



Governor Abbott Names Chair, Appoints Three to TSBDE

According to the Office of the Texas Governor, Governor Greg Abbott in October named Bryan Henderson II, DDS, as chair of the State Board of Dental Examiners (TSBDE). Additionally, Governor Abbott appointed Janessa Bock, RDH, and Lisa Masters, DDS, and reappointed Linda Burke, DDS, to the TSBDE for terms set to expire on February 1, 2031. The TSBDE regulates the practice of dentistry and dental hygiene in the state.



Bryan Henderson II, DDS, of Dallas is a dentist anesthesiologist and a clinical assistant professor at the Texas A&M University School of Dentistry. He is a board member of Woodhill Medical Park and board member and treasurer for the Orange Tree Association. Additionally, he is a member and past president of American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists and a member of the ADA, TDA, American Dental Society of Anesthesiology, Dallas County Dental Society, and committee member for the State Fair of Texas Youth Livestock Auction Committee. Henderson received a Bachelor of Business Administration from The University of Texas at Austin (UT), Doctor of Dental Surgery from Baylor College of Dentistry, and a certificate in anesthesia from the Medical College of Pennsylvania (now Drexel University Hospital).

Janessa Bock, RDH, of Katy, is a clinical dental hygienist at Katy Family Dental Group and founder and managing partner of Oral Health Consultants, LLC. She is a former president and legislative director for the Texas Dental Hygienists' Association, former president and trustee for the Greater Houston Dental Hygienists' Association, and past delegate for the American Dental Hygienists' Association. Additionally, she is a volunteer team member with the Texas HPV Coalition. Bock received an Associate of Applied Science in Dental Hygiene from Amarillo College.



Lisa Masters, DDS, of San Antonio is a board-certified periodontist at The Masters Dental Group and part-time faculty at UT Health San Antonio School of Dentistry. She is the president of the American Academy of Periodontology Foundation and is the former chair of the Anesthesia Advisory Committee of the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners. Additionally, she is a member of the ADA, TDA, San Antonio District Dental Society, Texas Society of Periodontists, Southwest Society of Periodontists, the American Academy of Periodontology, and a former member of the Texas Radiation Advisory Board. Masters received a Bachelor of Science from Texas A&M University (TAMU) and a Doctor of Dental Surgery and a Master of Science from The UT Health Science Center at San Antonio.

Linda Burke, DDS, of Harlingen is a pediatric dentist and owner of Burke Children's Dentistry and president of Platinum Surgery Center. She is a board member of the Valley Baptist Medical Center, Harlingen Economic Development Corporation, and the Lone Star National Bank Advisory Board. Additionally, she is a member of the ADA, TDA, Rio Grande Valley District Dental Society, American Board of Pediatric Dentistry, and Texas Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, Junior League of Harlingen, and former chairperson for the Harlingen Area Chamber of Commerce and the Ronald McDonald House Charities Rio Grande Valley. Burke received a Bachelor of Science in Biology from St. Mary's University and a Doctor of Dental Surgery from The UT Health Science Center at Houston and completed her pediatric dentistry residency at The UT Health Science Center at San Antonio.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION—Fingerprint Requirement



Following a recent Department of Public Safety audit, the TSBDE identified dentists and dental hygienists who do not have a State Identification Number (SID). Beginning January 1, 2026, all dental and dental hygiene licensees without a SID will be required to submit fingerprints for a criminal history check and SID assignment as part of their license renewal. Licensees who received their licenses before 2016 may not have a SID on file, which prevents the agency from receiving notifications of criminal history events.

Impacted licensees must wait to begin this process until they receive a unique QR code from the TSBDE. The TSBDE will notify impacted licensees 90 days before license expiration. The notification will be transmitted via the online licensing system. A Frequently Asked Questions section will be on the TSBDE website by November 2025. The Dental Board requests that licensees avoid reaching out to TSBDE staff to confirm whether their information is included in the database.

TDA first reported on this requirement in the June issue of *TDA Today* and will continue providing updates in future issues and other communications as needed. For more information on the TSBDE, please contact **TDA Senior Policy Manager Diane Rhodes at 512-443-3675.**

Pankey Institute Faculty Featured at 2026 TDA Meeting

The TDA Meeting is excited to announce that esteemed Pankey Institute faculty are coming to San Antonio in May and will be offering the **Pankey Essentials 1: Aesthetic and Functional Treatment Planning** course as part of the TDA Meeting! This 3-day immersive course focuses on examination, precise diagnosis, and treatment planning across five essential areas: esthetics, occlusion, restorative techniques, biological considerations, and patient-centered care. Designed for both early career and seasoned dentists, this course delivers practical, applicable tools you can use immediately in your practice. Transform your dental practice experience to achieve heightened predictability, profitability, and personal fulfillment.

This is an incredible opportunity to take this course right here in Texas! Course tuition includes 24 hours of CE, breakfast and lunch each day, plus all materials and supplies. Only 24 seats are available, so secure your early access now! Visit the dedicated Pankey page on our website to learn more and sign up today, <https://tdameeting.com/education-info/pankey/>.

the TDA MEETING

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THE PANKEY INSTITUTE

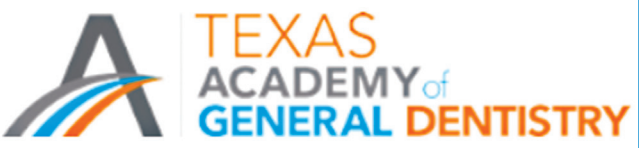
2026 TDA Meeting Presents:

THE PANKEY ESSENTIALS 1

Aesthetic & Functional Treatment Planning

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Secure your spot now! → tdameeting.com/pankey



TAGD Names Two Texas Dentists of the Year

Drs Partha Mukherji and Victor Rodriguez Receive Award

Partha Mukherji, DDS, FAGD, of Fort Worth, and Victor Rodriguez, DDS, MEd, of Houston, were named the 2025 Texas Dentists of the Year™ on September 12 during the 60th Texas Academy Awards celebration. This honor is the most prestigious recognition a Texas Academy of Dentistry (TAGD) member can receive.

Dr Mukherji was nominated by the Fort Worth Academy of General Dentistry, and Dr Rodriguez by the Greater Houston Dental Society. They were selected from 13 nominees by a panel of judges based on their professional excellence, commitment to continuing education, leadership, and service to their communities and the field of dentistry.

“We are proud to celebrate the remarkable achievements of these dentists and all of this year’s nominees,” said TAGD Dr Hanna Lindskog. “Their dedication to patient care, mentorship, and innovation reflects the very best of our profession. Drs Mukherji and Rodriguez inspire us all to reach higher and continue advancing the future of dentistry.”

Dr Mukherji earned his Doctor of Dental Science degree from Texas A&M College of Dentistry in 2001 and his fellowship in the Academy of General Dentistry in 2011. He has served in numerous leadership roles at the local, state, national, and international levels of organized dentistry. He is a past president of the Fort Worth AGD and currently serves as regional director and former secretary/treasurer of the Texas AGD. He is also a member of multiple TDA councils, including Annual Meeting Planning and Continuing Education Programming and will co-chair the TDA meeting in 2026.

Dr Rodriguez earned his Doctor of Dental Science degree from UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry in 1995. He has dedicated his career to advancing organized dentistry, mentorship, community service, and diversity. He has served as president of the Greater Houston Dental Society (GHDS), founded the Houston Hispanic Dental Association, and currently leads the GHDS Foundation. At the state and national levels, he has held leadership roles with the TDA, Hispanic Dental Association, and American Dental Association, contributing to meeting planning, continuing education, advocacy, and diversity initiatives. He founded the first ADA component-level Diversity and Inclusion Committee and has been instrumental in encouraging student and dentist engagement at major events such as SmileCon and the Texas Mission of Mercy.



Drs Victor Rodriguez of Houston and Partha Mukherji of Fort Worth were named the 2025 Texas Dentists of the Year™ at the 60th Texas Academy Awards celebration in September.

Dr Sam Asthana, Houston Area Dentist, Wins Texas New Dentist of the Year Award

Texas Academy of General Dentistry (TAGD) named Sam Asthana, DDS, FAGD, of Houston as the 2025 Texas New Dentist of the Year on September 12 at the 60th Texas Academy Awards celebration. This honor is considered the most prestigious recognition a new dentist in TAGD can receive.

Dr Asthana was nominated by the Houston Academy of General Dentistry (Houston AGD) and selected from 11 nominees by a panel of judges. Nominations come from local components of the Texas Academy of General Dentistry (Texas AGD) and district dental societies across the state. The award recognizes new dentists who embody Texas AGD’s mission of helping general dentists succeed through continuing education, leadership, and service to both the profession and the community.

“We are proud to recognize this year’s incredible group of New Dentist of the Year nominees,” said Texas AGD President Dr Hanna Lindskog. “Each of these young professionals represents the future of dentistry through their passion, innovation, and commitment to excellence. Dr Asthana’s achievements are an inspiring example of how talent and dedication can shape the future of our profession. We are excited to celebrate his success and look forward to seeing the impact he will continue to make.”

Dr Asthana earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the University of Texas Health San Antonio in 2020 and achieved his Fellowship in the Academy of General Dentistry (FAGD) in 2024. Named one of the Academy of General Dentistry’s “10 Dentists to Watch” in 2025, Dr Asthana has lectured nationally, moderated panels, and supported programs that guide the next generation of dental professionals. His commitment to outreach includes volunteering at Texas Mission of Mercy events and speaking at white coat ceremonies and career panels to inspire future dentists. 🇮🇳



Dr Sam Asthana of Houston was named the 2025 Texas New Dentist of the Year at the 60th Texas Academy Awards celebration in September



Texas A&M University College of Dentistry in Dallas Names Leaders

Drs Erica and Fabricio Teixeira joined Texas A&M University College of Dentistry in July in leadership roles. Dr Erica Teixeira takes the leadership reins of comprehensive dentistry, and Dr Fabricio Teixeira is the dental college’s new head of endodontics.

Previously, they served as department executive officers of operative dentistry and endodontics, respectively, at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics in Iowa City.

“We are fortunate to recruit 2 outstanding faculty to lead distinct departments at A&M Dentistry,” Dr Lily T. García, dean, said. “It is especially true that the timing of having 2 executive leadership searches for 2 different department heads – the departments of Comprehensive Dentistry and Endodontics – created a unique opportunity for both highly-respected faculty leaders.”

Erica Teixeira is a third-generation dentist. In her new role, she oversees the education of more than 400 dental students who care for patients under the supervision of licensed faculty. The Department of Comprehensive Dentistry also includes 10 residents in the 3-year advanced education program in prosthodontics and three in the advanced education in general dentistry program.

Erica Teixeira plans to collaborate with faculty and staff to strengthen our educational programs, implementing evidence-based practice approaches and innovation. “I look forward to serving at Texas A&M University, where so much growth is happening.” 🇧🇷

COMPONENT CORNER

Each month, we aim to spotlight a state component society and the events happening in the area. For more information or to let us know what is happening in your TDA component society, please email Managing Editor Nicole Scott, nscott@tda.org.

SPOTLIGHT: Capital Area Dental Society

CADS Celebrates Expansion of Dental Hygiene Program at ACC

Representatives from the Capital Area Dental Society (CADS) celebrated the expansion of the dental hygiene program at Austin Community College’s (ACC) Eastview Campus at a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 1.

Part of a 3-year campaign with the ACC Board of Trustees and direct work with the ACC Chancellor’s office, CADS advocated for the project and helped to secure budget funding to renovate the space, which doubles the operatories from 16 to 32 and enhances hands-on training and low cost community care, says CADS Executive Director Sara Carter.

It is the first completed project of the 2022 G.O. Bond, and more expansions are expected at ACC campuses in Hays County and Round Rock.

A 2019 study by the Texas State Department of Health projected the demand for dental hygienists to exceed supply every year between 2018 and 2030 (1). CADS hopes the expansions address the shortage of dental hygienists in the state.

“Across Texas, dentists are having a very difficult time treating all of their patients because there are just not enough dental hygienists,” CADS member Dr Shailee Gupta of Austin told the *Community Impact* newspaper. “Texas’s dental hygiene shortage is creating a crisis in our state’s dental workforce.”

Reference

1. Texas Supply and Demand Dental Projections, 2018-2030, page 15. October 16, 2025. URL: https://www.dshs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/chs/hprc/publications/DSHS_DentalProjections_092019.pdf 



Dr Shailee Gupta of Austin, CADS President Dr Meredith Overstreet of Austin, and CADS Executive Director Sara Carter are pictured at the ribbon cutting for dental hygiene expansion at the ACC Eastview Campus in early October.



CADS Executive Director Sara Carter addresses the attendees at the ACC Eastview Campus dental hygiene expansion.



A ribbon cutting on October 1 celebrated the expansion of the dental hygiene program at ACC’s Eastview Campus.



Texas Mission of Mercy Among NYSE-Listed Company Charities

Halliburton named Texas Mission of Mercy (TMOM) as its charity recipient for the New York Stock Exchange’s (NYSE) Global Giving Campaign at the Halliburton Charity Golf Tournament on October 22.

According to [nyse.com](https://www.nyse.com), NYSE-listed companies were asked to share their efforts to help those in need and raise awareness for the many important organizations supported by the NYSE community, and Halliburton (NYSE: HAL) included TMOM: “Halliburton is honored to support the Texas Dental Association’s Texas Mission of Mercy program. Since 2001, its volunteer-driven mobile clinics have delivered more than \$30 million in free dental care and oral health education to over 45,000 underserved Texans. These clinics relieve pain, restore dignity, and improve the health and quality of life of people who otherwise go without care.”

TDA Smiles Foundation is thankful for the partnership with Halliburton. “The relationship with Halliburton has been such a blessing for Texas Mission of Mercy,” says TDA Smiles Foundation Director Stacy Hill. “They have donated, not only full-event sponsorships, but also a new Iterro scanner and software, and approximately 25 laptops. This has been such a game changer for our organization.”

Each NYSE company and charitable organization will be honored with commemorative custom ornaments that will hang on the holiday trees in front of the NYSE entrance until the end of the year.

Reference

1. <https://www.nyse.com/global-giving-campaign?tab=h> 



You’d be grinning from ear to ear, too, if you just found out you were Halliburton international’s charity of choice for the New York Stock Exchange! Pictured are Halliburton Executive Vice President of Administration and Chief Human Resources Officer Lawrence Pope, TDASF Board Chair Dr Craig Armstrong, TDASF Director Stacy Hill, and Halliburton President and CEO Jeff Miller.



A Brief Open Enrollment and ACA Update

Much is going on with the Affordable Care Act (ACA), as previous legislation will expire at the end of 2025. Specifically, subsidies and eligibility are reverting to previous levels for ACA individual plans at the end of the year. There are also fewer companies offering plans in Texas.

If you have individual or small group coverage now, changes are coming with big rate increases in the individual HMO market and moderate increases in small group plans.

Filed rates are being reviewed to determine if proposed increases are based on reasonable cost assumptions and solid evidence. You won’t be able to compare rates until final rates are available, which will be sometime between the middle of October and before Nov. 1 when open enrollment starts.

If you want or need full coverage, the small group market is still the best way to get coverage with more options available at lower cost than in the unsubsidized individual market. The Member Healthcare option is also worth considering if you want a PPO, especially if you work as a contractor (1099 vs W-2) or just don’t want to go through the process of offering plans to staff.

The alternative options discussed all have a place at the table, but you need to make sure you understand plan limitations and risks before making a change to something less expensive.

Important Dates

The open enrollment period for health plans offered under ACA begins Nov. 1, 2025, and ends Jan. 15, 2026. For individual plans, you will have until Dec. 15 to pick or change to a new plan with a Jan. 1 effective date; or until Dec. 31, if your plan terminates Dec. 31.

You will be able to review individual plans and rates no later than Nov. 1, and small group plans and rates in early October. Stay informed and get ready to review and compare your options and decide as soon as possible.

If you would like to receive more information or discuss available insurance options, please feel free to contact TDA member-owned insurance agency TDA Financial Services Insurance Program at (800) 677-8644 or visit www.tdamemberinsure.com.

Disclaimer: This article was submitted in late August, so some information may have changed by the time this article is published. 