

## **Commission on Dental Accreditation Staff Biographical Information**

### **Dr. Sherin Tooks, EdD, MS, senior director, Commission on Dental Accreditation**

Dr. Sherin Tooks has been with the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) since January 2002 and was appointed Director of CODA in November 2012. Prior to her appointment as Director, Dr. Tooks held the position of Manager, Advanced Dental Education within the Commission. Dr. Tooks oversees the operations of the Commission and serves as staff secretary of the Standing Committee on Finance, the Standing Committee on Quality Assurance and Strategic Planning, the Standing Committee on Nominations, and the Standing Committee on International Accreditation. Dr. Tooks has guided the Commission through important initiatives, including strategic planning, re-recognition by the United States Department of Education and, most recently, CODA's development of an electronic accreditation platform. Dr. Tooks holds a Master of Science degree in dental hygiene education, from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry and a Doctor of Education degree, with an emphasis in educational leadership, from the University of Phoenix.

### **Ms. Jamie Asher Hernandez, MS, manager, Allied Dental Education**

Ms. Jamie Asher Hernandez supports CODA's accreditation program for allied dental education, working specifically with dental assisting and dental laboratory technology education programs. Jamie also supports the Commission's allied dental education Review Committees, and serves as a resource to CODA's communities of interest related to dental assisting and dental laboratory technology education matters. Jamie began her career as an educator and has worked for several associations and nonprofit organizations. Prior to joining CODA, Jamie worked at the Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics. At the Academy, Jamie served as an accreditation and education manager with the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition & Dietetics (ACEND) and also served as a manager with the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) focusing on professional development for dietitians and dietetic technicians. Jamie holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from the University of Holy Cross in New Orleans, Louisiana and a Master of Science degree in Public Service Management with a focus in nonprofit management from DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois.

### **Ms. Katie Navickas, BSDH, MA, manager, Allied Dental Education**

Ms. Katie Navickas supports the CODA accreditation program for allied dental education, working specifically with dental hygiene education programs. Katie also supports the Commission's allied dental education Review Committees and serves as a resource to the Commission's communities of interest related to dental hygiene education matters. Prior to joining CODA, Katie held an Adjunct Faculty position in the Health Sciences Department at the College of DuPage Dental Hygiene Program for eight (8) years. Katie has also worked in several roles in dental practice operations and administration, including functioning as the Head Hygiene Clinical Coordinator in a dental service organization. She has acted as a Clinical Hygiene Consultant and Professional Educator for other dental care focused companies. Katie received her Master of Arts in Communication with a focus on Health Care Leadership from Eastern Illinois University, her Bachelor of Applied Science in Dental Hygiene from the University of Bridgeport, and her Associate of Applied Science in Dental Hygiene from Lake Land College. Katie holds a current Registered Dental Hygienist license in Illinois.

**Ms. Yesenia Ruiz, MOL, manager, Advanced Dental Education**

Ms. Yesenia Ruiz supports CODA's accreditation program for the advanced dental education disciplines of endodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery (residency and fellowship), periodontics, orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics, and fellowship programs in craniofacial and special care orthodontics and the respective Review Committees. Yesenia began her career in the healthcare field in different support roles, including the inaugural role as the program coordinator in a family medicine residency program in Greer, South Carolina. Prior to joining CODA, Yesenia was the Accreditation Administrator for the Obstetrics and Gynecology Review Committee at the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) in Chicago, Illinois. Ms. Ruiz holds a Bachelor of Business Administration with a concentration in healthcare management and a Master of Science in Organization Leadership from Anderson University. Yesenia is currently completing a doctorate in Professional Leadership.

**Ms. Peggy Soeldner, MEd, manager, Advanced Dental Education**

Ms. Peggy Soeldner has been with the Commission for more than twenty years. During this time, she has supported advanced dental education, specifically, the disciplines of advanced education in general dentistry, general practice residency, dental anesthesiology, oral medicine and orofacial pain. In addition, Peggy staffs the Standing Committee on Documentation and Policy. Prior to joining CODA, Ms. Soeldner worked in student services and admissions at the University of Chicago, Pritzker School of Medicine. Peggy holds a Master's degree in Adult and Continuing Education from Northern Illinois University.

**Ms. Kelly Stapleton, MEd, manager, Predoctoral Dental Education**

Ms. Stapleton supports CODA's accreditation program for predoctoral dental education and dental therapy education programs and provides staff support for the Review Committee of Predoctoral Dental Education. Kelly also assists on consultation activities for international dental education programs and supports the Standing Committee on International Accreditation. Prior to joining CODA, Kelly began her career as a classroom teacher in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Chicago, Illinois. Kelly transitioned to higher education administration where she supported the knowledge and behavioral assessment programs at Rush University Medical College in Chicago, Illinois. Kelly holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Education and Sociology from Marquette University, a Professional Educator License in the state of Illinois, and a Master of Science in Education degree in Educational Leadership from Indiana University Bloomington.