President

*Charles R. Hoopingarner, DDS | Houston, TX*

Dr. Hoopingarner attended the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHSCH) Dental Branch, graduating with a DDS in 1973. He has maintained a private practice in Houston, Texas since 1973. He was an adjunct associate professor in anatomical sciences at UTHSCH Dental Branch for 12 years. Currently, he is adjunct clinical faculty in the Restorative Dentistry Department at UTHSCH and has been a clinical instructor at the Las Vegas Institute for reconstruction and laser dentistry. Dr. Hoopingarner has served on the ALD Board of Directors, has held chairman positions for Regulatory Affairs, Education and General Sessions for the 2013 Conference. He has used dental lasers of various wavelengths as integral parts of his patient care delivery system for the last 12 years. He holds Advanced and Standard Proficiency certifications in the Er:YAG wavelength from the ALD, ALD Mastership status and has lectured internationally on the safety and use of laser technology in the dental practice.

*Contact Dr. Hoopingarner by e-mail at drhoop@drhoop.com.*

President-Elect & Chairwoman of 2018 Conference

Raminta Mastis, DDS | St. Clair Shores, MI

Dr. Mastis graduated from the University of Illinois College of Dentistry in 1987. She maintains a private dental practice, Michigan Cosmetic and Laser Dentistry, in St. Clair Shores, Michigan. Raminta previously served as Co-Chair of Certification and Education, Chair of Laser Safety, Communications, and was the 2014 General & Scientific Sessions Chair of the Annual Meeting. Raminta is using lasers since 2000, and has 18 lasers of various wavelengths in her practice. She holds Standard Proficiency certifications in Er:YAG, diode, Er,Cr:YSGG, and CO: laser wavelengths, and has achieved Advanced Proficiency in the Er:YAG wavelength. Her practice is highlighted by implant surgery and restoration, laser dentistry, esthetic and cosmetic dentistry, and integration of advanced technologies into practice. Dr. Mastis also holds ALD Mastership status.

*Contact Dr. Mastis by e-mail at milaserdentist@comcast.net*
Vice President & Chairman of 2019 Conference
Mel Burchman, DDS | Langhorne, Pennsylvania

Dr. Burchman has maintained a private dental practice in Bucks County, Pennsylvania for 38 years. He has been using lasers for more than 17 years and has 8 lasers in his office. He has served on the Board of Directors for one 3-year term, served as the 2015 General & Scientific Sessions Chairman for the Annual Meeting as well as volunteering his expertise as Certification Committee Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Mel has volunteered as a mentor and examiner for more than 15 years. In 2012, Dr. Burchman was the honored recipient of the ALD Leon Goldman Award for Clinical Excellence and holds ALD Mastership status.

Contact Dr. Burchman at Mel712A@aol.com

Treasurer and Chairman of 2020 Conference
Ed Kusek, DDS | Sioux Falls, SD

Dr. Kusek graduated from the University of Nebraska College of Dentistry in 1984. He has served Communications Chair and Testing subcommittee Chair. He holds the titles of Diplomate of the American Board of Oral Implantology/Implant Dentistry, Fellow of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry, Mastership in Academy of General Dentistry and Academy of Laser Dentistry, and Diplomate of the International Congress of Oral Implantologists. Dr. Kusek is in private general practice in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Contact Dr. Kusek by e-mail at edkusek@me.com

Secretary is Arun Darbar, BDS
Arun Darbar, BDS, DGDP (UK) | Leighton Buzzard, United Kingdom

Dr. Arun Darbar is at the forefront of laser dentistry in the United Kingdom and lectures on the subject worldwide. He has been a clinical laser user for nearly 25 years, and is dedicated to providing cutting-edge dentistry to his patients. Dr. Darbar is an accredited member of the British Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry Credentialing Committee. He holds ALD Mastership and Educator status and has served as co-chair of Education and Certification, and International Relations. He is a published author, and some of his concepts in low-level laser therapy (LLLT) data have been published as proceedings of SPIE in 2006, 2007, and 2009/10; WALT 2008 South Africa and 2012 Australia; and in UK dental publications. Dr. Darbar is the first and only laser dentist in the UK to be invited to the House of Lords for a charity fundraiser organized by Lasers for Life.

Contact: Dr. Darbar by e-mail at letstalklasers@aol.com
Immediate Past President

Gabi Kesler, DMD | Tel Aviv, Israel

Dr. Kesler is a lecturer in the department of Oral Rehabilitation at the school of Dental Medicine, Tel Aviv University, Israel and the coordinator of the graduate and postgraduate Dental laser program. He has Advanced Proficiency in CO2 and Er:YAG, is a Recognized Course Provider and has ALD Mastership and Educator status. He has also received the Leon Goldman Award for clinical excellence. He established the Israeli Chapter of the Academy of Laser Dentistry and served as its first president. Gabi has served on the ALD Board of Directors for two 3-year terms and this year is his 6th year serving on the ALD Executive Committee. He was chairman of International Relations for several years.

Contact Dr. Kesler by e-mail at drkeslerg@012.il.net

Executive Director

Gail Siminovsky, CAE | Coral Springs, Florida

Gail S. Siminovsky, CAE is a leadership professional as executive director of the Academy of Laser Dentistry (ALD) since 1999. Gail raises awareness of the role of lasers as beneficial tools dentists and hygienists have for solving and treating dental disease. Gail serves the ALD Board as an advisor and is a member of ALD’s 22 committees. Gail earned and maintains the credential Certified Association Executive (CAE) from the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) and serves on ASAE’s Small Staff Advisory Committee. Gail graduated from State University of New York in Binghamton, serves on the Board of the Florida Society of Association Executives (FSAE), and is a member of the ADA Committee on Dental Meetings and National Coalition of General Dental Organizations (NCGDO). Gail has passion for helping dentists revitalize the way they interact with patients by providing new and improved solutions for dental care. Gail speaks on governance and board leadership, building strategic alliances and the importance of associations being knowledge brokers.

Gail may be reached by email siminovsky@laserdentistry.org.
Directors at Large

Walid Altayeb, DDS | Dohar, Qatar
2016-2019

Dr. Altayeb received his dental degree from Faculty of Dentistry, Damascus University in 1998. He completed his Master of Science in Periodontics in 2004 and PhD in Periodontics in 2007. He also holds ALD Mastership status. Dr. Altayeb participated in many conferences in Middle East, Spain and USA as a speaker in the fields of Periodontal Medicine and Laser Dentistry. He is organizing Laser Dentistry and aesthetics courses with the British Academy of Implant and Restorative Dentistry in Qatar, Bahrain, UAE, and Oman. Dr. Altayeb achieved Advanced Proficiency in Er:YAG 2940nm. Dr. Altayeb established ALD affiliated Qatar Laser Club and the Gulf Laser Chapter and currently serves as the Chairman of ALD Gulf Laser Chapter. He is working in private practice as Periodontist and Implantologist in Madina Dental Center, Doha, Qatar and the British Lasik & Cosmetic Surgery, Dubai, UAE.

Contact Dr. Altayeb by e-mail at dreltayeb@hotmail.com.

Keith Brewster, DDS | Dallas, Texas

Dr. Brewster graduated from Baylor College of Dentistry in 1984. He has continued his education with advanced training in orthodontics, Cerec, 3D imaging, cosmetic dentistry, occlusion, TMJ, and implant surgery. He holds Standard Proficiency certification in both Er:YAG and Nd:YAG laser wavelengths and achieved ALD Fellowship honors. Dr. Brewster serves as co-chair of Regulatory Affairs and previously of ALD's Laser Safety Committee. He practices general dentistry in downtown Dallas.

Contact Dr. Brewster by e-mail at drkbrewster@sbcglobal.net.

Charles Carpenter, DDS | Forty Forth, PA
2017-2020

Dr. Carpenter is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. He has been in private practice for over 40 years. He is a member of the Luzerne County Dental Society, Pennsylvania Dental Association and the ADA. He has a Fellowship in the Academy of General Dentistry, Fellowship in the Academy of Laser Dentistry, Masters in World Clinical Laser Institute (WCLI). Dr. Carpenter is a member of the International College of Dentists, College of Dentistry International, and the American College of Dentists. He has received advanced training in cosmetic dentistry at LVI. He is also a retired Colonel in the US Army where he served as commander of 300th Field Hospital and commander of the 317th Dental Company.

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James Carreiro, DMD | Largo, FL
2016-2019

Dr. Carreiro received his Bachelor of Science, Biology at Fordham University and Doctorate of Dental Medicine from Boston University College of Dental Medicine. He currently holds ALD Standard Proficiency and Advanced Proficiency certification, he holds a Fellowship from the Academy of Laser Dentistry and Fellowship from the World Clinical Laser Institute (WCLI). Dr. Carreiro is an instructor in Lasers in Periodontics courses at the University of Florida College of Dentistry Department of Continuing Education in Gainesville, FL and at the WCLI Laser Periodontal programs. He has a general dentistry practice, which incorporates lasers into almost every aspect of patient care. In his practice, they have a Diode, CO₂, and Erbium wavelengths.

Contact Dr. Carreiro by e-mail at carreirojs@hotmail.com

Dr. Stuart Coleton, Editor | Chappaqua, New York
Journal Editor, appointed

Dr. Coleton is Chief Attending in the Division of Periodontics at Westchester University Medical Center and Metropolitan Hospital Center in New York City. He is Assistant Professor of Dental Medicine at New York Medical College. Dr. Coleton is Board Certified in Periodontics and Oral Medicine. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Laser Dentistry and is recognized as holding Educator, Mastership, and Advanced Proficiency with the Academy of Laser Dentistry. Dr. Coleton is an ALD Past President and Award recipient.

Contact Dr. Coleton at scoleton@aol.com

Rishita Jaju, DMD | Reston, Virginia
2016-2019

Dr. Jaju is a Board-certified Pediatric Dentist in Reston, Virginia. She completed her dental education at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine and was selected for a scholarship to present her research findings at the International Association for Dental Research meeting in Hawaii. She received her specialty training in pediatric dentistry at the Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, DC, where she continues to teach as a part-time clinical faculty. Dr. Jaju has achieved Mastership status and Advanced Proficiency certification from the Academy of Laser Dentistry and serves as ALD’s Certification Chair. She has written many articles and provided seminars for introducing and promoting the benefits of laser applications in dentistry to area general dentists, pediatricians, lactation consultants, and speech pathologists.

Contact Dr. Jaju by e-mail at mailto:rishita@ajaju.com
Samuel B. Low, DDS, MS, M.Ed | Gainsville, FL
2015-2018

Dr. Low is a graduate of the University of Texas at Houston and is currently Professor Emeritus, University of Florida, College of Dentistry and Associate faculty member of the Pankey Institute with 30 years of private practice in periodontics and implant placement and 12 years with laser management of the periodontal patient. With extensive clinical research experience, he has multiple publications and is a recognized national and international speaker. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology and past President of the American Academy of Periodontology and has memberships in the ADA, AAP, ALD (Education Committee), ACD, ADEA and AGD. Dr. Low provides dentists and dental hygienists with the tools for successfully managing the periodontal patient in general and periodontal practices and is affiliated with the Florida Probe Corporation. He was selected “Dentist of the Year” by the Florida Dental Association, Distinguished Alumnus by the University of Texas Dental School, and the Gordon Christensen Lecturer Recognition Award. He is a past President of the Florida Dental Association and past Trustee of the American Dental Association.

Contact Dr. Low by e-mail at slow@dental.ufl.edu

Jeanette Miranda, RDH | Sioux Falls, SD
2015-2018

Ms. Miranda has practiced dental hygiene for over 33 years and has worked with dental lasers for over 9 years. She has achieved diode laser Standard Proficiency with the World Clinical Laser Institute (WCLI) and the Academy of Laser Dentistry, and diode laser Fellowship status with the WCLI. In 2014, Ms. Miranda completed Advanced Proficiency certification. She is a member of ALD and serves on the Laser Safety Committee and as Chair for the Auxiliary Committee. In addition to lecturing on periodontal treatment with lasers, she teaches diode laser courses with Dr. Edward Kusek, Dr. Fred Margolis and Angie Wallace, RDH.

Contact Ms. Miranda by e-mail at jkmrdh@gmail.com

Gerald Ross, DDS, Totenham, Ontario, Canada
2015-2018

Dr. Ross practices in a small town in Ontario since 1971 and has been using and teaching low-level laser therapy (LLLT) since 1993. He holds Advanced Proficiency and Recognized Course Provider status from ALD and fellowship status from the American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery (ASLMS). Dr. Ross is currently ALD Membership Chairman, is a peer reviewer for 3 laser journals, has published about 15 papers on LLLT, and written chapters for 2 textbooks. His mission is to have LLLT become a standard of care in dentistry.

Contact Dr. Ross by e-mail at ddsross@rogers.com
Craig Sanford, DDS | Nantucket, MA
2017-2020

Dr. Sanford graduated from Norwich University with a BS in Biology and commissioned as a 2Lt. in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps. He was a Research Asst. at the United States Army Institute of Dental Research at Walter Reed A.M.C. and received a D.D.S. from Georgetown University School of Dentistry. As a Captain in the U.S. Army Dental Corps he completed a General Practice Residency at Irwin Army Hospital, Ft. Riley, KS (1st Inf. Div.) and served at the Asst. Clinic Chief for the 766th Medical Detachment in Baumholder, Germany (8th Inf. Div.). In addition to obtaining Standard Proficiency in Diode, Er:YAG and CO₂ lasers, Dr. Sanford received Advanced Proficiency certification in Er:YAG and Mastership status from the Academy of Laser Dentistry (ALD). He is a member of the ALD Speakers Bureau and a Faculty Member of the 2016 American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery (ASLMS). Craig maintained a private dental practice in Stamford, CT for 25 years until relocating to Nantucket Island for the past 10 years while integrating multiple laser wavelengths into all disciplines of General Dentistry.

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Grace Sun, DDS, Los Angeles, CA
2014-2017

Dr. Sun graduated from the University of Southern California, School of Dentistry in 1981. She maintains a full-time comprehensive cosmetic practice and dental laboratory in the Beverly Hills, California area. She was the first female Accredited Fellow in the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry. Dr. Sun advocates education and has been awarded several most prestigious statuses, including Accredited Fellow of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (AACD) where she currently serves on the AACD Professional Education Committee. Dr. Sun is certified as a Master and Educator of the Academy of Laser Dentistry, and was a member of the Board of Directors from 2003 - 2006. Dr. Sun lectures internationally for dental laser education, and was most recently awarded with Mastership status in the International Congress of Oral Implantologists in Hamburg, Germany. Dr. Sun has been highly regarded in the fields of dental ceramics, cosmetic, laser, prosthodontic, orthodontic, and implant dentistry for over three decades. Her patient care philosophy incorporates orofacial myofunctional therapy as well.

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