

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.

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Professional Development: The Ad Hoc Committee met on December 11, 2023. Members of the Ad Hoc Committee: Dr. Scott De Rossi (chair), Dr. Joseph Cohen, Dr. Frank Licari, Ms. Martha McCaslin, Dr. Kenneth Sadler, and Dr. Deborah Weisfuse were in attendance. Dr. Paul Luepke and Dr. Garry Myers were unable to attend. Commission Staff: Dr. Sherin Tooks, senior director, and Ms. Jamie Asher Hernandez, Ms. Yesenia Ruiz, Ms. Peggy Soeldner, and Ms. Kelly Stapleton, managers, CODA.

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, Review Committee members, and Site Visitors, addressing topics related to dental education and accreditation. The Committee discussed the potential topics of its May 2023 meeting, including but not limited to, and 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

Following discussion, the Ad Hoc Committee believed the first Mega Issue Discussion for the Commission, at its Winter 2024 meeting, should be “The State of the Dental Disciplines and Dental Education,” which will focus on a round-table discussion of the disciplines within the Commission’s purview and an update from the appropriate Commissioner for the discipline. Each discipline-specific Commissioner will provide an update on their discipline, including: 1) the current scope of practice and workforce impact in the discipline; 2) trends in academia, for example, new Standards and/or advancements in the discipline; 3) current challenges affecting educational programs in the discipline; and 4) future challenges in the educational environment of the discipline.

Additionally, the Ad Hoc Committee believed the Commission should consider the topic of “Artificial Intelligence and Dental Education” as a Mega Issue topic for the Summer 2024 meeting. The Committee believed that the impact of artificial intelligence in dentistry and dental education from the perspective of student/resident/fellow instruction and evaluation for competence is an important and timely topic for consideration by the Commission. The Ad Hoc Committee believed that one (1) to two (2) speakers in this area of dental education and dental practice could provide information to CODA on the potential current and future impact of artificial intelligence on dental education programs. The Ad Hoc Committee noted that there would be a financial impact to the Commission related to additional travel for Commissioners and the speaker(s).

The Committee noted topics of interest for future Mega Issue Discussions include simulation in dental education and changes in competency assessment of students/residents/fellows, including the use of Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs).

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 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.

Commission Action: