REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Background: At its Winter 2024 meeting, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) directed the Ad Hoc Committee on Professional Development to coordinate a Summer 2024 Mega Issue discussion on "Artificial Intelligence and Dental Education," and invite no more than two (2) speakers to provide information on the impact of artificial intelligence in dentistry and dental education, with a focus on student/resident/fellow instruction and evaluation for competence. The Mega Issue discussion took place on August 7, 2024.

At the Commission's Summer 2024 meeting, on August 9, 2024, the Commission considered a New Business item in follow-up to the Mega Issue discussion. Following consideration, the Commission on Dental Accreditation directed appointment of an Ad Hoc Committee to evaluate/recommend integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into appropriate Accreditation Standards for dental education across the domains of curriculum development and administration, faculty development, institutional resources, clinical education and patient care, research, and continuous evaluation and feedback, with a future report to the Commission.

Meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee: The Ad Hoc Committee met on December 10, 2024 and January 15, 2025. Members of the Ad Hoc Committee: Dr. Scott De Rossi (chair), Dr. Indraneel Bhattacharyya, Ms. LaShun James, Dr. Jeffery Price, Dr. Glenn Sameshima, and Dr. Fabricio Teixeira attended both meetings. Ms. Jill Day and Mr. Noah Williams were unable to attend both meetings. Commissioners: Dr. Frank Licari, chair, (attended January 15, 2025, only) and Dr. Cataldo Leone, vice chair (attended December 10, 2024, only), Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), *ex officio*, were in attendance. Commission Staff: Dr. Sherin Tooks, senior director, Ms. Peggy Soeldner, senior manager, and Ms. Jamie Asher Hernandez (attended December 10, 2024, only), Ms. Jessica Lynk, Mr. Shawn Morrison, Ms. Kathleen Navickas, Dr. Yesenia Ruiz, Ms. Kelly Stapleton, and Ms. Taylor Weast (attended December 10, 2024, only), managers, CODA, also attended the meetings.

The Ad Hoc Committee considered its charge and the Commission's Summer 2024 directive. The Committee began its discussion identifying some of the uses for AI within academia and dental practice, including: synthesizing large amounts of information to improve processes, identifying bias in admissions, clinical operations and scheduling efficiencies, image diagnostics and clinical support systems, notetaking and presentation development; personalized learning, virtual patients and development of case scenarios for teaching and assessment, practice management, and student instruction, to name a few. Related to accreditation and the work of CODA, the Ad Hoc Committee noted that AI may be used for: synthesizing large amounts of information, data collection and analysis over time, automation of reviews and responses, personalized feedback, establishing data-driven processes, and applications for real-time reviews and feedback on compliance with increased consistency. While AI uses in academia and accreditation appeared to be promising, the Ad Hoc Committee also noted concerns related to hallucinations, patient privacy, authenticity of data, and, most importantly, CODA's obligation to ensure a confidential accreditation process.

The Ad Hoc Committee discussed whether the Commission should establish Accreditation Standards related to artificial intelligence literacy for students, require that a program have written policies and procedures for its use of AI, and/or require mandatory integration of artificial intelligence into the curriculum. The Committee noted there may be vast differences between open-source AI and closed (i.e., internal) networks within an institution. Additionally, some programs may currently use AI, while other programs may choose not to or may have limitations in doing so. Furthermore, due to the confidential nature of CODA's work, the Commission currently does not have the technical capability to use AI in its processes, and there are no specific policies nor any procedures for its use to ensure the confidentiality of the accreditation process. Should CODA use AI in the future, staff and volunteers will need training to understand appropriate uses, and policies and procedures will be required.

Following considerable discussion, the Ad Hoc Committee determined that CODA should continue to monitor the use of artificial intelligence within dental, advanced dental, and allied dental education programs, as well as the applications and potential interface that could be aligned with the work of the Commission. For example, the Ad Hoc Committee considered whether programs should disclose use of AI in developing accreditation materials (i.e., reports, applications, self-study documents). As an initial step to the ongoing monitoring of AI uses in dental education and the work of CODA, the Ad Hoc Committee believed the Commission should conduct a short survey of all CODA-accredited educational programs to learn how programs use AI in the academic environment and for accreditation, and potential future uses. The Ad Hoc Committee concluded that the survey response data may better inform the Commission on next steps related to use of AI within the CODA process of accreditation.

> **Ad Hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct the Ad Hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence to conduct a survey of all Commission-accredited dental, advanced dental, and allied dental education programs to learn how programs use artificial intelligence in the academic environment and accreditation, and potential future uses, with a future report to the Commission.

> **Commission Action:**

Prepared by: Dr. Sherin Tooks