promises a fascinating itinerary as well as a lot of fun in North Carolina's Capital City. Philly, Thanks for the memories and Raleigh, here we come!





Raleigh Welcomes SAID

By Bob Hollowell

Just in case you haven't visited Raleigh recently, you can be assured that it is not the Raleigh that Barney Fife described on the Andy Griffith Show. Raleigh is indeed one of the best places to visit and enjoy rich ethnic flavors that foodies across the country write about. Raleigh's museums and historic sites are treasure troves for those with a passion for history or seeking cultural inspiration. For those seeking more invigorating experiences, Raleigh offers beautiful venues for outdoor recreation, surprising interplays of art and nature, and the excitement of some of the best sports rivalries anywhere. Raleigh is also a place to experience the energy of live concerts or mingle music and food at more intimate venues.

The Raleigh area is ablaze with color, fun and excitement in the fall. November 2014 will provide many opportunities for SAID participants to enjoy applicable CE, practical discussion, and networking of friends and colleagues. We anticipate that our panel of speakers will offer insightful guidance for those of us who work with patients with developmental disabilities and/or experience the challenges of reimbursement for dental care. A speaker and topic list should be posted soon.

The meeting will be hosted close to great shopping, food, and entertainment. Food networks and writers have praised the flavors of both the old and the new South as experienced among Raleigh's thousands of eateries. Be sure to try the flavors of Carolina ribs or barbecue as well as the delicious seafood that is transported fresh daily from the North Carolina coast. You can find flavors from the far corners of the earth, gourmet pastries and chocolates unmatched anywhere, and craft beers and local wines that prove that this is the new South.

You can mix those flavors with the sounds of almost every music genre or you may choose to complete your evening at an outdoor venue that will capture the relaxed Southern temperament with sounds that drift easily across the crisp autumn air. Raleigh is North Carolina's capital of live music: in the tavern, in the amphitheater or in the auditorium.

The North Carolina Museum of Art, the NC Museum of Natural Science, and the NC Museum of History are all within a short drive or cab ride from our host hotel. The NCMA has a continuous showing of *The Birds of America*, a collection of John J. Audubon's work consisting of 435 hand-colored prints produced by a combination of engraving and aquatinting. Audubon's birds are vividly portrayed in their natural habitats, surrounded by the flowers or foliage typical of their environment. November brings *Small Treasures*, the first exhibition to focus exclusively on the quality skill, and diversity of small-format works by van Dyck, Brouwer, Teniers, Hals, Rembrandt, Vermeer, Steen, Terborch, Dou, and van Mieris.

The North Carolina Museum of History encourages visitors to discover the area's past and to reflect on their own lives and their place in history. The fall exhibits look at North Carolina's role in the development of bluegrass music and factors contributing to the soaring popularity of this music genre. In November, the museum will host a film festival and exhibit that will look at filmmaking in the Tar Heel State. The NC Museum of Natural Sciences invites visitors to look at the natural world through the distinct lens of North Carolina's diverse geography, prehistoric past, geology, plants and animals and experience live animals and hands-on activities.

Raleigh is indeed full of the Southern charm and the welcoming nature that Hollywood has bestowed upon our region, but it is also much more. SAID members and friends should come to Raleigh to learn about ways to improve the lives of the patients that we work and advocate for every day in our practices. But we also welcome **y'all** to Raleigh to experience the fresh air, the culture, and the relaxation that we love in our part of the South.

An online visitor's guide for Raleigh can be found at <http://www.visitraleigh.com/visitors/request-visitor-info/>



Don't forget your pearls..



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
Saturday morning.
You never know what
just might be an
inspiration to
someone else.**

A Message from our President

By Bob Hollowell

Dear Members and Friends,

Founded almost fifty years ago by dental professionals dedicated to the treatment of those with mental illness or developmental disabilities in institutions, SAID remains an organization devoted to advocacy and education for those with disabilities.



As the health and care of individuals with special needs has changed, SAID has followed suit. Many of our clients have emerged from institutions and function significantly within the community. Likewise their healthcare is managed by dental care providers in the community and not solely in institutions. From a modest beginning as 27 members of the Southern Association of Institutional Dentists from 13 states, our membership now represents 29 states plus Canada, 66 institutions and Dental Schools, and many community practices. Our scope includes the developmentally disabled, the mentally ill, and patients with physical, age, and medically-related limitations. In 2010 we became Special Care Advocates In Dentistry, to better reflect the diversity of our organization and the patients that we treat.

We hope that you find that membership in this organization can provide a forum to exchange ideas, news and innovations and offer camaraderie with others reporting similar patient problems and concerns. Our meetings provide access to relevant continuing education and other dental professionals caring for individuals with disabilities. Our 2014 Annual Meeting returns to North

Carolina's Capital City, Raleigh, to offer superior, but reasonably priced continuing education, and tremendous opportunity for networking with new and old friends. We will look at "The Affordable Care Act" and "Is it Addressing Special Needs and Medically Necessary Dental Care?" I hope each of you will plan to join me in Raleigh, November 5-7.

Bob

The following is a reprint of an editorial originally appearing in the May, 2013 issue of "Outlook & Bulletin" a publication of the Southern Dental Society of New Jersey, a component society of the American Dental Association.

The Specialness of "Special Needs"

By Bob Leonetti



We've all heard the expression "special needs". It's a tactful way to describe patients who are different. Special needs patients include those with developmental disabilities consisting mainly of genetic, nutritional, peri-natal, drug & trauma induced disabilities. It also encompasses those with mental illness, physical & age-related limitations, and more. While politically correct, it is a misnomer when viewed in a context of dental care. While on the board of the Academy of Dentistry for Patients with Disabilities (ADPD), a few of us were tasked with developing a "standard of care for patients with disabilities". It wasn't long (1 meeting) before we decided that the task was as impossible as it was unnecessary. There is after all only one "standard of care". A medical standard of care specifies appropriate treatment based on scientific evidence and collaboration between professionals involved in the treatment of a given condition; in our case, dental disease. While there are many different appropriate ways to treat a given condition, there is only one standard- excellence. Patients with disabilities deserve no less because they are disabled. They don't really have "special" needs; they have **dental** needs. What they also have is more obstacles to care than the average patient. Let's talk about some of those. Access to care is the largest obstacle. Most of these patients can't find dentists willing to treat them. There are many reasons for this. Many of these patients have multiple diagnoses and a host of complicating medical conditions that affect their care. Dentists are hesitant to take on cases they deem beyond their expertise. Education and communication are the keys to overcoming this obstacle. Learn more about your patient through reading and continuing education. Get a thorough medical history. Ask the patient if possible; if not their caregiver. Use this information along with what you gather through examination to establish your diagnosis being careful to consult the patient's medical caregivers before deciding on a course of treatment. Fear of litigation is another obstacle that keeps dentists from treating this population.

Again, education and communication are the way around or over this hurdle. The more you know about your patient, the higher your confidence level. The better you communicate with them, the

less likely they are to sue. Also this is an extremely non-litigious group. Patients and their caregivers are usually extremely grateful to be seen.

Most of these are on Medicaid and we all know what that means in NJ. Only 15 % of NJ Dentists accept Medicaid and who can blame them. Few patients can afford treatment without insurance. This is indeed a problem but many dedicated doctors find a way to treat these patients even though not profitable. You don't have to treat them all but if every dentist treated a few, the access hurdle could be overcome. Other obstacles include communication, transportation, and office layout to name a few. These patients may not be able to communicate the nature and extent of their dental problems to you. This takes patience and time; time for which you are not reimbursed. Many times you and members of your staff will be on the phone for hours tracking down guardians, caregivers, family members to find out exactly what is wrong, how long it's been going on and obtaining consent to treat. Transportation issues may limit a patient's choice of appointment times and can force them to cancel or break appointments through no fault of their own. Certain patients may not be able to negotiate a particular dentist's office whether it be entering or navigating corridors into the treatment rooms due to limited handicapped access.

None of these problems obviate a patient's need for high quality comprehensive dental care. It just makes that care more difficult to provide and obtain. Patients with disabilities have the same human needs as those without disabilities. Just because a patient can't articulate his or her pain doesn't mean they don't have pain. Let me tell you it is worth the trouble to work through the obstacles to get these people to the care they need. These patients are certainly "special" but the specialness doesn't apply to their needs; it applies to them as people. It also applies to the practitioners who take the time & trouble to treat these "special" people.

If you would like some unique continuing education specific to treating patients with disabilities, I have a suggestion. "Special Care Advocates in Dentistry" (SAID) is a group that has been around since 1966 providing education and assistance to dental professionals treating patients with disabilities. They have produced a set of 15 educational modules available for **free** download on their website www.saident.org. In addition the group meets each fall for an annual seminar. The seminar provides 14 hours of C.E. over a 2½ day period. This year's SAID seminar is in Raleigh, N.C. from November 5th-7th. The seminar will provide not only excellent continuing education but also valuable contacts that will stay with you long into the future. Some courses change the way you practice for a few days or a few weeks. SAID may change your life for good; it did mine!

