



June, 2021

Enough SAID

President's Message

Hello!

Hope these spring days finds everyone healthy and happy and WARM! Here in the Northeast we have been off to a chilly start!

I just wanted to reach out and let you all know that we are actively planning the SAID 2021 meeting. After several discussions and surveys that were sent out and returned by members we have decided to have a virtual meeting again this year.



The date for the meeting is November 3 -5 , 2021 so please mark your calendars with a great big smile!

We will continue to post updates of our meeting agenda with topics and speakers when that becomes available. We are also trying to incorporate some new ideas to make it fun and stay connected since we can't meet in person

So get your virtual backgrounds ready, make an appointment for Fluffy at the groomer, and of course it's always nice to see the family stop by and say Hello!

We can't wait to Zoom with you!

Maria Lubak

SAID President 2021



Might be fun to select a background from you home state or city and use it when you are visible to others during the session; instructions to follow!



Good Tip for any Virtual Meeting!!



Don't forget your "Pearls" - small mini-presentations about a product, technique, treatment modality or case that has intrigued you this past year. Instructions will follow about how these will be introduced into this year's hybrid meeting!

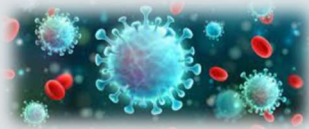


New Look as SAID Celebrates 55th Annual Session

By Bob Leonetti



As I sit to write, a year like no other has just passed. It was in March of 2020 when much of the country “shut down”. Professional Sports, theaters, restaurants, retail businesses all closed their door in response to an International Pandemic. Dental offices in most states closed their doors to all but emergency procedures as the healthcare professions scrambled to respond to the SARS-Cov-2, aka the Corona Virus.



Professional Organizations looked at novel ways to gather, to inform, to educate, to somehow bring members together in fulfilment of their core missions. SAID was no different. A November Meeting in Richmond, Virginia was planned, and the executive Board made every effort to make that happen. But it soon became obvious that an in-person gathering was not in the cards for the fall of 2020. President Carolyn Fetter, who had booked a superb venue & gathered an impressive speaker lineup set about the complicated task of converting her efforts to a virtual format. With considerable assistance from the board, small groups of long-time SAID attendees were polled, and their responses collated & considered. Webmaster and tech advisor, Moriah Fetter developed a platform that proved a very satisfactory temporary alternative to the personal networking & camaraderie so essential to SAID membership. The session was kicked off by the Annual SAID Strategic Planning Meeting on Wednesday evening. It is during that session that the executive board along with interested members help SAID plot its future course. It was well attended and served to get attendees accustomed to the Zoom technology. A cocktail and social hour followed which included all of the warmth, humor, and camaraderie of a traditional in-person gathering. It also opened doors to a personal side of our friends and colleagues never before possible before as family members of both the two and four-legged persuasion made appearances. It was also nice to see both the homes & the virtual backgrounds chosen by our members.



The Annual Session officially was officially convened by President Carolyn Fetter, coffee in hand on Thursday, November fifth at 8:00 AM. She extended a warm welcome & introduced the keynote speaker. Mathew Schwab, a young man with Downs syndrome gave the group a lot to think about as he set the tone for the two-day session with his talk, *“When You Look at Me What Do You See?”*. Next came an extremely timely presentation entitled, *“Dental Aerosols and Disease Transmission”* in which Gaylene Baker instructed the group in best practices in dental infection control in a post-Covid world.





After a short break, David Itzkoff, SAID's beloved I-Man convened one of SAID's most cherished traditions, the Pearls session. The Pearls arose from the phrase "pearls of wisdom" which we all hope to glean whenever we attend a continuing ed course. In this session, members are encouraged to bring with them a product, technique, case, or anecdote which has served them well in their practice and impart this to meeting participants. It is where many attendees find content that they can put into practice on Monday morning when they return home. The next presentation was by a clinical psychologist and posed "*Coping Strategies for Dental Professionals Regarding Stresses of Covid-19*". James Casadia offered practical suggestions as Dental professionals returning to work from a Covid-induced hiatus. He led the group in a short mindfulness exercise intended to diminish the stresses of working in a dental environment. After



lunch, Aous Abdulmajeed presented a talk entitled "*Dental Material Considerations for the Patient with Special Needs*". In it he gave a review of advances in Dental Materials which could be beneficial to the patient with Special Needs. The day concluded with



Kimberly Ward presenting the results from a "*Study on Oral Care Aides in Skilled Nursing Facilities*". The results were consistent with those from other studies and unequivocally demonstrated the importance of oral care in the health, well-being, and longevity of patients in nursing homes. It is a study that would serve as excellent corroboration for all who advocate for better dental care for patients with disabilities. The group then broke up into breakout sessions and discussed the day's content; excellent interaction! The group then convened for a BYOB social hour which continued long after the allotted hour.

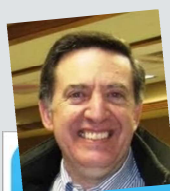




The next morning began again with a welcome from President Carolyn Fetter. She introduced Zhao Lin and his presentation *“Regenerative Dentistry-The Future of dentistry?”* In It, he introduced novel treatments that use cell and gene therapy to enhance periodontal tissue reconstruction and its integration; fascinating treatments that could dramatically change the way



dentistry is practiced. Next came, Shirley Spater and her discussion of *“Medicare Dental Coverage for Vulnerable Patient”*. This presentation sparked a lot of dialogue about insurance coverage for Special Needs patients as it related to access to care. After a short break, another of SAID’s treasured traditions, the Literature review, where the Dental literature for the previous year pertaining to patients with special needs is reviewed by SAID members, abstracted and the most relevant presented to the group. Doug Veazy & Mannie Levi have



been managing this task admirably for several years and did not disappoint in 2020. Next came lunch and the business meeting where Officers were installed for the upcoming year. Maria Lubak from Pennsylvania was installed as the next President of SAID. The last presentation was *“Use of a Weighted Blanket in the Dental Operator”* by Kristin Compton and provided members with an

interesting behavior management alternative. More breakout sessions followed where members spent an hour in spirited discussion about the day’s subject matter. What followed then was a BYOB Social Hour bringing to a close



the most unusual SAID Annual session ever; no two of us in the same room; unique, unusual but still extraordinarily valuable. Certainly excellent Continuing Education was there. And the social interactions so relished by SAID members were still there albeit altered, but still there if you searched for them. Present as well, was an additional dimension which provided texture



and context to our friendships. Cameo Zoom appearances were made by kids, spouses, pets & homes as we learned more about old friends than we would have with an in-person meeting. And while hope was held out for an in-person meeting in 2021, it now appears that Zoom will be the way we proceed in '21. We now know how to do it but look forward to meeting in person in 2022.



Judith Corbin Presented Bradshaw Award



The award is presented to Dental Auxiliaries who have distinguished themselves in the field of Dentistry for Patients with Disabilities while making significant contributions toward the advancement of the mission of SAID which is "to improve the oral health of people with disabilities through service, education, and advocacy". The award is named for Sarah Bradshaw who for many years personified the mission of SAID, advocating while providing expert compassionate care for patients with disabilities

Judith has spent 60 years in active practice of person-centered care, always considering that each person has special needs from time to time. She has been a member of SAID for many years & has presented at SAID Meetings helping to coordinate and present the Auxiliaries Roundtable portion of the SAID program for years. She spends much of her time in advocacy/networking/seeking commonalities following the 4-H motto of "making the best better"

The New Normal

By Bob Leonetti



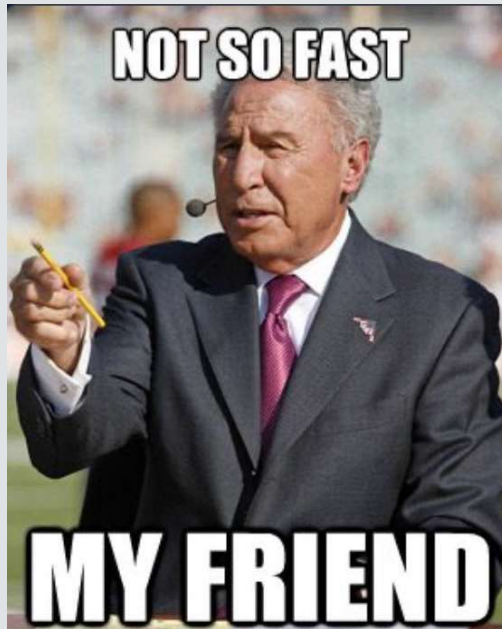
We've all heard this expression and never more so than in the past year. Wikipedia defines "New Normal" as a state to which an economy or society settles following a crisis, when this differs from the situation that prevailed prior to the start of the crisis. Interesting as a concept, but it's important to focus on what it means to you. When the Covid19 Pandemic began I was still practicing part-time. Joyce and I

'Never let "the New Normal" be an excuse for not living your best life or being your best self.'

were dividing our time between our two homes in Philadelphia and Ocean City and looking forward to our cruise through Scandinavia, Russia & the Balkans. A quote attributed to writer Michael Chabon goes, "Man makes plans... and God laughs". Well this year God must be guffawing non-stop. None of our plans have been realized. In March, I realized the work environment at the prison at

which I was working two-days a week was unsafe, so I left. The free clinic I operated in Camden closed temporarily due to Covid and never reopened as our hosts decided they didn't have the stomach for operating a dental Clinic in a Post-Covid environment. So within a matter of weeks, I abruptly transitioned from working three days a week to complete retirement. Since we needed to "shelter in place", we bid a hasty (if temporary) farewell to our apartment in Philly and headed down to Ocean City so we could benefit from the beach & the sea air. All of our customary entertainment options were suddenly unavailable; movies, live theater, dining out; sports (both in-person and televised). More importantly, our family was no longer able to gather, no visits with children, parents, aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces. Moreover, we couldn't meet with our friends except via electronic media. Since March of 2020. We've lost a mother, & three aunts, one to Covid. Only one of these was able to have an actual funeral that we could attend. And in the midst of all of this, Joyce was diagnosed with Lymphoma and is midway through a year of inpatient chemotherapy. New Normal? I'm not sure I even remember what the "old normal" was.

It was against this backdrop that I approached last year's SAID meeting, ordinarily one of the focal points of my year. I was hoping to get together with friends and colleagues to reconnect, commune, reminisce, vent, commiserate, strategize, encourage & otherwise garner knowledge and inspiration, just a typical SAID meeting. And then in the words of Lee Corso:



In another “God-laugh”, the SAID Meeting was suddenly an online event. I say suddenly, but what I mean is that after hours of research, surveys, meetings, Zoom Calls, and planning sessions, the 54th Annual session was converted to a pandemic-acceptable online event. Naturally there was some trepidation regarding the move. Would it serve the same purposes for me and for the group as a whole? Would it advance the mission of SAID? Would it affect the vibrancy & indeed the long-term survival of the group I hold so dear?

All of those questions were answered throughout the course of the Annual Session. Our planning committee & President under Moriah Fetter’s direction put together an unforgettable experience which contained all the elements of a traditional SAID Annual Session albeit with a different flavor. Presentations were pre-recorded but in front of a small virtual audience who responded & asked questions as if they were in present in person. Then the pre-recorded talks/ responses were played for the entire group with the presenter available for questions in real time. When appropriate, breakout sessions followed the talks and SAID members were given an opportunity to do what they do best, react & talk. It seemed awkward at first but as the meeting progressed, the comfort level increased as the awkwardness disappeared. It was an example of adaptation, evolution, and indeed “The New Normal”.

Personally, my “New Normal” is a work in progress. Joyce and I are spending more time together and eating more meals at home. This has led to a new dynamic in our relationship and correspondingly, cooking skills I never knew I possessed. Being out-going doers, we have struggled with sitting back and let others do for us. But it has been liberating & humbling as friends and family came to our aid time after time. We have used our time in isolation to catch up on television shows, exercise more, read more, communicate better, learn new skills (Joyce-learning to speak Italian, me-Enology; I always drank it, now I’m learning about it). There have been multiple opportunities for self-pity; for gnashing of teeth; for “raging against the dying of the light” during this Pandemic. And admittedly I have occasionally taken refuge

there. There is ample opportunity to use the phrase “New Normal” to deflect blame for negative behavior. Some have used it as an excuse for working slower, less efficiently or providing a lesser level of service than they did pre-pandemic. I find this to be unacceptable. After a year & a half, a person, business, or government agency should have figured this out by now. Never let “the New Normal” be an excuse for not living your best life or being your best self. And don’t let the New Normal be something that happens to you; instead create it with your mind, your hearts, and your hands.



**DON'T FORGET TO JOIN US AT SAID'S
56th ANNUAL SESSION**

All Virtual again this year

November 3-5-2021

Check the website as more details
becomes available...



Weaving Common Threads

A reflection by Judith Crocker-Corbin



The fabric of the cloth of each of our practice settings is made up of commonalities.

Even though our practices are in different states, are governed by different laws and are funded by different mechanisms,

we are linked by our services for patients with special needs, our empathetic acceptances of individual differences and the creative adaptation to which we subscribe on a daily basis.

There is nothing routine in a routine day and the rewards for therapy well-done may be only an atypical, barely detectable sign from a client, which we feel in our spirit as a thank-you.

Our clients bring to us the best person they have.

It becomes our opportunity to communicate with them and find out what THEY want us to do for them.

