

Manitoba
Dental
Association



2020

Annual
Report





Board of Directors

Back Row (l to r): Ms. Andrea Thiessen, Dr. Daron Baxter, Mr. James Carvell, Dr. Thomas Colina, Mr. Rafi Mohammed, Dr. Scott Leckie, Dr. Arun Misra, Ms. Sina Allegro-Sacco, Ms. Ashley Holtmann
Front Row (l to r): Dr. Christopher Cottick, Dr. Cory Sul, Dr. David Goerz, Dr. Marc Mollot

Board of Directors 2020-2021

- President & District 1 Rep**
Dr. Marc Mollot
- Vice President & District 1 Rep**
Dr. Chris Cottick
- Past President**
Dr. Dave Goerz
- District 1 Rep**
Dr. Scott Leckie
- District 1 Rep**
Dr. Thomas Colina
- District 2 Rep**
Dr. Ed Agnew
- District 3 Rep**
Dr. Daron Baxter
- Province of MB**
Mr. James Carvell
Ms. Andrea Thiessen
Ms. Ashley Holtmann
- Dental Assistant Rep**
Ms. Sina Allegro-Sacco

Ex-Officio Officers

- Mr. Rafi Mohammed – CEO / Secretary Treasurer
- Dr. Arun Misra – Registrar, Manitoba Dental Association
- Dr. Joel Antel – CDA Board Representative
- Dr. Anastasia Cholakis – Dean, College of Dentistry
- Ms. Linda Berg – Director of Regulatory Programs
- Mr. Greg Guenther – Director of Member Services and Public Events



Manitoba Dental Association 2020 Annual Report

Table of Contents

President's Message	2
Registrar's Message	4
Annual Meeting and Convention Report	5
Communication Committee Report	6
Continuing Competency Committee Report	7
General Practice Study Group Report	8
Manitoba Cleft Lip/Palate & Dysplasia Program Report	9
Specialists Committee Report	9
CSNDA Summary	10
Mentorship Committee Report	10
Manitoba Dental Foundation Report	11
Economics Committee Report	12



President & Chair of the Board Message

The Manitoba Dental Association (MDA) regulates dentistry and dental assisting in Manitoba in the Public interest and our members have been providing much needed access to care for Manitobans since 1883. For that we can be proud.

2020 marked another busy year for the MDA. The Board was very active with many initiatives and met more frequently than had been typical in previous years. I will highlight but a few of the initiatives that were considered.

This past year the Board found itself rounding out the last bit of an association wide streamlining audit of its many Committees, their membership and their functions. Led by our Governance and Nominating Committee chaired by Vice President Dr. Chris Cottick, our leadership and Board now have a much better handle on the functions of our Association and are better positioned to be able to respond to the ever-changing needs of Manitobans, our Stakeholders and our Members.

Having conversations to better clarify the roles, functions, and reporting lines of our Association has allowed a more formalized succession from year to year. The owners of our association are its members and through The Dental Association Act we have been granted the privilege of regulating dentistry and dental assisting in the public interest. This also means that we have a requirement to dedicate some of our time to the many responsibilities provided to us under the Dental Association Act. I have observed first-hand the high level of engagement and frankly selfless dedication by so many of you, past and present, to this cause. For this I thank you.

2020 will be forever burned into the consciences of so many as the year the globe was forced to mount a response to the arrival of the novel coronavirus COVID-19. As dentistry is regulated provincially, the MDA Board was responsible for helping navigate dentistry in Manitoba through this unprecedented event.

In early March 2020, as public health orders began to be instituted, and with a general lack of information related to the virus and its routes of transmission, the MDA Board moved the profession to providing Emergency treatment only on March 17. The Board delegated the management of the pandemic response to the Executive Committee, who in turn leveraged a Research committee, a Pandemic Taskforce, engaged with the CDA COVID-19 Taskforce and organized a daily virtual meeting and communications strategy. Under the guidance of our CEO, Mr. Rafi Mohammed, the MDA office was converted to a virtual workplace so that the important work of the staff could continue. By May 1 the MDA guided the profession to a return to urgent and emergency treatment and by June 1 back to full scope of services where it has remained since. Manitoba dentists have been able to operate at near-normal levels through the pandemic – one of the stronger jurisdictions across Canada in 2020. COVID-19 created opportunity

Although it has been undoubtedly a difficult time to be in healthcare, there are some clear positives from our collective 2020 experience.

- The opportunity to strengthen public confidence in the profession through both our actions and our targeted communications.
 - The opportunity for Dentistry to be at the table with fellow healthcare providers while developing provincial protocols to navigate dentistry's COVID-19 response.
 - The opportunity to further strengthen our stakeholder relationships:
 - University of Manitoba Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry
 - Shared Health MB and Regional Health Authorities (RHAs).
 - Public Health MB
 - The opportunity to strengthen our relationship with government:
 - Direct and ongoing communications with the Minister of Health and officials.
 - Answering the call to help in the global efforts to vaccinate and test.
 - establishing early access to vaccination for the entire dental team.
 - confidence in our ability to self-manage dentistry's COVID-19 response.
 - Navigation by the dentist led team through this challenging period has confirmed us as essential health care providers and leaders in infection prevention and control. This COVID-19 pandemic response has seen dentists working carefully at maintaining their patients' oral health while quietly taking necessary precautions to keep the public, their teams, and themselves safe and healthy.
- Dentistry across Canada also came together to support one another. This past year has seen more interprovincial communications than previously, pointing to the importance of the relationships we work to maintain. As well, our frequent communications with the Provincial Oral Health Consultant of Manitoba, Dr. Khalida Hai-Santigo were also critical for our ability to navigate the response. Her strong commitment to the MDA was very much appreciated.
- The pandemic offered us the opportunity to re-establish systems to manage our communications and press requests. Being open to the many requests allowed us to maintain a positive narrative. Actively responding to media in a timely fashion

allowed us to get ahead of the issues as they came up. Our Communications Committee, Chair Dr. Jerry Baluta, Vice Chair Dr. Richard Santos, did a wonderful job with our messaging which left us looking strong in the eyes of the public. Our internal eAlert communications allowed members to be kept informed of issues as they arose allowing them to pivot their practises to provide critical access to care for Manitobans without interruption. This system will prove helpful in future years for communicating critical issues to members in all areas of the province in a timely and concise fashion.

It is often when in the face of adversity that people come together and become stronger as a group.

Our Registrar, Dr. Arun Misra, has been a steady support this year providing sage advice and calculated analysis all in a calm and caring fashion. His thoughtful ability navigating the complex National regulatory environment has his work being recognized. In the fall 2020, he expanded his team. Dr. Cory Sul accepted the position of Deputy Registrar. He will assist the Registrar on regulatory matters including policies, procedures and standards of practice. Dr. Ronald Tough filled a new position of Mediation Liaison Officer. His role is to provide mediation services to patients and members, oral health information to members of the public, and act as a resource to Members about patient concerns. The addition of these roles will provide much needed help in managing these important aspects of self-regulation. I am happy to see the MDA team continue to strengthen.

On the National front, 2020 saw the final months of Dr. Sandy Mutchmor's Presidency at the Canadian Dental Association (CDA). Dr. Mutchmor has dedicated his career to organized dentistry culminating with an unforgettable year. Furthermore, we are proud to have negotiated and signed the CDA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) uniting Provincial Dental Associations (PDAs) across the country with one unified voice for Canadian Dentists. The MDA continues to have a strong voice at this table and has many leaders involved in the many CDA initiatives. Our current CDA Board member, Dr. Joel Antel, remains dedicated to the importance of the voice of each and every individual Canadian dentist. Manitoba dentists are known within the CDA to be strong contributors while maintaining their always collegial nature.

In 2020, the Board officially struck a Specialists Committee which was asked to consider some important specialist related issues for the Board. Meeting frequently throughout the year, some of the important issues in front of this group included navigating the ongoing issue of the National Dental Specialty Examination (NDSE), reviewing a national specialty recognition process, specialty dual licensure, among others. Chair Dr. Jack Lipkin and Vice Chair Dr. Blair Dalgliesh have an engaged group with representatives from each of the fields within the practise of dentistry recognized in the dental specialist class in Manitoba.

Under the guidance of Chair Dr. Tony Krawat, the Registration and Licensing Bylaw Review Committee has been hard at work

researching adaptations to our current Bylaw to reflect the ever-changing landscape of licensure. The Board looks forward to reviewing their findings.

This past year, the Board also committed to place high priority on two other committee initiatives – the Committee for Residents in Long Term Care Facilities, Chair Dr. Phil Poon and the Task Force on Access to Dental Care in Northern and Remote Communities, with myself as the Chair. There is a renewed sense of urgency to address ongoing issues for these populations as they relate to improving oral health outcomes. More vulnerable groups can and often do have challenges accessing care.

The 137th Annual MDA Convention was held April 12-17th 2021 as a virtual event. Co-Branded with the CDA: it was themed: "The New World of Dentistry." The event was a terrific success, despite it being by necessity, entirely online. Chair Dr. Bruce Macfarlane and his entire committee put on a "never been done before" program with great success. Our own Greg Guenther deserves a shout out for a job very well done! Although there is a view to an in-person event next year (Here's hoping!), there will undoubtedly be some components of the digital platform that was developed that may remain for the future.

On January 29, 2021, the Board elected our new MDA President and Board Chair, Dr. Chris Cottick. We can all be proud to have such a dedicated person leading our organization. He is active in virtually every corner of our dental community and known to so many. The Board also saw Dr. Tom Colina move to the position of Vice-President. He too has a remarkable reach in our community and will be a strong support and collaborator with the President throughout the next year. Finally, Dr. David Goerz rode off into the sunset earning a much-deserved rest - starting his 'life after the board' no doubt to continue on with his strong dedication to his patients, family, and profession.

What I have Learned

1. Manitoba has the most remarkable, most engaged, most collegial dental community in Canada. This allowed us to respond positively and safely while leading the conversations locally and nationally.
2. Our entire Board is focused including our hard-working public representatives who find time to dedicate themselves to help regulate dentistry and dental assisting in the province.
3. Our dedicated MDA staff are 24/7 supporters, champions and cheerleaders for us all.
4. At each turn there lies another important issue for the MDA to manage. Although 2021 and future years will undoubtedly be busy, without the support of each other our work would lack fulfillment. The coming years will have challenges, so we must pace ourselves and take care of each other, our teams, our trusting patients and our loving families.

Marc Mollot, BSc, DMD
President and Chair of the Board, 2020
Manitoba Dental Association



Registrar's Report

The Manitoba Dental Association currently licenses dentists and registers dental assistants.

Registration and Licensure

46 dentists were newly licensed with the MDA. There are currently 760 licensed dentists in the General Practitioner and Dental Specialist classes of registration. 74 are registered as Non-Practicing, 20 as Academic and 31 as Students. 106 dental assistants were newly registered with the MDA. There are currently 1395 registered dental assistants.

The Bylaw for Registration and Licensure of Dentists, Section V 2. (c) pertaining to the examination requirement for an applicant for the Dental Specialist class was amended.

Thank you to Ms. Cheryl Duffy for all her dedication and support of new and current members during licensing and corporate renewals.

Peer Review

The Chair of the Committee, Dr. Lori Stephen-James has provided her report of the activities of this committee during 2020.

The individual Complaints Committees have access to three independently trained investigators to assist the committee members in their reviews.

I would like to thank Dr. Stephen-James for her years of service as Chair and Ms. Courtney Razmus, for her tireless support of Peer Review and the Registrar's office

Continuing Competence

The Chair of the Committee, Dr. Conny Athanasopoulos has provided his report. The Committee will continue to meet to discuss potential changes to the Bylaw for Continuing Education of Dentists.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, time extensions were offered to the requirements. Many thanks to Ms. Diane McDonald and Ms. Linda Berg for their efforts in ensuring the administration of competency requirements continued unhindered despite the changes. Also, thank you to Mr. Greg Guenther who has played an important role in continuing education programmes.

Members are reminded that they are responsible to ensure that any continuing education programme complies with bylaw requirements if they wish to have it recognized for credit.

Office Assessments

The Chair of the Committee, Dr. Allan Cogan, has provided his report. Ms. Linda Berg, Director of Regulatory Programs, along

with support from the Committee, has been working diligently on a new streamlined process for assessment of dental offices. Office assessments for dental facilities that provide sedation have been ongoing. Ms. Berg along with Ms. Holly Stusiak have been integral in this significantly important regulatory role.

Our sedation auditors, Dr. Roland DeBrouwere, Dr. Chris Cottick, Dr. Tony Krawat and Dr. Mark Nepon have been crucial in serving as sedation auditors.

The Fair Registration Practices Act

The MDA has been attending meetings and engaging in discussions with the Fairness Commissioner's Office. Ensuring our registration practices are communicated in plain language and developing reporting templates to coordinate information important for the Commissioner's work has been our primary focus.

Bill 41 The Fair Registration Practices in Regulated Professions Amendment Act had its first reading in the House in November of 2020. The purpose of the Bill is to reduce barriers to the successful and timely registration of internationally educated applicants to Manitoba's self-regulated professions. The Bill is also proposing requiring regulated professions to have registration practices consistent with domestic trade agreements. A second reading will occur in 2021. The MDA is closely engaged on this file.

College of Dentistry

The support from Dr. Anastasia Cholakis and the College of Dentistry in addressing regulatory issues of concern to the MDA is greatly appreciated. I look forward to strengthening the relationship with the College on matters of regulation affecting both organizations.

Canadian Dental Regulatory Authorities Federation (CDRAF)

The MDA continues to work with other dental regulatory authorities (DRAs) to maintain processes of fair and consistent registration processes. These principles of licensing adhere to the intergovernmental Agreement on Internal Trade, Mutual Recognition Agreement for the Profession of Dentistry, and the Memorandum of Understanding between Canadian dental regulators.

The CDRAF bylaws underwent review and revision resulting in, among other matters, clarity on the role and involvement of member representatives. This initiative was lead, in part, by the MDA and the Alberta Dental Association and College.

Issues related to dental speciality examinations continued to evolve. Currently, the MDA accepts either a National Dental Speciality Examination certificate or a certificate of fellowship from the Royal College of Dentists of Canada for licensure as a specialist in this province.

COVID-19 pandemic regulatory issues affecting DRAs across Canada was a consistent subject at several CDRAF meetings. Dialogue between the registrars at the CDRAF table allowed for the exchange of information and concepts on regulatory challenges resulting from the pandemic.

I wish to express my gratitude to Dr. Patti Ling for providing a smooth transition at the Registrar's office. Her knowledge, advice and support are greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank our Executive Director and CEO, Mr. Rafi Mohammed. His support of my office and his abilities

to manage and administer the matters of the MDA is vital and does not go unnoticed.

I am thankful for an expansion of the regulatory team with the addition of two new members.

Dr. Cory Sul stepped into the position of Deputy Registrar to assist on regulatory matters including policies, procedures, and standards of practice. His long and impressive experience in organized dentistry will be a benefit to the Registrar's office. Dr. Ron Tough transitioned into the new position of Mediation Liaison Officer. He will be providing mediation services to our members and members of the public. His past experiences as a peer review member and investigator will provide significant value in our duties to the public.

Respectfully,
Arun Misra LLB, DMD



137th Annual MDA Convention

The 137th Annual MDA Convention was held April 12-17th 2021 as a virtual event. Co-Branded with the CDA: it was themed: "The New World of Dentistry."

Overall, the event was a terrific success, despite it being by necessity, entirely online. In total, there were 13, 636 course participations and 1500 participants: including dentists, OHT members, exhibitors, and guests.

The Speakers were top-notch: and very international: our format allowed us to attract some "su-perstars" who may not have otherwise been able to travel to Manitoba.

Our opening and closing speakers: Orlando Bowden and Dr. Uche Odiatu- did not disappoint: and they anchored a very diverse group of educators throughout the week.

I am especially proud of two new features this year: our "Global Dental Exchange," and our "Wom-en in Dentistry Panel." And- proud of all the innovative ideas that allowed us to pivot a normally live event to being entirely virtual.

The social events also pivoted: including a virtual comedy show on Friday night, and a virtual wine tasting Saturday.

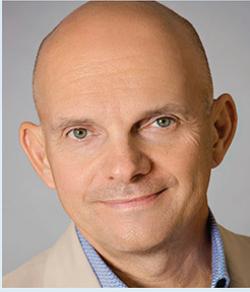
We are especially grateful to our four major sponsors: Dental Corp of Canada, Align Technology, CDSPI, and ScotiaBank. And: of course- to all of our exhibitors in the Global Dental Exchange.

All of this was a huge effort. "Workerbee TV" in Winnipeg made the virtual part all possible- through their robust and reliable platform for online events.

My committee was relentless and tireless. In no particular order, I am so very grateful for the talents of Drs. Hoda Hosseini, Rodrigo Cunha, Sandy Mutchmor, Bill Cooke, Tim Dumore, Raj Bhullar, Cam Norrie, Sunny Viridi, Murad Zaman, and John O'Keefe. As well: Ms. Laura Campbell and Janet Neduzak were instrumental on the Auxiliaries' side. From the MDA: shout-outs to Rafi Mohammed, Brian Fawkes, and of course Greg Guenther- without whom this shown would NOT have gone on!

As we look to the future- I am very optimistic that we will all be back together in person in 2022. Despite a great meeting this year- it is always better with handshakes and hugs! It has been an honour to be your Chairperson this year. Thanks for the trust you have placed in me.

-Dr. Bruce McFarlane
Chair: MDA/CDA New World of Dentistry Meeting 2021.



Communication Committee Report

Happy New Year to all. As I sit and compose this report based on the one I wrote last year at this time, I realize that very little from that time and place remains relevant today. The past fifteen months have shaped and changed all of our lives in ways we would have never imagined. From the perspective of the communications committee, we have been exceedingly busy, although in a much different way than we expected.

Much of our ongoing work has been visible to you and to the public over the course of the year, and it has also been discussed in my many updates throughout the year. Early in 2020, we spent time analyzing the data from our research which was conducted in 2019 with members of the public, as well as with members of the profession. This research was important to get us refocused on where we needed to work with both our members and the public. Once COVID hit us in March of 2020, our committee did a complete pivot as the rest of the world did as well. All of our community initiatives and outreach programs that involved public events and public contact were of course postponed or cancelled for the year. Our best laid plans for sugar reduction spots, and sponsorships all were changed as well.

We were involved in helping the MDA Board work to communicate with the public and with the members through the initial shutdown of all of our practices in March. We were involved in helping with the communication strategy involved in our reopening, including helping to set up press conferences with the media to announce our reopening strategy in May and June. Our committee met many times by ZOOM to help with getting many viewpoints and to help with strategies as they needed to be both developed and edited.

We were involved in many of the early messages including PR statements to the press, setting up media events, and assisting the president with his communication to members. We worked to keep dentistry top of mind with our international award winning “We’ll All Smile Again” spot, then, with 6 TV spots “Here For You”, and we continued with our “Wearing is Caring” campaign, which continues to run at the present time. We have spent a lot of time working on our online presence as an association, across many social media platforms as well. This has been a very cost-effective way for us to keep the MDA as well as all dentists up front and in the public consciousness. Our online presence has grown exponentially, and our penetration numbers with the public are far above industry norms.

One thing that has not yet happened as promised for 2020 was the launch of our newly updated MDA website. I would like to assure all of you that work on this project has not been abandoned or forgotten. This project is expected to launch within weeks, as we continue to complete the transfer of all relevant data to the new site.

In the fall of 2020 at our annual MDA business meeting, I was asked a question relating to our committee working to help keep dentists busy during the Code Red period. Rest assured that our committee, along with the MDA Board, and the Board executive heard your concerns. We remain focused on the safety of all Manitobans, and also on the priorities of dentistry in that context. Going forward in 2021, our group will continue to be involved in many aspects of member and public communication as we continue to move through the ongoing pandemic response.

Both Greg Guenther as a member of the MDA staff and I remain as members of the CDA Communications Group, which meets regularly to share news and issues relating to Communications with all member associations of the CDA. This work will continue in the rest of 2021 as well.

In 2020 we stayed within our budget, and in fact reallocated funds as needed to many COVID initiatives as needed by the MDA. We continue to work diligently to manage our budget and stay within it on an ongoing basis.

Our committee remains very busy and will be ready to move forward quickly as needed and will continue to help with any and all evolving strategies as the pandemic response continues. We will also continue to keep our strategic work going forward as well, looking towards a post-COVID future that we all look forward to.

I owe an extreme debt of gratitude to Brian Fawkes our communications consultant whose counsel and work have been invaluable during 2020. Thanks also to Greg Guenther, our membership services director at the MDA office. Thanks also to Dr. Richard Santos my Vice Chair, and all of our committee members. They include: Dr. Sandy Mutchmor, Dr. Kelly Regula, Dr. Hans Stasiuk, Dr. Jared Rykiss, Dr. Erin Roloff, and Dr. Darryll Iwaskiw.

As always, if you have any questions, please reach out to me, or to any member of our committee. We continue to work hard on behalf of all of our members, for the betterment of our profession.

Be safe and healthy everyone, and I look forward to seeing many of you in person later in 2021.

Respectfully,
Dr Jerry Baluta
Chair: Communications Committee



Continuing Competency Committee Report

The Manitoba Dental Association (MDA) has established continuing competency requirements for licensure of dentists and dental assistants as described in the Bylaw for Continuing Education of Dentists and the Bylaw for Continuing Education of Dental Assistants which can be found on the MDA website www.manitobadentist.ca under Professional Resources.

The MDA Continuing Competency Committee (CCC) is responsible for approving continuing education activities and programmes in Manitoba. The CCC is comprised of dentists, dental assistants, representative(s) of the public, and various stakeholder organizations. There are five Subcommittees which serve under the umbrella of the CCC: Bylaw Review & Research, Extensions & Exemptions, Continuing Education Coordination, Approved/Non-Approved Sponsor/Study Clubs guidelines and Dental Educator.

As 2020 was an unprecedented year for the entire world community (COVID-19 Pandemic) – We tried our best to meet virtually to address the ‘new’ normal realities imposed online CE programs as in person attendance was not an option during this time. I am extremely grateful to the volunteer members and representatives who participate on the CCC and its Subcommittees for their tireless efforts and commitment to serve the MDA. We welcomed Ms. Diane McDonald (Administrator Continuing Education & Licensing Support) along with Dr. Arun Misra (MDA Register) to our committee. Their participation always goes well beyond the call of duty to assist in all activities of the CCC and Subcommittees.

The Continuing Competency Committee has been involved in the following noteworthy activities in 2020:

1. In discussions and consent with the MDA Registrar: There is an effective postponement of all CE requirements with a CE anniversary date of March 1, 2021 – for 6 mths. The new anniversary date will be Sept 1, 2021. There was also an extension of CPR re-certification until Feb 2021.
2. The CCC conducted its first virtual meeting on September 14, 2020 at which time the committee approved online lectures/presentations provided by ‘Approved Sponsors’ would be considered as a ‘didactic’ lecture for CE credit.

A reminder to all members to direct submissions for CE credit to the MDA at ce@manitobadentist.ca within 60 days upon completion of CE course.

It is an honor to serve as the Chair of the Continuing Competency Committee and I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to our profession. I encourage members with questions or ideas for how the MDA, through the CCC, can best serve you to contact me at dr.conny@acportho.com.

Best wishes for a very happy and healthy 2020 filled with many fantastic educational opportunities!!

Best regards,
Dr. Constance Athanasopoulos
Chair, Continuing Competency Committee



MDA General Practice Study Club Report

The General Practice Study club is open to all MDA members who are within their first five years of registration and includes other senior members who attend sessions as facilitators. The format of the club consists of short lectures followed by Q & A sessions and small group discussions. The aim of each session is to supply continuing education and career support to practitioners early in their careers or who are new to practice in Manitoba.

In the spring of 2020, due to covid restrictions, the last planned lecture of the 2019/2020 year was cancelled. The GPSC pivoted to provide two ZOOM format lectures, containing content relative to the outbreak of the pandemic. The first, on managing phone triage of patients, the second on dental emergencies and alterations to practice as pertaining to covid.

The 2020/2021 year was held completely over ZOOM, evolving to end with breakout rooms to mimic previous years small group discussion. A mixology session was also made available to help replace the social aspect of the club that would occur under regular conditions. Another mixology session is being considered for a future lecture.

As usual, lecture content has been spread out over several specialty disciplines and has been tailored to concerns expressed by the target cohort, mainly communicated from our two most junior members who polled their colleagues. To help increase participation from newly graduated dentists, the GPSC is planning to present a ZOOM info session to the D4 dental students so they are made aware of the benefit of early mentorship and networking through the GPSC. This will take place in March.

Updating the terms of reference for the GPSC resulted in flushing out our pre-existing committee (comprised of chair and co-chair!). As such, the committee now meets the terms of reference outlined and continues on with one

additional participant. The additional committee members were added in April and over the summer months.

To wrap up the 2020/2021 year, two Zoom format lectures remain. One held on a Friday evening. Last's years Friday evening session was the best, historically attended, as many practitioners work various weekday evenings. The last lecture is scheduled for a Saturday, as in the past, a weekend lecture, helped to accommodate out-of-province practitioners. We are happy to report, the change to Zoom format has at least, allowed for an increased geographical range of participants. There are some silver linings to the past year of challenges!

Kelly Regula and Lori Simmons
Co-Charis GPSC

The Manitoba Cleft Lip/Palate and Dysplasia Program Report

This program provides dental care under the auspices of Manitoba Health for eligible children. To be registered for benefits under the Manitoba Cleft/Dysplasia program an individual must have a valid MHSC # and have a repaired cleft lip and/or palate or a significant oro-facial dysplasia.

The maximum age for registration will be 18 years of age. Examination for registration in the plan can be arranged by calling 204-787-2516.

To maintain coverage, patients must have a dental exam at least once per year.

Claims over \$500 must be pre-authorized by the dental director.

Complex oral surgery, prosthodontic, and orthodontics must be carried out

by the respective specialist billing to Manitoba Health.

Implant coverage for insured individuals is determined by a committee of the Manitoba Dental Association.

Cleft or Dysplasia patients who consistently display poor oral hygiene will not be referred for orthodontics. If a patient who is in orthodontic treatment begins to consistently display poor oral hygiene will be debanded.

The maximum lifetime expenditure for prosthodontics will be \$25,000 per individual.

Non-compliant patients may be discharged from the program.

Eligible claims must be submitted on a standard dental claim form with patient and provider identifying information to:

FW109-685 William Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3E0Z2 or fax # (204) 787-8042.



Specialists Committee Report

The Manitoba Dental Association Specialists committee is comprised of one specialist from each Dental Specialty discipline. Currently in Manitoba, eight dental specialties have representatives, while two – Dental Public Health and Oral Medicine – do not. The committee has had an extremely busy year as many issues have come to the forefront, some new, and some having accumulated over the last few years.

In April 2020, the MDA was faced with having to make decisions on specialty licensure, as this was coming up at the national level. After many meetings and discussions, it was decided, voted on and passed, that specialists wanting to register in Manitoba could have either an NDSE certificate, or an RCDC certificate (designation). It is important to note that Manitoba is an outlier in this regard, as other provinces have chosen to bypass the RCDC and rely on the NDSE (NDEB) examination as a pathway to licensure. Politics prevailed in other jurisdictions, but Manitoba specialists believed that until the NDSE exam had some 'years and data' under its belt, we would allow for both examinations towards specialty licensure to be acceptable.

There are three other issues of major concern for Manitoba specialists.

The issue of most importance has to do with the makeup of the Peer Review Committee. Based on our bylaws, a specialist brought before the peer review committee would not necessarily have a specialist of the same discipline, sitting on the committee adjudicating the complaint. In fact, the committee is not obligated to ask any specialist to sit on the committee for any particular complaint. The specialists of Manitoba believe this bylaw needs to be changed which would address

the importance of fairness and accountability. Presentations were made to the MDA and the Blue Ribbon committee of the MDA. Currently, the MDA is reviewing all of the material before it, with regards to this matter.

The next two issues go hand in hand as they deal with scope of practice and the forfeiture of a specialist's general practice license once a specialist's license is granted. Defining a specialist's scope of practice is an extremely complex, multifactorial problem and ongoing discussions with the MDA are taking place.

When a dental specialist applies for a license in Manitoba to practice that specialty, that dentist must forfeit their general practice license. This regulation has been on the books for well over five decades, and Manitoba is an outlier in this regard as almost every province (exceptions are New Brunswick and Quebec) has informed us that a specialist who has the qualifications to practice as a GP (NDEB exam and licensure) may also obtain their GP license. This issue also involves Academic licensure as well. Discussions and meetings are ongoing.

Respectfully submitted;
Jack Lipkin – Chairperson of the MDA specialists committee



Mentorship Committee Report

Due to the fabulous help given by the Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry and the support staff of the MDA the Mentorship Program had a seamless transition to an on-line platform.

• June 15, 2020- Welcome & Orientation Address to International Dental Degree Program students Class of 2022 welcomed the addition of the 7 IDDP students. Orientation & introductory to the MDA mentorship program was held on Zoom with Drs. Fedorowich and Rohan. Thereon all 7 IDDP students were assigned to mentors from the Class of 2022

• September 17, 2020 Session D1 and D2 D1 (CLASS OF 2024)
We aborted the Year 1 speeding dating evening due to logistics and returned to the assignment of mentors, hopefully for this year only, as the speed dating introduction to the program has been a hit.

The topic of presentation to the D1s was “An Intro to the Mentorship Program (Dieter Schonwetter).
D2 (CLASS OF 2023)

The topic of presentation to the D2s was “Introduction into Clinic, Managing patients (Dr. Michael Porco) and Clinic Practice from an Instructor’s perspective (Dr. Jerry Baluta). All presentations were followed by break out groups between Mentors and Mentees.

• October 15, 2020 Session D3 and D4 D3 (CLASS OF 2022)
The topic of presentation Achieving Work/ Life BalanceStress Management. Speaker Shannon Gander
Topic B: Applying for Specialty
Speakers: Rodrigo Cunha; Hoda Hosseini; Kevin Vint

- Our upcoming program is on January 21, 2021 with the topics of each year is “Money”.
- As we normally provide a meal for the students at each session, with the strategy of keeping the students mindful of “Mentorship” we (the MDA) sent out \$20 Skip the Dishes vouchers to each student.
- Future plans and directions of the committee

The Mentorship committee has a firm structure with regards to its relationship with the School. The agenda for the year is laid out at the beginning of the school year as there a requirement for date selection to avoid student’s exam schedule. We see the 2021/22 year having the same for-mat. Regarding topics for presentation. We endeavor to fit topics not presented in the students practice management program. We have key topics that have rated strongly with the students in the past and will plan to repeat those topics. Never the less there are new topics introduced each year. We also find that presentations do change somewhat as there is not a repeat of presenters year in and year out.

The compliment of the committee is good and there is constant interaction on an ad hoc basis throughout the year. We see the direction of the committee to be in line with previous years assuming there are no changes asked by the School

Dr. Huma Rohan
Dr. Craig Fedorowich

CSNDA Summary

Our most recent meeting took place via ZOOM on November 24th. Prior to that, our last meeting had been in January of 2020. At that meeting, we focused on updating our Terms of Reference for our committee, as it had not been updated since the initiation of the committee in 2014.

Our goal in doing so was to ensure we knew the exact role of our committee so that we did not overlap with the roles and responsibilities of the General Practice Study Club and the Mentorship Committee. The MDA board approved the updated TOR on January 31, 2020.

COVID clearly had a large impact on all MDA committees this past year. Our most recent meeting in November allowed us to review the updated TOR

and focus of finalizing our committee members.

We are currently working on electing a student to our committee, which will be determined in early 2021.

We send out a survey every fall to dentists who have graduated in the last 5 years, to help us determine what areas new grads feel ill prepared in for general practice, and how we can implement

appropriate CE opportunities for these graduates. Currently we are looking at revising the survey with the help of Greg Finlayson, or potentially eliminating the survey all together and hosting a live in-person (via ZOOM if needed) “round table” discussion with new graduates to determine the best continuing education opportunities we can help provide for new grads.



Manitoba Dental Foundation Report

Thank you for taking the time to read this report of The Manitoba Dental Foundation.

Manitoba dentists have made Manitoba the first province in Canada to create a foundation dedicated to providing access to dental care for those in our community that could not otherwise access the important health care we provide. They say imitation is the best form of flattery. We are flattered that other provinces' dentists are beginning to follow our lead.

The Manitoba Dental Foundation serves as the unified center of professional philanthropy for the dentists of Manitoba. It was conceived and developed by representatives of The Manitoba Dental Association, The Western Manitoba Society, The Winnipeg Dental Society and The University of Manitoba Dental Alumni Association to assure that the important care we provide is available to all members of our community.

Through the generous support of dentists, non-dentists, the dental industry and many Manitoba businesses we are well on the way to accomplishing this ambitious mission now and for many years to come.

Dentist are well represented in philanthropy throughout our community. The Manitoba Dental Foundation provides an opportunity to assure that our donations that are intended for patient care and prevention go directly to patient care and prevention.

Our goal is for Manitoba dentists to lead the way for others, in and outside of the dental community, by each of us making a career long commitment to the foundation. The foundation supports care for patients by supporting programs and organizations providing treatment and prevention directly to people in need.

The Manitoba Dental Foundation continues to provide grants to deserving organizations. Since our Foundation was established the MDF has supported many organizations working to improve the oral health of the vulnerable members of our communities regardless of age, gender, and background.

As Manitoba dentists, we have an intimate understanding and appreciation of the growing component of society that does not have access to oral health and the negative consequences of poor oral health. Through our collective efforts can we make a difference to this population group.

As I write my remarks, we are in the midst of unprecedented challenges brought on by a global pandemic. A simultaneous shutdown of world economies, including dentistry around the world. We will get through this together. The needs of others have not gone away. I encourage you to consider the less fortunate in our society when planning your own personnel restart.

Thank you to those of you who have supported our foundation through attendance at events and your monthly and annual donations. When the time for you is right, please step up and support the important care provided through the Manitoba Dental Foundation. If you wish to discuss the foundation and how you can help please feel free to contact me or the MDF Executive Director Dr. Frank Hechter.

Dr. Joel Antel
President, Manitoba Dental Foundation



Economics Committee Report

The Manitoba Dental Association Economics Committee serves several functions. Like for our entire profession, 2020 was an exceptionally challenging year for the Economics Committee.

In 2020 The Committee generated a Suggested Fee Guide for our members, engaged in surveys to acquire data to aid in the fee guide production, participated in special 'Return to Practice' surveys to assess the vitality of dental practice in Manitoba, and the Committee continued to address questions from MDA members, and insurance providers regarding the appropriate interpretation and application of dental procedure codes. In order to help dentists properly interpret and apply procedure codes, an article entitled 'Conversation on Codes' will continue to appear periodically in the MDA Bulletin. This series of articles deals with some of the more common code interpretation/application queries that are directed to the MDA throughout the year by member dentists, insurance companies, and regulatory personnel alike. The aim of the article is to clarify common coding misinterpretations, and help direct dentists in the proper application of our procedure codes. The production of the Manitoba Dental Association Suggested Fee Guide for 2021 has been especially challenging. It is a process that always involves the collection, comparison and tabulation of considerable data, and last year the Committee attempted to address some of the increased costs dentists were, and currently are, faced with. Each year the MDA Economics Committee works, in conjunction with Greg Finlayson, to analyze national and provincial economic data and engages in a very detailed inter-provincial comparison of dental fees. The Committee also uses factors such as Manitoba's relative cost of living, projections for upcoming trends in disposable family income in Manitoba, unemployment rates, the consumer price index (CPI), projected private sector wage increases, changes in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and expected increases in operating costs for dentists in Manitoba. As one might imagine, this data was (and continues to be) highly volatile. Amongst the most important data the Economics Committee analyses is the survey data received from Manitoba dentists – particularly overhead cost data. These factors are used to create a Suggested Fee Guide that balances the affordability of dentistry for Manitobans against the continuing prosperity of our member dentists. In 2020, attempting to predict economic recovery from the pandemic for Manitoba (and Canada at large), was extremely challenging. The following table outlines some of the data points that were used to propose our fee increase for the upcoming year. This table compares actual data for 2020 against those forecast for 2021 and 2022.

From the below table, projections for most economic indicators for 2021 and 2022 are quite positive for Manitoba's economic recovery. Household disposable income increased considerably in 2020, and is projected to remain fairly flat (falling back slightly) for 2021, but to regain some momentum in

Key economic indicators

(percentage change)

	2020	2021	2022
Real GDP	-4.0	4.3	4.0
Consumer price index	0.5	1.6	2.2
Household disposable income	7.5	-1.0	2.2
Employment	-3.7	3.6	1.7
Unemployment rate (level)	8.1	6.4	6.5
Retail sales	1.2	3.5	2.9
Wages and salaries per employee	0.5	2.6	2.0
Population	0.9	0.8	1.1

Shaded area represents forecast data.

Sources: The Conference Board of Canada; Statistics Canada.

2022. 2020 job losses are projected to be regained in 2021, with unemployment rates projected to drop. Manitoba's population, as always, is projected to continue slow, steady growth. (These projections are subject to greater-than-usual volatility.) Over the previous 3 years, Manitoba has ranked either number one or two in overall weighted fee increases as compared to the other provinces across Canada. For 2021, the overall weighted GP Suggested Fee Guide increase is 4.19%. This increase is a 'weighted increase' meaning certain procedure codes (or groups of codes) received special increases in excess of 4.19%. In suggesting this fee increase, the MDA Economics Committee considered factors such as increased pandemic related operational costs (new PPE requirements, extra operator turn-around time, decreased patient flow, increased staff & wages), incoming new infection prevention control protocols (independent of COVID-19), the continuing affordability of dentistry for Manitobans, the ongoing sustainability of insurance plans, and other factors as well. It was a complex process, and Manitoba was the first province to put forward its fee increase recommendation last fall.

This article would not be complete without a word of thanks to acknowledge the efforts of the MDA Economics Committee members. Thank you to Dr. Les Rykiss, Dr. Kristie Maslow, Dr. Julie Oryniak, Dr. Dave Stackiw, Dr. Rodrigo Cunha (specialist representative), Dr. Mike Sullivan and Dr. Alex Pappas. I would like to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of our USC&LS Committee representative Dr. Murray White, and MDA staff members Mr. Rafi Mohammed and Mr. Greg Guenther. Lastly, I would like to express our appreciation to Mr. Greg Finlayson for his dedication to the Manitoba Dental Association.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Jeffrey Hein, DMD
Chair – MDA Economics Committee



Manitoba Dental Association 2020

Rafi Mohammed, *CEO*

Dr. Arun Misra, *Registrar*

Linda Berg, *Director Regulatory Affairs*

Cheryl Duffy, *Administration – Registration and Licensing*

Greg Guenther - *Director of Member Services & Public Events*

Courtney Razimus, *Administrator – Peer Review, CE, and Licensing Support*

Diane McDonald, *Executive Secretary*

Dr. Cory Sul, *Deputy Registrar*

Holly Stusiak, *Office Assessor*

Dr. Lori Stephen-James, *Chair- Peer Review Committee*

