

# CODA Updates with Question & Answer Session

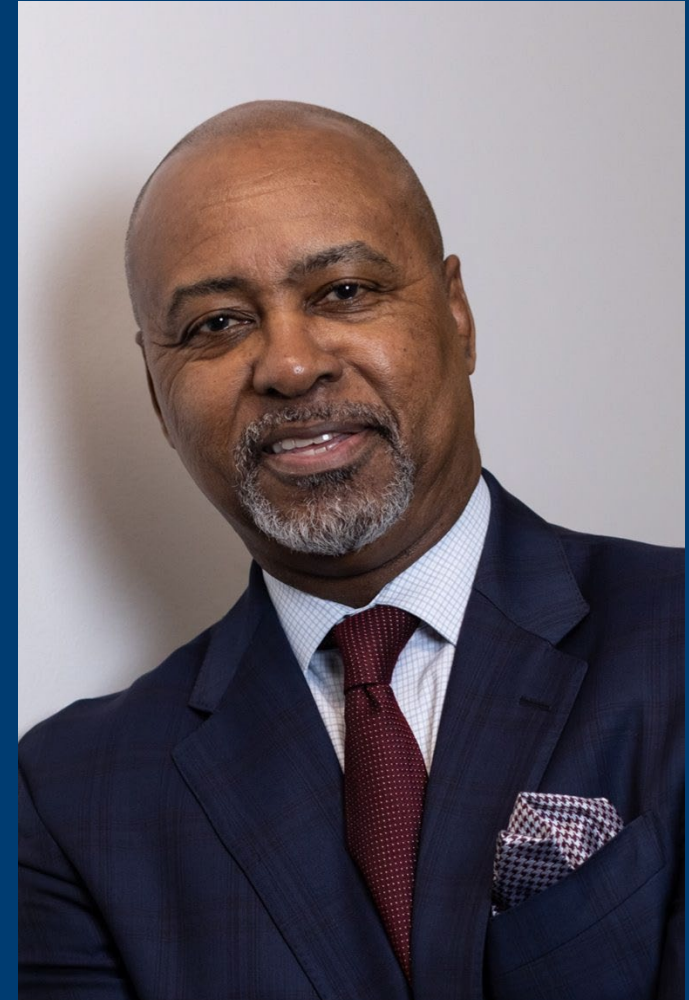
ADEA Annual Session  
March 2026  
Montreal, Canada

# Welcome & Introductions

## CODA Leadership

Dr. Cataldo Leone, Chair

Dr. Keith Mays, Vice-Chair



# Welcome & Introductions

## CODA Staff

- Dr. Kathy Hinshaw, Sr. Director, CODA & USDE Recognition Compliance
- Marjorie Hooper, Coordinator, CODA Operations
- Jessica Lynk, Manager, Communication & Data Management
- Kelly Stapleton, Manager, Predoctoral Dental Education
- Taylor Weast, Manager, Advanced Dental Education

## Mission

CODA serves the public and dental professions by developing and implementing accreditation standards that promote and monitor the continuous quality and improvement of dental education programs.

## Vision

CODA is a globally recognized leader for accrediting educational programs in the dental professions.

## Values

CODA is committed to the values of collegiality, consistency, integrity, quality, and transparency.

# Communication Tools Available



Accreditation

Site Visits

Find a Program

Standards

Policies and Resources



**Unofficial Report of Major Actions**  
 CODA Winter 2026  
 February 5-6 | Virtual Meeting

This document reflects the “unofficial actions” of the 2026 Winter Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) meeting. A post-meeting summary of changes to policies and Standards can be found [here](#).



**Post-Meeting Highlights**  
 February 5-6, 2026

*The Commission on Dental Accreditation serves the public and dental professions by developing and implementing accreditation standards that promote and monitor the continuous quality and improvement of dental education programs.*

Agenda Item	Action	Report Name (Information-Only) or Resolution (Action Taken)
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# Winter 2026 Meeting Highlights

# 2027 Fees

CODA and ADA signed a Shared Services Agreement in October 2025 (expires 12/2028).

CODA monitors fees to account for expense increases including strategic plan initiatives, technology, communication, and resources needed to administer the accreditation program and support a balanced budget. The following fees were approved for 2027:

- **4% increase in annual fees (all disciplines):**
  - \$10,680 (predoctoral programs)
  - \$25,060 (international predoctoral programs)
  - \$2,690 (dental assisting/dental hygiene/dental therapy/advanced programs)
  - \$1,910 (dental laboratory technology programs)
- **4% increase in application fee:**
  - \$77,110 (predoctoral programs)
  - \$87,640 (international predoctoral programs)
  - \$19,290 (allied and advanced programs)
- All other fees are the same, no increase.

**\*\*As a reminder the 2026 annual fee invoices will be sent this month, March.** Failure to pay fees by the designated deadline is viewed as an institutional decision to no longer participate in CODA's accreditation program.

## 2026 - 2027 Meeting Dates

- CODA reviewed the upcoming meeting dates and discussed potential enhancements to CODA's meeting structure. The next meeting will be held on **August 6 and 7, 2026**.
- **2027 meeting dates TBD.** CODA is evaluating the addition of a third meeting to its annual cycle. Discussion was prompted by multiple stakeholders expressing strong interest in a more responsive accreditation process. Any adjustment will be carefully considered to uphold the accreditation process while also meeting the evolving needs of stakeholders. Further information available after Summer 2026 meeting.

# Predoctoral: Update on Proposed Revisions to Standards

- At its Winter 2026 meeting, CODA received an update from the Ad Hoc Committee on the progress of the proposed revisions which were circulated for a second round of public comment in Fall 2025 and discussed during the October 2025 Hearing on Standards, generating a wide range of feedback.
- Previously, at its Summer 2025 meeting, CODA directed the Ad Hoc Committee to create the self-study guide to match the proposed standards.
- The Ad Hoc Committee met several times in late 2025 and will continue its work in Spring 2026 to prepare revisions to the Accreditation Standards and the self-study guide for future review by the Predoc Review Committee and CODA.

# Dental Therapy: Update on Proposed Revisions to Standards

- The Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Dental Therapy Standards began its review of the Standards in late 2025 to outline its approach and next steps. The review included examining the Validity and Reliability Study completed in spring 2025.
- The Ad Hoc Committee will continue its work in Spring 2026 and will provide a future report to the Predoc Review Committee and CODA.

# Dental Anesthesiology: Circulation of Proposed Revisions to Standards

- CODA considered revisions to the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Dental Anesthesiology following a request from the American Dental Board of Anesthesiology (ADBA).
- The proposed revision to Standard 3-2 specifies that program directors must be certified by the ADBA (only dental anesthesiology certifying board recognized by the National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards). The Dental Anesthesiology Review Committee agreed that the change is appropriate and would not negatively affect programs.
- CODA recommended circulating the proposed revision for a six-month comment period, and final review in Summer 2026. A copy of the proposed revisions can be found on CODA's website under *Hearings/Comments Due*.

# Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology: Circulation of Proposed Revisions to Standards

- CODA approved an ad hoc committee to consider potential revisions to the Standards focusing on digital pathology and Standard 3-5 (active clinical facility supervision).
- The Ad Hoc Committee met in 2025 to review the Standards. The Ad Hoc Committee supported adding “digital/virtual pathology” to Standard 4-2.3 (surgical oral pathology) and clarifying Standard 3-5 by specifying that clinical supervision should be provided by an oral and maxillofacial pathologist.
- The Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Review Committee concurred with the Ad Hoc Committee’s recommended revisions.
- CODA will circulate the proposed revisions for review and comment for 1 year with comments to be reviewed by the Commission in Winter 2027.
- A copy of the proposed revisions can be found on CODA’s website under *Hearings/Comments Due*.

# Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery: Adoption of Proposed Revisions to Standards

- As programs increasingly operate at major educational sites where residents spend most or all of their time, CODA recognized the need for consistent, onsite administrative leadership to ensure quality and uniformity across locations.
- This resulted in a multiyear evaluation of Standards and revisions adopted by CODA in 2026. The revised Standards (OMS and Clinical Fellowship Training Programs in OMS) will be effective July 1, 2026.
- The revisions are found on the Standards page of CODA's website.

# Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery: Adoption of Trigeminal Nerve Surgery and Disorders Standards

- CODA approved the development of new Standards for clinical fellowship training programs in OMS focused on trigeminal nerve surgery and disorders.
- The process began in 2024 with a formal request to establish accreditation for this emerging fellowship area. An Ad Hoc Committee confirmed that trigeminal nerve surgery would constitute a new fellowship within OMS.
- OMS Review Committee drafted Standards in 2025 and circulated for public comment. Feedback supported the proposal.
- In 2026, CODA adopted the new Standards, with implementation on January 1, 2027. These Standards can be found on CODA's website.
- CODA will seek site visitors interested in trigeminal nerve surgery and disorders.

# Orofacial Pain: Circulation of Proposed Revisions to Standards

- CODA reviewed Review Committee on Orofacial Pain Education evaluation of proposed revisions to Standard 2-11 (Clinical Sciences) including public feedback from 2024–2025.
- Some supported the revisions, others expressed concern that the language was overly prescriptive and could encourage overtreatment versus patient-centered care. CODA determined clarification was needed and circulated revised language for a 6-month comment period.
- In 2026, the Committee reviewed public comments and refined Standard 2-11e (management of orofacial pain patients). The updated revisions will be circulated for a 6-month review period and reviewed by CODA at Summer 2026 meetings.
- The proposed revisions can be found on CODA's website under Hearings/Comments.

# Pediatric Dentistry: Adoption of Proposed Revisions to Standards

- CODA approved revisions to the Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Pediatric Dentistry to strengthen expectations related to patient safety.
- The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommended clearer language modeled after OMS Standard 4-18.
- Pediatric Review Committee determined that Standard 4-20 (management of a contemporary dental practice) was the most proper place to incorporate enhanced patient safety language. After refining the language, updating the intent statement, and examples of evidence, the Review Committee circulated the revisions for public comment.
- At the Winter 2026 meeting, CODA adopted the updated Standard 4-20, with implementation on July 1, 2027. These revisions can be found on the Standards page of CODA's website.

# Periodontics - Programs' Administrative Oversight

- In 2024, CODA reviewed the Standards related to programs' administrative oversight.
- Several Review Committees noted the Standards did not clearly define whether program directors must be physically present at approved educational sites; an issue made more complex by the rise of remote work and the expansion of off campus training locations.

# Periodontics: Adoption of Proposed Revisions to Standards

- CODA approved revisions to the Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Periodontics to clarify expectations for administrative oversight at major educational sites.
- The update stems from CODA's broader consideration of increased remote work and the need for consistent onsite leadership.
- Periodontics RC recommended that program directors must provide administrative oversight at any site where residents spend most or all their time.
- The proposed was circulated for public comment and feedback supported the change.
- At Winter 2025 meeting, CODA adopted Standard 2-1h (program director's responsibilities) with implementation on July 1, 2026.
- These revisions are found on the Standards page on website.

## Dental Hygiene: Review of Standard 3-2

- The Dental Hygiene Review Committee (DH RC) recommended forming an Ad Hoc Committee to review Standard 3-2 (Program Administrator) to clarify the intent of the Standard regarding expectations for the Program Administrator's time allocation.
- The Committee recommended the Ad Hoc Committee be composed of DH RC members, with findings presented at Summer 2026 CODA meeting.

# Dental Laboratory Technology: Update on Proposed Revisions to Standards

- CODA previously directed that proposed revisions to Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology (DLT) Education Programs be circulated for one year.
- At the Winter 2026 meeting, CODA concurred that the Ad Hoc Committee on Dental Laboratory Technology Standards review the proposed revisions and public comments and provide feedback and input to the DLT RC for the Summer 2026 meetings.

## AGD Request for CODA Board Representation

- CODA discussed a request from the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) requesting to add an AGD representative to the CODA Board of Commissioners.
- CODA directed that a response be communicated to the AGD requesting additional information from AGD about how its request aligns with the mission and scope of CODA.
- The additional information and the request will be considered at the Summer 2026 meeting.

# Request to Consider U.S. Dental School International Sites

- CODA received letters from six dental deans requesting a revision to CODA policy which would allow US dental programs to offer accredited international program sites.
- CODA observed the importance of understanding the intent, scope, and implications of any proposed policy changes to international program sites.
- CODA actions: 1) request clarity about the goals of the dean's requests and 2) Standing Committee on Quality Assurance and Strategic Planning will review the deans' letters, additional information, and propose recommendations to the Summer 2026 meeting.

# Request to Consider Standardized Leave Policy

- CODA reviewed a request from an advanced dental education program resident to modify CODA Accreditation Standards to require a standardized leave policy.
- Commissioners reflected on the importance of understanding how a standardized leave policy intersects with educational requirements, operations, and applicable laws.
- CODA actions: 1) respond to the resident summarizing discussion from the Winter 2026 meeting, and 2) each RC consider this topic as it relates to their standards and report back to CODA at the Summer 2026 meeting.

## New Training Materials Format

- Training materials for CODA volunteers (commissioners, committee members, site visitors) as well as CODA accredited educational programs (program administrators) are being transitioned to self-paced modules delivered through the Learning Management System (LMS) platform Maple.
- Additionally, some of the trainings follow-up with live Zoom conferences to review the key points of the modules and provide opportunity for questions/answers and interactive discussions.

# Questions & Answers

