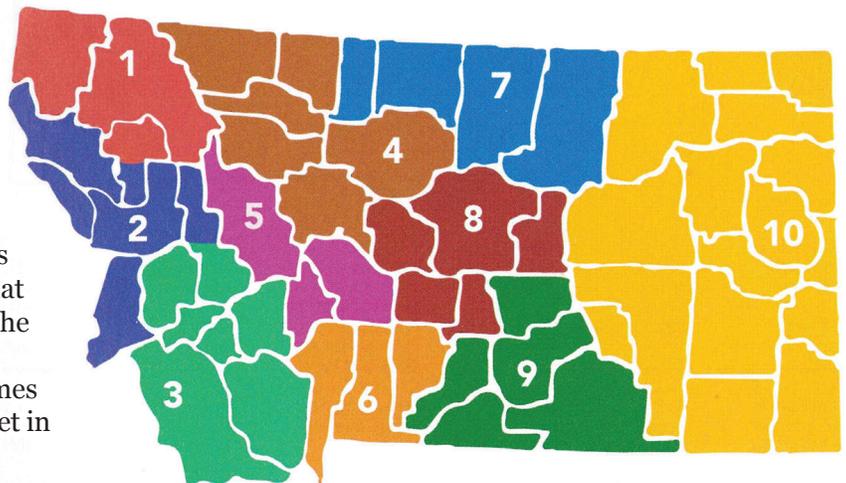


## You're Invited! District Dental Societies Begin Meeting in September

One of the best values of your MDA membership is the opportunity to participate in your local district dental society. Continuing education, monthly dinner meetings, charitable care projects, and the camaraderie that comes with your dental colleagues are all included in your membership.

New dentists can connect with colleagues and specialists, form life-long relationships that go beyond clinic work, find a mentor, and get the most out of your membership. Let's go!

Ready to participate? Meeting dates and times follow. For more information, don't hesitate to get in touch with your local district president.



Montana District Dental Societies

### Component District Meetings 2021-2022

#### District 1 – Kalispell

Meeting Location: Jagz Restaurant  
Meet 3rd Tuesday Sept-May @ 6:30 pm

*Continued on Page 13*

## State Epidemiologist Reports on BinaxNOW Rapid Test and COVID-19 Variants

Montana COVID-19 Epidemiologist Dana Fejes recently reported that the Binax NOW COVID-19 rapid tests are currently being used across Montana, and the state is getting reports of antigen positives. However, based on surveillance testing, they also know that variants have been around for some time. In fact, since July, the Delta variant has been the most predominant strain, and so far, the test seems to continue to perform well. For more information, go to <https://www.abbott.com/corpnewsroom/diagnostics-testing/monitoring-covid-variants-to-ensure-test-effectiveness.html>

MDA member rapid test administrators are reporting an uptick in demand. If you would like more information about testing sites in your district, don't hesitate to contact the MDA central office at 800.257.4988. Please keep in mind that supply and demand plus test kit expiration dates may cause a delay in availability.

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## A Message from Your President

MDA friends and colleagues,

I can't believe summer is winding down and three months of my term as president is already gone. Time is flying, as time usually does! Here are some noteworthy updates for you:

Our President-elect, Dr. Ron Davis, and I just returned from the Western States President's conference that was held in Monterey, California. It was the 40th annual session; our colleagues all the way from Hawaii to New Mexico and everywhere in between joined together to discuss issues facing their state associations. I was truly impressed by the caliber of people in leadership present at this meeting. It was a great learning experience for me: finding out what common issues we all face, but also what may lie ahead for us as an association. It was a brainstorming session at its finest and it did not disappoint. Not only did I bring home some valuable information and meet amazing dentists, but it also got me energized to come visit all of YOU at your district meetings and find out what issues YOU are facing. I want to encourage you to attend your local component meetings as

they start up again this fall! Find out what's been going on with your friends and colleagues and the MDA!

The Montana Dental Association is still looking for our next Executive Director. Shortly after the annual meeting we started a robust search for our next ED. We had great applicants that our volunteer search committee reviewed and narrowed down to our top two candidates. We felt these candidates would serve our association well. Unfortunately, one took another job two days prior to our in-person interview and the other decided it was not the right time to leave his current position. In short, we were left without an executive director after months of volunteer time and effort to find the right person. I am so thankful we have Jean Strainer and Pam Maslanka "holding down the fort" at the central office. Without their knowledge, experience, and day-to-day efforts, I am not sure where the association would be. Thank you, Jean and Pam! Our search committee will begin a new search starting later this month. We hope to have the position filled soon.



DR. INGRID MCLELLAN  
*President*

*Continued on Page 6*

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

- |                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| • President:                | Dr. Ingrid McLellan |
| • President Elect:          | Dr. Ron Davis       |
| • Vice President:           | Dr. Will Samson     |
| • Secretary:                | Dr. Will Samson     |
| • Treasurer:                | Dr. Greg Seaman     |
| • Immediate Past President: | Dr. Jason Tanguay   |
| • Delegates-at-large:       | Dr. Jane Gillette   |
|                             | Dr. Kurt Lindemann  |

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|----------------------|-----------------------|
| • Dr. Michael Bowman | • Dr. Jerry Martin    |
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| • Dr. April Foster   | • Dr. Stephen Spencer |
| • Dr. Mari Kiesling  | • Dr. Ryan Wallis     |
| • Dr. Patrick Lahiff | • Dr. Wade Wilde      |

### STAFF:

- |                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| • Executive Director:       |                     |
| • Executive Administrator:  | Ms. Jean Strainer   |
| • Administrative Assistant: | Ms. Pamela Maslanka |

### CONTACT MDA

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# NEWS YOU CAN USE

## MDA Leadership Attends Regional Conference

MDA President Dr. Ingrid McLellan and President-Elect Dr. Ron Davis recently returned from the Western States President's Conference held in Monterey, California. The conference annually rotates throughout thirteen states, with Montana hosting in 2005 and again in 2018. The meeting provides regional leadership a communication platform to discuss solutions to emerging issues.



*Dr. Ron Davis and Dr. Ingrid McLellan*

## Big Sky Care Connect

### Who is Big Sky Care Connect?

Big Sky Care Connect (BSCC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation established in 2018 by Montana healthcare stakeholders to establish and operate a health information exchange (HIE) in the state of Montana. The HIE enables the secure sharing of vital healthcare information to improve the speed, quality, safety, coordination, and cost of patient care.

### How will my dental practice benefit from using the HIE?

- Improve transition of care
  - Receive event notifications about your patients as they are admitted and discharged from the hospital or are seen in the emergency department.
  - Access to discharge summaries in BSCC's Provider Portal that provide important information to ensure proper treatment protocols are used prior to a patient visit to their dental professional.
- Enhance medication therapy management sessions
  - Access to comprehensive medication information from DrFirst and BSCC participants (providers

and payors) that include prescribed, dispensed, and medication histories.

- Access to diagnoses to confirm why medications were prescribed or changed.
- Increase efficiency and improve patient/provider satisfaction
  - Save time by reducing faxing and phone calls tracking down patient records, and having greater patient care time.

### What types of information can be shared to allow for collaboration with BSCC?

BSCC will collect data from disparate systems then store, manage, and standardize the data so all Montana providers have quick and easy access to a longitudinal patient record. Available patient record information from participating facilities includes vital clinical data, recent discharge summaries, medication list, allergies, problem list, immunization, screening, advanced directives, and test results.

# MDA Board Selects New Dentist Representative

Dr. Patrick Lahiff of Glendive has been selected to serve as the voice of new dentists on the Board of Directors. ADA defines a new dentist as anyone who graduated less than 10 years ago from dental school. The role of the New Dentist Representative is to foster leadership development, provide a new dentist perspective to the board, and collaborate with their peers to implement a new dentist event.

Dr. Lahiff served as Creighton's class of 2021 ASDA President for four years and formed an AGD liaison position to help provide AGD continuing education to students.

In addition, he was active in organized dentistry throughout dental school and found the legislative and advocacy aspects enjoyable. Dr. Lahiff is excited to continue his commitment to organized dentistry in Montana.



*Dr. Patrick Lahiff*



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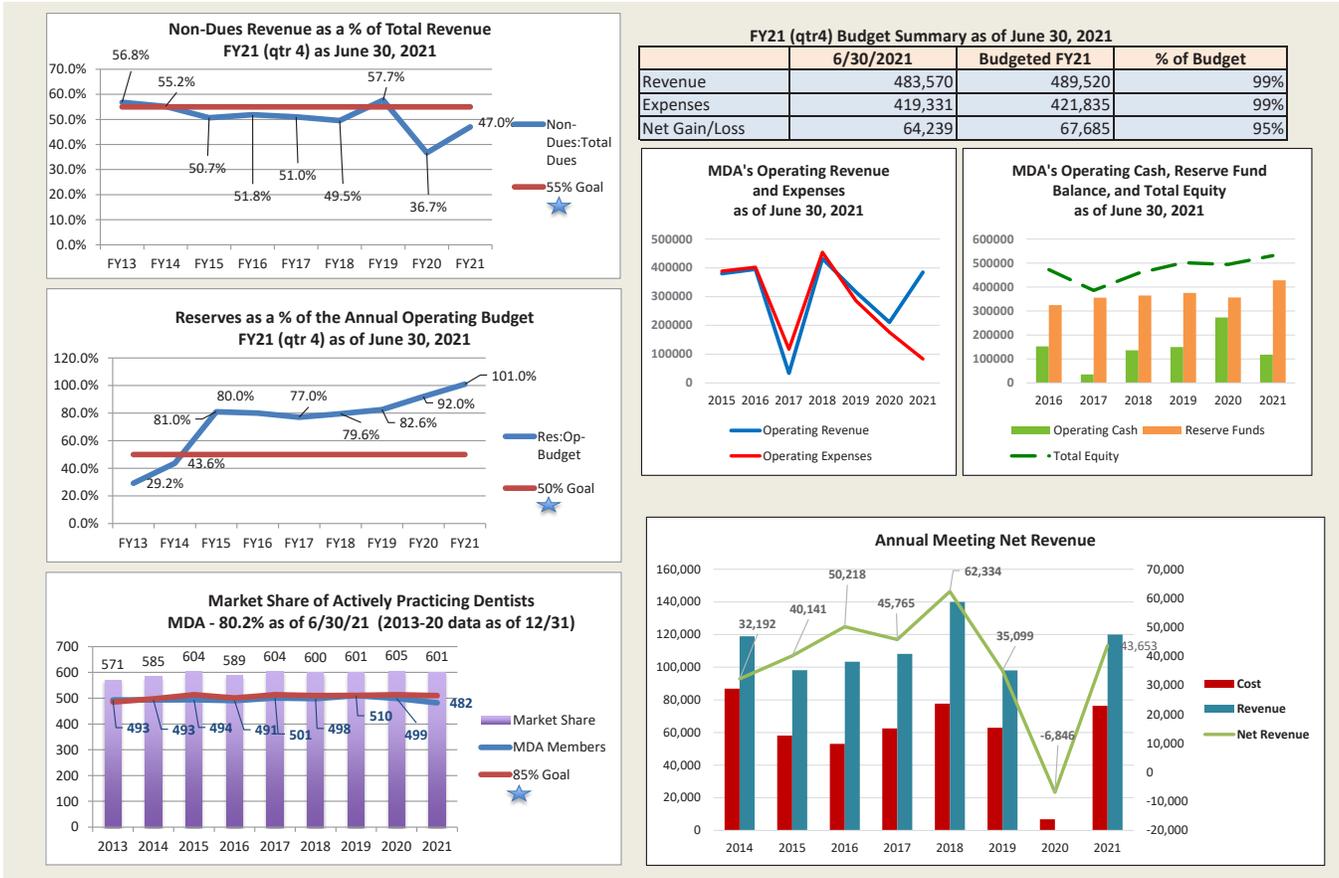


Big Sky Care Connect  
2021 11th Avenue, Suite 2  
Helena, MT 59601  
(406) 422.1078

This project is funded in whole or in part under a Contract with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. The statements herein do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Department.

# MDA Fiscal Year in Review

## MDA Balanced Scorecard June 30, 2021



MDA's Financial Oversight Committee met in early August to review the June 30 FY21 year-end budget. They are happy to report that your association is financially strong—investments coupled with reserve savings are greater than 100% of budgeted expenses. The strategic

plan and financial policy goal is 50%. If you have questions about information on the scorecard, don't hesitate to get in touch with MDA Treasurer Dr. Greg Seaman by text at 406.253.5999.

## President's Message...

(Continued from Page 2)

The Montana Oral Health Network (MOHN) is seeking volunteers to participate in the coalition. This group is comprised of individuals interested in promoting oral health activities and increase awareness of the importance of oral health and preventive care. If you or a member of your dental team are interested in participating, please contact me for more information. This is a great way for us to get our team to get involved in advocacy.

In other news, the dental program expansion at Great Falls College MSU is complete and will begin to accept additional students for the upcoming semester. There are openings for the dental assisting program currently available. The didactic portion of the program is delivered remotely or onsite at the campus, and clinicals are in Great Falls twice a month. Students then do their office clinical rotations in their home communities. The Dean

of the College, Dr. Wolff, recently emailed me with a special note of thanks: "I want to thank the Montana Dental Association and Montana Oral Health Foundation for your support in establishing the dental programs at Great Falls College Montana State University since their inceptions through today and future. We pride ourselves in education and graduating highly skilled professionals to support the dental communities all over the state." With workforce shortages all over the state, the time has never been better to get into the dental profession!

I think that's it for this issue's update! I look forward to connecting with you at your district meetings this fall.

Respectfully,  
Ingrid McLellan

# Montana Dentists Reach 83% of \$25,000 Goal

In November, the Montana Oral Health Foundation pledged to provide \$25,000 to the Great Falls College to fund equipment for an operatory in the new expansion of their Dental Hygiene space. The campaign generated \$20,822! A portion of the donations came in as part of the annual dues renewal process, \$5,160 from first-time donors and \$4,662 from recurring donors. In addition to that amount, MOHF would like to thank the following major donors:

- Linda Miller, CEO, Paradise Dental Technologies Inc., Missoula, \$5,000
- The 9th District Dental Society (Billings), \$4,000
- The 2nd District Dental Society (Missoula), \$2,000

The newly remodeled facility is operational and ready for the fall semester. The grand opening is slated for Friday, September 24, 3-5 PM. MOHF representatives will present a \$25,000 check to the college during the ceremony. MOHF is excited to be a part of the expanded dental hygiene program.



*An artist's rendition of the Great Falls College Dental Clinic and Training Center*

MOHF will continue its efforts to support ongoing scholarships, grants, and education within our state. For more information about the Foundation and to access an online link to donate, visit [MontanaDental.org](http://MontanaDental.org) and click on the green MOHF logo tab across the top of the screen.

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Transition Advisor



Donna Carlson Lowell  
Transition Advisor

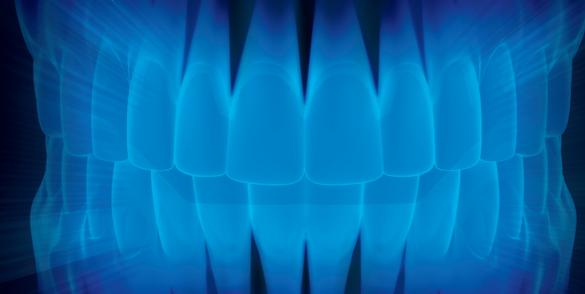
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# MDA Welcomes Newest Members

*The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the newest MDA members.  
Let's give them a big MONTANA welcome!*



**Dr. Stacey Cerven**  
Bozeman  
University of NV Las Vegas  
General Practice



**Dr. Autumn Chapman**  
Havre  
University of Nebraska  
General Practice



**Dr. Sawyer Ferguson**  
Billings  
University of Minnesota  
General Practice

**Dr. Kenneth Grebliunas**  
Great Falls  
The University of Illinois  
at Chicago  
General Practice

**Dr. Mary Hickerson**  
Great Falls  
University of Utah  
General Practice

**Dr. Katelyn Hixson**  
Billings  
Creighton University  
General Practice



**Dr. Lisa Huempfner**  
Helena  
Midwestern University Illinois  
General Practice



**Dr. Patrick Lahiff**  
Glendive  
Creighton University  
General Practice

**Dr. Taylor McGreevey**  
Missoula  
Midwestern University Dental  
Medicine  
General Practice

**Dr. Eric Myers**  
Stevensville  
University of the Pacific School  
of Dentistry  
General Practice

*Continued on Page 11*

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# MDA Welcomes Newest...

(Continued from Page 10)



**Dr. Chelsie Morasko**  
Bozeman  
Marquette University  
General Practice



**Dr. Zachary Smith**  
Billings  
St. Louis University Health Science  
Center  
Orthodontics



**Dr. John Rausch**  
Bigfork  
University of Colorado  
General Practice

**Dr. Robert Starkel**  
Libby  
University of Colorado  
General Practice

**Dr. Jaysen Williams**  
Hardin  
University of Pittsburgh  
General Practice

**Dr. Donald Ririe**  
Cut Bank  
University of Iowa  
General Practice

**Dr. Kyle Shank**  
Kalispell  
Indiana University  
General Practice

**Dr. McKaid Sheppard**  
Billings  
Creighton University  
General Practice

**Dr. Nicole Sirounian**  
Billings  
LECOM College of Dental Medicine  
General Practice

**Dr. Kenton Smith**  
Billings  
Roseman University of Health  
Sciences  
General Practice

Please notify the MDA central office if a new dentist in your area isn't on this list. ADA and MDA have made transitioning dentists into membership more straightforward than ever! Invite a potential member to your next meeting – let them know about the opportunities for personal leadership growth, savings they can reap by using ADA and MDA endorsed products, and show them how much fun organized dentistry can be. Contact MDA at 800.257.4988 or Jean Strainer [jeans@MontanaDental.org](mailto:jeans@MontanaDental.org) or Pamela Maslanka [MDAoffice@MontanaDental.org](mailto:MDAoffice@MontanaDental.org).

# Member Submission on Inclusivity

**Dr. Mandy Stebbins**

A few months ago, Ellie Bicha, the Montana Dental Hygiene Association President Elect, attended the MoDePac breakfast at the MDA annual meeting. Ms. Bicha, who is also my sister and employee, saw the blurb in the meeting pamphlet, and was curious to hear Gov. Gianforte speak. She was welcomed by several dentists, had breakfast, and listened to the governor speak. At the end of the hour as she turned to go, one of our colleagues abruptly confronted her and told her to leave. Taken aback and embarrassed, she did so. She then texted me asking why she would get kicked out when nothing in the program had indicated it was a dentist only event.

I cannot adequately describe how disappointing this interaction is to me, of course on a personal level, but on a larger scope, also as an embarrassingly accurate representation of how our organization treats those we consider to be inferior. I'm sure that the colleague's response would be that my sister didn't belong there, she's not a dentist. That is true. But what is correct isn't always what is right. The casting out of my sister is indicative of how we as an organization treat hygienists. There is only one reason to kick someone out AFTER an event, and that is to make them feel small, to exert our own power. It was a vacuum of leadership. This could have been a unique opportunity to welcome and honor a person who is sincere, curious, and kind, not to mention decorated by our own organization AND the President Elect of the MDHA, a person who has worked hard to build relationship with the MDA. It could have been a bridge building opportunity.

We have struggled for many years in antagonism with the Montana Dental Hygiene Association, but how is this to end unless we can begin to treat our hygienists as important, valued colleagues? In my private practice, I have for years sponsored membership for my hygienists to their professional organization because I believe they should be members for the same reasons that dentists should be members. It is a frustration of my sister that many of the hygienists who are active in state leadership are the minority who are antagonistic towards dentists. Why hasn't the MDA encouraged, sponsored, and supported the team-oriented hygienists in our own practices to participate? Isn't that in our own best interests? The cost is \$222 a year. I challenge every member of the MDA to sponsor our hygienists' membership to the MDHA. I bet it would make a huge difference in our professional relationship, and in our legislative struggles. Our discord with the dental hygiene association is a weakness that must be resolved if we truly want what's best for our profession.

It's not only our relationship with MDHA that is a weakness. At the MDA meeting, Dr. Klemmedson spoke about the changing face of dentistry and how important it is for the ADA to appeal to minorities if we are to survive as an organization. Yet when I approached him after his speech and asked him how the ADA will do this, he didn't have any solutions. I think there's a pervasive attitude with most of us that marginalized groups just need to be team players, that it's not our job to reach out to be inclusive. I believe this is not only wrong, but against the best interests of organized dentistry. I have had straight, white, male dentists in my own First District tell me that they don't feel comfortable coming to meetings, that they feel judged and condemned because of how they practice or advertise. I have noticed that the women in our district participate at significantly lower levels than men. I can't imagine how more marginalized minorities feel.

A couple of years ago, when I asked a female mentor how we could get more women involved, her answer was that she conformed to male social standards: learn to fly fish, shoot guns, drink beer. I was crestfallen. I have to change who I am to be accepted? I believe it is a flawed strategy, as women, to contort ourselves to fit in with the guys. To be sure, many women enjoy traditionally "male" types of activities. But if we participate in them primarily to fit in, we lose a part of ourselves. The men lose out too, because the good old boys' club (which also excludes some of the boys) perpetuates, and excludes anyone who is different. And so we establish and buttress a fragile, hollow patriarchy, which is destined to crumble as the demographics of our profession become more diverse. We do not currently have a culture of inclusion in the Montana Dental Association. If you personally believe that we do, then I entreat you to examine what your role is.

We have a lot of work to do, which must include introspection of what we want our organization's culture to be. We must have the integrity and humility to examine how we can do better. With the power and privilege of inclusion, of experience, of leadership, we then have the obligation to extend that inclusion further than we are sometimes comfortable, and often more than we have previously been aware. This starts with social acceptance on a very fundamental level. I believe it begins with awareness, and then: introductions, curiosity, and welcome.

# You're Invited! District Dental Societies...

(Continued from Page 1)

## District 2 – Missoula

Meeting Location: Rumour Restaurant  
Meet 3rd Tuesday Sept-May @ 6 pm

## District 3 – Butte

Meeting Location: To Be Determined  
Meet 1st Thursday Sept-May @ 6:00 pm

## District 4 – Great Falls

Meeting Location: Northern Montana Oral Surgery  
Meet 2nd Tuesday Sept-May @ 6:30 pm

## District 5 – Helena

Meeting Location: To Be Determined  
Meet 2nd Tuesday Sept-May @ 6:00 pm

## District 6 – Bozeman

Meeting Location: To Be Determined/Rotating Sites  
Meet 2nd Tuesday Sept-May @ 6:30 pm

## District 7 – Havre

Meeting Location: Rotate Between Component Dental Offices  
Meetings 1st Monday Sept-May @ 7:30 pm

## District 8 – Lewistown

Meeting Location: Yogo Inn  
Meet every 3rd month on 2nd Monday @ 6 pm  
2022 Meeting Schedule Pending

## District 9 – Billings

Meeting Location: Rocky Mountain College Prescott Hall  
Meetings 2nd Tuesday Sept-May @ 5:30pm

## District 10 – Scobey

Meetings – None

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# Dental Shade Photography Basics: Tooth Dehydration



**Mitch Bourgeois, CDT**  
Ceramist, O'Brien Dental Lab

Let's talk about dehydration. Arguably, shade matching is one of the most challenging aspects of what we do. It's a lot easier to tell if a margin is closed or a crown is in occlusion, but shades are nuanced.



Does it match, does it blend, or is it entirely off? Sometimes shades are just completely off, but sometimes there are simple ways to help correct that.

When you do a lot of work with shade photography, it isn't long before you notice some things that just need a little adjustment. When to take the shade is one of those easy adjustments that can make a

big difference.

When we see photos with shade tabs next to a fully prepared tooth, we know this was an at-the-end-of-the-procedure shade choice.

Shade photos taken at the end of the preparation procedure are great for giving us the prep shade but not so good at giving us the shade that we need to match for the natural teeth. Teeth dehydrate rapidly, and when they do, the shade will jump one to two shades lighter, maybe more.



This isn't an issue if we are matching existing crowns, but natural teeth react quickly and dramatically during the preparation procedure.

When the patient's mouth is open and the teeth are exposed to air for however long it takes to do one or more preps, everything is changing.

All that exposure to the air is drying the teeth out. During that time, the shade is getting lighter and lighter.

When we look at a shade photo, we look at comparisons between the shade tab's known value and what we are asked to match to.

As the tooth dehydrates, the natural translucence is lost, making the tooth look more opaque and higher in value. The surface of the tooth may take on a cloudy appearance that is easily mistaken for surface character. Then, you take the shade, and we fabricate the crown. However, when the patient returns for the seating, their teeth are fully hydrated, with greater chroma and translucency, and you end up with a shade that doesn't come close.



(A) hydrated, before procedure (B) dehydrated, after procedure

If you find your restorations coming back too light, especially in the anterior position, take a moment and think about where in the preparation procedure the shade is taken.

If you are taking it at the end, consider moving the shade determination to the very beginning of the appointment and see if that helps.

Seeing shade tabs next to unprepared teeth gives us greater confidence that what we see compared to the shade tabs isn't going to change when you see the patient at the final seating.

We hope you found this article helpful. If you have any questions or comments, please email us at [customerservice@obrientalldental.com](mailto:customerservice@obrientalldental.com). To subscribe to our educational videos and articles, please visit [obrientalldental.com/subscribe](http://obrientalldental.com/subscribe).



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During the recent Annual Meeting, MDA presented the 2020 and 2021 Awards for Excellence. Seven recipients and their nominators attended the event. Unfortunately, the 2020 Outstanding Dental Hygienist Kathy Ullman of Bozeman could not participate in the festivities. But, no worries, her nominator Dr. Leslie Hayes celebrated the achievement with Kathy, her family and her employer Dr. Andrew Freund.



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### Six Exceptions to the Mandatory Use of the Prescription Drug Registry

Montana Code Annotated 2019  
 TITLE 37. PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS  
 CHAPTER 7. PHARMACY  
 Part 15. Prescription Drug Registry  
 Mandatory Use Of Prescription Drug Registry

**37-7-1515. (Effective July 1, 2021) Mandatory use of prescription drug registry.** A prescriber or an agent of the prescriber shall review a patient’s records under the prescription drug registry before the prescriber issues a prescription for an opioid or a benzodiazepine for the patient, unless:

- (1) the patient is receiving hospice care;
- (2) the prescription is for a number of doses that is intended to last the patient 7 days or less and cannot be refilled;

- (3) the prescription drug is lawfully administered to the patient in a health care facility;
- (4) due to an emergency, it is not possible to review the patient’s records under the registry before the prescriber issues a prescription for the patient;
- (5) the patient is being treated for chronic pain and the prescriber reviews the patient’s records under the prescription drug registry every 3 months; or
- (6) it is not possible to review the patient’s records under the registry because the registry is not operational or because of other technological failure if the failure is reported to the board

The MPDR site doesn’t list the exceptions.



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 National AAOMS Annual Meeting, Nashville  
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 Idaho Dental Association, Boise

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 PNWDC Annual Session, Seattle  
 Alaska Dental Society, Anchorage  
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## CAREER CENTER

### Practices for Sale

**Good News** for practice acquisitions! Dental practice values remain strong through Covid-19, it continues to be a seller's market, we have qualified buyers looking in Montana, sellers receive 100% cash out at closing, 2020 weaker revenue due to office closures can be mitigated. Contact Practice Management Associates (406) 389-0123, [www.pmaadvisors.org](http://www.pmaadvisors.org)

**In Bozeman** - Virtually a turn-key, 3-operatory **dental suite** available immediately. It has low overhead, approximately 1,150 square foot space with full dental infrastructure in place: N<sup>2</sup>O, water, air, and vacuum all plumbed into walls, as well as internet. The suite has a long history (26 years) as a dental office. It is very conveniently located, with sufficient parking, at Bozeman's most busy intersection. Occupancy available now: just install and connect your equipment. Priced just right for **sale or lease**. Ideal for start-up or satellite practice in the growing Northwest. Contact broker Dennis Erickson at 406-579-8967 for more details and a tour of the suite.

Classified ads are available at no charge to MDA members. Contact MDA at 800-257-4988 or [info@montanadental.org](mailto:info@montanadental.org). Visit [www.MontanaDental.org](http://www.MontanaDental.org) for more information and opportunities.

## CLASSIFIEDS

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### For Use

**NO COST DENTAL EQUIPMENT** available for dental outreach events. Looking to host a dental mission or community-based event, such as programs in nursing homes, for veterans, or the homeless? We have ALL the equipment you would need including beautiful new portable ADEC delivery units, a Nomad x-ray unit, and sterilizers. Equipment is available to dentists at NO COST, just return the items in good condition. Contact Dr. Jane Gillette at [drjgillette@SproutOralHealth.org](mailto:drjgillette@SproutOralHealth.org) or 406-868-1549.

**MDA Annual Meeting – April 7-8, 2022 – Big Sky, Montana**

<https://montanadental.org/what-we-do/continuing-education>



*2021-22 officers are sworn in by ADA President Dr. Dan Klemmedson during the General Assembly. From left: Treasurer Dr. Greg Seaman, Vice-President Dr. Will Samson, President-Elect Dr. Ron Davis, President Dr. Ingrid McLellan, Immediate Past President Dr. Jason Tanguay, and standing on the floor, thankful to have completed his rotation, Past President Dr. Ron Jarvis.*

## 2021

- Sept 24 Board of Dentistry – virtual
- Oct 11-13 ADA SmileCon – Las Vegas
- Oct 13-16 ADA House of Delegates – Las Vegas
- Oct 15-16 Montana AGD CE – more info: (406) 541-2889
- Dec 3 Board of Dentistry – virtual

## 2022

- Mar 4 Board of Dentistry
- Mar 20-22 ADA National Lobby Day – Washington DC
- Apr 6 MDA Board of Directors – Big Sky
- Apr 7-8 MDA Annual Meeting – Big Sky
- June 3 Board of Dentistry
- Oct 13-17 ADA SmileCon – Houston
- Oct 17-20 ADA House of Delegates – Houston

## 2023

- Jan 68th Legislative Session Convenes
- May 11-12 MDA Annual Meeting – Missoula