

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 January 15, 2025. **Members of the Ad Hoc Committee:** Dr. Scott De Rossi (chair), Dr. Carolyn Brown, Ms. LaShun James, Dr. Frank Licari, Dr. Monica Nenad, Dr. Kenneth Sadler, and Dr. Deborah Weisfuse (attended a portion of the meeting). Dr. Joseph Cohen was unable to attend. **Commissioners:** Dr. Frank Licari, member of the committee and chair, *ex-officio*, Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) also attended the meeting. **Commission Staff:** Dr. Sherin Tooks, senior director, Ms. Peggy Soeldner, senior manager, and Ms. Jamie Asher Hernandez, Ms. Jessica Lynk, Mr. Shawn Morrison, Ms. Yesenia Ruiz, and Ms. Kelly Stapleton, managers, CODA.

Summer 2024 Professional Development: The Ad Hoc Committee recounted the CODA Summer 2024 Mega Issue on *Artificial Intelligence and Dental Education*, which occurred on

Wednesday, August 7, 2024. The Ad Hoc Committee concluded that the Mega Issue was a success and noted that after the discussion the Commission directed formation of an Ad Hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence, which is continuing to study this topic.

Winter 2025 Professional Development: The Ad Hoc Committee reviewed an outline and timed events for the upcoming Mega Issue on *Student Assessment and Evaluation in Dental Education*, scheduled as a Commission-only event on Wednesday, January 29, 2025. The Committee requested that Commission staff proceed with arrangements for this activity, including final speaker planning and distribution of a pre-meeting inquiry to Commissioners to gather questions for the Mega Issue discussion.

Summer 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:

- 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)

The Standing Committee noted that the Commission is already addressing several of these topics through its work with various Standing and/or Ad Hoc Committees. For example, the Commission will continue the work of the Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Accreditation Standards Related to Diversity in Dental, Advanced Dental, and Allied Dental Education Programs prior to the Commission's Winter 2025 meeting. Additionally, the Standing Committee on Site Visit Process and Training continues to explore strategies for training and calibration of site visitors.

The Ad Hoc Committee discussed increased trends in distance learning, both didactic and clinical, and considered whether a Mega Issue on this topic would be appropriate. For example, the Ad Hoc Committee wondered whether, in the case of distance learning, a faculty could provide instruction to multiple cohorts of students from multiple institutions synchronously or asynchronously. The Committee also discussed how the decentralization of learning (i.e., multiple distance learning sites) may impact the dental education curriculum. The Committee discussed how programs might assure learning outcomes are achieved using distributed learning models, and how program administrators assure sufficient resources and appropriate outcomes at all learning sites. Similarly, with variance in practice models (i.e., single and group practices of various sizes), there could be a future reduction of enrollment in advanced general dentistry programs since new graduates may attain further training among their colleagues in the group practice setting. The Ad Hoc Committee believed that enrollment in advanced general dentistry

programs has historically been used by some to attain additional skills before entering a solo or small group practice.

The Ad Hoc Committee believed that these scenarios, as described above, and others related to shifts in the learning model (i.e., distance and distributed learning) could have an impact on the Commission and methods by which CODA continues to monitor and evaluate educational programs. There may be an impact on dental curriculum, oversight of sites used by programs, calibration of faculty, assuring consistent outcomes, and the methods by which CODA site visitors should review curriculum, educational sites, and program outcomes.

Following consideration, the Ad Hoc Committee believed the Summer 2025 Professional Development Mega Issue Discussion should be *Trends in Distance Education and Practice Models, and the Impact on Dental Education*, which will focus on the impact of distance education and remote educational activity sites, and practice trends, on the educational curriculum and assessment of programs by the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

The Ad Hoc Committee believed that two (2) to three (3) speakers in this area could provide information to CODA on the potential current and future impact of distance learning and distributed learning (e.g., remote learning sites) on 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. Speaker-related financial support could be managed through the Commission's Administrative Fund.

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 Summer 2025 Mega Issue discussion on *Trends in Distance Education and Practice Models, and the Impact on Dental Education*, and invite two (2) to three (3) speakers to provide information on the potential current and future impact of distance learning and distributed learning (e.g., remote learning sites) on dental education, across predoctoral dental, allied dental, and advanced dental education.

Commission Action: