



MDA
Montana Dental Association
—123 Years Rooted in Excellence—

Annual Meeting | May 28–29, 2026
University of Montana | Missoula, Montana

Register Today! www.MontanaDental.org



MDA 2026 ANNUAL MEETING

—123 Years Rooted in Excellence—

www.MontanaDental.org

MAY 28–29, 2026

WELCOME

Dr. April Foster, 2025–2026 President

As my year as MDA President comes to a close at the Annual Meeting, I thank you for your participation in the tripartite and for your support of organized dentistry. “123 Years Rooted in Excellence” is our theme this year, and the Bitterroot is our symbol.

Not only is the Bitterroot our state flower, but we are also returning to the UM campus in Missoula, at the mouth of the Bitterroot Valley and in the shadow of the Bitterroot Range. With 122 annual meetings behind us, we are stronger than ever and anticipating many more.

At this Annual Meeting, we will be celebrating many accomplishments from the past year, as well as preparing for even more success ahead. I especially hope you will join us at the President’s Reception, where we will present numerous awards.

Those awards encompass the whole dental team, and I encourage you to nominate peers and members for recognition. We will also recognize our newly elected president—I can’t wait!



Register now for excellent CE, suppliers, networking, and fun.

Welcome!

REGISTER

Register online at www.MontanaDental.org

OR complete the registration form and mail to MDA. *Save up to \$50 by registering before March 1.*

LODGING

Convention Site

DoubleTree by Hilton Edgewater

A short walk over the bridge to the UofM Campus

100 Madison, Missoula, MT

(406) 728-3100



Room Block

DoubleTree by Hilton Edgewater

Scan the QR code for availability and book

<https://bit.ly/26MDALodging>



Offsite Lodging

Hilton Garden Inn Missoula

Short 10-minute drive from UofM

3720 N Reserve St, Missoula

(406) 532-5300

<https://bit.ly/26offsite>

ADA C·E·R·P®

Continuing Education Recognition Program

MDA is an ADA CERP Recognized Provider

ADA CERP is a service of the American Dental Association to assist dental professionals in identifying quality providers of continuing dental education. ADA CERP does not approve or endorse individual courses or instructors, nor does it imply acceptance of credit hours by boards of dentistry.

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TRADE SHOW VENDORS

See the latest in dental technology and practice services and visit with company representatives at Montana's largest dental trade show. "Walk-around" lunch buffets and breaks will be served in the exhibition area. MDA appreciates the participation of these exhibitors. *List as of December 31, 2025*

A-dec Inc.	Health Professions of
Aesthetic Oral Arts	Montana Plan
Air Techniques	and Trust
Artisan Dental Lab	Henry Schein
Assured Dental Lab	Huntington Practice
bankCDA	Finance
Benco Dental	Marsh McLennan
Bravera Bank	Agency
Burkhart Dental	Montana Dental Lab
Supply	NSK Dental
Carestream Dental	O'Brien Dental
Consani and	Labs, Inc.
Associates, LTD	Orascoptic
Cutco Cutlery	Paradise Dental
dandy	Technologies
Delta Dental	Patterson Dental
DDSmatch	Supply
Dentist 2 Owner	Precision Dental
Designs for Vision	Laboratories
Financial Freedom	Q-Optics
for Dentists	Ultradent
Garrison Dental	VOCO America, Inc.

SPONSORS Thank You!

List as of December 31, 2025



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MAY 28–29, 2026

SCHEDULE

Wednesday, May 27

5:00 pm American College of Dentists and International College of Dentists (ACD/ICD) Dinner

Thursday, May 28

7:00 am American College of Dentists and Academy of General Dentistry (ACD/AGD) Meeting

8:00 am–12:00 pm Continuing Education Courses

9:00 am– Dental Trade Show

5:00 pm

12:15–1:30 pm **MDA Luncheon & General Assembly**

12:15–1:30 pm Dental Trade Show Walk-Around Buffet Luncheon

1:30–5:00 pm Continuing Education Courses

5:30–7:30 pm **President's Reception & Vendor Appreciation Social**

Friday, May 29

7:00–8:00 am **MoDePAC Breakfast**

7:30 am–1:30 pm Dental Trade Show

8:00 am–12:00 pm Continuing Education Courses

12:00–1:30 pm Walk-Around Buffet Luncheon

1:30–5:00 pm Continuing Education Courses

SPECIAL EVENTS

MDA Luncheon & General Assembly

(Members only)

Thursday, 12:15–1:30 pm

Consider Bylaws changes, elect officers, and enjoy your colleagues.

President's Reception & Vendor Appreciation Social

at the UC Center Vendor Ballroom

Thursday, 5:30–7:30 pm

Appetizers and drinks served.

Everyone welcome!

Thank outgoing MDA President Dr. April Foster, welcome the incoming MDA President, recognize members receiving annual awards, and enjoy some fun with the New Dentist Committee.

MoDePAC Breakfast

(Contributors only)

Friday, 7:00–8:00 am

Breakfast served.

Discuss elections and the upcoming 2027 Legislature.

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Gordon J. Christensen, DDS, MSD, PhD, is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Practical Clinical Courses (PCC), Senior

Consultant & Previous CEO of Clinicians Report Foundation (CR), and a Practicing Prosthodontist in Provo, Utah.

Gordon and Dr. Rella Christensen are co-founders of the non-profit CLINICIANS REPORT FOUNDATION (previously named CRA). Currently, Dr. Rella Christensen is the Director of TRAC Research, Inc. 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; and two honorary doctorates. Early in his career, Gordon helped initiate the University of Kentucky and University of Colorado dental schools, taught at the University of Washington, and was the initial Dean of the Scottsdale Center for Dentistry.

Currently, he is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Utah, School of Dentistry. Gordon has presented thousands of hours of continuing education globally, made hundreds of educational videos used throughout the world, and published widely.

Gordon and Rella's sons are dentists. William is a Prosthodontist, and Michael is a General Dentist. Their daughter, Carlene is an administrator for a dental distributor company. He is a member of numerous professional organizations.

The Christensen Bottom Line — 2026

Presented by Gordon J. Christensen, DDS, MSD, PhD
Thursday, 8:00 am–4:30 pm | 5.5 CDE | Lecture
Suitable for the entire team

This fast moving “bottom line” course includes the areas of dentistry with the most activity and change in any given year. It is easily understood and has numerous summaries that help attendees to interpret the ongoing advancements in the profession. The course encourages audience participation, and questions and answers and is presented in an enjoyable and humorous manner.

The hottest aspects in the following topics will be included in the planned program depending on the interests of the participants in your group, the popularity of topics at the time of your program, and the time available.

The following are potential topics, all of which may not be included in a specific course depending on time availability, and audience interest.

1. Esthetic Dentistry
2. Implant Dentistry
3. Infection Control
4. Occlusion
5. Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology
6. Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
7. Periodontics
8. Practice Management
9. Prosthodontics Fixed
10. Prosthodontics Removable

Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, participants will be able:

1. List the most important and useful new techniques in the general topics selected by your group.
2. List the most important and useful materials discussed in the general topics selected by your group.
3. List the most important and useful new concepts discussed in this course.
4. Implement those aspects of the course most applicable to your practice.

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Unleash the Power of Hygiene: Leveraging our Profession

Presented by Jamie Marboe-Nichols, BSDH

Thursday, 1:00–4:00 pm | 3 CDE | Lecture

Suitable for the entire team

Get your team on the same page with clarity around delivering a level of care that is in EVERYONE's best interest. Learn how to deepen the relationships you have with patients, resulting in a thriving, profitable hygiene department.

Uncover the hidden potential of your hygiene team, creating a strong return on hygiene for your patients, providers and practices.

1. Your Patients: An improved ability to provide high level clinical care that provides for your patients' best interests and supports their overall health.
2. Your Providers: An environment that maximizes your team's ability to use their skills to educate, support, and communicate in a way that increases their career satisfaction and their patients' confidence in your practice.
3. Your Practice: A strong return on your hygiene investment, resulting in healthy profitability for the practice and appropriate financial awards for your team.

Learn how to analyze and monitor hygiene department statistics for measuring how well systems are being implemented, when to celebrate and when to get refocused. Gain a systematic approach for the entire hygiene appointment that will increase treatment enrollment, decrease stress and improve the efficiency of hygiene appointments no matter your role on the dental team.

Learning Outcomes

Discover where there's room for growth and improvement in the following areas of your hygiene team:

Schedule: Learn 4 critical factors in keeping your hygiene schedule full and productive while reducing stress for your hygienists and business team.

Perio Awareness: Determine your perio potential and what might be holding your practice back.

Profitability: Learn hygiene productivity principles that create healthy, long-term hygiene profitability.

Restorative Co-Diagnosis: Discover 3 easy, actionable principles to implement during the hygiene visit which dramatically increase treatment acceptance.

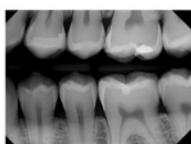
Learn when to refer: not too soon and not too late.

Learn the FIVE down and dirty hygiene department benchmarks and how your practice measures up.*

Gain resources to get the entire team on the same page with a collaborative Perio Standard of Care.

Link science-based rationale with compelling language skills to overcome mental barriers and increase treatment outcomes.

SALISH KOOTENAI COLLEGE
DENTAL ASSISTING 
MDA
In cooperation with the
Montana Dental Association



**Radiography
Certification**

**Dental Assistant
Radiography
Certification**

May 28–29, 2026

Meets x-ray requirements.

Scan the QR Code to register.



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“Let Them in Dentistry”: A Smarter, Calmer Approach to Leadership, Patients & Team Dynamics in Dentistry

Resistance, Rebuilding Trust, and Reclaiming Your Energy

Presented by Jamie Marboe-Nichols, BSDH
Friday, 8:30–11:30 am | 3 CDE | Lecture
Suitable for the entire team

This course introduces dental professionals to The Let Them Theory®, a practical mindset and communication framework designed to reduce resistance, restore emotional energy, and strengthen leadership effectiveness in today’s dental environment.

Participants will explore how applying this approach to patient care, team dynamics, and leadership conversations helps shift control struggles into collaborative, respectful interactions. Through real-world dental scenarios, attendees will learn how to establish healthy boundaries, support accountability, and empower patients to make informed decisions—without pressure, burnout, or emotional fatigue.

This course is ideal for dental teams seeking improved communication, stronger trust, and a calmer, more sustainable practice culture.

Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, participants will be able:

1. Identify how The Let Them Theory applies to common clinical, patient, and team interactions within a dental setting to reduce resistance and emotional fatigue.
2. Demonstrate communication and leadership strategies that establish healthy boundaries, improve accountability, and support a cohesive dental team culture.
3. Implement patient-centered education techniques that promote autonomy, enhance trust, and support informed treatment decision-making.



Jamie Marboe-Nichols, BSDH, owner and CEO of Marboe Consulting and Implement Simply is described as an enthusiastic dental and leadership

consultant who enjoys working with like minded professionals. She specializes in empowering dental teams to build exceptional patient care experiences while fostering a thriving team culture. With years of firsthand experience in clinical coaching and leadership development, backed by her years of “in the trenches” as an assistant and registered hygienist, she inspires teams to implement sustainable strategies that drive growth, efficiency, and fulfillment.

Jamie brings a unique approach to her work—one rooted in motivation, practical solutions, and an unshakable commitment to helping individuals and teams unlock their full potential. Whether she is guiding clinical teams through best patient practices, coaching leaders to embrace a culture of accountability or crafting systems that transform workplace dynamics, Jamie thrives on creating lasting change.

Montana Medicaid Update

Presented by DPHHS Medicaid Staff
Friday, 10:00 am–12:00 pm

This seminar will provide an overview of Montana Medicaid updates.

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The Myths and Realities of the Link Between Oral Disease & Systemic Conditions and the Effects on Clinical Outcomes

Presented by Dr. Jim Grisdale

Thursday, 8:30–11:30 am | 3 CDE | Lecture

Suitable for the entire team

This course will explore and explain in detail the interrelationships between systemic disorders and oral health. Emphasis will be placed on the oral microbiome, symbiosis and dysbiosis and the effect on healing from non-surgical to surgical treatments. The bi-directional link will be made between periodontal disease and systemic conditions from understanding the pathways of inflammation, the host response and the impact on clinical practice outcomes. Risk assessment will be addressed in the context of the oral/systemic connection.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the program, participants will have learned:

- current knowledge and understanding of the pathogenesis and mechanisms of periodontal disease.
- the impact of periodontal disease on systemic conditions.
- the influence of systemic disorders on periodontal health.
- the importance of understanding the oral/systemic link and how it can affect treatment outcomes.
- to look to future trends for causal effect relationships between oral and systemic diseases.



Jim Grisdale, D.D.S. is a Board-Certified Specialist in Periodontics and Prosthodontics. Dr. Grisdale was formerly a full-time faculty member in the graduate periodontal residency program at Loma Linda School of Dentistry, Loma Linda, CA and is currently an invited lecturer.

Dr. Grisdale lectures extensively in the United States, Canada, and has lectured in Southeast Asia and Europe. He is a mentor for Periodontics and Implant Study Clubs. Dr. Grisdale has published in treatment for dentin sensitivity, implants, bone regeneration and soft tissue periodontal adhesives. He is an active participant in clinical research and the study of contemporary periodontal products. He is a member of several professional societies.

Contemporary Esthetic and Functional Gingival Grafting for Teeth and Implants

Presented by Dr. Jim Grisdale

Thursday, 1:00–4:00 pm | 3 CDE | Lecture

Suitable for the entire team

This course covers the key factors which determine successful soft tissue grafting outcomes. The etiology, classification, indications and techniques to establish predictable esthetic results, restore a functional attachment and eliminate hypersensitivity will be discussed. Free gingival grafts to the most contemporary connective tissue graft techniques including the use of autogenous and alternative tissue for the most predictable results will be covered in detail.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the program, participants will have learned:

- to correctly diagnose and treatment plan mucogingival problems for teeth and implants.
- to understand the differences and limitations between free gingival grafts and connective tissue grafts.
- to know the indications and contraindications for free gingival grafts and connective tissue grafts.
- to become familiar with the surgical protocols, techniques and instrumentation for successful mucogingival surgery.
- to provide appropriate post operative instructions to patients to avoid complications.

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Dr. Uche Odiatu, DMD, is a professional member of the American College of Sports Medicine and a practicing dentist in Toronto. This busy health care professional is an NSCA Certified Personal Trainer, Certified Yoga Instructor, Certified Boot Camp Instructor and has given 700 plus lectures in England, Canada, the USA, the Bahamas, Denmark, Bermuda and Norway. Has been the invited guest in over 400 radio and TV shows from Alaska to Atlanta and from NYC to California. He won a 2023 Lifetime Achievement award from The Global Dental Summit; 2023 Dental speaker of the year from New Orleans and a Denobi Award 2023 for his contribution to the industry. He was nominated for dental educator of the year 2023 Dr Bicuspid. X & Instagram @fitspeakers. www.DrUche.com

The Health & Fitness Advantage for the Dental Professional: Ergonomics and Beyond!

Presented by Dr. Uche Odiatu

Friday, 8:30–11:30 am | 3 CDE | Lecture

Suitable for the entire team

Sponsored in part by South Central Montana AHEC

Want to learn about Zone 2 cardio, mixed methods workouts, a ideal morning wake up stretching routine, functional exercise & its ergonomic impact on your miraculous body? This invigorating presentation was designed to give the health care professional strategies on how they can exercise regularly & develop a fitness modus operandi. The research shows that physically active professionals have stronger resilience, faster reaction time, more energy and sharper cognitive ability than their inactive counterparts. Most health care professionals are surprised to uncover the robust science between their personal health and their professional performance. Finally, a different kind of program to help health care professionals perform better in & out of the office in 2026 and beyond.

Learning Outcomes

1. Learn insider strategies to improve your posture, release chronic muscle pain, improve your range of motion & work & play pain free again.
2. Develop a fitness mindset of (a) mixed methods workouts, (b) HIIT training, (c) Zone 2 Cardio, (d) functional exercise patterns.
3. Gain insight into how NEW nutrition scientific findings impact your body's ability to respond to your functional fitness & exercise agenda.

Douse the Flames of Chronic Stress

Presented by Dr. Uche Odiatu

Friday, 1:00–4:00 pm | 3 CDE | Lecture

Suitable for the entire team

Sponsored in part by South Central Montana AHEC

Your nervous system is watching when you scroll on your phone or watch the news. Your Immune system eavesdrops on your nervous system. If you don't think you're physical and emotionally impacted by stress you're kidding yourself. Chronic social media attention to the global increase in military combat, human (food shortage/ crime) and natural disasters can lead to the development of short term & long term psychological stress disorders. You and your patients are experiencing this if you have poor stress management strategies: low energy, anxiety, gloom and doom thinking, depression, brain fog, frequent colds and chronic pain.

Learning Outcomes

1. Recognize the warning signs and the implications of you and your patients being out of balance.
2. Make the connection between STRESS and your patient's ORAL HEALTH and TOTAL BODY HEALTH.
3. Stop accelerated aging in its tracks by implementing this session's deep dive into
 - The best 5 physical movements to do when waking up.
 - A new immune boosting eating strategy.
 - 7 ways to lower cortisol in the evening so you can sleep deeper.

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REGISTER NOW and SAVE \$50

Fee increases after
March 1, 2026

Register online at
www.MontanaDental.org
OR complete the registration
form and mail to MDA.

HOW TO REGISTER

All attendees must be registered to participate in courses or events.

1. Each attendee must be registered with their legal name (for CE), badge name, job type, and email address. Use additional sheets if necessary.
2. Fill in Registration Code and Fee for each attendee.
3. Fill in Course and Event Codes that each participant will attend. Please include the daily luncheon buffets you plan to attend.
4. Total conference fees for all participants and complete the payment form.
5. Partial registration is not permitted.
6. Meeting packets will be available at the registration counter and will be filed by the name of each attendee.

FEES

		By Mar 1	After Mar 1
1	MDA Member	\$450	\$500
2	ADA Member outside Montana	\$475	\$525
3	MDA Retired Member	\$195	\$245
4	Non-Member Dentist	\$900	\$950
5	Dental Hygienist	\$225	\$275
6	Dental Assistant	\$225	\$275
7	Dental Office Staff	\$225	\$275
8	Guest Attending CE, Lunches	\$225	\$275
9	Dental School, Hygiene or Assistant Student	\$30	\$30

REGISTRATION CODES

COURSES

Thursday, May 28

- A Dr. Gordon Christensen
- B Dr. Jim Grisdale – AM
- C Dr. Jim Grisdale – PM
- D Jamie Marboe, RDH, CS – PM

Friday, May 29

- E Jamie Marboe, RDH, BS – AM
- F Dr. Uche Odiatu
- G Montana Medicaid Updates

SPECIAL EVENTS

- H MDA Luncheon & General Assembly* (Members only)
- I Thursday Trade Show Buffet Lunch*

**Please select only one Thursday Lunch option.*

- J President's Reception & Vendor Appreciation Social (Everyone Welcome)
- K MoDePAC Breakfast (Contributors only)
- L Friday Trade Show Buffet Lunch

MDA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

MAY 28–29, 2026

Register online at www.MontanaDental.org or complete the following form.

To ensure accurate CE certificate tracking and management, each attendee must be registered separately with complete information. This includes their legal name (for certification), badge name, job type, and email address.

Dental Practice or Employer Name _____

Phone _____ Primary Email _____

Select one: Dentist Hygienist Dental Assistant Student Guest Staff, Title: _____

Legal Name: First _____ Last _____

Badge Name: First _____ Last _____

Email _____

Fees Code (circle number) **1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9** Fee \$ _____

Course Codes (circle letters) **A B C D E F G** Special Event Codes (circle letters) **H I J K L**

Select one: Dentist Hygienist Dental Assistant Student Guest Staff, Title: _____

Legal Name: First _____ Last _____

Badge Name: First _____ Last _____

Email _____

Fees Code (circle number) **1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9** Fee \$ _____

Course Codes (circle letters) **A B C D E F G** Special Event Codes (circle letters) **H I J K L**

Event Disclosure Agreement: By registering for this event, you acknowledge and agree that entry to the event premises indicates consent to be photographed, filmed, and recorded. You grant permission for the Montana Dental Association to use these recordings for lawful purposes, including publication, exhibition, or reproduction on websites, social media, news, and advertising. By registering and/or attending, you waive any claims related to the use of recorded media.

PAYMENT

Total Registration Fee
payment options below

Check payable to MDA

MasterCard | Visa | Discover | AMEX

• *Cancellations must be made by May 15, 2026 to receive a refund. No refunds will be issued after that date.*

• *No refunds can be issued for unattended events or meals.*

Credit Card # _____

Exp. Date _____ CVV Code _____

Signature _____

Billing Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Email _____
(required for receipt)

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ADDITIONAL CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

Dental Practice or Employer Name _____

Phone _____ Primary Email _____

Select one: Dentist Hygienist Dental Assistant Student Guest Staff, Title: _____

Legal Name: First _____ Last _____

Badge Name: First _____ Last _____

Email _____

Fees Code (circle number) **1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9** Fee \$ _____

Course Codes (circle letters) **A B C D E F G** Special Event Codes (circle letters) **H I J K L**

Select one: Dentist Hygienist Dental Assistant Student Guest Staff, Title: _____

Legal Name: First _____ Last _____

Badge Name: First _____ Last _____

Email _____

Fees Code (circle number) **1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9** Fee \$ _____

Course Codes (circle letters) **A B C D E F G** Special Event Codes (circle letters) **H I J K L**

Select one: Dentist Hygienist Dental Assistant Student Guest Staff, Title: _____

Legal Name: First _____ Last _____

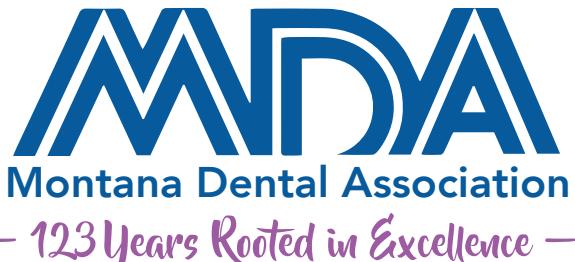
Badge Name: First _____ Last _____

Email _____

Fees Code (circle number) **1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9** Fee \$ _____

Course Codes (circle letters) **A B C D E F G** Special Event Codes (circle letters) **H I J K L**

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May 28-29, 2026 | Missoula, Montana

Featured Presentations

Dr. Gordon Christensen

Dr. Jim Grisdale

Jamie Marboe, RDH, BS

Dr. Uche Odiatu

The best value in MONTANA for Continuing Dental Education

