



MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION Conducted by Video Conference

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2020 (CLOSED SESSION)

Call to Order: The Chair, Dr. Arthur Chen-Shu Jee, called a special meeting of the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) to order at 12:00 P.M. Central Time on Monday, April 13, 2020, via video conferencing, in closed session for the purpose of discussing the impact of COVID-19 on dental and dental-related education programs.

Roll Call: Dr. John Agar, Dr. Joel Berg, Dr. Linda Casser, Dr. Eladio DeLeon, Dr. Steven Friedrichsen, Dr. Christopher Hasty, Dr. Monica Hebl, Dr. John Hellstein, Dr. Jeffery Hicks (vice chair), Dr. Arthur Chen-Shu Jee (chair), Dr. Bradford Johnson, Dr. Susan Kass, Dr. James Katancik, Dr. Barbara Krieg-Menning, Dr. Steven Levy, Dr. Sanjay Mallya, Mr. Charles McClemens, Dr. William Nelson, Dr. Marsha Pyle, Dr. Bruce Rotter, Dr. Timmothy Schwartz, Ms. Ambika Srivastava, Ms. Deanna Stentiford, Dr. Marshall Titus, and Dr. Lawrence Wolinsky.

Dr. Kevin Haubrick, Dr. Adolphus Jackson, and Dr. Alan Stein attended a portion of the meeting. Dr. Scott DeVito and Dr. Marybeth Shaffer were unable to attend.

Trustee Liaison: Dr. Roy Thompson, Sixth District Trustee, Board of Trustees Liaison to CODA, American Dental Association (ADA).

CODA Staff: Dr. Sherin Took, *ex-officio*, CODA director, Mr. Gregg Marquardt, Ms. Michelle Smith, Ms. Jennifer Snow, and Ms. Peggy Soeldner. Ms. Cathryn Albrecht, senior associate general counsel, CODA was also in attendance.

Adoption of the Agenda: The agenda of the meeting was adopted.

Policy Reminder of Confidentiality: Dr. Took read the Commission's Reminder of Confidentiality and reminded Commission members of their fiduciary responsibility.

Consideration of Flexibility in the Accreditation Standards Related to Interruption of Education for All Commission Accredited Dental and Dental Related Education Programs Related to COVID-19 and the Graduating Class of 2020:

Interruption of Education and Temporary Flexibility Guidance: The Commission on Dental Accreditation reiterated its prior meeting discussion related to the need for dental and dental-related education programs to implement innovative approaches to maintain the quality of dental education for students, residents, and fellows using valid and reliable educational modalities. The Commission on Dental Accreditation also affirmed its expectation that all CODA-accredited dental



Commission on Dental Accreditation

and dental-related education programs have an obligation and responsibility to ensure the competence of the program's graduates, including the Class of 2020, in accordance with the requirements of CODA's Accreditation Standards, policies, and procedures.

The Commission on Dental Accreditation considered the report of each of its 14 Review Committees, noting the recommendations related to potential temporary flexibility to be offered within each discipline. The following Review Committee Reports were considered:

- Predoctoral Review Committee (**Appendix 1**)
- Advanced Education in General Dentistry, General Practice Residency, Dental Anesthesiology, Oral Medicine and Orofacial Pain Review Committee (**Appendix 2**)
- Dental Assisting Review Committee (**Appendix 3**)
- Dental Hygiene Review Committee (**Appendix 4**)
- Dental Laboratory Technology Review Committee (**Appendix 5**)
- Dental Public Health Review Committee (**Appendix 6**)
- Endodontics Review Committee (**Appendix 7**)
- Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Review Committee (**Appendix 8**)
- Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology Review Committee (**Appendix 9**)
- Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Review Committee (**Appendix 10**)
- Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics Review Committee (**Appendix 11**)
- Pediatric Dentistry Review Committee (**Appendix 12**)
- Periodontics Review Committee (**Appendix 13**)
- Prosthodontics Review Committee (**Appendix 14**)

The Commission discussed the recommendations of the Dental Assisting Review Committee (DA RC) to reduce by 100 hours the clinical experience, noting that there are a number of ways to address these hours by alternative methods. The DA RC believed that allowing the temporary flexibility of a reduction would continue to permit sufficient clinical time, while allowing the use of alternative educational methods.

The Commission also discussed the recommendations of the Endodontics Review Committee (ENDO RC). During the CODA meeting, a modification to the endodontics temporary flexibility document was made to include the language of the proposed revision to Endodontics Standard 4-1, to illustrate for programs the changes that were proposed and currently under circulation for comment, given this revision conforms to the proposed temporary flexibility (**Appendix 15**).

The Commission directed that the temporary flexibility documents be immediately circulated to all CODA-accredited dental education programs.

Commission Actions: The Commission on Dental Accreditation adopts, with immediate implementation, the *temporary flexibility guidance document* for each discipline under the Commission's purview, related to the Class of 2020 (**Appendices 1-6 and 8-15**).



Commission on Dental Accreditation

The Commission on Dental Accreditation further directs that the *temporary flexibility guidance document* for each discipline be distributed to all Commission-accredited dental education programs, to be used as a resource to address the mandatory interruption of education reporting requirements resulting from COVID-19 for the Class of 2020.

The Commission on Dental Accreditation further directs that informational webinars be scheduled to provide program directors with general guidance on development of the required interruption of education report.

Consideration of CODA's Ongoing Operations in Response to the COVID-19 Impact on Dental and Dental Related Educational Programs: The Commission on Dental Accreditation considered a number of ongoing Commission initiatives, which may be impacted related to the COVID-19 priorities.

Spring 2020 Validity and Reliability Studies: The Commission noted that Validity and Reliability Studies were to be conducted in Spring 2020 for predoctoral dental education and oral and maxillofacial pathology. The Commission believed a delay of these studies until Spring 2021 is appropriate to not overburden the communities of interest from whom CODA will seek input.

Commission Action: The Commission on Dental Accreditation directs that the Spring 2020 Validity and Reliability Studies for predoctoral dental education and oral and maxillofacial pathology education be delayed until Spring 2021.

Ad Hoc Committees for Standards Revisions: The Commission noted that the Accreditation Standards for oral and maxillofacial surgery (residency and fellowship), orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics (residency and fellowship), and periodontics are undergoing continued review by Ad Hoc Committees, with a report due to CODA in Summer 2020.

Commission Action: The Commission on Dental Accreditation directs that the three (3) Ad Hoc Committees to consider standards revisions for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (residency and fellowship), Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics (residency and fellowship), and Periodontics, respectively, be directed to submit update reports in Winter 2021 rather than Summer 2020.

Ad Hoc Committee for Revision of Annual Survey Curriculum Sections: The Commission noted that the Review Committee on Advanced Education in General Dentistry, General Practice Residency, Dental Anesthesiology, Oral Medicine and Orofacial Pain Review Committee, through an Ad Hoc Committee, is currently reviewing the annual survey curriculum section for each discipline under its purview. The Commission is to expect a report by Summer 2020 and it appeared the work of the Ad Hoc Committee will be completed within the current timeline.

Commission Action: Informational in nature, no action taken.



Commission on Dental Accreditation

Ad Hoc Committee on CODA Structure and Function: The Commission noted that the Ad Hoc Committee has reviewed a significant amount of material related to the Commission's structure and function; however, additional information was to be collected and reviewed by the Committee prior to making a recommendation to the Commission in Summer 2020. The Commission believed that under the current circumstances in which Commissioner and staff time is primarily focused on managing the interruption of education resulting from COVID-19, it would be difficult to complete the work of this Committee by Summer 2020. As such, the Commission believed the work of the Ad Hoc Committee should continue into the Fall, with a report to CODA in Winter 2021.

Commission Action: The Commission directs that the Ad Hoc Committee on CODA Structure and Function continue its work, with a report in Winter 2021 rather than Summer 2020.

Ad Hoc Committee on Use of Educational Activity Sites: The Commission noted that the Ad Hoc Committee has reviewed a significant amount of material related to use of educational activity sites among CODA-accredited dental education programs; however, additional information was to be collected and reviewed by the Committee prior to making a recommendation to the Commission in Summer 2020. The Commission believed that under the current circumstances in which Commissioner and staff time is primarily focused on managing the interruption of education resulting from COVID-19, it would be difficult to complete the work of this Committee by Summer 2020. Additionally, it would be inappropriate and insensitive to circulate the CODA-directed mandatory survey of programs' use of educational activity sites at this time while programs are struggling to manage the interruption of education of their students, residents, and fellows. The Commission also noted that it would be premature to conduct a Mega Issue Discussion on this topic at the Summer 2020 meeting, as previously directed by CODA, and that the Mega Issue Discussion should be canceled. The Commission believed the work of the Ad Hoc Committee should continue into the Fall, with a report to CODA in Winter 2021.

Commission Actions: The Commission on Dental Accreditation directs that the Ad Hoc Committee on Use of Educational Activity Sites continue its work, with a report in Winter 2021 rather than Summer 2020.

The Commission further directs that its mandatory survey of all dental education programs on the use of educational activity sites be delayed during the COVID-19 interruption.

The Commission further directs cancellation of the Summer 2020 Mega Issue Discussion on the use of educational activity sites.

Management of Other Program Changes related to COVID-19 and Potential Need for Additional Review Committee or Commission Meetings (e.g. non-enrollment, extended enrollments, program changes, etc.): The Commission noted that it may experience a higher than typical submission rate for program change reports, as well as reports requesting temporary increases in enrollment. Additionally, based upon the type and frequency of reports of interruption of education, CODA may need to conduct more frequent meetings of its Review Committees and the Board of Commissioners.



Commission on Dental Accreditation

Commission Action: Informational in nature, no action taken.

Management of Applications for Accreditation: The Commission noted that the CODA office, which closed on March 16 and has remained closed since that date, continues to receive mail such as applications for accreditation. The applications are sent in multiple volumes and copies, both paper and electronic, so that staff may distribute the application to the reviewer(s) at the appropriate time. Since the CODA office is closed, and since the priorities of CODA and its volunteers are focused on COVID-19, the Commission determined that it would delay further processing of applications during the COVID-19 interruption.

Commission Action: The Commission directs a delay of further processing of applications during the COVID-19 interruption.

Commission Meetings and Hearings on Accreditation Standards: The Commission noted that the following meetings had been or may be interrupted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- ADEA Site Visitor Update Sessions
- ADEA Site Visit Orientations Sessions
- ADEA Question and Answer Session
- ADEA Hearing on Standards
- AAPD Hearing on Standards (pediatric dentistry)
- ADHA Hearing on Standards (dental hygiene)
- ADEA Allied Program Directors Hearing on Standards (dental hygiene)
- ADEA Allied Program Directors CODA Update Sessions
- June Site Visitor Training Workshop
- Summer 2020 Review Committee Meetings
- Summer 2020 Commission Meeting
- Fall 2020 CODA Sessions at AAOMS Meeting (oral and maxillofacial surgery)

The Commission determined that it would conduct the Hearings on Accreditation Standards virtually, with notification to the communities of interest. The Commission also discussed the need to monitor other CODA activities to determine the best method to conduct business moving forward.

Commission Actions: The Commission on Dental Accreditation directs that virtual Hearings on Accreditation Standards be scheduled for Pediatric Dentistry and Dental Hygiene, in lieu of previously directed hearings at national meetings which have subsequently been canceled.

The Commission further directs that a reminder be distributed to all communities of interest that individuals may submit comments on proposed Accreditation Standards directly to the Commission office, by email, in lieu of submission of comments during a Hearing on Standards, which may have been canceled in response to COVID-19.



International Accreditation (PACV) Process: The Commission noted there is no international travel at this time, and will continue to monitor this situation related to future consultation site visits in accordance with CODA’s international consultation and accreditation process and international travel procedure.

Commission Action: Informational in nature, no action taken.

Unsolicited Letter Received in CODA Office: In consideration of the COVID-19 impact to dental education programs and students, residents, and fellows, and to contextualize the impact of the pandemic on dental education, the Commission was provided with an unsolicited communication received in the Commission office from a state dental association.

Commission Action: Informational in nature, no action taken.

New Business: There was no new business discussed at the meeting.

Adjournment: The Commission adjourned the closed session at 2:14 P.M.

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