

# Council on Scientific Affairs

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Kumar, Purnima, 2024, Ohio, chair  
 Fouad, Ashraf F., 2025, Alabama, vice chair  
 Aghaloo, Tara L., 2027, California  
 Clonan, Ellyce, 2024, New York\*  
 Comisi, John C., 2024, South Carolina\*\*  
 Dhar, Vineet K., 2024, Maryland  
 Hasturk, Hatice, 2024, Massachusetts  
 Holtzman, Jennifer S., 2026, Maryland  
 Khan, Asma A., 2025, Texas\*\*\*  
 MacDonnell, William A., 2025, Connecticut  
 Merchant, Anwar, 2027, South Carolina  
 Park, Jacob G., 2024, Texas  
 Saleh, Muhammad H., 2026, Michigan\*\*\*\*  
 Schwartz, Kevin G., 2026, Pennsylvania  
 Teixeira, Erica C., 2027, Iowa  
 Tenuta, Livia M., 2026, Michigan  
 Villa, Alessandro, 2025, Florida  
 Xiao, Jin, 2027, New York

DeLong, Hillary R., director

The Council's 2023–24 liaisons include: Dr. Marshall Mann (Board of Trustees, Fifth District) and Mr. Shivam Jauhar (American Student Dental Association).

## ***Areas of Responsibility as Set Forth in the Bylaws or Governance and Organizational Manual of the American Dental Association***

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As described in Chapter VIII, Section K.10., of the ADA *Governance and Organizational Manual*, the Council's areas of subject matter responsibility shall be:

- a. Science and scientific research, including:
  - i. Evidence-based dentistry;
  - ii. Evaluation of professional products;
  - iii. Identification of intramural and extramural priorities for dental research every three years; and
  - iv. Promotion of student involvement in dental research.
- b. Scientific aspects of the dental practice environment related to the health of the public, dentists, and allied health personnel;
- c. Standards development for dental products;
- d. The safety and efficacy of concepts, procedures and techniques for use in the treatment of patients;
- e. Liaison relationships with scientific regulatory, research and professional organizations and science-related agencies of professional healthcare organizations; and
- f. The ADA Seal of Acceptance Program.

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*\*New Dentist Member*

*\*\*Replaced Dr. Marcelle Nascimento, 2024, Florida*

*\*\*\*Replaced Dr. Juliana da Costa, 2025, Oregon*

*\*\*\*\*Replaced Violet Haraszthy, 2026, New York*

## Key Accomplishments and Outcomes: Agency Programs, Projects, Results and Success Measures

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This section presents outcomes from June 2023 to July 2024.

**Initiative/Program:** ADA Seal of Acceptance Program

**Success Measure:** Review of 2-3 category requirements and product submissions, as received.

**Target:** N/A

**Range:** N/A

**Outcome:** 3 category requirements reviewed/developed; 34 product submissions

The Council reviewed and revised two product categories: oral irrigators and specialty toothbrushes. It also approved requirements for one new category: Over-The-Counter (OTC) orally-administered analgesic medication for temporary management of Acute Dental Pain. The Council is reviewing updated requirements for the Independent Research Testing Site Qualification for the ADA Seal of Acceptance Program (now called "ADA Qualified Site Program"). These research facilities support required manufacturer-led testing for ADA Seal of Acceptance Program submissions.

The Council also reviewed and approved 34 product submissions, which is three times as many submissions as were reviewed in the same period from 2022 to 2023.

This program has exceeded its stated goal.

**Initiative/Program:** Evidence Synthesis and Translational Research

**Success Measure:** Publications submitted according to established deadlines.

**Target:** N/A

**Range:** N/A

**Outcome:** The Council supported development and publication of two scientific manuscripts and is currently working to finalize a third.

["Optimizing radiation safety in dentistry"](#) was published in *JADA* in February 2024. This provided an update to components of the 2012 dental radiographic recommendations developed by the ADA and FDA related to dental radiation safety, appropriate imaging practices, recommendations to reduce radiation exposure to patients and personnel, and adherence to relevant regulatory requirements. A second paper, forthcoming in Fall 2024, will update the 2012 recommendations related to indications, and provide guidance on use of cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT) in dentistry.

["Evidence-based clinical practice guideline for the pharmacologic management of acute dental pain in adolescents, adults, and older adults"](#) was published in *JADA* in February 2024. This was the second of two manuscripts addressing management of acute dental pain, which were developed as a joint effort with University of Pittsburgh, and the University of Pennsylvania under a grant from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

A scoping review on moderate Dental Sedation in adults was intended for completion in December 2023. The Council voted to suspend the project due to resource constraints in Fall 2023.

This program has met its stated goal.

**Initiative/Program:** ADA Dental Standards

**Success Measure:** Participation in ADA Standards Oversight Committee, submission of "New Work Items," (NWI) as need identified.

**Target:** n/a

**Range:** n/a

**Outcome:** Approval of one NWI; appointment of two representatives to ADA Standards Oversight Committee.

The Council supported a restructuring of the ADA Standards Program in July 2023 and appointed two representatives to the newly formed ADA Standards Oversight Committee in Fall 2023. The Council submitted one NWI related to root canal disinfection materials and technologies, which is currently under review by the ADA Standards Program.

This program has met its stated goal.

### **Emerging Issues and Trends**

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The Council reviewed a request from the CMS Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for clarity on the length of time that dental treatment would be recommended to monitor and address oral complications that may arise after certain cancer treatments. The Council's recommendations were transmitted to the MACs and CMS in April 2024.

In July 2024, the Council approved a standardized ADA dentist referral form to support medical and dental providers with adherence to requirements for documented care coordination in cases of dental care supported by Medicare. The Council noted the strong need for such standardized documentation to support both patients and providers, and the desire to support efficient and effective medical/dental collaboration.

### **Responses to House of Delegates Resolutions**

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**Resolution 405-2023**—Rescission of ADA Policy on Tooth Whitening Administered by Non-Dentists

Resolution 405-2023 was referred back to the Council. In lieu of rescission, the Council has proposed revisions to the policy, which have been submitted in a separate report to the 2024 House of Delegates.

### **Self-Assessment**

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The Council is next scheduled to conduct a self-assessment in 2026.

### **Policy Review**

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In accordance with Resolution 170H-2012, Regular Comprehensive Policy Review (*Trans.2012:370*), the Council reviewed four Association policies.

The Council reviewed the following policy and determined it should be maintained as written:

- ADA Definition of Oral Health (*Trans.2014:465*)

### **Council Minutes**

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For more information on recent activities, see the Council's [minutes](#) on ADA.org.