



Certified Press

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COA • COMSA Dental Assisting National Board, Inc. CDPMA • CDA

ADAA/DANB Alliance Responds to Questions About Position Paper

After the publication of the *Position Paper of the ADAA/DANB Alliance: Addressing a Uniform National Model for the Dental Assisting Profession* (September 2005), the American Dental Assistants



Association (ADAA) and DANB distributed a survey to all of the individuals who had received copies. The purpose was to learn how readers responded to the information contained in the paper, as well as the ways in which they intended to use it.

Several readers responded with questions about the ADAA/DANB Alliance's position on issues related to dental assisting. At a February 2006 meeting, the ADAA/DANB Alliance discussed these questions and formed a response for each. Since this information may be of interest to DANB stakeholders, selected questions and the ADAA/DANB Alliance's answers appear below.

What are the most progressive states?

Representatives of the ADAA/DANB Alliance feel that, in regard to progress that has been made in creating a career ladder for dental assistants that is similar to the career ladder proposed in the *Position Paper*, Minnesota is an excellent example of a progressive state.

A four-tier career ladder for dental assistants has been under consideration in Minnesota since early 2005. While the proposal has not yet been implemented, the tiers of the career ladder closely mirror the four categories of dental assisting tasks described in the *Position Paper*.

In addition, a dental assistant holds a seat on the Minnesota Board of Dentistry, and a number of dental assistants have held the office of president of the Minnesota Board of Dentistry.

Dental assistants hold seats on the state board of dentistry in other states as well. As of July 2006, the following states had one dental assistant as a voting member of the dental board: California, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and West

Virginia. (The WV dental assistant must be a DANB CDA.) Michigan and Massachusetts each have two dental assistants on their dental boards (voting in MI and non-voting in MA).

It appears therefore, that importance of the role of dental assistants in providing quality oral healthcare services has been acknowledged most significantly in those states listed above. While regulations governing performance of duties by dental assistants vary among the states listed, the progressiveness of assigning board seats to dental assistants is certainly worth noting.

What is the ADAA/DANB Alliance's view on 10-week training programs for individuals desiring to work as dental assistants?

DANB and the ADAA support dental assisting programs accredited by the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation, and believe that the accreditation criteria established by the Commission are optimal for preparing dental assistants to work in dental offices and to perform successfully on the Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) Exam. Both organizations believe that a period of 10 weeks is insufficient to

cover the scope and depth of the dental assisting skills measured by the CDA Exam.

What is the position of the ADAA and DANB on dental assistants functioning as hygienists and receiving hygiene training in a preceptorship setting?

Both DANB and the ADAA recommend a career ladder that addresses and encompasses dental assisting only. Neither organization views dental hygiene as the "top rung" of the dental assisting career ladder; rather, both regard dental hygiene and dental assisting as related but separate allied oral healthcare disciplines. As such, a move from dental assisting to dental hygiene should not necessarily be regarded as a vertical progression up the dental assisting career ladder.

Both organizations support the idea of a uniform career ladder that provides an avenue for advancement within the dental assisting discipline and does not entail transitioning between or among different oral healthcare disciplines. With this in mind, the ADAA/DANB Alliance views hygiene preceptorships as being outside the scope of the proposed uniform national model for the dental assisting profession.



Is there going to be a national standard of credentialing that California will accept so that assistants do not have to take both national certification and a California license? How will the change affect California RDAs?

The ADAA/DANB Alliance's goal in publishing the *Position Paper* has been to inform and educate the communities of interest—especially, state legislators and regulators—about the need for and benefits of a uniform national model for the dental assisting profession. DANB and the ADAA do not have any direct influence or control over the implementation of state laws and regulations affecting dental assistants, and the ADAA/DANB Alliance's knowledge of legislative and regulatory changes in any state, including California, is limited to information that is publicly available.



Changes to California Law

In researching public records for information about laws affecting dentistry in California, the ADAA/DANB Alliance discovered that, in 2004, the California legislature substantially amended the state's dental practice act as it pertains to the profession of dental assisting. Among the changes introduced by the new legislation, scheduled to become operative on January 1, 2008, were the expansion of educational requirements and the elimination of the written and practical examination requirements for licensure as an RDA in California. The new law also legalizes the delegation of some duties that were previously prohibited and creates a total of four new registration cat-

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DANB Board Elects Officers and Welcomes New Members

The August 2006 DANB Board of Directors meeting marked the appointment of several new officers and members as well as the conclusion of terms of service for Judith Andrews, Chair, CDA, RDA, FADAA, EFDA (ADAA Representative) and Paul Stubbs, DDS, MS (AADE Representative). DANB thanks the exiting directors for their excellent work on behalf of dental assistants, and welcomes the following individuals to new positions on the DANB Board.



Carla Schneider, CDA, RDA (nominated by ADAA to the DANB Board) of Hettinger, ND was elected DANB Board Chair after serving as Vice Chair during 2005-2006.

Ms. Schneider has served on the Board of Directors of the ND Dental Foundation since 1998 and is coordinator for the directors of the ADAA Foundation's Board of Directors. She previously held offices with the ND Dental Assistants



Ms. Fell

Association (NDDAA) and the ADAA Seventh District, and currently serves as the NDDAA liaison to the ND Board of Dental Examiners. She has held her current position as a clinical assistant since 1982.

Brenda Fell, CDA, CDPMA (nominated by ADAA to the DANB Board) of Ogden, UT was elected Vice Chair. Since 1993, Ms. Fell has worked as Dental Assistant Program Advisor for Ogden-Weber Applied Technology College in UT. She has been President of the UT Dental Assistants Association since February 2002, has served as Director of the ADAA Foundation, and has held offices in her local dental assisting society. Ms. Fell holds a BS in Health Education from Americus University in Washington, DC.

Dr. Howard Bell, DDS (nominated by ADA to the DANB Board) of Jacksonville, FL was elected to



Dr. Bell

the position of Secretary. Dr. Bell has served on the Florida Dental Association (FDA) Council on Dental Education, including the office of Chairman from 1986-1998. He is currently on the FDA Board of Trustees and has been a FL delegate to the ADA House of Delegates for eight years. He has also served two terms as President of the FL Dental Health Foundation. In 2006, the FDA named Dr. Bell Dentist of the Year in recognition of his dedication to the betterment of the dental profession.



Ms. Sippel

Patricia Sippel, CDA (Certificant-at-Large) of Pittsburgh, PA was re-elected to the DANB Board by the majority vote of DANB Certificants. Ms. Sippel has held multiple offices in the PA Dental Assistants Association (in-

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Congratulations to Emeritus Certificants

April 27, 2006–August 21, 2006

Name/State	Certification Date
Michele Drlaca, MN	7/19/74
Ellen House, RI	3/19/87
Kathryn Maxwell, TN	7/31/73
Nadine Shutt, NC	4/9/82
Judith Sutton, NC	3/19/87
Anni Weisshaupt, NJ	1/15/83

For DANB's policy regarding Emeritus Status Certificants, see the DANB Recertification Guidelines on page 4 of this issue. There are currently 862 DANB Emeritus Status Certificants. For information on earning Emeritus status, contact Vickie Spears, Assistant Director, Recertification, at 1-800-FOR-DANB x445.

DANB Briefs

Compromise Reached in Role of Dental Health Aide Therapist in the State of Alaska

The American Dental Association (ADA) and the Alaska Dental Society (ADS) have been working to limit the scope of an Alaskan program that allows Dental Health Aide Therapists (DHATs) to perform irreversible procedures after earning a high school diploma and completing 18-24 months of training in New Zealand.

Believing that this practice unnecessarily puts Alaskan Native patients at risk by offering a lower standard of care than that offered elsewhere in the U.S., the ADA and ADS support legislation that limits the DHATs' scope of services with respect to irreversible procedures.

This summer, the ADA and Alaskan tribal health representatives reached accord on legislative language in the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. While the compromise does not preclude DHATs from performing some irreversible procedures, it accomplishes the following objectives: (1) placing some limits on DHATs' scope of services; (2) restricting the DHAT program to Alaska as part of the Community Health Aide/Practitioner program; and (3) calling for a study of new types of dental auxiliaries to include Community Dental Health Coordinator and Oral Prevention Assistant as recommended by the ADA Task Force on Workforce Models 2006. This Task Force's recommendations will be reviewed by the ADA House of Delegates in October 2006.

CDC Recommends New Immunization Guidelines for Healthcare Workers

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has issued new recommendations concerning measles, mumps, and rubella vaccinations for healthcare workers.

Due to recent outbreaks of mumps, the CDC's ACIP now advises a two-dose vaccine for healthcare workers born after 1957 who have no evidence of immunity and one dose for those born before 1957 with no evidence of immunity. The previous recommendations were for one dose in persons born after 1957 with no booster and no vaccine for those born before 1957.

For more information, visit www.ada.org/goto/cdc. For the CDC's full report on the new recommendations, visit www.cdc.gov/nip/diseases/mumps.

ADA Launches Podcasts

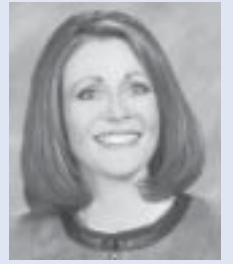
In July 2006, the American Dental Association (ADA) launched a "podcasting" service offering online audio programs on dental practice topics. Each podcast is approximately 20 minutes long, featuring a moderator and one or more subject matter experts. Podcasts will be released approximately every four weeks. For more information, including tips on how to subscribe, visit www.ada.org/goto/podcast.

Smiles Change Lives Program to Expand

The *Smiles Change Lives* (SCL) program, which provides orthodontic treatment to children and adolescents from low-income families, intends to expand its operations to approximately 50 cities and/or regions by 2010.

Word from the Chair

Carla Schneider, CDA, RDA
Chair, DANB Board of Directors



As the new DANB Board Chair, I feel very honored that my fellow DANB Board Directors have chosen me to lead them into the coming year. Judith will be a hard act to follow, but I know that her example will continue to inspire us even though her time on the Board has come to an end. Thank you, Judith, for your service to DANB and to dental assistants across the country!

Congratulations are in order to other DANB Board Directors as well. Pat Sippel returns to the Board for the second of two three-year terms after winning the majority vote in the recent Certificant-at-Large election, which was confirmed by DANB's Board in July. Thanks to all of the DANB Certificants who voted in this important election! For an introduction to the other new Board Directors and officers, see page 1 of this issue.

After the *Position Paper of the ADA/DANB Alliance Addressing a Uniform National Model for the Dental Assisting Profession* was published in September 2005, readers communicated with DANB to ask questions regarding the paper, the proposed national career ladder, and the future of dental assisting. In this issue's cover story, we have highlighted some of these questions and their answers. We welcome any additional queries that readers might have.

As the importance of DANB credentials increases nationwide, the number of discipline cases has also increased. The Winter 2007 issue of *Certified Press* and DANB's website will soon include a new "regular feature": the posting of any disciplinary sanctions meted out by DANB to Certificants, Certificate of Competency holders (RHS, ICE), or others for violations of DANB policy, such as misuse of DANB credentials and irregular behavior associated with DANB exams. (Grounds, actions, and states will be listed. Those sanctioned will not be named.) If you know of anyone in violation, go to www.danb.org and click on "Complaint about a Certificant."

DANB is working to renavigate its website. Please visit www.danb.org and send us your feedback. Can't find what you're looking for? Anything you'd like to see? Email your suggestions to Katherine Landsberg at excliaison@danb.org.

This issue of *Certified Press* is full of exciting information about DANB's role in the dental assisting profession; reviews of conferences and events; updates on current and forthcoming state legislation; opportunities for service; and glimpses of some special people who are among the best the profession has to offer. And in the next issue (Winter 2007), look for the results of the 2006 Certified Dental Assistant Salary Survey!

Carla Schneider, CDA, RDA

A Farewell....

Judith Andrews, CDA, RDA, EFDA, FADAA
Past Chair, DANB Board of Directors



Now that my final term on the DANB Board has drawn to a close, I want to say what a rewarding experience it has been to work with the multifaceted individuals who make up the DANB community. I have learned so much about the administration, detail, planning, and execution required to fulfill the needs of our Examination Candidates and Certificants and to ensure the continuing success of DANB. This is a job that requires many individuals to work in unison, and that is just what DANB is—a unit of many gifted professionals working together.

The many friends we make in our profession only help us to grow stronger in our dedication to the career of dental assisting. I would like to extend a sincere "thank you" to the DANB staff; to Cindy Durley, DANB's Executive Director; and to all of the DANB Board Directors, with particular recognition to Paul Stubbs as he ends his term as AADE Representative on the Board. It has been a pleasure to work with them all. Due to their hard work and organization, many goals have been (and will continue to be) achieved. My best wishes also go to the new and returning Board Directors and officers. I wish continued success to those who continue to work for you, our Certificants, and am proud to have been a part of this important mission.

Sincerely,

Judith A. Andrews

Since 1997, *SCL* has made a difference in the lives of over 500 children and adolescents. Currently, it operates programs in Florida, Kansas, and Missouri. In 2005, the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO) endorsed the *Smiles Change Lives* (SCL) program as an official access to care provider for the Association. For more information, call 1-888-900-3554 or visit www.smileschangelives.org.

Exercise Improves Oral Health

Experts at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland found that people who exercised regularly reduced their chances of developing gingival disease by 40%. "Physical activity reduces stress and inflammation in the

body, both of which play a significant role in gum disease," says researcher Nabil F. Bissada. "Any type of moderate or vigorous leisure-time exercise—such as walking a mile without stopping, bike riding, dancing, or yard work—done three to five times a week will work." However, he adds that it is also important to maintain a normal weight and good diet.▲



DANB is a member of the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA). The National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), a NOCA Commission with responsibility for evaluating credentialing programs, has accredited DANB national certification exam programs, (CDA, COA, and CDPMA), including DANB component exams (RHS, ICE, GC, and OA) and found DANB programs meet NCCA's highest standards, thus helping to assure validity, reliability, and objectivity in the testing process.

ADAA/DANB Alliance Responds to Questions About Position Paper

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egories for dental assistants—three specialty registration categories (Registered Orthodontic Assistant, Registered Surgery Assistant, and Registered Restorative Assistant) and one expanded functions specialty registration (Registered Restorative Assistant in Extended Functions). These categories have been added to the existing three categories in California: unlicensed dental assistant, Registered Dental Assistant, and Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions. The law outlines educational requirements for the four new categories and examination requirements for the final, extended functions category.

Under the new law, individuals desiring to become Registered Dental Assistants (RDAs) will no longer be required to sit for a written and practical examination, but will be required, instead, to complete an educational program approved by the Dental Board of California. Dental assistants with 12 months of work experience may also qualify for RDA licensure, provided that they complete supplemental education covering specialty duties and radiation safety. As such, California RDAs who also want to be Certified by DANB will no longer have to take two exams once the new law becomes operative.

Proposed Legislation in California

The California legislature is currently considering a bill that, if enacted, would allow employer-dentists to provide on-the-job training to dental assistants in each of the three assisting specialties created by the 2004 legislation, provided that the dentists receive training in educational methodology and meet certain other requirements. The bill also requires successful performance on a written exam developed by DANB and a practical exam for each of the three specialty registrations. The California State Senate has passed this bill, which is now under consideration in the California State Assembly. The California Dental Assistants Association and the ADAA have opposed this bill, because they believe that

formal education and training (rather than on-the-job training) are needed to prepare dental assistants to perform the advanced duties that are allowed under California's new law.

DANB acknowledges that, while completion of a formal ADA CoDA-accredited dental assisting program is optimal, approximately half of all 266,000 dental assistants nationwide receive all or the vast majority of their training on the job (ojt), and that state regulatory agencies must have some mechanism to transition requirements from ojt to formal education for dental assistants. In this light, DANB is encouraged by California's innovative proposal to require dentists who train assistants in-office to complete formal coursework in educational methodology.

Insofar as the California dental practice act, as amended by the new and proposed legislation, will continue to provide a career ladder along which dental assistants can ascend from the entry level to the most advanced, expanded functions level, the law in California adheres to the spirit of the proposals set forth in the ADAA/DANB Alliance's *Position Paper*.

However, significant differences remain between the ADAA/DANB Alliance's proposed model and the new career ladder in California. If and when the bill becomes law and the Dental Board of California approves regulations implementing the new law, it will be clearer whether the new structure in California advances the objective of achieving recognition of a uniform national model for the dental assisting profession. If California were to choose to recognize DANB national exams, such as the Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) Exam, Certified Orthodontic Assistant (COA) Exam, and a possible future Certified Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Assistant (COMSA) Exam, for dental assistant registration in that state, the ADAA/DANB Alliance would regard such recogni-

tion as a step forward in the dental assisting profession's endeavor to achieve nationwide recognition of a uniform model for the profession.

Working Towards a Uniform National Model

While DANB and the ADAA cannot mandate that any state dental board recognize or require national dental assisting credentials or conform to a national model for the profession, the ADAA/DANB Alliance hopes, through projects like the *Position Paper*, to educate state authorities about the benefits that the employment of qualified dental assistants—whose competency has been assessed by psychometrically sound and legally defensible competency measurement tools, such as DANB exams—can bring to the consumer, to the dentist-employer, and to the state. Ultimately, however, only state legislators or regulators, through the enactment and promulgation of laws and regulations, have the power to bring their respective states closer to a uniform national model like the one proposed in the *Position Paper*.

The ADAA and DANB have each been working on projects designed to help dental assistants understand how they can work to achieve positive changes to laws and regulations affecting the dental assisting profession in their respective states through involvement in the legislative process. DANB has been considering the development of a workbook describing how the legislative and regulatory processes work in each state; the ADAA continues to offer a legislative kit, which it makes available to ADAA members who desire to learn more about and participate in the legislative process.

Through the ADAA/DANB Alliance, the ADAA and DANB plan to work together in areas where these projects overlap to develop and distribute informational resources to all who would like to provide input into laws and regulations affecting the dental assisting profession.▲

Dental Assistants Gather for First-Ever Professional Dental Assisting (PDA) Conference

By Kevin Henry, Editor, Dental Equipment & Materials

At dental shows throughout the United States, dental assistants are often overlooked by show organizers and exhibit hall vendors. Recognizing this problem, PennWell Corporation, the parent company of *Dental Equipment & Materials* magazine, decided it was time for dental assistants to not only be given kudos for the vital role they play in the dental practice, but also to have a conference dedicated specifically to them and their needs.

The inaugural Professional Dental Assisting (PDA) conference in Indianapolis was considered a huge success by organizers and attendees alike. More than 300 dental assistants from 28 states converged on the Hyatt Regency in downtown Indianapolis from May 11-13 with common goals—to become more proficient in their jobs and to network with colleagues. Attendees included both front- and back-office dental assistants, as well as dental students and office administrators.

Keynote sessions by Dr. Cathy Jameson and Mary Govoni, CDA, RDA, RDH, MBA, were the cornerstones of the conference. Also making an impact were individual sessions that included information on producing effective temporary restorations, essential Spanish for the dental office, "perfect" pay-

ment arrangements, how to improve front desk communication, an overview of whitening products, and many others. In all, 23 conferences and workshops were presented during the three-day meeting.

"It was time for a conference like this to be developed," Dr. Jameson said. "All of us recognize how the dental office just wouldn't function without dental assistants. They deserve a meeting that addresses their jobs and allows them to grow professionally."

With support from the American Dental Assistants Association, the Dental Assisting National Board, and the American Association of Dental Office Managers, PDA combined workshops and lectures with networking opportunities. Dental assistants were given the chance to interact during meals and an off-site event at Jillian's. They also had the opportunity to visit with exhibitors, who acknowledge the importance of dental assistants.

"We know that dental assistants have a great deal of buying power and influence in the dental office," said Therese Mainella, Director of Marketing for Dux Dental, sponsor of two sessions and a booth in the exhibit

hall. "We were very pleased with the crowd and the excitement about a conference that was just for them. By Dux being at this meeting, the dental assistants realized that we know they are very important to the success of their practice and our business as well."

"What we tried to do with the inaugural PDA was to blend work and fun, as well as reinforce how strongly we believe in dental assistants and what they do to make the office succeed," added Lyle Hoyt, vice president and group publisher for PennWell. "We heard nothing but positive comments about our first PDA, but I also know we can make it bigger and better in future years."

Plans are already under way for next year's PDA conference, set for May 10-12, 2007, at the Marriott in downtown Indianapolis. Courses are being planned that will benefit office managers as well as front- and back-office dental assistants. Information on the 2007 meeting is available at www.professionaldentalassisting.com.



New DANB Certificant Emblems Available For Resumes Created On Dentalworkers.com

A new update to the Dentalworkers job search website allows DANB Certificants to upload logos for each of their DANB Certifications onto resumes created at www.dentalworkers.com.

The six available emblems include: Certified Dental Assistant (CDA®), Certified Orthodontic Assistant (COA®), Certified Dental Practice Management Administrator (CDPMA®), Certified Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Assistant (COMSA®), Certificate of Competency in Radiation Health and Safety (RHS®), or Certificate of Competency in Infection Control (ICE®).

Certificants may enhance their resumes with DANB emblems based on their earned Certifications; for example, a CDA would upload the CDA logo, whereas an individual holding a Certificate of Competency in RHS and/or ICE would upload the logo for that particular accomplishment. Only those assistants deemed eligible by DANB to do so would be able to upload DANB emblems.

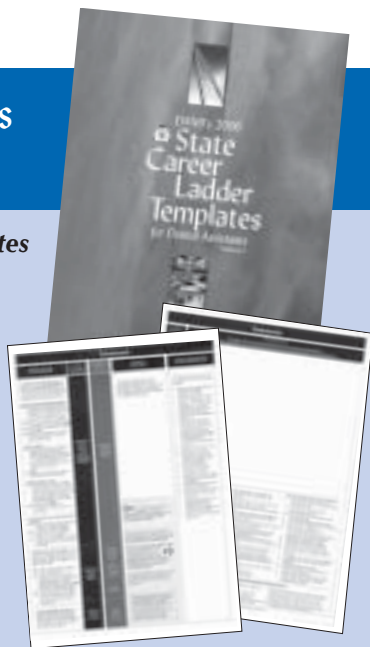
When workers who hold DANB Certifications use the Dentalworkers resume wizard to build a resume, there will be a question asking for the Certificant's name (as

it appears in DANB records) and ID number. The Certificant will then use the mouse to click "verify, send." When this happens, the Dentalworkers server will transmit the Certificant's information to the DANB server for verification. As soon as DANB's server verifies the Certificant's status, the correct DANB emblems will automatically appear on the Certificant's Dentalworkers resume.

Promote your qualifications to prospective employers by displaying the correct DANB emblem(s) on your resume at www.dentalworkers.com!

Learn About Your State's Laws with Two DANB Publications

DANB's 2006 State Career Ladder Templates for Dental Assistants contains information drawn from state dental practice acts, arranged in an easy-to-use, reader-friendly format. Readers can follow each state's chart to understand the different dental assisting job designations and the education required for each level. The templates also contain lists of which functions are/are not permitted by law. The layout makes it simple to compare state laws and requirements to each other. This book is available for purchase in its entirety or as individual templates by state.



DANB's State Fact Booklet: A Complete Listing by State of Required DANB Examinations and Excerpts from State Practice Acts is updated every year. The 2006 volume offers essential information pertinent to the dental assisting profession. This volume contains the most up-to-date state dental practice acts, rules, and regulations for the radiology and expanded functions duties specific to each state. It also contains a listing of DANB exams that are accepted in each state, State Board of Dentistry contact information, and updated ADA-accredited school listings.

To order DANB's State Career Ladder Templates or DANB's State Fact Booklet, call 1-800-FOR-DANB to request an order form or download the order form at www.danb.org.

DANB Renewal Fees to Increase January 2007

Beginning January 2007, the cost to renew your DANB credential(s) will increase \$10 in each credential quantity level. This is the first increase in DANB renewal fees in three years. The increase will be effective based on the Certificant's expiration date, not the date of the renewal notice or date of payment. The new fee structure is listed below.

Effective January 1, 2007		
Credentials	CDE Hours (including CPR)	Renewal Fee*
One (1)	12 Hours	\$55
Two (2)	18 Hours	\$80
Three (3)	24 Hours	\$100
Four (4)	30 Hours	\$125

*A late fee of \$10 will be assessed after the Certificate expiration date, but within the three-month grace period.

Good Things Come in Threes



An all-new Radiation Health & Safety PDEP module joins the recently updated Infection Control and General Chairside modules.

This convenient, in-home testing program, available only to current or former DANB Certificants, challenges you to advance your professional knowledge using pertinent content materials researched and selected by DANB's Exam Committees.

Joining the updated Infection Control (ICE) and General Chairside (GC) PDEP modules which were launched in 2005, an all-new Radiation Health & Safety (RHS) module means you have three different options to choose from to earn the annual CDE hours required for your DANB Certification renewal.

PDEP allows you to control your own testing pace within a six-month period and offers scoring by DANB on a monthly schedule. This allows you to apply your 12 CDE hours to your annual Certificant renewal requirement, under Category 7 (DANB exams) of the DANB Recertification Guidelines. PDEP hours only apply to your renewal requirements after passing PDEP.

For more information, call 1-800-FOR-DANB and speak to a Client Service Representative or visit www.danb.org.



RENEWING YOUR CERTIFICATION

Your initial certificate is valid for one year. The expiration date is listed on the certificate. If you do not renew, you are no longer certified and may not use the designation or credential. A renewal notice will be mailed approximately six weeks prior to the expiration date. Certificants are asked to sign a statement attesting that CDE and CPR requirements have been met, and to return the statement with the appropriate renewal fee to DANB. **Renewal fees are not refundable.**

Credentials	CDE Hours (including CPR)	Renewal Fee*
One (1)	12 Hours	\$45
Two (2)	18 Hours	\$70
Three (3)	24 Hours	\$90
Four (4)	30 Hours	\$115

*A late fee of \$10 will be assessed after the Certificate expiration date, but within the three-month grace period.

If DANB does not receive a response to renewal statement(s) within three (3) months of your expiration date, you are no longer certified and cannot use the CDA, COA, COMSA, or CDPMA acronym.

A sample timeline illustrates the DANB Certification renewal process. In this example, the individual's CDA expires January 15, 2006.

December 1, 2005	A renewal notice is sent to Certificant.
January 15, 2006	Signed statement and fee are due by this date or DANB Certification expires.
January 16, 2006	Grace period begins. \$10 late fee assessed. If fee not received, second notice sent.
March 15, 2006	Grace period continues. If fee not received, Final Notice (Drop Back In postcard) sent
April 16, 2006	Fees and signed statement are not received. Grace period ends. Individual is no longer DANB Certified. Call 1-800-FOR-DANB for reinstatement options.

Please note that due to feedback from DANB Certificants, the number of renewal notices being sent before the renewal deadline has been reduced from three (3) to one (1).

DANB RECERTIFICATION POLICY

- I. **All continuing dental education must directly relate to the practice of dentistry or dental assisting to maintain or improve dental assisting knowledge or skill.** Note: Except for Home Study Courses, CDE does **not** need to be pre-approved by DANB in order to be accepted as meeting DANB Recertification requirements. Call DANB prior to participation in education if you have questions about content.
- II. Programs must be at least 45 minutes in length in order to qualify for one (1) CDE credit. Credit for a CDE course will be calculated in 15-minute increments (i.e., 1 1/2 hours = 1.5 CDE credits; 2 3/4 hours = 2.75 CDE credits).
- III. Education dated prior to initial certification date cannot be used to meet DANB CDE requirements. Certificants must earn appropriate number of CDE hours during the first year of certification to maintain certification.
- IV. Education has a two- (2) year lifespan. Certificants who carry over credits into the next renewal year must retain proof of 24 hours of CDE over a two-year period.
- V. **Multiple Certification:** It is possible to be certified in each of four areas: CDA, COA, COMSA, and CDPMA. Renewal requirements are set at approximately 50% increase over basic requirements for each additional credential maintained.
- VI. **Renewal Timing and Expiration:** A three-month grace period is granted if the required CDE hours are not accumulated and appropriate fee is not received by the expiration date. An individual is considered certified during this three-month grace period; however, a late fee of \$10 will be assessed. If DANB does not receive a response to renewal statement(s) within three (3) months of your expiration date, you are no longer certified and cannot use the CDA, COA, COMSA, or CDPMA acronym. **Misuse of any DANB credential is grounds for discipline under DANB's Discipline Policies and Procedures (contact DANB for a copy). For reinstatement of a credential, contact DANB by phone at 1-800-FOR-DANB, ext. 445 or by email at recert@danb.org.**
- VII. **Emeritus Status:** DANB Certified Assistants may apply for Emeritus status if they have maintained continuous current Certification for four (4) of the five (5) years immediately preceding application and have: become totally and permanently disabled, **or** retired from the field of dentistry/dental assisting at age 60 years or older, **or** retired from the field of dentistry/dental assisting with 35 years of continuous (without any breaks) DANB Certification. Please visit DANB's website (at www.danb.org/recert/recertrecognition.asp) to view the complete DANB Policy on "Emeritus Status" or contact DANB at 1-800-FOR-DANB, extension 445. Once Emeritus Status is earned, Certificants must use this designation; i.e., Sue Smith, CDA-Emeritus.

DANB verifies your certification status by mail or phone to anyone upon request, since the fact that you have or have not been certified and the effective date(s) of your certification(s) are a matter of public record and may be disclosed.

In addition, unless you choose not to allow it, from time to time, DANB will provide the names and addresses of certificants to dentists interested in hiring a DANB Certificant (CDA, COA, CDPMA, COMSA) or someone who has passed the Radiation Health and Safety or Infection Control examination from their area, and to providers of continuing education opportunities. DANB may also post current certificant status (certificant name, certification[s] earned, state in which certificant resides, and date of certification) on DANB's website.

If you do NOT wish to receive non-DANB mailings at your home address (i.e., current job opportunities, continuing education offerings, etc.), or you do NOT agree to allow DANB to publish your certification status (your name, certification(s) earned, state in which you reside, and date of your certification) on DANB's website, **you must** send a written request to have this information *omitted* from release or publication to: DANB, Attn: Director of Marketing and Communications, 444 N. Michigan Ave., Ste. 900, Chicago, IL, 60611.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

DANB recognizes the dynamic and emerging roles of Certified Assistants in providing quality care to patients in a dental setting. DANB assists Certified Dental Assistants (CDAs), Certified Orthodontic Assistants (COAs), Certified Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Assistants (COMSAs), and Certified Dental Practice Management Administrators (CDPMAs) in meeting these ever-changing roles by requiring Continuing Dental Education (CDE) hours. DANB requires a minimum of twelve (12) CDE hours annually, which is in line with states

that have mandatory CDE requirements for dental assistants. The yearly CDE requirement enhances the continued competence of Certified Assistants. Requiring yearly CDE hours emphasizes the importance of lifelong professional learning and development. DANB's credentials are known in the dental community as a Mark of Dental Assisting Excellence. This measure of excellence can be maintained only if each Certificant is able to demonstrate competence.

CONTINUING DENTAL EDUCATION (CDE) REQUIREMENTS / AUDIT PROCEDURES

To renew a certificate, the Certificant must earn and retain proof of twelve (12) hours of acceptable CDE by the expiration date. A recertification notice will be mailed approximately eight weeks prior to the expiration date. The Certificant will be asked to sign a statement attesting that CDE requirements have been met, and to return the statement to DANB with the appropriate renewal fee. Renewal fees are not refundable.

hours and CPR. Those selected for verification (audit) will be considered certified during the time that they are providing proof of their continuing education. Specific instructions will be sent to those audited.

Upon successful completion of the audit, certification will be instated for the full year. Proof of continuing education should be retained for two years, in case of subsequent audit. Certificants not selected for audit will have their certification renewed for a full year.

Some DANB Certificants will be randomly selected for verification (audit) of their CDE

DO NOT SEND DOCUMENTATION UNLESS REQUESTED. MATERIALS WILL NOT BE RETURNED OR RETAINED BY DANB.

DENTAL EDUCATION SOURCES/CATEGORIES FOR CDE HOURS

Recertification can be earned through accumulating the required number of CDE hours and paying the appropriate renewal fee. It is the responsibility of the certificant to obtain and retain documentation that verifies participation in all CDE activities that will be used for renewal credit. All documentation must indicate name, CE number, name of sponsor, date of course, number of CDE hours, subject matter, program title, and program presenter.

MANDATORY CPR CERTIFICATION

CDE Hours: Maximum 4 hours

Accepted Documentation:

1. Copy of front and back of a signed, current CPR card.
The card must be dated and signed or imprinted with the instructor's name.

NOTE: Two-(2) year CPR card holders can only apply the hours to recertification in the year CPR is earned. In the second year, CPR hours will not count and the Certificant must earn the full number of hours from other categories.

Current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation is required for annual renewal of DANB certification. Certificants may earn a **maximum of four (4) CDE hours annually (hour credit may be less for refresher courses; credit depends on the length of the course)** for successful completion of a CPR certification course that includes both written and hands-on (skills) assessment provided by:

American Red Cross: • CPR for the Professional Rescuer • Adult, Infant and Child CPR • Adult CPR • Infant and Child CPR • Community CPR **American Heart Association:** •BLS (Basic Life Support) for Healthcare Providers • Heartsaver AED • Heartsaver AED with Pediatric CPR •Heartsaver First Aid •Heartsaver FACTS • Heartsaver CPR •Heartsaver CPR with AED •Healthcare Provider • ACLS Provider (Advanced Cardiac Life Support) •ACLS EP (Experienced Provider) •PALS (Pediatric Advanced Life Support) Provider • Heartsaver First Aid Instructor Course with Provider Skills **National Safety Council (Green Cross):** • First Aid CPR • Infant and Child CPR • Adult and Child CPR • Standard CPR • Professional Rescuer CPR **American Safety and Health Institute:** • CPR Pro **Medic First Aid:** • Basic Life Support for Professionals **Medic First Aid (UK)** • **Canadian Red Cross:** • CPR-Level C • CPR for the Professional Rescuer • **Saudi Heart Association**

Courses from organizations other than those approved by DANB or course offerings from approved organizations without both written/skills assessment will not be accepted. Certificants may only count the CDE hours in the year that CPR is earned.

2. CLINICAL COURSES, SEMINARS, TABLE CLINICS & EXHIBITS

CDE Hours: Hour for Hour (no maximum)

Exhibit Hours: Maximum 2 hours (1 hour per meeting)

Accepted Documentation: Certificate of completion, DANB approval code, Letter of attendance/completion, Meeting badge (exhibits), Meeting badge/program page (table clinics or free on-site lecture), CDE printout from meeting, or similar documentation

Clinical courses are those on-site lectures, courses, seminars, and/or table clinics that are **directly related to the clinical practice of dentistry or dental assisting**. This category includes, but is not limited to attendance at, or participation in **clinical** professional development courses that are **directly related to skills, knowledge, and duties that would be chairside**: dental materials, four-handed dentistry, infection control, radiology, expanded functions, and others. See Category 3 for non-clinical practice management information.

For each hour that you attend and/or participate in one of these sessions you will receive one (1) CDE credit. Additionally, a **maximum of one (1) hour** may be earned for reviewing exhibits at dental and/or dental assisting meetings sponsored by recognized dental groups. This can be done a maximum of twice each year **at two (2) different meetings**. All CDE credits can be clinical in nature.

3. NON-CLINICAL COURSES, SEMINARS & TABLE CLINICS

Formerly called ELECTIVES (including PRACTICE MANAGEMENT)

CDE Hours: Maximum 3 hours for CDAs, COAs, & COMSAs
Maximum 6 hours for CDPMAs

Accepted Documentation: Certificate of completion, DANB approval code, Letter of attendance/completion, Meeting badge, Program page (table clinics or free on-site lecture), CDE printout from meeting, or other like documentation

• CDAs, COAs, and COMSAs may earn a **maximum of three (3) CDE hours annually**.
• CDPMAs can earn a **maximum of six (6) CDE hours annually** (as practice management is the focus of CDPMA certification).

This category includes but is not limited to attendance at or participation in **non-clinical** professional development courses that are **directly related to dental practice management/practice communication services**: practice management, HIPAA, stress management, patient and staff motivation, computer courses (college class, software training, etc.), insurance, claims/billing, foreign language studies, American Sign Language, and non-scientific related college courses. This category also includes courses and seminars covering dental practice acts and trends in dental assisting. These courses must be directly related to allowable duties for dental assistants.

4. HOME STUDY COURSES: TEXT-AUDIO-VIDEO-INTERNET

CDE Hours: No maximum

Accepted Documentation: Certificate of completion, DANB approval code, Letter of completion, or other like documentation

Home study courses must be pre-approved by DANB. A designated number of hours will be awarded after completing a pre-approved home study course. Home study courses can be obtained from the American Dental Assistants Association and other agencies. To avoid non-acceptance of credits, ask course sponsor if the course is DANB-approved. If not, encourage them to call 1-800-FOR-DANB for course approval.

5. VIDEO OR AUDIO TAPES FROM CONVENTION SEMINARS

CDE Hours: Maximum 3 hours

Accepted Documentation:

5. Copy of the 250-word essay (highlighting the meeting and course name)

Certificants may earn a maximum of **three (3) CDE hours annually** by viewing or listening to a taped CDE course presented at a local, state, regional, or national dental meeting and writing a minimum 250-word summary of that course presentation.

READING

CDE Hours: Maximum 2 hours

6. **Accepted Documentation:** Written log of articles and copy of each 50-word article summary or 250-word textbook summary. Educators may submit a copy of the completed publisher's evaluation form for any materials evaluated for adoption (see below)

Certificants may earn a **maximum of one (1) CDE hour annually by reading at least** six (6) technical/dental articles published within your renewal period or one (1) dental textbook, published within the past five (5) years. Community libraries, dental offices, and the Internet are convenient sources of books and journals. To record reading activity, a log must be maintained that includes title of book or article, name of journal, author, and date of publication. This written log earns the certificant **one (1) CDE hour**. Certificants may **earn an additional one (1) CDE hour annually** for writing at least a 50-word summary of each article or at least a 250-word summary of the textbook, highlighting the relevance of the information to the dental assisting profession. (*Accepted documentation: written log of articles and copy of each 50-word article summary or 250-word textbook summary*)

Dental assisting educators teaching at least half-time may earn a maximum of three (3) CDE credit hours annually by reviewing new reference materials (textbooks, CD ROMs, audiovisuals, etc.) for possible adoption into their curriculum. (*Accepted documentation: copy of the completed publisher's evaluation form for any materials evaluated for adoption*)

DANB EXAMS

CDE Hours: Maximum 12 hours

Accepted Documentation:

7. Copy of Certificate or Official DANB Score Report

Twelve (12) CDE hours are awarded for each DANB-administered examination successfully completed, excluding the first time a certification exam is passed. These examinations include any DANB national examination, DANB Professional Development Examination Program (PDEP), or any DANB state or agency-contracted examination that consists of at least 100 items. **Four (4) CDE hours are awarded for each DANB-administered** state or agency-contracted examination that is less than 100 items. Successful completion of non-DANB-developed dental-related professionally proctored exams (consisting of at least 100 questions) will be awarded hour for hour credit, for the amount of time designated for the completion of the exam. If no time is specified, one hour will be allowed for every 100 questions.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

CDE Hours: Maximum 3 hours

Accepted Documentation: Certificate of completion, Letter of attendance/participation, or similar documentation

Certificants may earn a **maximum of two (2) CDE hours** by participating in dental-related community service **and an additional one (1) CDE hour** for writing at least a 250-word essay on how the volunteer service benefited the certificant's professional growth. Examples include: international/national mission work, voluntary clinic work, or dental health presentations to students or groups. Community participation does not include activities such as serving on a dental assisting program advisory committee or as an officer and/or committee chair for a national, state, or local dental assisting organization. Volunteer time should be at minimum two (2) hours. DANB will publicly recognize Certificants who complete and provide proof of mission work.

COLLEGE COURSES

CDE Hours: No Maximum

Accepted Documentation: Grade report, Transcript, Letter of Verification (from instructor on school letterhead)

CDE hours are awarded for each scientific-oriented college credit/unit successfully completed at the following levels:

- **Three (3) College Credits/Units = Twelve (12) CDE hours**
- **Two (2) College Credits/Units = Six (6) CDE hours**
- **One (1) College Credit/Unit = Three (3) CDE hours**

Courses must directly relate to the practice of dentistry or dental assisting (i.e., dentistry, dental assisting, dental hygiene, anatomy/physiology, all biology, all chemistry, nutrition). To avoid non-acceptance of credits, call DANB to ascertain whether a course is acceptable and at what CDE hour level.

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

CDE Hours: Maximum 3 hours

10. **Accepted Documentation:** Course outline/catalog, copy of program brochure listing the Certificant as Instructor, copy of published article (including name and date of publication), letter from DANB, document from college registrar's office indicating currently enrolled status (see below)

Certificants may earn a **maximum of three (3) CDE hours annually** for each of the following scholarly activities:

- Teach a professional course directly related to dentistry or dental assisting **or** present a continuing dental education program, either of which are outside of the Certificant's normal employment teaching responsibilities. (*Accepted documentation: course outline/catalog, copy of program brochure listing the Certificant as Instructor*)
- Author a published article in a recognized dental or dental assisting journal. (*Accepted documentation: copy of published article, including name and date of publication*)
- Participate in a DANB Exam Committee/validity study/PDEP development (Note: PDEP development participants cannot use PDEP to renew or receive one (1) CDE hour for every two (2) exam items accepted by DANB. (*Accepted documentation: letter from DANB*)
- Certificants may earn all twelve (12) CDE hours required annually by DANB if they are currently enrolled in a college program to earn an advanced degree, but this option can be used for no more than five consecutive years. Twelve (12) CDE hours per year may be earned if enrolled at least half-time (earning 3 or more college credits/units) in a BA, BS, MA, or other recognized degree program. (*Accepted documentation: Document from college registrar's office indicating currently enrolled status.*)

DANB Board Elections and New Members

Continued from page 1

cluding Vice President) and the Pittsburgh Dental Assistants Society (including President). She has served on the advisory boards of dental assisting programs and conferences. She has held her current position as a chairside assistant since 1992, and has also authored articles and taught dental assisting courses.

Karen Minca, CDPMA, of Flint, MI joined the Board after nomination by the ADAA. Ms. Minca works for the Michigan Department of Corrections, where she teaches dental staff and has helped to open and staff a new dental clinic. She has 38 years of experience working in chairside or managerial positions in various dental offices.



Ms. Minca

Ms. Minca is the current Annual Session and Membership Chairman for the Michigan Dental Assistants Association. She has held various other positions within the organization, including two terms as President. She received the Sullivan Schein Award for Excellence from the Sixth District at the 2005 American Dental Assistants Association conference.

DANB welcomes these new and returning individuals to its Board of Directors, and looks forward to a year of strong leadership in 2006-2007.

ADAA Installs 2006-2007 Officers



Ms. Roberts

New officers of the American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA) were installed at the August 2006 ADAA annual conference in Denver.

Heading the list of officers is President Cathy J. Roberts, CDA, COA, CDPMA, MADAA, of Bloomington, IN. An ADAA member for 32 years, Ms. Roberts is the holder of dental assisting's highest educational award, Mastership in the ADAA.

Ms. Roberts has held every office in her local dental assisting association and is currently legislative chair and Radiology Technology Certification chair of the Indiana Dental Assistants Association. She has served as ADAA's Secretary and Vice President, has been on DANB's Board of Directors, and is an active member of the Alliance of the American Dental Association.

Ms. Roberts has worked as an expanded function chairside assistant and office manager for the past 27 years in the practice of Dr. Keith Roberts, to whom she is married.

Additional ADAA officers are:

- President-Elect Kimberly G. Bland, CDA, BS, Bradenton, FL
- Vice President Bettie S. Rogers, CDA, Hodges, SC
- National Secretary Shelley B. Douglas, CDA, Prairie Village, KS
- Immediate Past President Debra L. Von Alman, CDA, RDA, Richfield, MN

In the coming year, these officers will work toward the adoption of legislation mandating credentialing for clinical dental assistants and greater recognition of the assistant's role in the professional dental team. They will preside over Dental Assistants Recognition Week in March and the national annual conference in San Francisco in September with the American Dental Association. For more information, visit www.dentalassistant.org.

AGD Installs 2006-2007 Officers



Dr. DeGinder

New officers of the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) were elected and installed at the August 2006 AGD Annual Meeting in Denver.

Bruce R. DeGinder, DDS, MAGD, of Williamsburg, VA was installed as AGD President, a position which he will hold for one year.

Dr. DeGinder has served the AGD as member of the Strategic Advancement Committee, chair of the Council on Membership, Marketplace Task Force chair, and Strategic and Tactical Assessment and Response (STAR) program training specialist. He was the recipient of the 2003 AGD Distinguished Service Award.

Also elected and installed were:

- President-Elect Vincent Mayher, DMD, MAGD
- Vice President Paula Jones, DDS, FAGD
- Secretary David Halpern, DDS, MAGD
- Treasurer Jeffrey Cole, DDS, MBA, FAGD
- Speaker of the House Howard R. Gamble, DMD, FAGD
- Editor Roger D. Winland, DDS, MS, MAGD
- Immediate Past President Bruce A. Burton, DMD, MAGD, ABGD

Founded in 1952, the AGD has grown to become the world's second largest dental association (with more than 35,000 general dentist members), and is the only association that exclusively represents the needs and interests of general dentists. For more information, visit www.agd.org.

State of the

Pennsylvania

CDA's	810
COMSAs	10
CDPMAs	12
COAs	87

In May 2006, the General Assembly of Pennsylvania passed legislation appointing an Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA) to the Pennsylvania State Board of Dentistry. The EFDA will be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the a majority of the members elected to the Senate. The act took effect in July 2006.

On August 16, 2006, the contract officer of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania issued a Request for Proposal to develop a new examination for Pennsylvania Expanded Functions Dental Assistants. DANB responded by the September 19, 2006 deadline and hopes to be chosen to work with the Pennsylvania State Board of Dentistry in this important endeavor.

Tennessee

CDA's	1,204
COMSAs	15
CDPMAs	16
COAs	25

In May 2006, the Tennessee Board of Dentistry voted to approve an "In-Office Clinical Training" pathway for practical dental assistants. This entails the removal of the requirement for comprehensive courses for basic skills and any independent competency testing. These rules will take effect upon final approval by the attorney general and secretary of state, a process which may take several months.

While independent competency testing will no longer be required of dental assistants who wish to become Registered Dental Assistants (RDAs) in Tennessee, Tennessee's dental practice act will continue to recognize those assistants who hold the CDA credential as meeting Tennessee RDA requirements.

DANB Certificants Honored for 50-Year Career Milestone

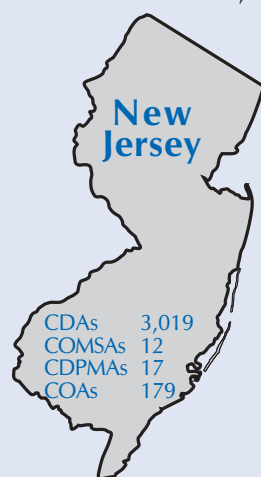
Since the beginning of DANB's Certificant Recognition program in 2002, two dental assistants have reached the milestone of 50 continuous years of DANB Certification. Sharon Borger, CDA of Rockaway, NJ and Ruth Waldo, CDA of Sandusky, OH will each be honored by DANB with a personalized pavement brick at the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry in Baltimore, MD.

Dental Patient Entrance Skin Exposure (ESE) Reports Now Available in New Jersey

Since April 2001, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Radiological Health (Bureau) has provided Dental Patient Entrance Skin Exposure (ESE) reports to medical, chiropractic, podiatric, and hospital facilities that perform radiographic exams. ESE is the amount of radiation exposure patients receive at the skin surface. On average, the Bureau has observed ESE reductions of 34-62% at these facilities while maintaining or improving the quality of diagnostic images. The Bureau believes that similar reductions in ESE can be accomplished in dental facilities.

To that end, the Bureau implemented a program designed to inform dental facilities of their ESE measurements and encourage them to decrease patient dose during dental radiography intraoral procedures.

Since 2002, all dental facility inspections have included a patient ESE measurement for the film speed used. These measurements are used to compare the facility's ESE with other facilities using the same speed/system.



In May 2005, the Bureau sent ESE reports to dental offices that had been inspected within the past two years. Each report contained the following information: the category (low, average, high, or extremely high) of the ESE measured at the facility's x-ray machine; a comparison of that ESE with that of other dental facilities using the same speed dental film; and guidance to help lower radiation exposure to patients and staff.

Over 60% of New Jersey's dental facilities use D speed film. However, D speed is the slowest dental film speed available and requires considerably more radiation than other speeds to achieve a diagnostic image.

After reviewing 8,474 ESE measurements taken between 2002 and 2004, the Bureau set low, average, high, and extremely high ranges for D, E, and F speed film and digital imaging systems. The Bureau does not currently have sufficient data to determine ranges for PSP (CR) systems. The average ESE ranges appear in the box to the right.

The Bureau encourages facilities to lower their ESE by adjusting radiographic technique settings and switch-

ing to faster speed films. It is easy and inexpensive to do so. The Bureau determined that F speed film is only slightly more expensive than D speed and produces high quality diagnostic images at significantly lower radiation dose. Many dentists have told the Bureau that, after a short adjustment period, they prefer the images they get with F speed film.

The Bureau hopes that the dental community will recognize the importance of lowering patient ESE and take the required action. If you have any questions about how your state might be able to implement an ESE measurement program, please contact Paul Orlando at paul.orlando@dep.state.nj.us or (609) 984-5634 for additional information, which you may then forward to your state's dental board or radiation control office.

Average ESE Ranges Determined by Bureau

Film Speed	Average ESE (range in mR)
D	150 to 350
E	101 to 170
F and Insight	95 to 135
Digital	21 to 100

People to Know

Jean Howlett, CDA, of Asotin, ID received the first annual Outstanding Dental Assistant Award (2005–2006) from the Idaho State Dental Association. Ms. Howlett



Ms. Howlett receives her award from ISDA Past President Dr. Glade L. Peterson

has been DANB Certified since 1975. Her accomplishments include working as a dental assistant for 32 years; teaching dental assisting courses at Lewis Clark State College; serving in various offices in her local dental assistants society; and serving as a teacher of dental health in local schools.

Vicki Wilson, CDPMA of Riceville, OH received public recognition from her community this summer when she passed DANB's Certified Dental Practice Management Administrator exam. The *Cleveland Daily Banner* published an article (June 2006) congratulating Ms. Wilson and emphasizing the amount of knowledge that a dental assistant must possess in order to pass the exam. Ms. Wilson has been employed at Cleveland Dental Associates since July 1999, where she currently serves as practice manager.

Congratulations to **Erin Dalton and Wendy Waers**, the first dental assistants to successfully complete the new Arizona Coronal Polishing (AZCP) exam. Ms. Dalton and Ms. Waers are both employed by Dr. Charles Lucero in Kingman, AZ.



Ms. Dalton and Ms. Waers proudly display their AZCP Certificates

Passing the AZCP exam and meeting the clinical skills requirement entitles an assistant to perform coronal polishing duties under the general supervision of a licensed dentist in Arizona. DANB administers the complete certificate program, a service that includes providing exam information, distributing applications, testing, issuing certificates, and responding to inquiries.

Dr. Howard Bell, nominated by ADA to the DANB Board of Directors, has been named 2006 Dentist of the Year by the Florida Dental Association (FDA). The award was presented in June at the Florida National Dental Convention in Orlando. The FDA honored Dr. Bell for the many leadership positions he has held within the organization, as well as for his positive attitude and his dedication to the betterment of the dental profession.▲



Dr. Bell

Qualified Site Visitors Needed for ADA Commission

The American Dental Association's (ADA's) Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) serves as the nationally recognized accrediting agency for dental, advanced dental, and allied dental education programs in the United States. The Commission receives its accreditation authority from the acceptance of the dental community and by the United States Department of Education (USDE), a governmental agency.

As the number of CODA-accredited dental assisting programs is on the rise, the CODA continues to seek additional qualified individuals to serve as dental assisting site visitors. Minimum qualifications to serve as a CODA-site visitor are as follows:

1. DANB Certification as a Certified Dental Assistant.
2. Full-time or part-time appointment with a CODA-accredited dental assisting program and an equivalent of three years full-time dental assisting education experience.
3. A baccalaureate degree or previous service as a Commission-appointed site visitor.

4. Completion of course work in educational methodology.
5. Letter(s) of recommendation in support of the nomination, including a letter of recommendation from the administration of the employing institution.

The CODA grants site visitor appointments each January. Individuals who are selected to serve as CODA-site visitors will receive comprehensive training at the ADA Headquarters, and can expect to participate in one to three site visits per year.

Nominations that are to be considered should be submitted no later than December 1, 2006.

For further information or to request a nomination form, please contact Ms. Sherin Tooks, Manager, Dental Assisting Education at the Commission on Dental Accreditation by calling 312/440-2705 or via e-mail at tookss@ada.org.

Free Dental Clinic in New Orleans Seeks Volunteers

It's not every day you see a person come into a dentist's office excited about getting a tooth pulled—unless you are one of the volunteers at Operation Blessing's free dental clinic in New Orleans. Dozens of patients wait, sometimes all day, to be treated by volunteer dental staff who are there to help Hurricane Katrina victims.

Operation Blessing staff and volunteers treat an average of 12-16 patients per dentist per day. Lines start forming as early as 2AM, and appointments for the day can be filled by 6AM, meaning that anyone who arrives later will not be seen that day.



One of the two free clinics is located in the Arabi section of St. Bernard (just seven blocks away from the ninth ward levee break); the other is in New Orleans East, an area that was flooded with seven to eight feet of water. The clinics have a total of six exam rooms, which contain running water, digital x-ray equipment, and comfortable patient waiting areas.

Operation Blessing, in conjunction with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals and the Louisiana Board of Dentistry, plans to continue providing dental care (Mon.-Fri.) through the end of 2006. There are opportunities available for dental assistants who would like to volunteer. Operation Blessing will provide volunteer healthcare professionals with room and board; only time, talent, and transportation to New Orleans is needed.

According to the dental practice act, a dental assistant in the state of Louisiana may perform these basic supportive functions under the supervision of a licensed dentist, without any specific education or training:

- Chart existing restorations and missing teeth
- Floss teeth

- Remove sutures, post-extraction dressings, and surgical ligature ties
- Place or remove ligatures
- Apply topical fluorides
- Take and develop dental radiographs and intraoral photographs
- Apply and remove rubber dams
- Give intraoral instructions and demonstrations on oral hygiene
- Assist chairside
- Take vital signs
- Place and remove temporary orthodontic separators
- Place or remove pre-formed crowns or bands for determining size
- Make preliminary study model and opposing model impressions
- Fabricate and remove interim/temporary crowns and bridges
- Remove cement from dental restorations and appliances with hand instrument (clinical crown only)
- Apply non-aerosol topical anesthetics
- Apply desensitizing agents
- Place a removable retaining device intraorally
- Remove final impressions
- Condition teeth prior to placement of orthodontic bands or brackets

Additional, expanded duties may be delegated to those assistants who have graduated from a dental assisting program accredited by the ADA's Commission on Dental Accreditation, or who has worked and has continued to work as a dental assistant since July 30, 1992.

Operation Blessing International Relief and Development Corp. is a nonprofit humanitarian organization. Since its inception in 1978, Operation Blessing has provided more than \$1.1 billion in goods and services to 184.9 million individuals in all 50 states and in 96 countries.

For more information on how to help, contact Scott Hill, Operation Blessing's National Volunteer Manager, at 757/226-3858 or scott.hill@ob.org.

Notable DANB Dates for 2006

Be sure to visit the DANB booth at the upcoming conventions and meetings listed below. Bring your current DANB wallet card to receive your credential ribbon and a special gift.

2nd Annual Dental Office Managers Meeting
October 6-7; Clearwater, FL
www.dentalmanagers.com

ADA Annual Session
October 16-19; Las Vegas, NV
www.ada.org

Greater New York Dental Meeting
November 24-29; New York, NY
www.gnydm.com

DANB headquarters will be closed for Thanksgiving (November 23 & 24) and Christmas (December 25 & 26).



Be on the watch for the results of DANB's 2006 Salary Survey! This survey, conducted every two years, provides insight into salary variances in the dental assisting profession. An article containing the results will appear in the next issue of *Certified Press* (Winter 2007).



The Dental Assisting National Board, Inc.
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DANB Details

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*Your phone calls are important to us.
Please note that it is DANB's policy to
return calls within two business days.*

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You Could Be Next!

Match your CE number with one of the randomly selected numbers listed below. Notify the DANB Marketing Department within 30 days of this newsletter's mailing to claim your \$50 prize. Be sure to include your name, address, and CE number.

194834	125824
178295	036777
169312	152544

The DANB Mission

DANB's mission is to promote the public good by providing credentialing services to the dental community. DANB accomplishes and measures the success of this mission through:

- a properly governed, financially secure, administratively sound organization;
- valid dental assisting exams;
- dental assisting recertification process integrity;
- visible, valuable and accessible DANB credentials;
- testing services for groups within the oral healthcare community; and
- information services for the oral healthcare community related to dental assisting credentialing and recertification.

DANB National Test Dates

Mark your calendars with these important written exam dates and deadlines for 2007.

2007 Written Exam Dates Application Deadlines

February 23 or 24	January 12
June 8 or 9	April 27
October 12 or 13	August 31

Remember: Computerized exams can be taken year-round and do not have deadlines.

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