

# Bronx County Dental News



A PUBLICATION OF THE BRONX COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY

## Live Meetings are Back!

**AFTER A YEAR AND A HALF OF ISOLATION AND** Zoom gatherings, dental meetings are back. For most of us vaccinated dentists, this has been a welcome reemergence. The BCDS has had two well attended evenings at Maestros Caterers this fall. Our delegates attended the New York State House of Delegates in Jersey City this past August and Dr. Jacqueline Samuels represented the Bronx at the ADA meeting in Las Vegas this October. Even though what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas, Jacqueline has offered to share some thoughts on the meeting and her commitment to organized dentistry.

From October 13-17, I represented the Bronx County Dental Society as an ADA Delegate in Las Vegas. Throughout the conference, I was asked by other ADA members why I got involved in organized dentistry. I responded that I didn't have a choice. I didn't have a family member in the dental profession. I had no mentor. I felt that being an ADA member would provide me with the resources I needed to be successful in dentistry.

As a delegate, I help to give a voice to my profession, mentor, and provide resources to other dentists. As a delegate, I get the opportunity to work alongside other dental advocates to help sustain my profession. This was the most evident during Covid. If it wasn't for advocacy and organized dentistry our profession would not have been considered essential. The skills and services that we provide would be undervalued and underrepresented. I am delighted that I was given the opportunity to represent the voices of the Bronx as an ADA Delegate.

Dr. Jacqueline James Samuels  
Past President, Bronx County Dental Society ■



*Jacqueline Samuels with NYSDA President Kevin Henner (on the left)*

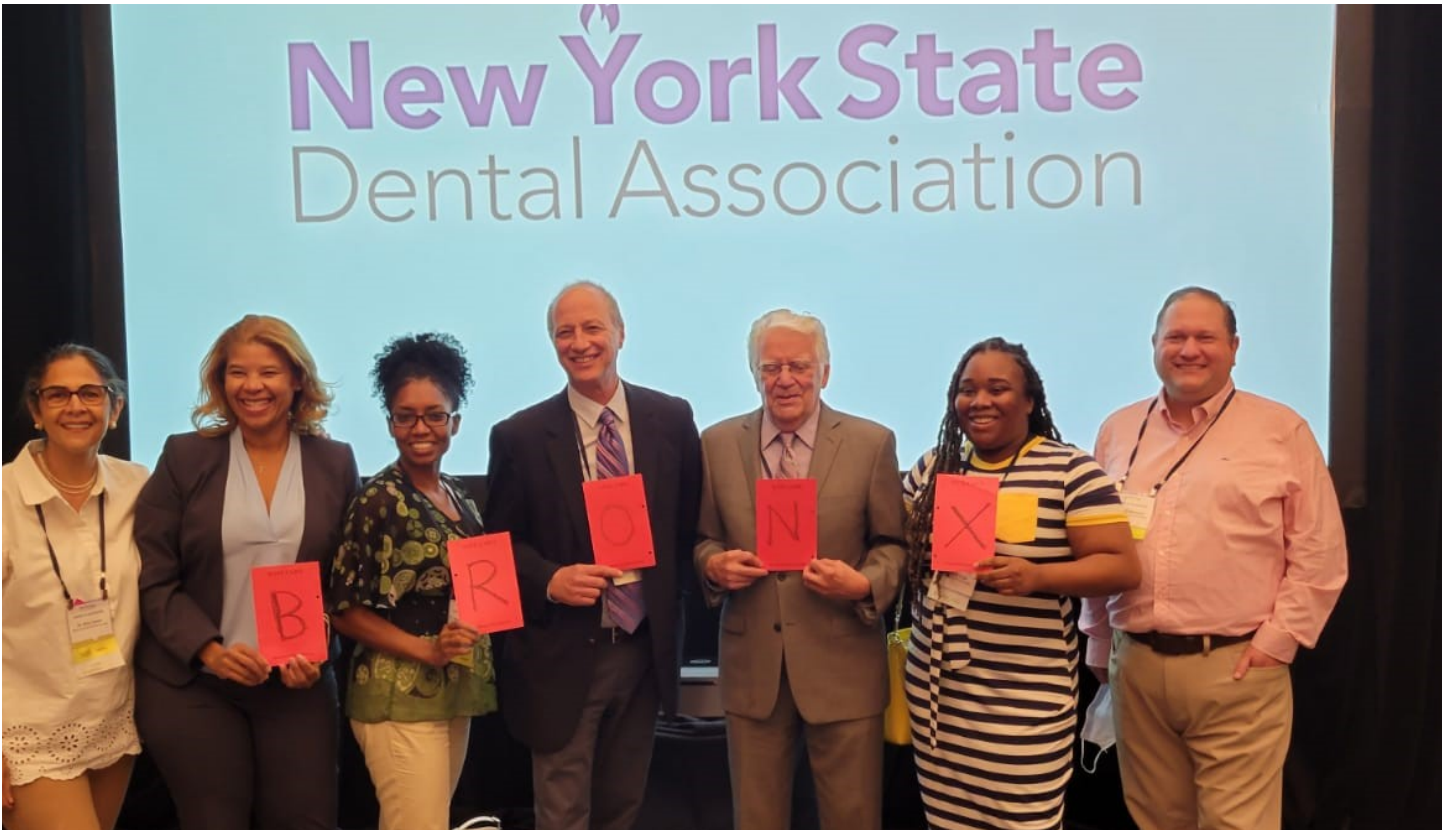
## Save The Date: BCDS Job Fair

The BCDS is hosting a Job Fair for dental residents, dentists seeking associates, and those transitioning to retirement.

**When-** Thursday April 28, 2022 6:30pm-9:30pm

**Where-** The Lake House at the Van Courtlandt Golf Course

Several DSO's and businesses essential to practice transitions will be there. Appetizers, beer, wine, and soda will be served. More information to follow in coming weeks.



*Drs. Kirti Tewari, Amarillis Jacobo, Jacqueline Samuels, Don Safferstein, Steve Harrison, Jerrica Cook and Keith Margulis at the NYSDA House of Delegates in Jersey City.*



*Our team relaxes after a long day of "delegating".*



*Dr Rachel Rosen and Dr Dianne Heller with Orthodontics Residents at a BCDS dinner meeting at Maestros.*

# Governor Hochul Activates HERO Act

**IN A PRESS RELEASE ISSUED ON SEPT. 6,** Governor Kathy Hochul announced that the commissioner of health has designated COVID-19 a highly contagious communicable disease that presents a serious risk of harm to the public health under New York Health and Essential Rights Act (HERO Act), which requires all employers to implement workplace safety plans in the event of an airborne infectious disease, helping to prevent workplace infections.

The NY HERO Act mandates extensive new workplace health and safety protections in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the law, all employers are required to adopt a workplace safety plan, and implement it for all airborne infectious diseases designated by the New York State Department of Health. Employers can adopt a model safety plan as crafted by the New York State Department of Labor (NYS DOL), or develop their own safety plan in compliance with HERO Act standards. [Read the full press release.](#) Plans adopted by employers must address a number of safety measures. Many protocols that dentistry currently follows under the [Interim Guidance for Dentistry during the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency](#) may be transferable to meet the Department of Labor standard.

Employers are required to distribute their work safety plan to all employees and post it in a visible and prominent location within each worksite. Additionally, the HERO Act includes anti-retaliation protection for employees. For more information on the NY HERO Act, visit: <https://dol.ny.gov/ny-hero-act>.

Template for personal services employers (such as dentists):  
[New York State Department of Labor Model HERO Act Personal Services Exposure Prevention Plan](#)

[New York State Department of Labor Airborne Infectious Disease Exposure Prevention Standard](#) ■



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**GREATER NY DENTAL MEETING 2021**

Meeting Dates	Exhibit Dates
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Jacob K. Javits Convention Center	11th Ave B/W 34th & 39th Street

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## NO ONE KNOWS NEW YORK DENTISTS BETTER THAN MLMIC

Whether you are a new dentist or an established practitioner, choosing a professional liability carrier is a crucial decision for your practice. Have you ever wondered what makes one carrier stand apart from another? What exactly should you be looking for when making this important decision?

The strength and stability of your professional liability carrier should be one of your first considerations. MLMIC Insurance Company is not only an admitted carrier in New York State, but is now a member of the Berkshire Hathaway family, which further enhances our financial strength. A.M. Best has recently assigned MLMIC Insurance Company a Financial Strength Rating of A+ (superior). This A+ Rating is a testament to MLMIC's stability and unwavering commitment to securing the future of dentists throughout New York State.

In addition to strength and stability, you will also want to look at coverage options and value-added services. MLMIC dentist professional liability policies all come with built-in coverage and benefits including:

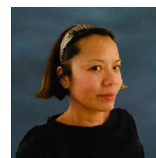
- 1 Legal Defense Cost coverage up to \$25,000 for administrative actions and/or Medicare/Medicaid and/or abuse proceedings
- 2 Contractual liability coverage

- 3 Shared limits coverage for Qualified Professional Entities

- 4 Access to our 24/7 Legal Hotline

In addition to the above, MLMIC also waives the cost for tail coverage (Automatic Extended Reporting Endorsement) for qualified Claims Made policyholders on their retirement from the practice of dentistry, and offers some of the most competitive premiums in the state. Both Claims Made and Occurrence policy options are available, as well as an array of liability limits. Whatever your coverage needs, MLMIC has options for you and your practice.

Finally, customer service is another area to investigate while making this decision. MLMIC prides itself on concierge-level service. Whether you have a question regarding coverage, are reporting a claim, or need risk management support, MLMIC is here for you. With over forty-five years of New York-specific experience, MLMIC is New York's #1 dental liability insurer. There is no better way to protect your practice than choosing a carrier located in your "own backyard"!



**Luisa Fernandez**  
Senior Underwriter, Dental  
MLMIC Insurance Company  
[lfernandez@mlmic.com](mailto:lfernandez@mlmic.com)

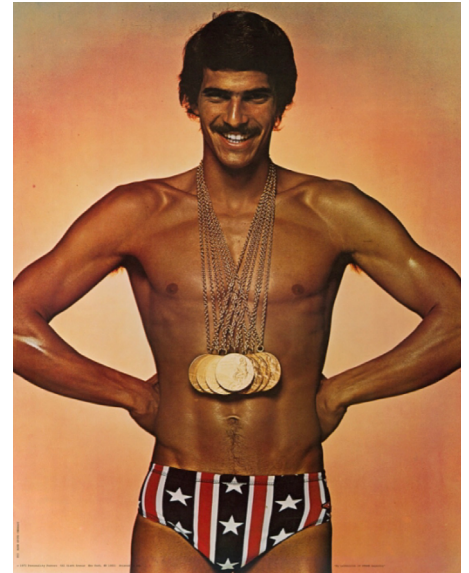
To learn more about how you can obtain trusted coverage at a lower cost, contact **Luisa Fernandez** at **(212) 576-9611**.



# Who Knew?

**IN THE PAST TWO INSTALLMENTS OF THIS WIDELY ACCLAIMED** and much anticipated column we revealed two famous people who became dentists. In this issue we will discover an aspiring young pre-dental student who decided to follow a different career path.

Long before there was Michael Phelps, there was the worlds fastest swimmer, Mark Spitz. Spitz is best known for winning 7 gold medals, each in world record time, at the 1972 Munich Olympics. What is less known is that while he was working hard in the pool, he was working equally hard on his pre-dental studies at Indiana University, "I always wanted to be a dentist, from the time I was in high school, and I was accepted to dental school in the spring of 1972," Spitz told Time magazine in 2011. "I was planning to go, but after the Olympics there were other opportunities. I did some television and speaking engagements and things just went from there."



Spitz never did trade in his gold medals for gold crowns. He never voiced the words, "rinse and spit please." Would you have done differently if you were in his Speedo? ■

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# Self-Care Away from the Dental Chair

## IN A RECENT SURVEY BY THE NATIONAL

Institute of Mental Health, 1 in 5 adults in America experience mental illness and those in the dental community are no exception. In fact, according to a 2020 ADA study, 92% of dentists agreed that COVID-19 challenged their mental health. Yet, many dentists indicated they're not comfortable seeking out mental health resources for themselves or a colleague.

The ADA is seeking to change this, in part, through collaborations with mental health advocates NAMI Chicago and Hope for the Day, made possible by a grant from Crest + Oral-B. The goal is to help create an environment of wellness within our dental community and avoid reaching a point of crisis before addressing mental health.

Here are a few resources that may help yourself or someone you know:

### Toolkits:

- [The Ultimate Workplace Mental Health Toolkit](#)

### Short Videos:

- [It's OK Not to Be OK](#)
- [Mindful Movement for Dentists](#)
- [The Science Behind Stress](#)

### Mental health webinars:

- [Wellness in Dentistry: Inspired and Supportive Leadership](#)
- [Resilience in the Face of Uncertainty](#)
- [Mental Health, Dentistry and You](#)

Above all, talk about mental health with your colleagues and make sure you're taking steps to take care of yourself. Because mental health is part of overall health.

Go to [ADA.org/wellness](https://www.ada.org/wellness) for more resources to help you prioritize self-care away from the dental chair. ■

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# Reducing Drug Overdoses

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Secretary Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra outlined the Biden administration's strategy for curbing drug overdoses recently, committing more federal support for harm reduction techniques such as distribution of clean syringes and test strips used to check street drugs for hidden fentanyl. This four-part strategy also includes measures to prevent drug addiction, in part by continuing to reduce the inappropriate prescribing of opioids; expand medication-based treatment, which research has shown to be the most effective approach, and improve support for people recovering from substance use disorder. This strategy comes

as HHS released a report finding more than 840,000 people died from drug overdoses in the U.S. between 1999 and 2019, including about 93,000 last year during the COVID-19 pandemic when overdose fatalities rose dramatically. HHS labels confronting these overdose deaths as 'a top priority' for the department.

There are several likely reasons for the recent increase in overdose deaths. The pandemic has led to isolation and depression for many. The lacing of common drugs with fentanyl, no doubt is a major factor in the increased death rate.

Substance abuse and addiction are problems that we as dentists suffer from at an

increasing rate. The New York State Dental Association (NYSDA) is committed to aiding our colleagues in addressing substance abuse, addiction, and related mental health issues. NYSDA's Committee on Substance Abuse and Well-Being provides a statewide network of dentist-peers who are available to assist our members, their families, and dental office staff in addressing problems with drugs or alcohol. The Committee includes dentists who have experienced both the devastation of addiction and the effectiveness of intervention and treatment in their own lives.

For help call, 1-800-225-2100. All calls are strictly confidential. ■



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# Bronx County DENTAL SOCIETY

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# The Bronx County Dental Society Has a New Website

[www.bronxcountydentalsociety.org](http://www.bronxcountydentalsociety.org)

THE SITE IS DESIGNED TO BE A RESOURCE FOR member dentists as well as the public we serve. Take a few minutes to take a tour of the site. Some of the new features are:

- A Member Center full of resources for your practice. All information here is updated constantly by the ADA and NYSDA to keep you informed in real time.
- A Public Resource Center for the general public. The Find A Dentist feature enables patients to search for ADA member dentists by zip code and specialty.

Please give us feedback. This is your site and we have the ability to adapt it to better serve our members. ■



**Will you see one?**

*“My broken, decaying teeth are fixed and I can eat again.”*

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[WillYouSeeONE.org](http://WillYouSeeONE.org)

From clearing up painful dental infections and being able to eat again to rejoining the workforce - volunteering with Dental Lifeline Network's Donated Dental Services (DDS) program will make a life changing difference for the people we serve.

**Dental Lifeline Network**

*“Fellow dentists—will you join me in seeing **ONE** patient?”*  
-Gordon J. Christensen, DDS, MSD, PhD

**THE DENTAL LIFELINE NETWORK, A STRATEGIC PARTNER** of the American Dental Association, has been operating the Donated Dental Services (DDS) Program nationally since 1985. There are over 50 patients waiting for care currently in the Bronx. Only patients with disabilities, who are elderly or medically compromised and cannot afford care are accepted into the program. Please join the other dentists throughout the state who currently volunteer with DDS and help one patient. More dentists are needed, including specialists. Will you see one?

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It is easy to volunteer. Go to [www.DentalLifeline.org](http://www.DentalLifeline.org) and click on Volunteer or go to [www.WillYouSeeOne.org](http://www.WillYouSeeOne.org). Additional information about the program is available. Just see one patient for a consult and you decide if you want to continue. ■



**Marilyn Schatz** is an attorney with Fager Amsler Keller & Schoppmann, LLC.  
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## Website Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act

Since the implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) in 1990, numerous lawsuits have been initiated alleging disability discrimination in “places of public accommodation.” Recently, the number of ADA lawsuits has skyrocketed with claims that a business website is inaccessible to users who are visually or hearing-impaired or have limited English proficiency. It has been determined that websites fall under the definition of places of public accommodation.

The healthcare sector has been heavily targeted for ADA violations due to noncompliant websites, resulting in significant monetary implications and compliance costs relative to injunctive relief, as well as awards for attorneys’ fees. Therefore, it is essential that providers assess their website for ADA conformity and implement modifications, if necessary, to minimize the potential for litigation and liability.

Healthcare providers, in conjunction with knowledgeable web designers, should make every effort to evaluate websites for ADA compliance. All measures should be taken to ascertain whether a website is accessible by all individuals, including those who have visual, auditory, or physical disabilities, or limited English proficiency. However, there are no clear ADA regulations that govern compliant web content. Courts have often cited the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (“WCAG”) to determine whether a website complies with ADA mandates. These guidelines are a very useful technical reference that focus on whether content is perceivable, operable, comprehensible, and robust.

To assist in determining uniform accessibility by all potential users, evaluation of content should include, but not be limited to, focusing on the overall appearance of the site, the availability of closed captioning for all video content, the ability of users to follow and control content, and the inclusion of content in several languages. In general, assessment of a website should address whether it provides effective communication and whether the site can be successfully navigated by prospective users.

Although ADA website compliance can be quite challenging, signs of good faith efforts to accommodate all possible web users will be helpful when faced with disability discrimination lawsuits. ADA litigation that targets websites can result in costly outcomes, and therefore, a proactive approach toward enhanced accessibility is strongly encouraged.

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<sup>2</sup>For the limited time beginning with Practice Sales Acquisition (PSA) applications submitted on or before March 31, 2022, and booked and funded by June 30, 2022, a promotional fixed rate of 1.89% per annum for the first 24 months of the loan will be applied for qualified, approved loans only. Excludes all other Practice Solutions products, including, but not limited to, refinances, established, startups, debt consolidations, commercial real estate, and any product that contains a variable rate. Not eligible with interest only payments. To be eligible for the interest rate offer the loan must be a minimum of \$250,000, loan terms must be 10 to 15 years in duration, include a five-year prepayment agreement, and the borrower, before loan closing, must have a demand deposit account with Bank of America that will serve as the primary business operating account of the borrower, and which demand deposit account must be maintained for the life of the loan. If the borrower fails to maintain this demand deposit account with Bank of America at any time during the life of the loan, the promotional rate shall terminate, and the interest rate for your loan will increase by 1.00%. Your rate after the promotional period ends will be fixed for the remaining term, up to 15 years.

<sup>3</sup>Preferred Rewards for Business Overall Program Rules. The Preferred Rewards for Business program is only available to Small Business, Merrill Small Business, and Bank of America Private Bank<sup>SM</sup> Small Business clients. Other categories of clients, such as those commonly referred to as Business Banking, Global Commercial Banking, Global Corporate Investment Banking or Institutional clients are not eligible to participate in the program. Subject to certain exceptions, eligible business checking accounts generally are any Small Business checking account and the following Analyzed checking accounts: Full Analysis Business Checking or Analyzed Business Interest Checking. Clients in the eligible business categories may enroll in the program. To enroll you must have an active, eligible Bank of America business checking account, and maintain a qualifying balance of at least \$50,000 for the Gold tier, \$100,000 for the Platinum tier, or \$100,000 for the Platinum Honors tier in your combined qualifying Bank of America business deposit accounts (such as checking, savings, certificate of deposit and/or your Merrill Business investment accounts such as Money Market Accounts, Business Investor Accounts, Dividend Business Accounts). The qualifying balance is calculated based on either (i) your average daily balance for three calendar months period, or (ii) your current combined balance, provided that you enroll at the time you open your first eligible business checking account and satisfy the balance requirement at the end of at least one day within thirty days of opening that account. Refer to your Business Schedule of Fees for details on accounts that qualify towards the combined balance calculation and receive program benefits. Eligibility to enroll is generally available three or more business days after the end of the calendar month in which you satisfy the requirements. Bank of America Private Bank<sup>SM</sup> Small Business clients are automatically enrolled in the program at the Platinum Honors tier as long as you maintain your Bank of America Private Bank<sup>SM</sup> relationship. Once you are no longer a client of the Private Bank, your enrollment in Preferred Rewards for Business will end and the benefits from enrollment will no longer be provided. You can continue to receive Preferred Rewards for Business benefits if you are eligible for the program and you take action to enroll benefits become effective within 30 days of your enrollment, or for new accounts within 30 days of account opening, unless we indicate otherwise. Certain benefits may be available without enrolling in the program if you satisfy balance and other requirements.

**Practice Solutions Client Interest Rate Discounts:** Practice Solutions business line of credit and term loan interest rate discounts are available to business applicants and co-applicants who are enrolled in the program at the time of line of credit or term loan application for a new credit facility (includes specialty lending products that receive customized pricing). Amount of discount: 0.25% for Gold tier, 0.50% for Platinum tier, and 0.55% for Platinum Honors tier (is based on the business applicant's or co-applicant's eligible tier and rates at the time of application. Benefit is non-transferable. The interest rate discount is a standalone benefit and in certain instances may be combined with or superseded by other promotional offers. This interest rate discount will be incorporated into final pricing upon loan approval, which is subject to credit approval. Standard underwriting guidelines and credit policies apply.

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