

# AMERICAN SOCIETY for DENTAL ETHICS

A Section of the American College of Dentists

## Newsletter Fall 2023

### 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: Kathryn Ragalis (2024)  
President Elect: Carlos Smith (2024)  
Treasurer: Phyllis Beemsterboer (2024)  
Past President: Odette Aguirre (2024)  
Members at Large:  
Catherine Sarkis (2024), Regina Messer (2024), Terrence Hoffeld (2023), Robert Stevenson (2023)  
ACD Liaison: Pamela Zarkowski  
Executive Director: Frederick More  
Newsletter: Phyllis Beemsterboer



Dear Members,

In 2018, the ASDE Board of Directors created a Special Committee on Leadership. The impact of the Committee was to increase the number of members actively contributing to ASDE's mission. Also, new leadership was developed. We are writing to invite ASDE members who are interested in applying for the Committee. We would like to add two or three people to serve on the committee.

**Why a Special Committee?** The membership on the ASDE Board is fixed by the Bylaws. The Special Committee on Leadership has been a to increase participation and bring more members into the development of new opportunities for programing and member recruitment. And, Committee members may become willing to consider future service on the Board of Directors.

**What is required?** Attending virtual meetings of the Board. Also, the Board of Directors meets annually at a Summer Board Meeting to transact business, develop programs, and further the work of ASDE. Committee members are invited to attend the ASDE Summer Board meeting.

### **How do Committee members contribute?**

Committee members can volunteer for any of the ongoing ASDE projects. Presently, facilitator guides are being developed for each of the ACD Ethics videos. Assistance is needed to develop facilitator guides using a template. Also, ASDE is developing modules as part of a four-year ethics curriculum for use in dental education.

**What else?** Service on the Committee is an excellent way to determine if you are interested in becoming a member of the Board of Directors or even taking on more responsibility.

**I am interested, what's next?** Contact us if you have any questions. If you want to volunteer, send a recent resume to Frederick More [fgm10012@gmail.com](mailto:fgm10012@gmail.com)

Warm regards,  
Kathryn Ragalis and Frederick More

[Kathryn.ragalis@tufts.edu](mailto:Kathryn.ragalis@tufts.edu)  
[fgm10012@gmail.com](mailto:fgm10012@gmail.com)



## New ASDE Website

The greatest news for ASDE is that we now have an updated and functioning website. The collaborative efforts Matthew Sheriff, a web designer and now ACD staff member, our Executive Director Fred More, and input from Suzan Pitman ACD Managing Director we have an accurate and functioning place for our news and information. Who knew that getting rid of an old website was such a challenge? Check out the new website

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

## The Ozar-Hasawaga Ethics Award Winners 2023

The winners of our annual Ozar-Hasawaga Dental Ethics Award competition are both from Boston University and were advised by Catherine Frankl Sarkis.

Congratulations to:

- ❖ Melanie Thomas for her Essay “For-Profit Dentistry: A Commercial View of Healthcare
- ❖ Emma Paoella for her entry Do Good by Your Patient: “An Ethical Dilemma That Extends Beyond Dental Care.

Melanie is in the final year of the International DMD program while Emma will graduate in the DMD Class of 2024.

A big thanks to Pamela Zarkowski for leading the O-H awards process every year.

## Test your Ethics Vocabulary

What does phronesis (fro-NEE-sis) mean?

- a. an assertion without proof
- b. doing the right thing
- c. characterized by injustice or wickedness; sinful.
- d. practical wisdom, prudence in government and public affairs.

Answer is at the end of the newsletter.

## **ACD Annual Session 2023**

As ASDE has done for years, we will be presenting a session during the ACD annual meeting in Orlando, FL. The 2023 program is titled **ACD Ethical Dilemma Videos – A Valuable Tool for Practitioners and Educators**

### **Course Description**

Oral health providers face ethical dilemmas in private practice, dental education, and research. This presentation will introduce the participants to the American College of Dentists (ACD) videos, resources, and strategies to incorporate into private practice and teaching. This presentation will suggest a framework for resolving ethical dilemmas supported by the four pillars of the College. Using ACD videos highlighting ethical dilemmas and the video Facilitator Guides, participants will discuss frequently encountered ethical dilemmas and apply an ethical decision-making model. Participants will be introduced to strategies to integrate the videos into their practice, including staff and peer development and teaching. Viewing the dilemmas through different lenses, e.g., professionalism, employees, and students, will enrich the tabletop discussion. ACD resources that can support members and their professional development will be highlighted.

### **Objectives:**

1. Introduce participants to the ACD Videos, resources, and strategies to enable them to incorporate their use into private practice or education.
2. Utilize an ethical decision-making model to address frequently encountered dilemmas.
3. Explore ACD Video Facilitator Guides and how best to incorporate them in private practice or teaching.

### **Facilitators:**

- Odette Aguirre, DDS, MS, MPH, FACD, Indiana University School of Dentistry
- Kathryn Ragalis, DMD, MS, FACD, Tufts University School of Dental Medicine
- Carlos S. Smith, DDS, MDiv, FACD, VCU School of Dentistry
- Pamela Zarkowski, JD, MPH (Moderator) University of Detroit Mercy.

### **Interesting Quotes**

*Humanism is the passion that animates professionalism.* Jordan Cohen  
2007

*As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands – one for helping yourself, and the other for helping others.*  
Audrey Hepburn



## **Second Edition Available**

Joseph Graskemper shared that he now has a second edition of his textbook “Professional Responsibility in Dentistry” from Wiley publishers which has information on dental law, ethics and practice management. Available at amazon in paperback at \$69.95.

## **ACD Strategic Planning Update**

The American College of Dentists has been engaged in a busy strategic planning process since the fall of 2022. The new strategic plan will carry the College forward over the next five years, guiding the organization into the future meaningfully, thoughtfully and informing the role profile of a new Executive Director. ASDE has been active in the process as all past and current liaison representatives were involved; Larry Garetto, Phyllis Beemsterboer, Toni Roucka, Carlos Smith and Pamela Zarkowski.

The College secured Future Strategy Group (FSG) to guide the effort. FSG utilizes a “scenario-based” planning process that anticipates what the world might look like 15-20 years into the future under various scenarios. Scenario plans ultimately tell a story with many possible endings as an integrated approach to dealing with uncertainty. Strategic initiatives are then proposed based on the scenarios at hand and stress tested against each scenario. As a result of this process, only the strongest suggested initiatives survive. Ultimately 10-15 strategic initiatives are distilled out and included in the final plan along with implementation strategies. The FSG-created scenarios were both thought-provoking and insightful. From April 20-22, 2023, ACD board members, fellows, SPEA and ASDE leadership, a past president, and senior staff gathered in the College’s birthplace, the Copley Hotel in Boston, Massachusetts, to engage in the hypothetical scenario exercise.

The strategic plan final report will be completed within the next six months. For more information on the ACD strategic planning process, refer to the spring 2023 edition of the ACD News which contains a comprehensive report on the process.

## **Summer Board Meeting 2023**

The leadership of ASDE met on August 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> via zoom to report on ongoing projects and reports.

- ACD Ethics Handbook  
The rewrite effort requested by ACD is being led by Toni Roucka and ASDE members and is well-

underway. The group is planning on an October deadline to the ACD Regents.

- Curriculum Modules  
A modular four-year ethics curriculum is being developed under the leadership of Regina Messer and Catherine Sarkis. The first two years have been completed.
- Facilitator Guides  
To accompany the IU/ACD videos a series of facilitator guides are being created to help faculty use each of the 16 educational videos. Odette Aguirre and Kathryn Ragalis are heading up this project and have completed almost 7 guides.

### **Kennedy Institute of Ethics**

Laura Bishop (ASDE member) informed us that the Kennedy Institute of Ethics (KIE) is again offering its Intensive Bioethics Course each June on its Georgetown Campus in Wash DC. The course explores issues in bioethics with scholars and colleagues. Contact the KIE for more information.



### **Academy for Professionalism in Health Care**

The Academy for Professionalism in Health Care has issued a call for abstracts for their annual meeting on Friday, November 17, 2023. The

conference is virtual and is titled Reimagining Professionalism: Using Cultural and Generational Lenses. Contact Barbara Lewis for more information.

[BLewis@ProfessionalFormation.org](mailto:BLewis@ProfessionalFormation.org)

### **Book Review**

**Isaacson, Walter. The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race (2021).**

The biography of Jennifer Doudna, University of California at Berkley faculty member, researcher, mother, entrepreneur, Nobel laureate. Doudna grew up on Hawaii in a home where there was little to predict her distinguished future. The woman who emerged broke ground as a STEM major in a field and at the time was dominated by men. Her intellect, skill, persistence, resilience, and determination led her to become one of the world's leading scientists. The controversy and competition in the field of genetics is prominently discussed in the book.

Walter Isaacson is a gifted biographer. I first met Isaacson when I read "Jobs." His even-handed writing introduced me to Steve Jobs and I learned through Isaacson about Jobs's vision for Apple. In the same manner, Isaacson introduces Doudna and we learn about the attributes of this scientist and why she led a field and worked tirelessly to develop the gene editing tool CRISPR. The ethicist side of you will be stimulated to reflect on the meaning of fair-play, mission, and Beneficence throughout the book.

This is not a casual book for reading at the beach. It is a page-turner, engaging, and, at points, uplifting.

*Review by Frederick More*



## **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  
103 North Adams Street  
Rockville, Maryland 20850  
301-977-3223 ~ [office@acd.org](mailto:office@acd.org)
  
- ❖ Email Submissions: [office@acd.org](mailto:office@acd.org)

The answer to the vocabulary quiz is D.