

# MERCER DENTAL SOCIETY

Professional Dental Association of Mercer County, NJ

SEPTEMBER 2024



**Hello Mercer Dental Society Members,**

**I am extremely honored and humbled to serve as the President of the Mercer Dental Society this year. Stepping into this role is both a privilege and a responsibility I take to heart. Dr. Cathy Hung left very big shoes to fill with all of her accomplishments last year. I look forward to continuing where she left off with the same momentum. With a deep commitment to advancing our field and enhancing our professional community, I look forward to working closely with each of you all.**

**Dr. Roena Romero**  
**President**  
**Mercer Dental Society**

**There are many opportunities to participate in Mercer Dental Society and we encourage anyone interested to join us by filling any open positions. By taking an active role, you can help evolve our profession and our group by helping us address relevant issues that pertain to us in this day and age. There is power in numbers and as an organization, we can make change happen together. Thank you for your trust and support as we embark on this journey. Here's to a bright and impactful year ahead!**

**Warm regards,**  
**Dr. Roena Romero**

## NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

**Tuesday, 9/24/24**  
**September Member Meeting:**  
**NJDA Officer Visitation**

**MDS Calendar 2024-25**

**Council on Dental Benefits:**  
**Dr. Sid Whitman**

**Board of Trustees Report:**  
**Dr. Janhavi Rane**

**MDS Nominations Committee:**  
**Dr. Jared Levin**

**MDS PAC Committee:**  
**Dr. Michael Scalia**




**MDS Executive Committee**  
**MDS Sponsors**

**MDS Executive Secretary:**  
**Jolanta Matusiak Gora**

**Newsletter & Social Media:**  
**Geetu Gupta**



# Mercer Dental Society Calendar for 2024-25

<p><b>9/24/24</b> <b>6:30 pm</b></p>	<p><b>NJDA Officer Visitation</b></p>	<p><b>Princeton Marriott at Forrestal</b> <b>100 College Rd E</b> <b>Princeton, NJ 08540</b></p>
<p><b>11/19/24</b> <b>6:30 pm</b></p>	 <p><b>Dr. Michelle Weddle</b></p> <p>Dr. Weddle is s highly trained in Dental Sleep Medicine and Sleep Apnea Management, TMJ Treatment and Management and focuses on the reconstruction of the worn bite and dental occlusion (jaw mechanics).</p>	<p><b>Managing adult and pediatric airways</b></p>
<p><b>1/21/25</b> <b>6:30 pm</b></p>	 <p><b>Dr. Julie Spaniel</b></p> <p>Dr Spaniel serves on the Board of Trustees for the Oregon Dental Association and is actively involved with the ADA. Chairing the Dental Wellness committee for the state of Oregon,</p>	<p><b>Oregon Dental Society Chair of Wellness Committee</b></p>
<p><b>3/18/25</b> <b>6:30 pm</b></p>	 <p><b>Dr. Scott Peters</b></p> <p>Dr. Peters is an associate in Pathology and Oral Medicine at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania. He is also an associate professor of oral and maxillofacial pathology at Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine in Scranton.</p>	<p><b>Oral Pathology</b></p>

## Meet Dr. Jared Levin

### MDS Chair, Nominations Committee

**Dr. Jared Levin was locally born and raised in Lawrenceville, NJ. He graduated from The College of New Jersey in 2017 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biopsychology. He went on to receive his Doctor of Dental Science degree from NYU College of Dentistry in 2022. He completed his General Practice Residency in 2023 at Newark Beth Israel Hospital.**

**Dr. Levin prides himself on providing comprehensive dental care to both adult and pediatric patients. When he is not providing dental care, Dr. Levin enjoys attending sporting events, traveling, playing golf, and taking trips to the Jersey Shore. Dr. Levin looks forward to becoming an integral member of MDS by serving as the Nominations chair for the MDS Executive board this year.**



# NJDA OFFICER VISITATION

**9/24/24 | Tuesday**

**6:30 pm to 9:30 pm | Registration from 6 pm**

**Princeton Marriott at Forrestal Village  
100 College Rd E, Princeton, NJ 08540**



**Dr. Elisa Velasquez**  
NJDA President



**Dr. Amit Vora**  
NJDA President Elect



**Reva Brennan**  
CEO



**Jim Schultz**  
NJPAC



Please scan the QR code to register or visit [www.mercerdentalsociety.com](http://www.mercerdentalsociety.com)

**Members: All meetings and Dinners are Complimentary**  
**Non Members: First meeting is Complimentary after that \$65**

## PAC Committee Report

Dear MDS members! I hope that everyone had a nice summer this year. As you likely know, we have been asking our members to make a contribution to the NJDA PAC fund. The need for PAC funding has never been greater. Please make a contribution (any amount helps!) to the NJDA PAC fund. Simply scan the QR code below and this will take you directly to the contributions page on the NJDA website. Your contributions will only take a few minutes to make.

If you've already made a contribution this year, please consider making an additional donation. Between donations being lower than usual and also having a larger number of lawmakers to reach out to this year compared to recent years, your donations are more important than ever. In the end our PAC donations allow our NJDA representatives to better educate our legislators so that they can make well informed policy decisions when it comes to policies relating to the dental industry and our preferences.

In the meantime, should you have any questions or suggestions around our work with the NJDA PAC, please let me know. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our September Officers Visitation meeting. Please come out and say hello to your dental colleagues.

Best,  
**Michael Scalia**  
Treasurer, MDS



**CONTRIBUTE TODAY**

## **Council on Dental Benefits Dr. Sid Whitman**

**Alex Horn will serve as the NJDA new Membership and Component Relations Coordinator.**

**Government and Public Affairs update- Jim Schulz**  
NJDA submitted a letter to DOBI regarding Change Health. In response, the DOBI put guidance out to the payer community. DOBI wants specific examples of issues. Change Health has created relief fund. NJ has had a Medical Loss Ratio (MLR) on the books for many years but it has not been well applied to dental plans. NJDA is looking to improve the situation. The ADA has worked with the NADP and NCOIL to develop and approve model legislation on MLR applied to dental plans.



**Medicaid Update- Sid Whitman**

**ADA is working on a project to increase Medicaid providers and to increase the number of Medicaid patients being seen by those who already participate. NJDA met with UHC. They are interested in trying to help in the Medicaid space. Only about 25% of dentists in NJ have signed up with Medicaid. Very few providers see more than 100 patients.**

**ADA Update - Dennis McHugh, Senior Manager of Third –Party Payer Issues, ADA.**

**If members have examples of state law violations let the ADA know.**

**ADA is starting to see 5 year replacement on some fillings instead of the usual 2 year policy. Some plans are using different reimbursement options for out of network providers. Tell your patients to complain to HR. ADA getting calls that providers have been leased to other networks.**

**Guest speaker- Joan Monaco, Director of Dental Operations Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of NJ.**

**Dr. Monaco discussed NJ's effort to clarify MLR. Does not apply to Horizon since it is a nonprofit organization. Any money they make goes back to the patients if they don't use their benefits. In Massachusetts, many carriers stopped offering dental benefits due to MLR. Dr. Monaco warned that Metlife network leasing will cause logistical issues. Fax complaints to DOBI. Smile Direct filed for bankruptcy.**

**Council Discussions- Jeff Wood.**

**NJDA has sent out a template informed consent form to use with patients.**

**NJDA Board of Trustees Report**  
**By Dr. Janhavi Rane, Trustee Mercer Component**  
**Meeting took place at NJDA headquarters on Wed, Aug 7th, 2024**

**New Business:**

Resolution to recognize Orofacial Pain as a specialty in NJ passed so that can be given all privileges like any other dental specialties in NJ. 2024-2027 Strategic Plan for NJDA was approved. Initial Directors for The NJ Dental Foundation were appointed. The Pilot Program for 2025 Dues Rates was approved and Appointment of a New Dentist Member from each component to the Membership Council was approved.

**CEO Report:** At the ADA meeting NJDA got 5 Awards:

1. Converted highest number of Nonmembers to Members
2. Greatest Net gain of New Dentists (2001 to 3500)
3. Greatest Net gain in Membership
4. Converted highest number of Diverse Dentists to Membership
5. Converted highest number of Women Dentists to Membership



**Committee Reports:**

NJ Family Care enrollment has declined dramatically as eligibility reviews have resumed. Many New Dentist Events kicked off successfully. Please check NJDA website for upcoming events and for upcoming CE's including Licensure series. The lunch sessions will only be a benefit to member and non-member dentists who participate in the Licensure Requirement Series in 2025. Also check out the Practice Compliance Package offered by NJDA.

**Council Reports:**

Membership has declined as of July 2024 to same time last year so outreach and Pilot Program kicking off is even more imperative. The Pilot Program for the Tripartite Dues Rates in 2025 will save everyone lot of dollars in membership going forward with varied options in Membership Categories with a wide menu of benefits.

**Task Force Reports:**

Dental Lifeline Network needs more volunteer dentists to participate in the Donated Dental Services even to just take one case on so please sign up. The Bylaws Task Force is in the midst of updating NJDA Bylaws.

**PLEASE DONATE TO NJPAC WHATEVER YOU CAN AS WE NEED THE SUPPORT OF OUR POLITICIANS TO MOVE OUR DENTAL BILLS AND KEEP THE PROFESSION VIABLE!!!**



**Follow  
Mercer Dental Society  
on social media for  
latest updates!!**



# CONGRATULATIONS!!

NJDA MEMBER  
RECOGNITION  
AWARD



**DR. MICHAEL SCALIA**

Treasurer  
Mercer Dental Society





**Shoutout to MDS Sponsors!!  
Thank you so much for your support!!**



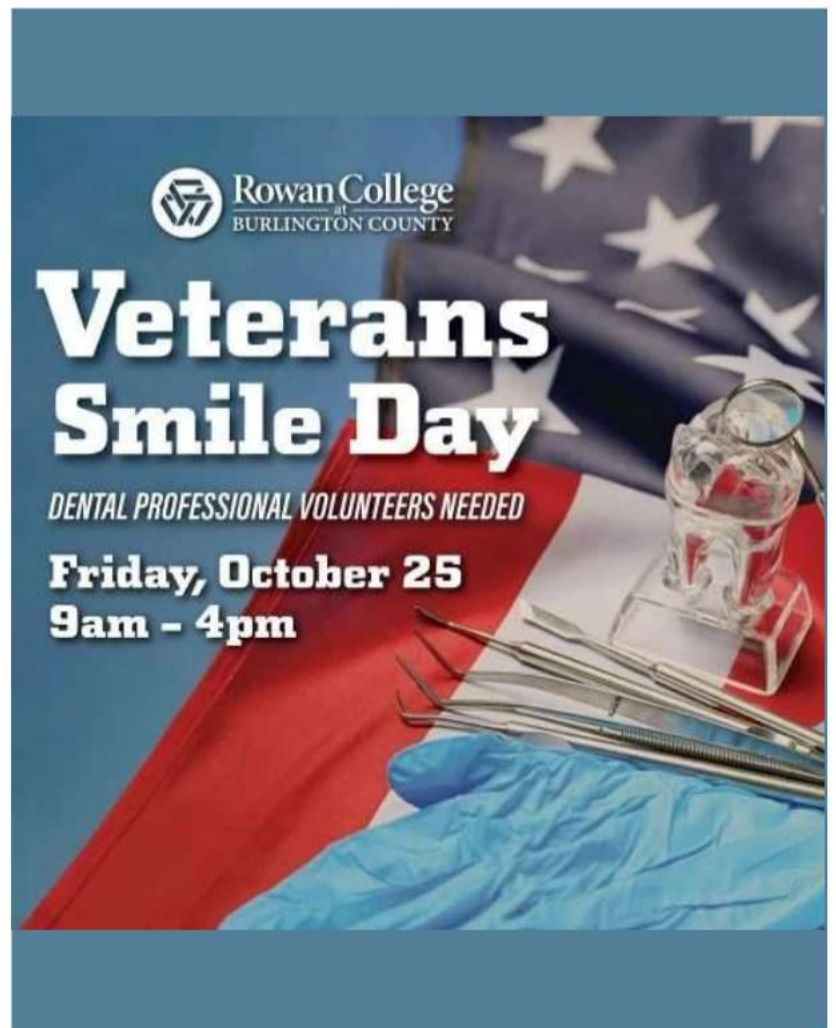
**Adam Wazeter**








**Jihoon Kim**



**Joseph Stith**



**Nicholas Malvasi**

MDS LINE OFFICERS		2024-2025	PHONE NUMBER
President		*Roena Romero	609-759-0019
Past President		*Cathy Hung	609-860-6369
Vice President		*Sara Siddiqui	301-466-4216
Secretary		*Bhumi Patel	201-873-9620
Treasurer		*Michael Scalia	319-594-1599
*Has Executive voting rights			