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## DR. GORDON J. CHRISTENSEN FEATURED SPEAKER OF MDA 2012 ANNUAL MEETING

The Montana Dental Association is pleased to announce that Dr. Gordon J. Christensen is the featured speaker on Thursday, April 26 at the association’s 2012 annual meeting. He is the founder and director of Practical Clinical Courses (PCC) in Utah, an international continuing education organization providing courses and videos for all dental professionals.

Dr. Christensen has presented over 45,000 hours of continuing education throughout the world and has published many articles and books. Gordon and Dr. Rella Christensen are co-founders of the non-profit Gordon J. Christensen CLINICIANS REPORT (previously CRA), which Rella directed for many years. Since 1976, they have conducted research in all areas of dentistry and published the findings to the profession in the well-known CRA Newsletter now called CLINICIANS REPORT.

Gordon’s degrees include: DDS, University of Southern California; MSD, University of Washington; PhD, University of Denver; an Honorary Doctor of Science from Utah State University, and an honorary Doctor of Dental Education and Research from Utah Valley University.

Early in his career, Gordon helped initiate the University of Kentucky and University of Colorado Dental Schools and taught at the University of Washington. Gordon is a practicing prosthodontist in Provo, Utah. Gordon and Rella's sons are both dentists. William is a prosthodontist, and Michael is a general dentist. Their daughter, Carlene, is a teacher.

Dr. Christensen is a Diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontics, a Fellow and Diplomate in the International Congress of Oral Implantologists, a Fellow in the Academy of Osseointegration, American College of Dentists, International College of Dentists, American College of Prosthodontists, Academy of General Dentistry (Hon), Royal College of Surgeons of England, and an Associate Fellow in the American Academy of Implant Dentistry. Some of his other memberships include: American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry; International Association of Dental Research; Academy of LDS Dentists; American Academy of Restorative Dentistry; American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics; Academy of Operative Dentistry; and International College of Prosthodontists.

## DR. CHRIS HIRT NOMINATED AS MDA SECRETARY-TREASURER

Chris Hirt of Billings has been nominated by the MDA Board of Directors to serve on the MDA Executive Committee as secretary-treasurer. He presently is serving his second term on the Board of Directors as the representative of the Ninth District Dental Society.

Dr. Hirt practices with Turley Dental Care. He earned his dental degree from Oregon Health Sciences in 2004 and his BS degree from MSU-Billings in 2000. He has served on the Ninth District Executive Committee and volunteers at the Billings public health dental clinic, with Give Kids A Smile, and the migrant worker program in his area. He greatly enjoys the outdoor lifestyle his home state of Montana has to offer.
Congratulations & Best Wishes!

Dr. Shannon Jones has purchased the practice of Dr. William Fraser - Bozeman

Dr. Kenneth Van Kirk has purchased/merged the practice of Dr. Greg Schuster – Bozeman

Dr. Chris Malloy has purchased the practice of Dr. Harve Wolfe – Dillon

THANK YOU to the following members of Donated Dental Services (DDS) for their generous service following Dr. Wolfe’s untimely death: Dr. William Brennick, Dr. Tara Eller, Dr. Charles Stokke, Dr. Michael Bartoletti, Dr. Tom Bartoletti, Dr. Ed Bartoletti, Dr. Dan O’Neill

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Is there a transition in your future? Stop by our booth at the MDA meeting in Helena, May 5-6. We’re also sponsoring a hole at the golf tournament on Friday – Win our $500 KP!

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Dentistry and the Law...

This column is offered to answer some of the queries frequently posed of MDA executive director/legal counsel Mary McCue about practice issues involving legal questions. If you have a legal question, e-mail MDA at mda@mt.net or call 800/257-4988.

Question: Is there a limitation on the number of online continuing education hours that can be used to satisfy dentists’ hourly continuing education requirement?

Answer: No, Montana statute and rule do not contain a limitation. In theory all of a licensee’s continuing education credit hours could be earned online. ARM section 24.138.2104 requires a dentist to complete in a three-year renewal cycle a minimum of 60 credit hours per three-year cycle. Dentists who have general anesthesia or conscious sedation permits must acquire these 60 continuing education credits in addition to those required for maintenance of those permits. For dental hygienists it is 36 continuing education credits per three-year cycle.

One continuing education credit is recognized for each 60 minutes of involvement. Credit will not be earned for time spent in introductory remarks, coffee and luncheon breaks, or business meetings.

Continuing education credits will be allowed for attendance at multiday conventions type meetings each year such as the Montana Dental Association annual meeting. Dentists can earn three additional credits per year, dental hygienists can earn two credits per year just by attending the MDA’s annual meeting.

Letters to the Editor

MDA News invites feedback from our readers on material contained in the newsletter or otherwise of interest to dentists. Any communication intended for publication should be addressed to:

Mary McCue, MDA, PO Box 1154, Helena MT 59624.
Montana dentists continue to generously donate their services to the Donated Dental Services (DDS) program. The program helps people like 37-year old Mr. R. who lives in Billings. He worked as an over-the-road truck diver and machine operator until mental illness left him unable to maintain a job. He is not able to pay his bills and owes more than $30,000 in medical bills. His case manager referred him to the DDS program to have his oral health needs addressed. A volunteer dentist donated a root canal. Thanks to the volunteer’s kindness Mr. R. received $1,017 in dental care that he could not afford on his own. Although his dental needs were not extensive, receiving free dental care removed one burden from his life. Mr. R. commented, “This program is so helpful to individuals who are truly unable to pay for appropriate dental services. I want you and your organization to know how important the service you provide is to consumers like me.”

Unfortunately, many people who are elderly, disabled, or medically at-risk have neglected dental problems because they cannot afford treatment. As a result of their ages or disabilities, many cannot work and depend on the government for their health care. Medicare, however, does not provide dental care and Montana’s Medicaid program only provides limited benefits for adults. Those aged or disabled people who can work often earn just enough to cover basic necessities but not enough for dental insurance or dental treatment.

Through a grant from the state Developmental Disabilities Planning and Advisory Council, the Montana Dental Association, and DDS program, Montana launched the DDS program in July 1997. Effective January this year, the Montana Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped changed its name to Dental Lifeline Network - Montana. Since the program’s inception in 1997, 1,019 vulnerable Montana residents have received $2,242,742 in comprehensive care from some of the 184 dentists and 127 dental laboratories that volunteer through the DDS program throughout the state. Montana’s dentists have been exceptionally generous in contributing to the program.

This fiscal year's goal is to provide $300,000 worth of donated treatment for 105 disabled or aged patients throughout Montana. During the first half of the fiscal year, 49 patients received $149,201 in care, very close to the goal pace. These individuals received an average of $3,045 in care each, an unusually high rate of care among the 39 DDS programs across the country.

In addition to the 49 people who have completed treatment this fiscal year, 62 others had been referred to treatment at the beginning of the second half of the fiscal year. A second goal is to provide $30,000 worth of donated lab work. Volunteer labs donated $20,277 worth of fabrications during the first half of the fiscal year.

The volunteer dentists and labs are the backbone of the DDS program. The more volunteers who are available, the more services that can be provided. Though some volunteers see several DDS patients each year, most treat just one per year. Twenty-seven percent of the volunteers are specialists, leaving 134 general dentists for initial referrals. With 49 patients completing treatment during the first half of the fiscal year, 62 active cases, and 169 people on the wait list, the volunteers are well utilized and the program could use more volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering for the program, please contact the DDS coordinator, Margaret Petrick, at 1-888-449-9670.
Hello, my name is Graham Meng and I’m a 4th year dental Student at the University of Washington. I know dental school seems like nothing but a distant bad memory for many of you, but I’d like to share an excellent experience I recently had at Partnership Health Center in Missoula this month.

As a native Missoulian and graduate of Montana State University, when I found out of the opportunity to come home for a few weeks and get credit I knew I had to jump on it. Being able to sleep in my own bed and having to do limited cooking served as an additional bonus. Many dental schools around the country require extramural rotations. At the University of Washington, we are required to do 2 weeks in between 3rd and 4th year in the state of Washington, numerous other 1-5 day rotations in the Seattle area, and upon the completion of graduation requirements, an optional 2-6 weeks at public health clinics almost anywhere in the county. Most people stay in the WWAMI region although some have traveled as far as Arizona and Hawaii in previous years. Partnership has an agreement with the Arizona School of Dental and Oral Health, so they host several Arizona students a year. I had one week of overlap with a student from Arizona and then 2 weeks by myself. There is no extra or bonus credit given for rotations, it is a credit/no credit deal based on a very loose satisfactory completion of quality care as deemed by the supervising dentists, as well as documentation of all procedures and chart notes that is turned into school upon return.

Rotations serve as a breath of fresh air, allowing one to see more than 2 patients a day, work with a chair side assistant full time, and further hone ones clinical skills before being sent into unsupervised practice. Partnership Health Center is a nonprofit organization that sees mostly low/no income patients, Medicaid, and a few self-pay/private insurance patients. Four to five additional patients were scheduled each day for me to see, plus I would see five to seven more patients from the other doctors schedules as I chose. This resulted in a large amount of emergency care, simple and surgical extractions, and fillings. I was supervised and aided as needed by the three dentists, always informing them of my findings, what I was doing, why, and how I was going to do it. If guidance was needed at any time during any procedure, the doctors were always willing and able to help, and would often drop in over my shoulder to see what was happening and how I was doing. This fostered a learning environment in a very casual, Montana way.

My rotations in community health clinics have been nothing but a positive experience, especially being able to work in my hometown where I also eventually plan to practice. School and public health exposes one to a segment of our population that has trouble with access to and paying for care. This group is often shut out of private practice due to monetary constraints, so working in these areas is eye opening and fulfilling all at the same time. In a time of rationed care and some care is better than no care, I felt rewarded keeping people out of pain. I encourage everyone reading this to remember that when accepting patients and volunteering your time, even if it is only a few patients or few days a year. Helping this population base is eye opening and rewarding, as patients are very appreciative.

After graduation and WREB in June, I will be attending the University of Illinois at Chicago to complete a three year residency in graduate prosthodontics. Upon completion, I plan on moving back to Missoula, sending my old man Vince to greener pastures on the other side of the fence, and entering the dental care realm for many years with my cousin, Joe.
I am honored and excited to have this opportunity to be elected to the Montana Dental Association as Secretary/Treasurer. I would like to take this opportunity to share a little about myself. Currently, I am one of the practicing owners of Turley Dental Care, a multi-doctor practice in Billings. I grew up in Billings, attended Montana State University-Billings for my undergraduate studies, then completed my dental training in Portland, Oregon at Oregon Health Sciences University. I started my career in dentistry as an associate with Jim Turley. Being an associate was a wonderful opportunity for me to hone my clinical skills without being completely overrun with the business aspects of running a dental practice. This afforded me the opportunity to soak up as much continuing education as possible. Oral surgery, implant placement, endodontics and aesthetically high risk cases get me excited to be a dentist!

Four years ago I began my service to the MDA on the Board of Directors with the intention of having some say in how a mid-level provider would (or wouldn’t be) implemented in Montana. During that time I have been involved in many meetings and discussions on the topic. I found the more I learned about the nuances and the more I engaged the people that would be affected most, many dentists (myself included) were basing their position on misinformation. Or at least misunderstanding.

As this and other issues continue to unfold I would like the opportunity to offer my insight and help the Montana Dental Association shape the future of how dentistry will be delivered during my career. I feel very fortunate to practice in Montana and to be surrounded by the caliber of dentists we have here. Serving as the Secretary/Treasurer not only will allow me to continue my service but it opens up the 9th District Representative seat for someone new to step in and bring new perspective to our discussions.

If elected, I look forward to serving each of you as we mold and shape the way we practice in Montana. Please feel free to contact me via email at any time, drh@turleydentalcare.com.
TREATMENT OF A SEVERLY WORN DENTITION UTILIZING A UNIQUE PROSTHODONTIC MODALITY

Article Submitted by Joe Meng, DDS, MS

This case report demonstrates treatment of a 27-year-old patient with an unrestorable dentition due to caries and severe wear, related to pharmacologic induced bruxism from anti-psychotropic medications. The patient had been treated with a metal based maxillary splint by another practitioner to slow the wear progression. This treatment had failed due to caries under the splint from both high sugar intake and lack of home care, as well as wear of the opposing dentition from the splint.

The maxillary arch was edentulated due to the extent of caries, alveloplasty per a surgical guide, and six Straumann Bone Level dental implants were immediately placed. A low-profile milled titanium alloy bar was fabricated via a CAD-CAM process, with four threaded overdenture attachments contained by the bar. The arch was restored with a cobalt-chromium based overdenture prosthesis with metal occlusion, entirely supported and retained by the milled bar and attachments. A maxillary bar was provided due to high risk for implant overload. The mandibular teeth were unrestorable with conventional measures due to severe wear, but by-in-large not affected critically by caries, and were able to be retained. Elective extractions of the mandibular canines were performed, with immediate placement of two Straumann Bone Level implants in these sites. The arch was restored with a removable prosthesis of similar design to the maxillary arch, but supported by the remaining teeth, and retained by the two single implants with overdenture attachments. Deep implant placement was performed on mandible to allow for alveloplasty and bar placement, should failure of lower dentition occur in the future. Occlusal scheme was developed as follows: no anterior vertical overlap, shallow cusp angles, lateral group function, canine protrusion. Dietary counseling was provided, and nightly fluoride gel regimen was prescribed for the mandibular teeth. A processed acrylic splint was provided for nocturnal use, to minimize wear of the prostheses.

Initial Presentation

Pre-Surgical Workup

Determination of ideal esthetics and occlusal plane with a wax setup.
TREATMENT OF A SEVERLY WORN DENTITION  (CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

Immediate maxillary “Healing Denture” and surgical template to guide alveloplasty and implant placement with respect to projected future tooth position.

Surgical Treatment and Immediate Denture Delivery

Maxillary and mandibular extractions and implant placement (Straumann Bone Level) by Dr. Jack Remien, Periodontist (Missoula, MT).

Immediate maxillary denture delivery with tissue conditioner.

Restorative Treatment

Maxillary and mandibular arches after uncovering and full healing (4 months).

Fixture level (open tray) impression posts were placed in maxillary implants and splinted with a wire and light cured resin. Final Locator abutments were placed in mandibular implants, and impression copings placed. VPS impressions were made.

Wax setup indicating final esthetics and occlusal scheme was verified

A “virtual” bar design was generated by CAD (Computer Aided Design) using the master cast and wax setup utilizing a double scan technique. A grade V titanium alloy bar was fabricated via a CAM (Computer Aided Milling) process.
Case was sent to lab for fabrication. Indices of master casts allowed accurate transfer of teeth from wax setup to refractory models for predictable framework design.

**Post-Treatment Photos**

Milled bar with “tapped” Zest Locator attachments and mandibular Locator abutments in place.

Nocturnal occlusal guard for bruxism, fabricated at the same vertical dimension of occlusion (VDO) as the maxillary prosthesis.

Final prostheses in place
**President's Message**

This past year as your MDA President has been very challenging yet probably the most rewarding experience of my professional career in dentistry. I have read more articles, bills, briefings, and letters and attended more meetings and teleconferences than I thought would be possible. But what I have learned along the way is that organized dentistry is long and deep. There are so many talented people on the local, state, and national level you are willing to sacrifice their time and effort on our behalf. We are truly blessed to be in this profession. I can report to you that the profession is strong. My goal this year has been to open the process of organized dentistry to all those who desire to help shape the future of this profession. I hope I have inspired some of you this year to become contributors to the process.

I have many people to thank but none more than our executive director Mary McCue and her executive assistant Jean Strainer. They do all the detail work and have made my job not only manageable, but enjoyable. Please acknowledge their hard work any chance you get. They do a terrific job for organized dentistry in Montana.

I also wish to thank the executive committee for their long and patient support of my agenda as president. They logged countless hours in meetings, teleconferences, and emails to assist me in my work. They do a terrific job for organized dentistry in Montana.

I thank the MDA board of directors for their hard work this year. They are the direct connection between you, the member, and the leadership of the MDA. Because of their hard work, they make the flow of information a two-way street between the MDA and membership. Listening to our members is made a whole lot easier by our board which serves you well.

I would like to thank our committees and their chairpersons for their extraordinary efforts this year. Especially, I would like to thank our Government Affairs committee, which helped me maneuver through a very full legislative agenda this year very successfully. The hours and seemingly endless discussion paid off as we were able to retool and reset a number of times and find success.

I would like to thank my staff for excusing me for the interruptions and time out of my schedule. But, most of all, I would like to thank my family and especially my wife Janet for allowing me the freedom this year to pursue my passion. Without their support, nothing would be possible. There is an incredible investment in time in this process and my family stepped up for me. I love you for this.

In closing I would like to ask all our members, but especially our younger members, to step up and embrace the role of being a professional. Leadership is not just an important ingredient; it is a requirement that we have excellent leadership if dentistry is to continue as a profession. Become involved with organized dentistry at any level you wish, but, get involved. Your future is being designed now. Take part in it. Thank you for allowing me to do my part. Enjoy the 2011 annual meeting!

**2010 Annual Meeting Offered Excellent Speakers and Topics**

MDA offered outstanding clinical speakers as members gather for the annual meeting in Missoula in April. Dr. Michael Fling was the featured, day-long speaker on Thursday, April 29. His topic: “Providing Dental Care with Aesthetic Priority, Architectural and Biological Integrity”.

The meeting also offered a hands-on course with Dr. Frank Allen on the subject of “Exploring Myths and Misunderstanding in Endodontics”. The course teaches the endodontic practitioner to overcome shortcomings in many of the traditional instrumentation, irrigation, and obturation techniques currently available in endodontics.

MDA members, Dr. Jane Gillette and Dr. Joe Hylton, offered certification for the AbCd Montana Young Child Oral Health Program sponsored by the Montana Medicaid program. AbCd Montana is a statewide program designed to ensure that all children have healthy, happy smiles for a lifetime. Highlights of this program include: early evidence-based preventive care for young children; advanced training and support for dentists in young child oral health; and enhanced reimbursement for the Medicaid dental program.

Physicians from the Huntsman Cancer Institute of the University of Utah also offered a three-part presentation on the topics of head and neck cancers. The topics included: “Oral Cancer Prevention and Early Detection: The Crucial Role of the Dental Professional”; Functional Outcomes Following Treatment for Head and Neck Cancer”; and “Oral Cavity Reconstruction Following Tumor Ablation”.

To help dentists and staff understand the best ways to prevent lawsuits in the dental practice, Missoula attorneys Larry Riley and Dr. Craig Eddy discussed why effective communication between dental professionals and patients is so important. They explored how to avoid wrongful discharge claims and discrimination claims, including age and sexual harassment claims.
Dr. Teresa Nelson, member of MDA’s Health and Wellness Committee, presented an experiential workshop that addressed the needs of the busy dental professional, and fitness trainer Laura Bender offered her advice for correcting employees’ faulty body postures in the dental office environment. Finally, Steve Lucht spoke on the topic of achieving financial stability.

MDA Dentists Named New Board Members for Blue Cross Blue Shield Caring Foundation of Montana

MDA President Dr. Andrew Hyams of Billings and Helena dentist Dr. Gary Mihelish were appointed last year to the Blue Cross Blue Shield Caring Foundation Board of Directors. Administered by Blue Cross and Blue Shield, The Caring Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) organization that supports the state-operated Healthy Montana Kids (HMK) dental program.

This announcement of new Caring Foundation Board members came just prior to The Caring Foundation’s major annual fundraising event, the Governor’s Cup of Montana. Several thousand participants and donors in support of the Caring Foundation’s mission to help Montana children get access to quality dental care took part in the event. Registration fees and donations were being matched $4 to $1, as a result of a matching grant partnership with the Centers for Medicaid Services (CMS), a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Earlier in the year, a $150,000 donation from The Caring Foundation, matched by the $4 to $1 grant, allowed HMK to expand its dental benefit from $350 to $1,000 per year, a move that is helping thousands of Montana children and teenagers get access to the dental care they need.

“We are honored to have Dr. Hyams and Dr. Mihelish join us in support of the very important new mission of the Caring Foundation – expanding access to quality dental care for Montana’s children and teenagers,” said Sherry Cladouhos, CEO of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana, which created the Caring Foundation and has administrated it for more than 35 years. “They are dedicated to making Montana a better place now and for our future generations. Their experience and wise counsel, along with the generosity of Montanans, will ensure our ability to fulfill our mission to give children and teenagers the dental care they need.”

Dr. Ingrid McElellan Chosen New Dentist Representative

Helena dentist Dr. Ingrid McLellan was selected by the MDA Board of Directors to serve on the Board for a one-year term as the representative of MDA’s new dentists. She received her DMD from Oregon Health Sciences University in 2008 and practices with Dr. Roger Kiesling and Dr. David Kiesling. Dr. McLellan earned her BS degree from Montana State University in 2003. She is a member of the Capital City Study Club and has served the Fifth District as the New Dentist chair for two years. She also is a member of AGD and an alumnus of the Pankey Institute.

In applying to represent MDA’s newest members Dr. McLellan commented, “The dental profession is undergoing a shift in how we practice dentistry. It’s being shaped by the political and economic forces of our communities, state, and nation. As a new dentist with hopefully many years to practice, I want to be able to guide and define the direction our profession is going to take. Being involved with the MDA is an avenue that can help achieve this.”

MDA Works to Promote Head Start Dental Home Initiative

The Montana Dental Association and the Montana Chapter of the America Academy of Pediatric Dentistry joined forces in 2010 to ensure that every child enrolled in Head Start has a dental home. To “kick-off” the partnership, there was a joint meeting between dentists and statewide Head Start leaders in Helena in September.

The 2000 Surgeon General’s Report, “Oral Health in America,” noted that not only is dental caries the most common chronic disease of childhood, but that low-income children suffer from twice as much tooth decay as more affluent children. Current statistics indicate that 28% of all preschoolers between the ages of 2 and 5 suffer from tooth decay, but in Head Start programs, decay rates often range from 30%-40% in 3-year-olds and 50%-60% in 4-year-olds. Head Start leadership, staff, and parents have identified poor oral health as the single most important health issue facing Head Start programs nationwide. The emphasis placed on oral health reflects an understanding that oral health education, prevention, and early diagnosis and treatment are key to healthy development for Head Start children.

The federal Office of Head Start (OHS) awarded a five-year contract to the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) to help create dental homes for Head Start children throughout the U.S. A dental home is a source of comprehensive, continuously accessible, coordinated and family-centered oral health care provided by dentists. Helena pediatric dentist Dr. Kevin Rencher, President of the Montana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, states: “This program will allow dentists in Montana to provide a much needed service to a very high risk population.”

Annual Report continued on next page
Dr. Roger Kiesling Installed as ADA Trustee

Helena dentist and long-time MDA leader, Roger L. Kiesling, D.D.S., was installed as a trustee of the American Dental Association in Orlando, Florida in October at the ADA's 151st Annual Session. Dr. Kiesling will serve on the ADA Board as the trustee from the Eleventh District (Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Alaska.) The ADA Board formulates and reviews policies and programs and makes recommendations to the members of the ADA's governing body, the House of Delegates.

Dr. Kiesling is a past president of the Montana Dental Association and past chairman of the American Dental Association Council on Dental Practice. He recently completed a four-year term on the ADA Council on Dental Education and Licensure.

Dr. Kiesling began his service to the dental profession at the national level when he was selected to represent the ADA Eleventh District on the Commission on the Young Professional (currently the Committee on the New Dentist) at the ADA from 1988 to 1991. He served as a member of the ADA Future of Dentistry Oversight Committee from 1999 through 2001 and served three years on the ADA Dental Practice Parameters Committee in the mid-1990s. Dr. Kiesling served for 12 years as a delegate to the ADA House of Delegates and was on three ADA House of Delegates Reference Committees, once as chairman.

Dr. Kiesling is a 1979 honors graduate of the University of Washington School of Dentistry. He is currently a lead visiting faculty member of the Pankey Institute in Key Biscayne, Florida. He has taught annually at the Pankey Institute since 1992.

Dr. Kiesling has been married to his wife Linda for 36 years. They have four adult children, Robyn, Andrea, Brandon, and Taylor. They have one grandchild, Chase. Their son Brandon is currently a third-year dental student at the University of Louisville in Kentucky.

Coverage Significantly Increased For CHIP Kids

The Healthy Montana Kids Program (HMK), formerly the Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP), has increased Basic Dental Plan coverage for children enrolled in the HMK coverage group. Effective October 1, the Basic Dental Plan increased to $1,412 per benefit year. Dental services are reimbursed at 85% of charges up to a maximum of $1,200 per benefit year. Additionally, implant services and CDT codes D6000 through D6199, are now included under the basic dental plan. Implant services must be medically necessary and prior authorization is required. A statement substantiating the medical necessity must accompany the request. The lifetime limit for implant services is $1,500 per child.

Barb Arnold, HMK dental coordinator, commented, “We have been working on gaining this increase in the CHIP benefit for three years and we are delighted that it has been achieved.” For children with “significant dental needs” who need services that exceed the basic dental limit, assistance may be available through the HMK Extended Dental Plan (EDP). EDP benefits are in addition to the Basic Dental coverage, and are limited to $1,176 per year in services. The dental provider is reimbursed at 85% of charges up to a maximum of $1,000. Prior authorization is necessary for EDP services and program funding is limited.

Please contact Barb Arnold at barnold2@mt.gov or 444-7046, if you need more information or have any questions about HMK dental benefits.

Group Health Plan Premiums Raised

Trustees for MDA's self-funded health insurance plan met twice in October to determine the premium rates for the 2011 plan renewal. After reviewing claims experience for the past several years, plan assets, and other financial information, they determined that rates for the plan should be raised 11.9% for 2011.

In discussing the renewal, MDA's health insurance consultant Jim Edwards of Mountain West Benefits explained that this has been the worst renewal in 10 years for the plans their company advises. Claims are up significantly in 2010 for most association health plans. MDA's claims for 2010 also have risen significantly. There are more shock (large) claims and claims at higher amounts. In 2010 the plan has had almost double the large claims than it had in 2009. As one cost-saving device Edwards and his partner at Mountain West Benefits, Richard Miltenberger, are shopping the market for a better cost for stop loss insurance.

To assist the trustees in making their decision about the plan renewal for 2011, Miltenberger of Mountain West Benefits provided an update for trustees on the claims experience of the group health plan this year. He reviewed a rolling 12-month comparison of recent claims experience. Claims experience also has been higher the past several months. He commented that other group plans that Mountain West Benefits provides consultation services for are experiencing a similar rise in claims costs this year. In general hospital inpatient claims are rising. The use of medical
technology has increased in rural areas, thus driving up health care costs. This made MDA’s renewal discussion more difficult this year than in past years.

MDA Scored Major Victories in 2011 Session

The Montana Dental Association scored several legislative victories during the 2011 regular session. The following describes three of the important bills that MDA enjoyed a successful outcome for:

Senate Bill 2: This bill was introduced by Sen. Mary Caferro (Democrat-Helena) at the request of the Montana Dental Hygienists’ Association. It would have allowed Limited Access Permit (LAP) dental hygienists to establish and operate school-based sealant programs without any input or involvement of dentists. MDA opposed this bill on several grounds. The lack of involvement of dentists would have meant that students would not be diagnosed to determine if they actually needed sealants. The model did not target school children most in need of sealants and would have drained much-needed funding from the state Medicaid and CHIP programs for placement of sealants that may have been unnecessary. Dentists also argued that a school is not the optimum environment for the placement of sealants. After a hearing in the Senate Public Health, Welfare, and Safety Committee which ultimately passed the bill, the bill died on a tie vote on the Senate floor.

Senate Bill 101: This bill introduced by Sen. Verdell Jackson (Republican-Kalispell) would have allowed the state’s 19 denturists to have their own licensure board and terminated their regulation by the Board of Dentistry. MDA opposed this bill primarily on the grounds that dentists, dental hygienists, and denturists need to be regulated by a single board. The bill was heard by the Senate Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs Committee which was reluctant to create a board for only 19 licensees. The Committee tabled the bill and it subsequently died.

HB 572: This bill was introduced by Rep. Duane Ankney (Republican-Colstrip). It would have altered the composition of the Board of Dentistry by reducing the number of dentists from five to two and adding a denturist and another public member. MDA opposed this bill on numerous grounds. The work related to licensure and regulation of dentists requires at least five member dentists. Also, adding another denturist would have allowed denturists to be vastly over-represented on the Board. There are only 19 licensed denturists and 730 licensed dentists in the state. The bill was heard in the House Business and Labor Committee and died there.
Retired Montana dentist, Dr. Harold Andrew Pressman died on Feb. 8, 2011, after a long illness, at St. John's Nursing Home in Billings.

"Doc" Pressman was born on July 8, 1920, in Glendive, the second son of Andrew and Ruby (Harpster) Pressman. He spent his youth on the family dairy farm, graduating from Dawson County High School in 1938. He was active in student government, serving as President of Student Council, and was a member of the National Honor Society. He was also active in the school bands and orchestra. He worked for Montgomery Ward in Glendive until the fall of 1939, when he enrolled at the University of Minnesota. The following year, he attended Dawson Junior College, graduating in its first class after acquiring the requisite credits in science to enroll in dental school.

In 1944, he graduated from the School of Dentistry at the University of Minnesota.

In June of 1944, Harold married Audre Negus of Glendive and they moved to San Diego, where he was assigned to the Naval Dental Corps as Lieutenant jg. Upon completion of active duty, they moved to Billings, where he began private practice of dentistry in 1946.

In 1958, he took a sabbatical and enrolled in the Master's degree program in Prosthodontics at the University of Iowa before returning to practice in Billings. Upon his return to Billings, he helped develop the athletic mouth guard program for the Billings Public Schools. In 1968, he was invited to join the faculty of the dental school at the University of Minnesota. He taught there for three years and each year received an award given by the students for outstanding clinical instructor. In 1971, he returned to Billings, where he practiced dentistry until he retired 26 years later. Upon retirement, at age 77, he and Audre spent 10 winters in Sun City West, Arizona, where he played trumpet with two concert bands, returning to Billings for the summers, rejoining his "buddies" in the Shrine Band. He was very proud of his Dutch ancestry, and he and Audre enjoyed visiting his cousins in the Netherlands. They also traveled to Thailand and countries in Europe.

Harold was a member of many community and professional organizations, including Psi Omega Dental Fraternity, the Montana Dental Association and Ninth District Dental Society, the Minnesota Prosthodontic Society, a Fellow of the American College of Dentists and a life member of the Minnesota and Iowa Alumni Associations. In 1990, he received the Clinical Excellence Dental Award from the Montana Dental Society. He served for 15 years on the Board of Directors of the Billings Family YMCA and was a member of First Congregational United Church of Christ, where he served on the Board of Deacons and Trustees. He was a current member of Mayflower United Church of Christ. Harold was a member of Ashlar Lodge #29, Scottish Rite Bodies and the Al Bedoo Shrine.

He is survived by his wife, Audre; sons Thane (Carol) of Elk Rapids, Mich., Douglas of Prague, Czech Republic; and daughter Ann Walters (Darrell) of Billings. He is also survived by four grandchildren.

J. Myles White was born on Oct. 15, 1921, on the family homestead at Cold Springs, in the North Boulder River Valley of Jefferson County. After a lengthy struggle with emphysema, Myles passed away on April 7, 2011. Eldest son of Charles and Margaret (Dawson) White, Myles attended parochial grade school in Butte, graduating from Butte Central Christian Brothers High School in 1939.

In his senior year at Carroll College in Helena during World War II, Myles joined the V12 Navy officer training program and, after graduation, served as a Pharmacist Mate aboard the USS Clinton, a new, Haskell-class attack transport ship carrying Marines and replacement troops in the Pacific. The Clinton also moved Chinese troops and equipment to Chinwangtai Taku for the reoccupation of northern China.

After the war, Myles returned to Butte, was accepted to Loyola University in Chicago, graduating from the School of Dentistry in 1950. Returning to Montana, he and another young dentist answered the urgent call to serve at Warm Springs State Hospital, where 1,800 patients were in dire need of dental services. They served four years, and then established practices in Butte.

Uncertainty caused by the 1967 Butte miners' strike of the Anaconda Co., the longest in state history, inspired Myles to move further east, where he practiced dentistry in Miles City for 25 years, retiring in 1993, moving to Billings in 1999.

Dr. White's obituary continues on page 17
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You Think You Know - You Don't: Are you Ready to Lose It All? - We all think we know all there is to know about drugs. Sometimes we don't know -- what we don't know!

By the time many companies think about drugs and substance abuse in the workplace, they have been blindsided by a lawsuit. They often think they have the problem under control. Unfortunately, they don't realize the costs of substance abuse -- not only the measurable costs, such as absenteeism... pilferage, and turnover, but completely unexpected accidents that may end up in punitive damage suits, for which they are not insured.

Many companies think they have an appropriate substance abuse program, but they make amateur mistakes. They spend the majority of drug program dollars on pre-employment testing, they test the injured party for drugs in a post-accident situation, and they ban alcohol at work, yet they allow sales... staff to drink while entertaining clients. These are just a few of the mistakes that cost companies money and give them no defense against substance abuse at work.

Bob Stutman will startle you with the reality of how substance abuse affects your family and workplace. He will share many unique ideas on how to deal with the issue many of us "think we don't have in our families and workplace" -- SUBSTANCE ABUSE.

In retirement, Myles rekindled his high school orchestra skills, putting in many hours of practice, and then playing violin in the Miles City Community Orchestra and the Billings Community Orchestra. Music was a vital part of Myles' life, entertaining one and all with his rousing renditions of the golden oldies. Myles' humanitarian work in retirement included two trips to missions in Mexico with Regina and his dentist brother-in-law, Dr. Byron Greany, to perform several weeks of service to people in remote villages.

He was a member of the Montana Dental Association and Delta Delta Sigma dental fraternity.

Myles was preceded in death by his youngest daughter, Cindy. Survivors include his wife, Regina; daughters Mary Karen, Billings, and Joy, Edmonds, Wash.; sons Charles White, Great Falls, Mark White, Montana City, and James White, Helena, and numerous grandchildren.
**Practice Opportunities**

**Practice for Sale**

**Northwest** - Practice for Sale: Experience mountains, rivers and a beautiful valley. This is a quality, fee for service, Family Practice. It is committed to excellence and provides all facets of patient centered care including fixed and removable Prosthetics, Surgery, Endodontics, Pediatric Dentistry and a quality Hygiene program. The growing, active community, has excellent schools, a hospital and is close to a University and International airport. Hunting, fishing and floating provide a recreational paradise. Contact: Dr. Don Hanson (406) 862-6260 www.qualitytransitionsdds.com

**Northwest** - Get out your skis and visit this wonderful practice in one of Montana’s most beautiful destination sites. The practice is state-of-the-art and exudes a welcoming atmosphere and concern for patient comfort. Four operatories with annual collections of approximately $650,000. Stable fee-for-service practice with no PPOs and steady growth. Owner is ready to retire. Rare opportunity to own a practice of this caliber, so don’t wait an let it slip by. For detailed information about this opportunity and others, contact Wendy Hirai at ADS Northwest/Consani Seims Ltd. (866) 348.3820 www.mydentalbroker.com

**North Central** – Motivated seller ready to retire. Possible owner carry. 100% fee-for-service solo practice collecting $485,000. Beautiful area with immediate access to big game and bird hunting, fishing, hiking, golf and water sports. Rural area readily accessible to larger community and good shopping amenities. Three operatories and building also available for purchase. For detailed information about this opportunity and others, contact Wendy Hirai at ADS Northwest/Consani Seims Ltd. (866) 348.3820 www.mydentalbroker.com

**North Central** – Contemporary 3-op practice collecting $400,000. Seller does most of his own endo and refers out oral surgery. Low overhead and strong bottom line. Opportunity to grow with expanded schedule. Seller relocating out of state. For detailed information about this opportunity and others, contact Wendy Hirai at ADS Northwest/Consani Seims Ltd. (866) 348.3820 www.mydentalbroker.com

**North Central** - Larger 3-op practice with room for 4th op. Practice is 100% fee for service, and owner refers out most endo and all oral surgery. Equipment is all fairly new, and the office is very attractive. And the best part of all is the low overhead, which translates into a generous bottom line. For detailed information about this opportunity and others, contact Wendy Hirai at ADS Northwest/Consani Seims Ltd. (866) 348.3820. www.mydentalbroker.com

**Western Montana** - A great opportunity in the surrounding beauty of the Rocky Mountains. This family Practice offers a wide cross section of dental care plus a well trained, versatile staff with many years of experience. A perfect setting for the outdoor enthusiast (rafting, hiking, hunting, fishing and golfing nearby). The community has excellent schools, hospital, museum and public library. East, Interstate drive to a large University, international airport, cultural and sporting events. Reply in confidence to Dr. Don Hanson (406) 862-6260 www.qualitytransitionsdds.com

**Helena** - Associate wanted in well-established very active, six operatory practice in new facility. Accepting curriculum vitaeas of dentist to associate with intention to buy. Helena, located in Western Montana, is home to some of Montana’s finest outdoor sports, including fishing, skiing, and hiking. It is a great family-oriented community with excellent schools. Contact Dr. Eddy Crowley at 406-459-6141 or 406-442-0282. Email marye@bresnan.net.

**Southwest** - Beautiful, spacious office with five modern operatories. Fee-for-service practice is all digital and going to digital charts. Great location with tremendous opportunity for growth. For detailed information about this opportunity and others, contact Wendy Hirai at ADS Northwest/Consani Seims Ltd. (866) 348.3820 www.mydentalbroker.com


**Billings** - Oral Surgery Practice. Flexible opportunity to associate, lease or purchase. State-of-the-art oral surgery practice in the economic hub of Montana. The 5,000 square foot building was built and equipped just four years ago and is located in a highly visible medical/dental business park. The practice is in a high traffic area which is experiencing tremendous commercial and retail growth. Collections for 2009 were $1.2 million with a strong, loyal referral base. For detailed information about this opportunity and others contact Wendy Hirai at ADS Northwest/Consani Seims Ltd. (866) 348-3820. www.mydentalbroker.com

**Eastern** - Owner is experiencing health issues and must sell this 3-op practice. Locum recently started assisting doctor in the practice, and monthly collections have doubled. Owner is very conservative, and there is a tremendous amount of work left to do in the charts. Experienced staff and loyal patients waiting to welcome new owner. Practice is 100% fee for service. For detailed information about this opportunity and others, contact Wendy Hirai at ADS Northwest/Consani Seims Ltd. (866) 348.3820. www.mydentalbroker.com
**Professional Office Space Available:**

**Missoula**

I would like to bring it to your attention that I am currently constructing a 6,000 square foot, two story building located on the corner of High Park and SW Higgins, next to Romeo’s restaurant.

There will be professional space available up to 3,000 on the first floor sometime this summer. This will be available for lease or lease option to buy. At this time, there are still some design options available. This is an excellent location with easy access from High Park as well as SW Higgins.

If you have an interest in possible ownership or needing a larger facility to lease in the future please contact me at 406-728-5100.

John Spierling, D.M.D.
690 SW Higgins Ave, Ste B
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**South Dakota** - Excellent opportunity to JOIN or PURCHASE general practice in northeastern South Dakota. Great hunting and fishing area, excellent school system, small town atmosphere with a large drawing area. General practice performing nearly all aspects of dentistry.

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**Equipment**

**For Sale:** Kodak digital 8000 panoramic machine. Manufactured May 2006. Works flawlessly. Crated and ready to ship. $15,000. Phone 406/234-2926, Dr. Eric Hogan.

**For Sale:** Sirona Orthophos XG3 digital panoramic machine. Barely used. Works beautifully. Crated and ready to ship. $13,000. Phone 406/437-1294, Jason Fleishmann

**Wanted to Purchase:** A used digital panoramic machine for our community clinic, or can take a film panoramic machine for conversion. Phone 406/922-0881 or 406/587-2779. Dr Joanna Wales.

**For Sale:** Sybron Elements Electronic Apex Locator/Vitality Tester. New condition. Approximately two years old. $700. Call 406/871-9108.

**Used Equipment for Sale:** Used dental and office equipment for sale in Stevensville (dental chairs, carts, stools, etc.). Call 406/777-5070 or email drbaker@centric.net for complete list.

**For Sale:** Delivery units, dental chairs, radiograph equipment, office equipment, operator/assistant chairs, and much more for sale. Call 406/655-4656, Dr. Kyle Wassmer.

**X-ray Developer:** Looking for an automatic x-ray developer for panorex files. Would appreciate a donation, but low cost would also work. Contact Dr. Dan Harrington at Cooperative Health Clinic, 406/457-8928.

**Used Gendex GXC Pan:** Film based panoramic machine. Not upgradeable to digital. Free to cooperative health clinic or other non-profit. For sale to other interested individuals, make me an offer. If interested call Dr. Kevin Miller in Helena. 406-442-1130.
**Dental Datebook**

### 2011

**May**
5-6 MDA annual meeting, Helena, Red Lion Colonial Hotel, Featured Speaker, Dr. Stanley Malamed, "Medical Emergencies in Dental Practice". See www.mtdental.com for further details or call MDA, 800/257-4988

**June**
17 Montana Board of Dentistry Meeting

**July**
7-9 Montana Fly Fishing Seminar in Dillon, MT. Speaker Dr. Brandon Baillie, "Latest Techniques in Periodontal Therapy". Contact Dr. John B. McCollum (406) 683-5125 or www.beaverhead.com/ffc

### 2012

**September**
9 Montana Board of Dentistry Meeting

**December**
9 Montana Board of Dentistry Meeting

**March**
2 Montana Board of Dentistry Meeting
16 3rd District Dental Society Annual St. Patrick's Day Seminar, Fairmont Hot Springs, Anaconda, MT. Call Dr. Bill Brennick (406) 494-7080 or Dr. Dan O'Neill (406) 494-1316.

**April**
25-27 Montana Dental Association annual meeting. Missoula, Montana. Thursday, April 26 - Dr. Gordon Christensen "The Christensen Bottom Line"

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**Transitions**

Donald G. Hanson, DDS, PC.: 406.862.6260  
www.qualitytransitionsdds.com

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