

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. For example, the Commission may discuss ways to better calibrate on the requirements for programs to fulfill the Accreditation Standards. It was noted that the Standards are broad and flexible, but programs may view the requirements in different ways from the Commission and its site visitors.

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.

The Ad Hoc Committee met on May 16, 2023. Members of the Ad Hoc Committee included: Dr. Carol Anne Murdoch-Kinch (chair), Dr. Carolyn Brown, Dr. Scott DeRossi, Dr. Garry Myers, and Dr. Deborah Weisfuse. Dr. Frank Licari, Dr. Paul Luepke, and Ms. Martha McCaslin were unable to attend. Dr. Sanjay Mallya, chair, Commission on Dental Accreditation, *ex-officio*, attended a portion of the meeting. Dr. Sherin Tooks, senior director, and Ms. Jamie Asher Hernandez, Ms. Katie Navickas, Ms. Yesenia Ruiz, Ms. Peggy Soeldner, and Ms. Kelly Stapleton, managers, CODA, were also in attendance. Below is the Ad Hoc Committee's report and recommendations to the Commission following its May 16, 2023 meeting.

Report and Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Professional Development: The Ad Hoc Committee reviewed its charge and the information collected to support the work of the Committee. The Committee discussed the topic of ongoing professional development for CODA volunteers, changes in dental education, potential topics for future discussion by the Commission, and resource allocations that may be required by the Commission in conducting professional development or mega issue sessions.

The Ad Hoc Committee noted that CODA's review of this topic is timely since programs are reassessing and changing the methods of educating students, student assessment, and utilization of distance education since the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, new ways of assessing student competence and innovations in curriculum design are developing, and Commissioners may benefit from learning about these innovations. It was believed that Commissioners, Review Committee Members, and Site Visitors should have a baseline understanding of current practices in dental education, to ensure the Commission continues to evaluate programs in a fair and consistent manner, given that CODA volunteers (Commissioners, Review Committee Members, and Site Visitors) come from different backgrounds and knowledge levels related to dental education.

The Ad Hoc Committee believed that CODA should consider conducting frequent Mega Issue discussions, or general CODA informational sessions, with one (1) to two (2) hour presentations on general topics of relevance for its Commissioners, Review Committee Members, and Site Visitors. A committee of CODA could develop a topic and consider appropriate external speakers (as needed) to determine the speaker's appropriateness and authority on the topic. The CODA committee could develop the topics, agenda, and outline for each event.

Potential topics considered by the Ad Hoc Committee included, but are not limited to (in no particular order):

- Fundamentals of accreditation, and CODA processes, roles and responsibilities of volunteers
- 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

The Ad Hoc Committee also discussed the methods by which these topics could be shared with Commissioners, Review Committee Members, and Site Visitors. The Committee believed CODA should begin with sessions for Commissioners and expand to Review Committee Members and Site Visitors. It was noted that recording of the sessions would allow sharing within a private, secure area for the Commission's Review Committee Members and Site Visitors. There may be an opportunity for the Commission to consider video recording and video sharing technologies, such as learning management systems, private YouTube channels, and other tools. However, to begin, the Ad Hoc Committee believed CODA could conduct sessions in real-time with Commissioners during its regular Winter and Summer meetings.

Finally, the Ad Hoc Committee considered the financial implications to the Commission. It was noted that adding an additional half-day to the Commission meeting once per year would result

in a potential cost impact of approximately \$16,500. However, building time into the Commission's current meeting schedule may be another viable option depending on the amount of time needed for the specific topic; in this case, there would be no cost impact to CODA.

Following lengthy discussion, the Ad Hoc Committee believed the Commission should move forward with development of a strategy to further enhance Commissioners, Review Committee Members, and Site Visitors professional development in topics related to dental education and accreditation. The Committee noted that new Commissioners are trained annually, each December; however, the Ad Hoc Committee believed an initial topic of professional development could be a refresher session for all Commissioners on the process of accreditation. Additionally, the Commission could discuss potential future topics for CODA volunteer professional development.

Ad Hoc Committee on Professional Development Recommendation: It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct the Ad Hoc Committee on Professional Development or a Standing Committee of the Commission to develop periodic ongoing professional development sessions for CODA Commissioners, Review Committee members, and Site Visitors, addressing topics related to dental education and accreditation.

Commission Action: