



American Dental Association Update

Thomas Paumier, D.D.S
ADA President-elect



Dr. Tom Paumier

ADA President- Elect

My Leadership Philosophy

“Strive for perfection; settle for excellence.”

What this looks like:

- Listen more than I speak
- Build and trust strong teams
- Be clear about direction and expectations
- Create more leaders – not followers

Key Areas to Address

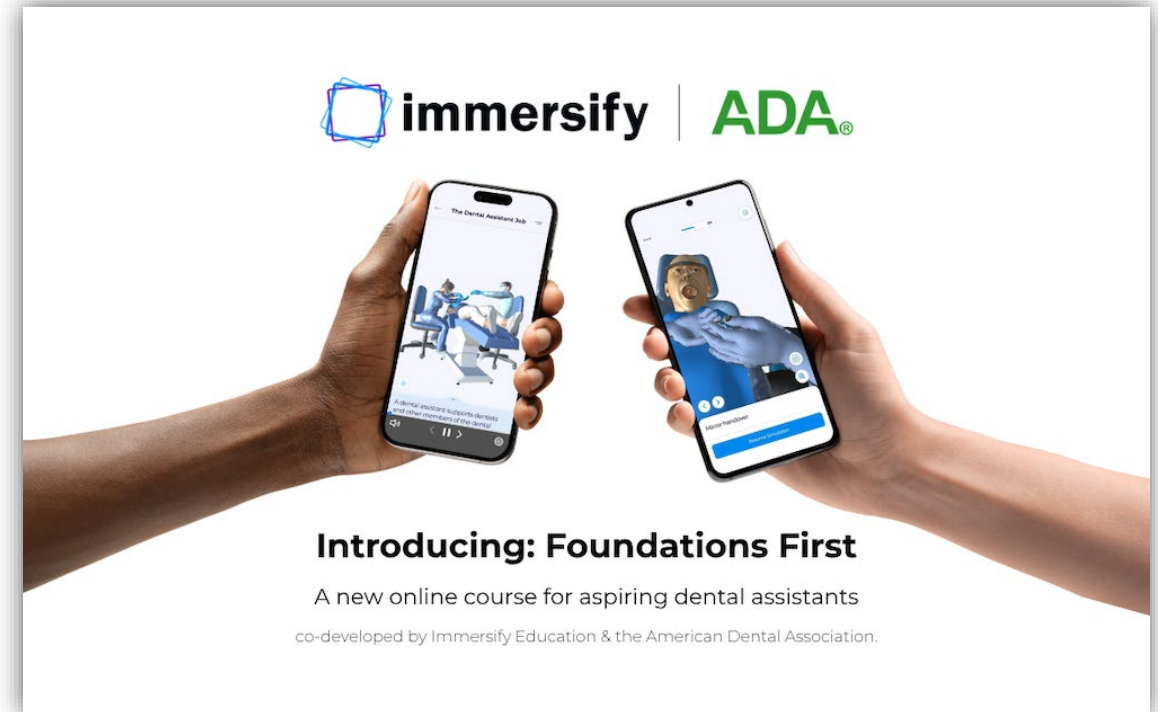
- Defining the roles and responsibilities of each level of the tripartite.
- Who should the ADA serve?
 - Members
 - The states
 - The profession
 - Public health

Priorities

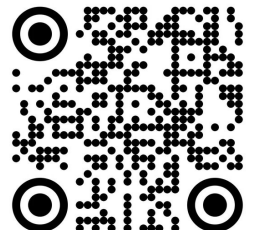
- Members First
 - Owner dentists: insurance issues, workforce issues
 - Employed dentists: fair contracts, healthy work environment, clinical autonomy
- Sustainability of the States
 - Financial sustainability
 - Providing services to members

Foundations First: Online Training for Dental Assistants

- The ADA and Immersify have launched an online training course for dental assistants
 - Designed to complement on the job training
 - Developed with the help of ADA subject matter experts
- Virtual reality, augmented intelligence-supported training that works on any device
- A second course, Case Study Driven, is expected to release later this year



Course costs \$99
Learn more and register at
immersify.com/ADA



What does the ADA of the future look like?





Ongoing Advocacy

Strengthening the Workforce

Workforce development and wellness resources

Student Loan Reform

Advocating for legislation that would ease the burden of dental school debt

Dental Insurance Reform

State and federal efforts to create a benefits system that is beneficial for dentists and patients

Science & Research

Oral Microbiome

Oral/Systemic Health Connections

AI Driven Dental Materials

Regenerative Dentistry

Diagnostics/Salivary Testing

Immunology and Inflammation

ADA Forsyth Institute: Leading Oral Health Innovation

NIDCR awards ADA Forsyth \$6.2M to design restorative materials using AI

Composite will feature self-healing, antimicrobial properties



**ADA Forsyth to
develop next-gen, smart
restorative material**

ADA Forsyth®

- **Oral Health Integration:** ADA and the Forsyth Institute integrated in 2023
- **Global Research Hub:** Top-tier, NIH-funded institution focused on the oral-systemic health connection.
- **"Bench to Chairside":** Accelerates the transition of lab discoveries into everyday clinical practice.
- **Future-Focused:** Leading the way in oral microbiome mapping, AI diagnostics, regenerative medicine and more.

Standards

Ensure the public's faith in the care they're receiving.

Ensure the equipment and materials we use are safe and effective.

Celebrating 100 years of ADA Standards in 2026!

The Practice Institute

Insurance Industry

Policy Makers And Regulators

Industry Partners

Practice Support

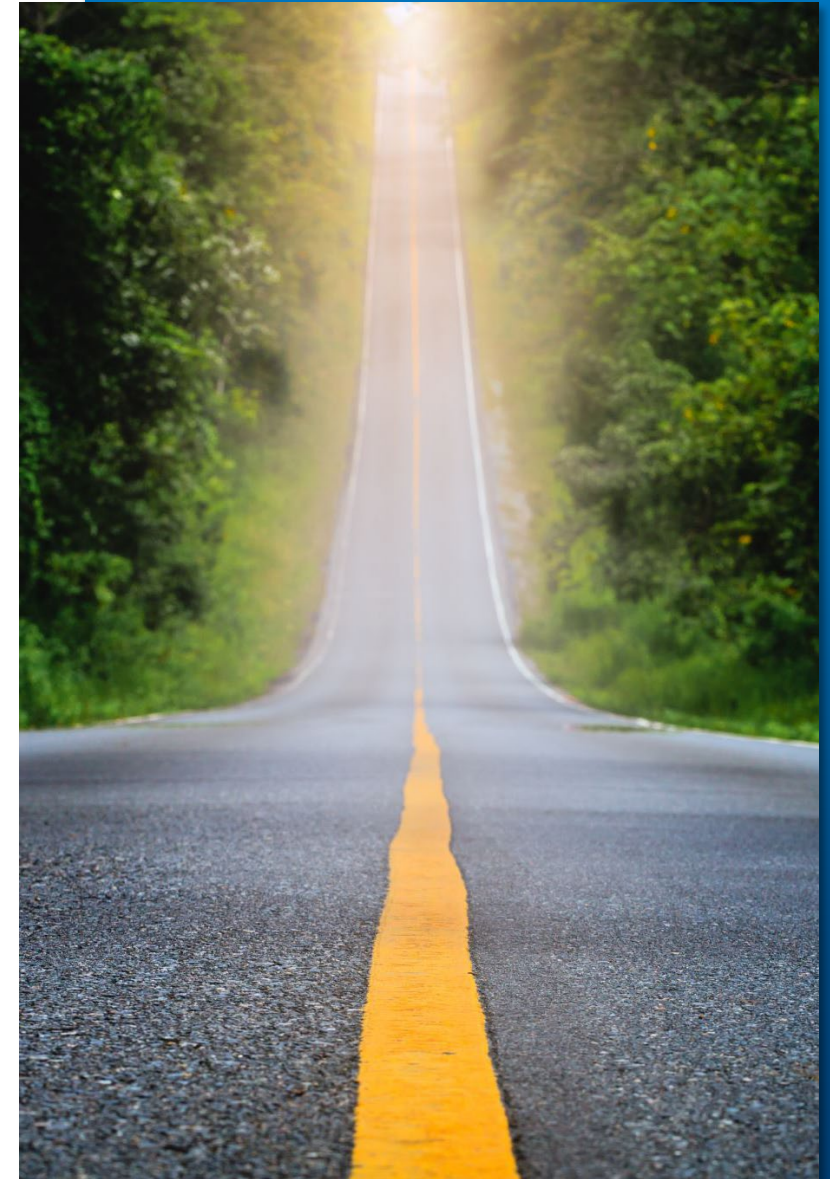
**The ADA is the infrastructure
for the Profession.**

If the ADA fails, the Profession fails.

Oral Health 2050 Initiative

A strategic effort to establish a forward-looking roadmap for dentistry's next 25 years.

- Task Force in place to shape the next “Future of Dentistry” study.
- As part of this effort, expert panels will explore key areas.
- The call for panelists resulted in over 170 inquiries and more than 130 nominations.
- Panelists are being finalized and onboarded.
- More updates to come as work moves forward.



Five Expert Panels: Shaping the Next 25 Years



Payment Model – *How will we pay for care – and make sure no one is left out?*



Delivery Model – *How will oral health care be delivered?*



Wellness (2 panels) – *What will wellness look like for providers and patients?*



AI/Technology – *What role will AI and technology play in how we practice?*

When you are a member of
organized dentistry...

You never practice alone.

Save the date: 2026 ADA Scientific Session

October 8–10 | Indianapolis, IN
Indianapolis Convention Center



Translate Science into Practice

Focus areas:

ADA Guidelines

- Oral cancer, radiography

Oral Systemic Health

- Treat the WHOLE patient

JADA Research Driven Insights

- Peer-reviewed programming

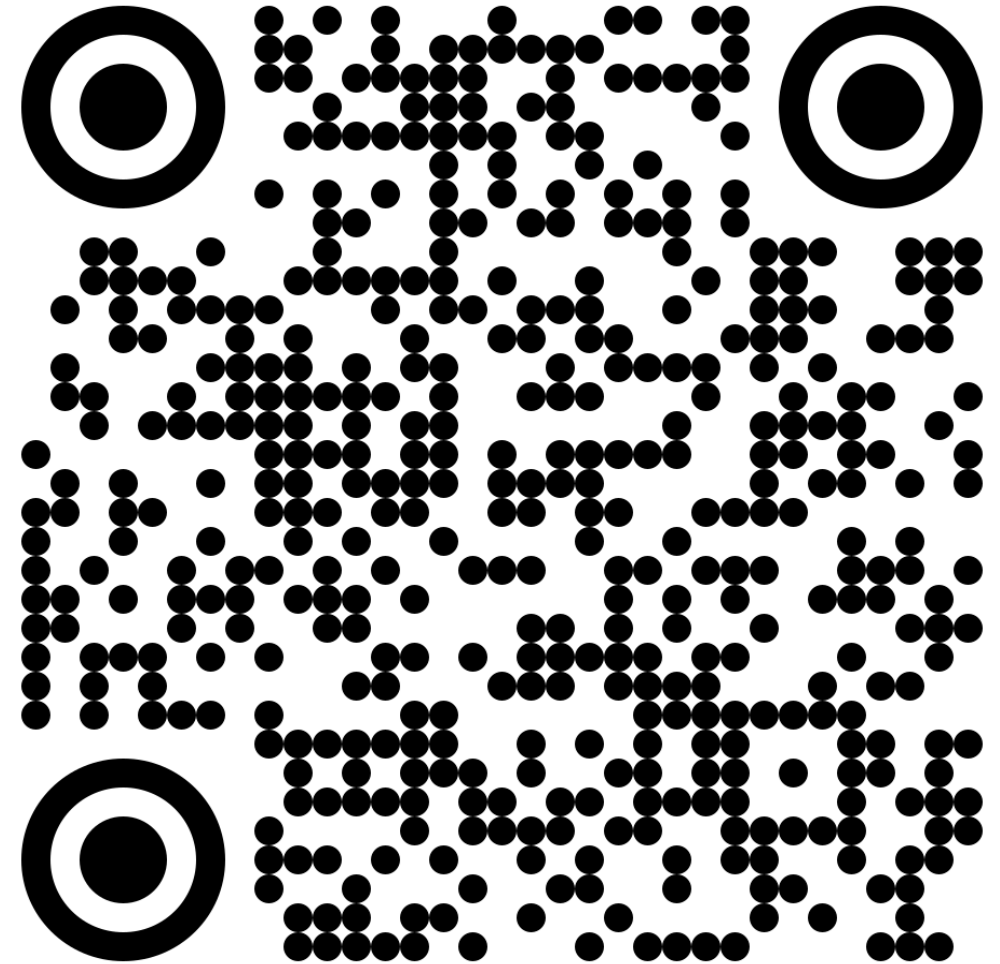
Plus: exhibit hall, networking opportunities

Registration is open now. Learn more at **ADA.org/ScientificSession.**

Thrive on

The ADA is working to support dentists where it matters most through:

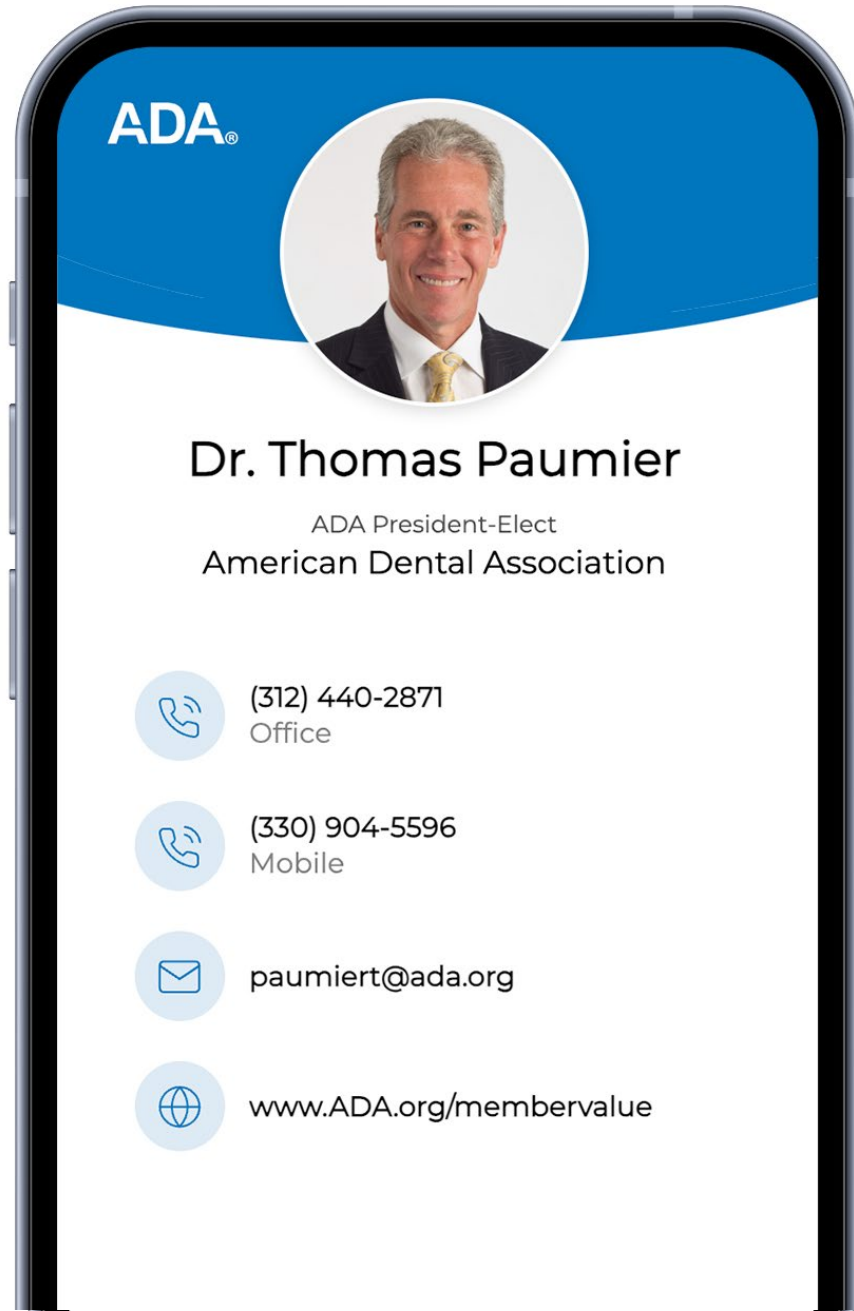
- *Strong advocacy*
- *Trusted science*
- *Practice resources*
- *Member service*



[Scan here to learn more](#)

The background of the slide is a dense, repeating pattern of three-dimensional question marks in various shades of blue. The question marks are rendered with perspective, giving them a 3D appearance as if they are floating or stacked. The overall color palette is monochromatic, using different tones of blue to create depth and texture.

Questions?



Contact Me!

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