



May, 2019

# *Enough SAID*

## **SAID Rocks & Rolls into Music City**

By Kim Espinoza

Special Care Advocates in Dentistry held the Annual Seminar in Nashville, TN October 25-26, 2018. SAID wants to give a big thanks to the WITH Foundation for a grant to support this meeting –

thank you WITH Foundation! The theme

for the 2018 SAID Annual Seminar was

Advocacy, highlighting advocacy

through education, advocacy through

innovation and advocacy for mental health and

human rights. A panel of educators and students focused on

advocacy through education and the future of special care

dentistry. Ashland Doomes presented on the results of qualitative research

analyzing what influences general dentists to treat adults with developmental disabilities,

including educational and contextual factors. Several talks highlighted advocacy through

innovation, including Ellen Anderson and Carol Roszel's talk on tele-dentistry

and Juri Hayashi's talk on optical coherence tomography as well as the

annual SAID Literature Review session presented by Mannie Levi and Doug

Veazey. There were several great presentations on mental

health and human rights, including on the civil rights of

people with intellectual and developmental disabilities,

abuse and neglect in vulnerable populations and trauma informed

care. Paul Kovalski and Tom Butler rounded out the meeting with a fantastic

infection control update. The meeting also included a fun trolley tour of Nashville, a mac and

cheese bar, a taco buffet and a fantastic group of exhibitors! In addition to thanking the WITH

Foundation, SAID would also like to thank our exhibitors and sponsors, including Access Dental

Care, Carestream, GC America, Ora-Brite, and the Specialized Care Company.



## Missing SAID

By Bob Leonetti



I remember the moment I first heard about SAID. It was at a Dental Chiefs' Meeting in Trenton in the late 80's-my first actually. My boss had asked me to sit-in for him and after all, it was a Friday afternoon out of the clinic.

We heard about a dentist in North Carolina who'd lost his license for restraining patients with disabilities in order to facilitate their dental care; something we did in New Jersey on a daily basis. Lee Reisner, a colleague also spoke about a group of dentists who were working to have his license restored. It was an organization whose main purposes were educating dental professionals to better care for patients with disabilities and advocating for their care. At the time they were called The Southern Association of Institutional Dentists (SAID). We spent our entire meeting drafting a letter of support for that doctor and sent it to the ADA and the North Carolina State Board. SAID thanked us for our efforts by inviting us to join them at their Annual Seminar. Dr. Reisner did go to that meeting and returned with tales of a wonderful, benevolent organization full of positive energetic people. I really wanted to go & experience the magic for myself, but I was low in the pecking order. Finally in 1994, I got my chance. The meeting was in Atlanta; a cheap flight from Philly and my boss gave me "P" days so I could afford the trip. I really didn't know what to expect but off I went to the Holiday Inn in North Atlanta. I arrived knowing no one! That didn't last long. John Howard was the president and since it was a small group, he asked us each to introduce ourselves. At the first break, at least 10 people approached me and introduced themselves. They already seemed to know my name. "Hey Yankee, nice to meet you!" was the #1 greeting. The lectures were excellent and on-point, but it was during those breaks where I really started to see the true spirit of SAID. I had told my wife that since I didn't know a soul, I would probably just hang around the hotel and read after the lectures. I was invited by several members to sit with them at lunch. They seemed so glad that I came down; interested in my views on dental care for patients with disabilities. And they listened. The longer we talked, the more I realized how in-sync our views and needs were. The friendliness & openness frankly took this somewhat cynical New Jerseyan by surprise. Then



came dinner. As I retreated to my room, George Johnson approached me and asked me to dine with his group. Even though it was over 25 years ago, I remember the dinner like it was yesterday. We went to Dante's Down the Hatch, a now defunct fondue restaurant in the Atlanta Underground. It was there over pots of warm cheese & hot oil that I fell in love with SAID. We talked and laughed for hours; discussing anything, everything & nothing. At the conclusion of that 28th Annual session, I vowed to return every year. And to a great extent I have kept that promise. The intervening years have produced a multitude of SAID memories both happy and sad. In 1999, New Jersey was formally recognized as a member state. In 2001, I was named the 36th President of SAID. Many SAID members have become friends for life. And sadly, some have moved on to their eternal rewards including

Sarah Bradshaw who was with me at that first dinner at Dante's.



About 10 years ago, SAID in an effort to be more inclusive, changed its name to Special Care Advocates in Dentistry (still SAID). A new logo and a new website accompanied the change. SAID was moving into the new millennium with renewed energy. But no matter how things change,

there are so many things that remain the same. SAID's modules continue to educate scores of dentists in care of those with disabilities even as the number of such patients living in the community increases. The friendliness and openness that greeted me at my first SAID meeting are still as prevalent as ever, as are the friends I have made along the way.



This brings me to my broken vow! Last year Joyce surprised me by booking us a trip to London to watch my Philadelphia Eagles play in Wembley Stadium. It wasn't until the following month that the dates for SAID's 53rd Annual Session were announced. Alas, they conflicted. So last year, I missed my first SAID meeting. I thought that in the excitement surrounding the London Trip, it wouldn't bother me. But I was wrong. While, I had blast in London (& the Eagles won!), I still missed my good friends and that feeling I get when I first greet them at the beginning of each SAID session. This year, I made sure that nothing will interfere with my annual dose of SAID information, camaraderie, & fun. I've already booked my hotel & flight. See y'all in Charleston.



## President's Message

"Greetings from Florence South Carolina"

I'm very happy to announce that the 2019 SAID Annual Seminar will be held in Charleston, South Carolina October 23-25 at the Embassy Suites on Meeting Street. We'll begin on

early Wednesday evening with the combination of the meal and strategic planning/task force committee meeting.





The Embassy Suites Hotel is located in downtown Charleston in the historic district and is convenient to many sites you may want to visit.



The Downtown Market, The Aquarium, Rainbow Row, The Battery, and Waterfront Park are among the many must see sites



and venues in Charleston. Walking tours and carriage rides are available to tour this historic city. For attendees who want to venture further you can take the Arthur Ravenel Bridge over to Mt. Pleasant, Sullivan's Island, and Isle of Palms.

The Charleston area has so many exciting options, I guarantee you'll be able to plan some exciting outings.



Embassy Suites is providing block rates for SAID Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday the week of the SAID seminar. The rates will increase for Friday and Saturday due to the high demand for lodging in the historic district of downtown Charleston.

I made arrangements with several speakers who graciously gave me advanced commitments to present at the 2019 seminar. This week I was able to get a commitment from my first-choice keynote speaker. I plan to provide an update when the agenda and schedule are closer to completion. I'm looking forward to seeing y'all at the 2019 SAID Seminar.

Thank you,

*Mary Bradley Tepper, DMD*

2019 President SAID

Those of you coming to  
Charleston....

- Don't forget to bring a door prize.....
- Something from your home city or state that shows off your hometown pride...
- We promise you'll leave with something equally as wonderful!



DON'T FORGET TO JOIN US AT **SAID'S**  
54<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SESSION

Charleston, South Carolina

OCTOBER 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>

Check the website as more details  
becomes available...

E-mail us photos of **you** hard at  
work. SAID is revising our website  
collage to include more present  
members.....

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