

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR DENTAL ETHICS



A Section of the
American College of Dentists

Mission Statement

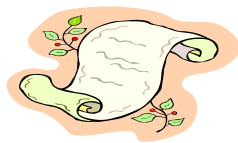
The mission of ASDE is to lead education and scholarship in dental ethics.

Core Values of ASDE

Leadership
Community
Education
Collegiality
Scholarship
Service
Professional integrity

Officers

President: Pamela Zarkowski
President Elect: Frederick More
Treasurer: Larry Jenson
Past President: Toni Roucka
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ACD Liaison: Phyllis Beemsterboer
Issues in Dental Ethics Editor: Bruce Peltier
Executive Director: Frederick More



Summer 2018 Newsletter

Integrity

Integrity. What's in the word? The American College of Dentists refers to integrity frequently in terms of being of honorable character and practicing in a manner that shows honorable intent. When you search the term, "honor" and "honesty" emerge consistently as key elements of integrity. The ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct describes: "qualities of honesty, compassion, kindness, integrity, fairness and charity are part of the ethical education of a dentist and practice of dentistry and help to define the true professional". Integrity in this context is included in a variety of traits that are important to the ethical dentist.

In his book, *Integrity*, Stephen Hall sets up integrity in three parts: a) having concrete personal standards of right and wrong; b) making choices and taking actions consistent with those standards; and, c) taking stands for right and wrong with others. Hall sees most people comfortable with a) and b), but consistently not meeting the obligation of taking stands. Hall would consider a person who "doesn't want to get involved in moral/ethical issues" as falling short on integrity.

Integrity is a living statement about our intellect, moral code, and personal conduct. For example, think about the professional football player kneeling during the National Anthem.

One can see the act as lacking integrity. But isn't their action courageous and a show of moral commitment? We may disapprove but one needs to be open to consider the integrity of others. Similarly, a healthcare professional may show integrity by consistently making evidenced-based treatment choices and always placing the needs of patients over personal needs. Another person, who believes in their integrity may view treatment choices based on accumulating personal wealth.

How about a dedicated practitioner who believes their choice is always evidence-based and knows nothing about study design and statistics. They face the possibility that the data used to make clinical decisions may be flawed. Charles Seife, (*JAMA Intern Med.* 2015;175(4):567-577.

doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2014.7774) reported his study of published clinical trials where FDA inspections of trial sites found serious violations resulting in official actions taken on the trial site. In spite of serious findings, trial results were published in peer-reviewed journals. Taking the Seife results seriously, adds the obligation for considering the quality of the data on which conclusions were based. The practitioner must have the skill and knowledge to make informed choices based on a knowledge of research design and statistics.

An interesting definition of integrity is "keeping promises". Interesting when we consider how people keep promises. Some are steadfast, dependable, and always trustworthy to keep promises – even simple promises like being on time. Other people are generally reliable, but occasionally do not keep the promise they made. How they behave in those moments shows willingness to be accountable personally for the outcome. Still others make promises and there is limited if any likelihood that the promise will be kept. Those in the latter group most often blame others when a promise is broken and absolve themselves based on the fallibility of others. They are rigorous about escaping accountability.

Regardless of your definition, who gets to judge the integrity of other people? The answer – everyone judges the integrity of others! People are disappointed when a promise is broken or expectations are not realized. The patient judges when they choose a practitioner to achieve a result only to find the result falls short of expectations. We may judge a professional athlete harshly for kneeling during the pregame National Anthem rather than considering the reason he knelt in the first place. And, how do we judge the person who has failed to keep a promise? Maybe we can be graceful and understanding but there is always a level of disappointment. The several models for ethical decision making give us a useful structure to consider our choices when we are face with a dilemma.

Where does this leave us in our effort to claim integrity as a personal value? It is unlikely that anyone starts off with the intention of doing something to hurt a patient, peer, or others. It is doubtful that anyone regularly intends to do the wrong thing or make a mistake or do treatment that leads to a poor outcome. But when faced with a difficult treatment decision, do we take time to consider evidence and evaluate it carefully, or resort to what has worked in the past? How are we about taking stands when we observe poor quality treatment done by colleagues? Or accepting an outcome as "okay" when we know it could have been much better. Do we keep promises? When we do not keep a promise, do we willingly take responsibility for it? Do we take time – daily – for self-assessment, considering where we need to make amends or make restitution, and taking action to maintain the well-being of those we treat, our peers, employees, and families?

Upcoming CE in Hawaii
ASDE sponsored course at ACD
Meeting in Hawaii - October 17, 2018

The ethics course for the 2018 ACD annual session is **The Ethics of Excellence** and the program will be four hours in the morning provided by Drs. Fred More and Toni Roucka. Excellence is one of the four core values expressed in the ACD's mission statement and is accepted as integral to the practice of dentistry. Where ethics provides the reflective process for evaluating situations and determining courses of actions, excellence is the manifestation of those actions. This term is often used and it means different things to different people. Excellence is more than just quality of care. Excellence is a way of being. This ideology delineates the important knowledge, competencies, values and beliefs incumbent of a profession's members in delivering health care to and being part of society fulfilling the social contract. In order to help those caring for patients to gain a better understanding of this concept, this course will work to define excellence, distinguish it from ethics and professionalism and review the basis for it as an essential attribute of professional life.

The afternoon will focus on **Recognizing and Managing the Ethical Dimension of Dental Practice** using Video Dilemma Cases with Dr. Lawrence Garetto. An ethical dimension in the care environment is present each and every time an oral health provider interacts with a patient. There is never a situation when the ethical dimension does not exist. Being willing and able to recognize ethical issues is the first step in the process of managing them. The American College of Dentists has partnered

with Indiana University School of Dentistry to produce an extended series of video cases. This session will present some of these scenarios to stimulate discussion about common ethical issues in the care of dental patients. A model for decision-making considering the ethical dimension of care will be presented and used during discussion. The video scenarios are currently available for use by practitioners and schools. Strategies for facilitating discussions of ethical issues within practice environments will also be presented.



ASDE will be receiving the ACD section award at the annual session in Hawaii!



New and Revised Dental Ethics Textbooks

Dental Ethics at Chairside: Professional Obligations and Practical Applications will be released in May 2018 with its third edition written by David Ozar and Don Patthoff, both fellows of ACD and members of ASDE. The publisher is Georgetown Press and will be available in hardcover and paperback. This 3rd edition has been revised and updated and includes 14 realistic cases and commentary about dilemmas in dentistry. Available at: <http://press.georgetown.edu/>

An electronic textbook titled the **Dental Ethics Primer** has been written by Bruce Peltier and Larry Jenson, ASDE members. It's a basic, introductory text designed to accompany courses and lessons for dental students with hyperlinks to external sources. The authors plan to augment it with additional cases and more advanced specialty materials in the future. Students or faculty can print it themselves for about \$20. Contact Bruce Peltier at bpeltier@pacific.edu for access and permission.



International Dental Ethics and Law Society

Our colleagues at IDEALS are planning their Congress for 2018. It will be held in Amsterdam 24-26 August 2018. See IDEALS web site for more information - <http://www.ideals.ac/>



Check Your Ethics Vocabulary!

What does **iniquitous** (ih-NIK-wi-tuhs), *adjective* mean?

- Something that is contradictory or opposite to another; a logical contradiction.
- Characterized by injustice or wickedness; sinful.
- Unmoved by persuasion, pity, or tender feelings; stubborn; unyielding.
- Lacking in courage and resolution; contemptibly fearful; cowardly.

Answer provided at the end of the Newsletter.



2018 Ozar-Hasegawa Ethics Winners

The winners of the 2018 Ozar Hasegawa Competition are:

- Mr. Christopher Shyue from the University of Washington. His submission was titled, *Was it the Right Decision to Extract Those Teeth?* His mentor was Dr. Trilby Coolidge.
- Ms. Kayla Berkebile from the University of Pittsburg. *A Dental Hygienist's First Encounter with an Ethical Dilemma* was her submission. Her mentor was Dr. Angelina Ricelli.

These competitive awards are presented by the ASDE Section to a dental and dental hygiene student for an essay or comparable product demonstrating careful ethical reflection.

The award consists of a cash prize of \$500.00, a one year membership in ASDE for the student and their advisor. Their full essays are available of the ASDE website. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AWARDEES!



Maya Ardon (NYU), Fred More (NYU) Toni Roucka (UIC), Austin Le (NYU), Alhusain Ghazala (UIC) and Karen Homsy (UIC).

ADEA Annual Session March 2018

Fred More and Toni Roucka led a team of faculty and students in March 2018 at the ADEA Meeting in Orlando discussing **Exposing the Hidden Curriculum**. This well-attended, interactive workshop, highlighted specific examples of experiences with the hidden curriculum and how the panel members met the challenges posed. The "hidden curriculum" is a set of values and beliefs that are a powerful factor in the education and moral environment of an educational institution. It involves the culture—values, behaviors and ethical decision-making that are exhibited and embodied in the academic setting by all stakeholders.

Academy for Professionalism in Health Care

The Academy for Professionalism in Health Care held their Annual Meeting April 26 to 28, 2018 in Baltimore. See their web site for

more information about this group.
www.professionalformation.org



Membership

We encourage dental, dental hygiene and advanced program educators, as well as dental and dental hygiene practitioners to join ASDE. If you are a member, encourage your colleagues to join.

For membership applications please use the following addresses at the ACD office:

- ❖ Mail submissions:
ASDE Membership
American College of Dentists
839J Quince Orchard Blvd
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

- ❖ Email Submissions: office@acd.org

Check Your Ethics Vocabulary Answer is B