



2026 ADA 10 Under 10 Award

American Dental Association

2026 Nomination Guide

Nomination Period: January 7 through March 16, 2026

Do you know a new dentist who's making an impact in the profession? The American Dental Association is recognizing 10 amazing dentists who graduated from dental school less than 10 years ago and are already inspiring their colleagues by making a difference in dentistry. Developed by the ADA New Dentist Committee, the ADA 10 Under 10 Award celebrates rising stars who demonstrate excellence in science, research & education, practice excellence, philanthropy, leadership, and advocacy.

- **Science/Research/Education:** A dentist who has made substantial contributions to advancing clinical topics by leading, organizing or participating in clinical research or scientifically focused efforts or who significantly impacts dental students or residents through education and mentorship.
- **Practice Management/ Entrepreneurial:** A dentist who excels in practice management demonstrated in areas such as patient experience, dental team management, practice technology and/or general entrepreneurial success, business savvy in practice ownership, or innovation.
- **Philanthropy:** A dentist who has made a remarkable difference in the lives of others (in dentistry or otherwise), either by volunteering, leading a philanthropic effort or using their skills to help those in need.
- **Leadership:** A dentist who serves in leadership, either within or outside organized dentistry, and has used that position to improve a dental association, another organization or their community at large.
- **Advocacy:** A dentist who takes a leadership role in advocacy initiatives or legislative activity on behalf of dentists and oral health initiatives.

Who can you nominate?

- Active member of the American Dental Association
- Graduated from a U.S. accredited dental school between the years of 2016 and 2025 OR be an international member of the ADA who graduated dental school between the years of 2016 and 2025
- Exhibited excellence in areas such as Science, Research & Education, Practice Excellence, Philanthropy, Leadership and Advocacy

Nomination Requirements:

- Contact information for nominee
- CV for nominee
- Brief statement describing your reason for nomination
- Completion of all required fields in the nomination form, available at [ADA.org/10under10](https://ada.org/10under10)

Self-nominations are not permitted. This is a one-time award, and nominees are not carried over from year to year. Nomination forms must be completed in their entirety, including the nominee's CV. Late nominations are not accepted. Nominators may submit more than one nominee for consideration if desired. Dental associations may nominate someone on behalf of the society. Current members of the ADA New Dentist Committee (NDC) are not eligible to receive the award.

The nomination period will conclude on March 16, 2026. The NDC will carefully review all eligible nominations. Nominees who receive more than two nominations will be required to select only two of the nominations for consideration. Nominees will be asked to complete a voluntary demographic survey. Award finalists will receive a questionnaire to verify their information and provide additional responses that may be used in ADA communications. Recipients will be carefully reviewed and selected by the NDC and announced summer 2026. Each ADA 10 Under 10 Award recipient will be honored with a commemorative plaque and featured at an ADA event, as well as across ADA channels.