

## Office of the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)

### **Dr. Kathleen J. Hinshaw, Ed.D., LDH, FADHA, interim senior director, Commission on Dental Accreditation and US Department of Education Compliance**

Dr. Kathleen (Kathy) Hinshaw was appointed the interim director of the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) in July 2025. Prior to her appointment as *Interim* Senior Director, Dr. Hinshaw held the role of Director, Operations in the Department of Testing Services (DTS) at the American Dental Association. Dr. Hinshaw has been with the DTS since 2006 and brings clinical knowledge, educational leadership, accreditation experience, and organizational leadership to this role. She has worked extensively with students, faculty, administrators, licensing jurisdictions, and professional organizations across the oral health profession. Dr. Hinshaw will provide full oversight of the operations of the Commission and serve as staff secretary of the Commission's Standing and Ad Hoc Committees. Dr. Hinshaw holds an Associate in Science degree in dental hygiene from Indiana University, a Bachelor of Science degree in education (health occupations) from Indiana University, a Master of Science degree in education (instructional design) from Purdue University, a Doctor of Education (educational leadership) degree from the University of Phoenix, and maintains an active dental hygiene license. Her career includes roles as a clinician, educator, and administrator. Before joining the ADA, she served as a dual dental assisting and dental hygiene program director and spent nearly a decade as a CODA site visitor. She also interned with ADA's communications department while pursuing her master's degree.

### **Ms. Marjorie Hooper, B.A., coordinator, CODA operations**

Ms. Marjorie Hooper supports CODA's business and administrative operations to fulfill its mission and strategic plans. Ms. Hooper provides staff support to CODA leadership, Board of Commissioners and its various Standing and Ad Hoc Committees. Ms. Hooper joined CODA in 2010 and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Political Science from Boston University.

## Discipline-Specific Managers

### **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. Ms. Asher Hernandez also supports the Commission's allied dental education Review Committees. Ms. Asher Hernandez began her career as an educator and has worked for several associations and nonprofit organizations. Prior to joining CODA, Ms. Asher Hernandez worked at the Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics. At the Academy, Ms. Asher Hernandez 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. Ms. Asher Hernandez holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from the University of Holy Cross and a Master of Science degree in Public Service Management with a focus in nonprofit management from DePaul University.

## **Dr. Yesenia R. Dworetzky, Ed.D., MOL, manager, Advanced Dental Education**

Dr. Yesenia R. Dworetzky 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. Dr. Dworetzky 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, Dr. Dworetzky was the Accreditation Administrator for the Obstetrics and Gynecology Review Committee at the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) in Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Dworetzky holds a Bachelor of Business Administration with a concentration in healthcare management from Anderson University, a Master of Science in Organization Leadership from Anderson University, and a Doctor of Education in Professional Leadership from Converse University.

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

Ms. Katie Navickas supports the CODA accreditation program for allied dental education, working with dental hygiene education programs. Ms. Navickas also supports the Commission's allied dental education Review Committees. Prior to joining CODA, Ms. Navickas held an Adjunct Faculty position in the Health Sciences Department at the College of DuPage Dental Hygiene Program for eight years. Ms. Navickas has also worked in several roles in dental practice operations and administration, including functioning as the Head Hygiene Clinical Coordinator. She has acted as a Clinical Hygiene Consultant and Professional Educator for other dental care focused companies. Ms. Navickas 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. Ms. Navickas holds a current Registered Dental Hygienist license in Illinois.

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

Ms. Kelly 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. Ms. Stapleton also assists on consultation activities for international dental education programs and supports the Standing Committee on International Accreditation. Prior to joining CODA, Ms. Stapleton began her career as a classroom teacher in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Chicago, Illinois. Ms. Stapleton transitioned to higher education administration where she supported the knowledge and behavioral assessment programs at Rush University Medical College in Chicago, Illinois. Ms. Stapleton 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.

## **Ms. Taylor Weast, MEd, manager, Advanced Dental Education**

Ms. Taylor Weast supports CODA's accreditation program for the advanced dental education disciplines of dental public health, oral and maxillofacial pathology, oral and maxillofacial radiology, pediatric dentistry, and prosthodontics and the respective Review Committees. Prior to joining CODA, Ms. Weast worked at Purdue University for 10 years in roles including undergraduate and graduate student advising, online student services, and most recently as an operations and project specialist. Ms. Weast holds a Bachelor of General Studies degree from Indiana University Indianapolis (formerly IUPUI) and a Master of Education degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs from Indiana University Bloomington.

## **Ms. Melissa Wicker, MPH, CHES, manager, Advanced Dental Education**

Ms. Melissa Wicker manages accreditation activities for the advanced dental education disciplines of advanced education in general dentistry, general practice residency, dental anesthesiology, oral medicine, and orofacial pain. Prior to joining CODA, Ms. Wicker worked at JBS International Inc as a health communications specialist working with government agencies such as National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), CDC, ACF and HRSA. Prior to JBS International Ms. Wicker worked at KDH Research & Communication as project operations manager developing professional education programs for clinicians and community health workers(CHW). Ms. Wicker began her career in a clinical setting as a Dietitian then transitioned into public health and education. Ms. Wicker has a Bachelor of Science in Dietetics from Purdue University and a Master of Public Health in Prevention Science from Emory University. She is a Certified Health Education Specialist from the National Commission on Health Education Credentialing and has a Health Literacy Specialist: Communications Certificate from the Institute for Healthcare Advancement.

## **Communication and Data Management**

### **Ms. Jess Lynk, B.A., manager, Communication and Data Management**

Ms. Jess Lynk supports CODA's development and execution of internal and external communication strategies with its broad communities of interest. Ms. Lynk also oversees data management and technology tools for CODA. She also provides staff support for the Standing Committee on Communications & Technology. Ms. Lynk began her career at the Greater Chicago Food Depository, assisting with communications and public relations. She has since worked for several nonprofit organizations in Chicago. Prior to CODA, Ms. Lynk worked as the Director of Marketing & Technology at a disability nonprofit, where she focused on enhancing their communication, data, and technology infrastructure. Ms. Lynk holds a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Mass Communication from Drake University.

## **Training and Assessment**

### **Mr. Shawn Morrison, BEd, manager, Training and Assessment Manager**

Mr. Shawn Morrison oversees all training programs for CODA volunteers. He is responsible for new and enhanced training programs to strengthen the Commission's volunteer performance, as well as staff support for the Standing Committee on Site Visit Process and Training. Mr. Morrison joins CODA with over 20 years of experience in various training roles. Prior to joining CODA, Mr. Morrison served as the Regional Training and Development Director for Airgas. Mr. Morrison holds a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Northern Colorado.