

REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Background: At the conclusion of its Closed Session during the Winter 2023 meeting, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) discussed a new business item related to exploration of ways to enhance Commissioner training and opportunities for professional development, like Mega Issue Discussions. Historically, the Commission has conducted Mega Issue Discussions on an ad hoc basis as topics of interest are identified by the Commission. The Commissioners noted a lot of change in dental education within the past few years, including new program directors, CODA site visitors, and the changing dental education landscape, which provides an opportunity for the Commission to learn about these changes and support future innovation through the Commission's accreditation process. The Commissioners believed that CODA members should be well informed of advancements in dental education, technology, and other changes as they make decisions related to the effectiveness of educational programs and develop educational policies and procedures for CODA's accreditation process. To that end, there could be continual updates on various topics that arise in dental education and accreditation.

Following discussion at its Winter 2023 meeting, the Commission directed that an Ad Hoc Committee, including allied dental, advanced dental, and predoctoral dental education Commissioners and others, be established to explore the issue of ongoing professional development of CODA Commissioners, Review Committee members, and Site Visitors, addressing trends in assessment of clinical education, site visitor training, and other topics related to dental education and accreditation.

In Summer 2023, the Commission noted that the Ad Hoc Committee's work should be focused solely on Commissioner and Review Committee member training activities, since in a prior action at the same meeting, the Commission directed formation of a new Standing Committee on Site Visit Process and Training, which would focus on training initiatives for CODA site visitors. Therefore, the Commission directed the Ad Hoc Committee on Professional Development and Mega Issues to develop periodic ongoing professional development sessions for CODA Commissioners and Review Committee members, addressing topics related to dental education and accreditation.

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Professional Development: The Ad Hoc Committee met on June 26, 2024. Members of the Ad Hoc Committee: Dr. Scott De Rossi (chair), Dr. Frank Licari, Dr. Paul Luepke, Dr. Garry Myers, Dr. Kenneth Sadler, and Dr. Deborah Weisfuse were in attendance. Dr. Joseph Cohen and Ms. Martha McCaslin were unable to attend. Commissioner: Dr. Frank Licari, vice chair and member of committee, Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) was in attendance. Commission Staff: Dr. Sherin Tooks, senior director, and Ms. Katie Navickas and Ms. Kelly Stapleton, managers, CODA were in attendance.

The Ad Hoc Committee began its discussion with a review of its Summer 2023 report to the Commission, noting the Ad Hoc Committee was directed to develop periodic ongoing professional development sessions for CODA Commissioners and Review Committee members, addressing topics related to dental education and accreditation.

Summer 2024 Professional Development: The Ad Hoc Committee reviewed an outline and timed events for the upcoming Mega Issue on Artificial Intelligence and Dental Education, schedules as a Commission-only event on Wednesday, August 7, 2024. The Committee proposed minor revisions to the agenda outline for the event and requested that Commission staff proceed with arrangements for this activity.

Winter 2025 Professional Development: The Ad Hoc Committee discussed its ongoing list of potential topics for the next professional development Mega Issue, including but not limited to, and in no particular order:

- Competency assessment and student evaluation in dental education
- Outcomes assessment for programs in dental education
- Diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging in dental education and Accreditation Standards
- Use of educational activity sites in dental education
- Use of simulation in dental education
- Strategies for calibration (faculty calibration)
- Global health and multiculturalism
- Curricula for management of patients with special needs
- Fundamentals of accreditation, and CODA processes, roles and responsibilities of volunteers (ongoing in annual training programs)

Following consideration, the Ad Hoc Committee believed the Winter 2025 Professional Development Mega Issue Discussion should be “Student Assessment and Evaluation in Dental Education,” which will focus on the use of Entrustable Professional Activities (EPA) in dental education. The Ad Hoc Committee believed this topic was timely, since many education programs have developed or are considering the development of EPA frameworks. Additionally, it was noted that many of the advanced dental education programs located in hospitals are currently using EPAs, since EPAs are commonly used in medical education.

The Ad Hoc Committee believed that three (3) speakers in this area could provide information to CODA on the potential current and future use of Entrustable Professional Activities (EPA) in dental education, across predoctoral dental, allied dental, and advanced dental education. The Ad Hoc Committee noted that there would be a financial impact to the Commission related to additional travel for Commissioners and the speakers.

Ad Hoc Committee on Professional Development Recommendation: It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct the Ad Hoc Committee on Professional Development to coordinate a Winter 2025 Mega Issue discussion on “Student Assessment and Evaluation in Dental Education,” and invite three (3) speakers to provide information on the use of Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) in predoctoral dental, allied dental, and advanced dental education.

Commission Action: