



**Date:** April 24, 2017  
**To:** DANB Communities of Interest  
**From:** Dental Assisting National Board, Inc. (DANB)  
**Re:** Summary of major actions taken by DANB's Board of Directors at the Feb. 3-4, 2017, Winter Meeting

Below please find a summary of major actions taken by the DANB Board of Directors at its Feb. 3-4, 2017, Winter Meeting.

DANB Directors who attended the meeting were Chair Joanne Dawley, D.D.S.; Vice Chair Katharine Noble, CDA, CRFDA, HMC (FMF); Secretary-Treasurer Denise Romero, CDA, COA, RDA, M.A.; Lois Bell, CDA, CPFDA, CRFDA, FADAA; Patricia Capps, CDA, RDH, M.S.; Karen L. Comisi, CDA, RDA, FADAA; Michael Conte, D.M.D., M.P.H.; Sandra Garcia, CDA, RDA; Lindo Golodner, B.A.

DANB's Executive Director Cindy Durley, M.Ed., MBA, serves ex officio on DANB's Board. Cindy can be contacted at 1-866-357-3262 or [cdurley@danb.org](mailto:cdurley@danb.org).

### **DANB Exam Program Updates**

#### **Update on DANB's Content Validation Studies**

The Board received updates on upcoming Content Validation Studies (CVS) for the Certified Preventive Functions Dental Assistant (CPFDA) certification component exams, the General Chairside Assisting (GC) exam, and the Certified Restorative Functions Dental Assistant (CRFDA) certification component exams:

- In 2017, the CPFDA certification job analysis survey will be sent to current and former DANB CPFDA certificants and holders of the Coronal Polish, Sealants, Topical Anesthetic and Topical Fluoride certificates of knowledge-based competency who live in states where dental assistants are allowed by the state's dental practice act to perform the functions
- The GC job analysis survey will be sent out in early 2017 to a stratified-random sample of current DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) certificants and candidates who have passed the GC exam within the past four years but have not yet earned CDA certification.
- The CRFDA certification CVS will begin at the September 2017 EFDA exam committee meeting



### Change Coronal Polish Exam to Coronal Polishing Exam

The Board approved changing the name of the Coronal Polish exam to the Coronal Polishing exam to reflect the action of coronal polishing and because the term is more commonly used than “coronal polish.” The change is to be effective no earlier than Jan. 1, 2019. The exam blueprint and content coverage remain the same.

### DANB Candidate Services Updates

#### Update to CDA/GC Pathway I Deadline to Submit Proof of Graduation

The Board approved a recommendation to require CDA/GC exam Pathway I candidates (i.e., graduates of dental assisting programs accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation [CODA]) to submit proof of graduation within three months rather than up to six months of taking the exam, effective Jan. 1, 2018.

#### Update to COA and OA Exam Pathway IV

The Board approved removing “current COA certificant” and “former CDA certificant with orthodontic work experience” from the COA/OA Exam Pathway IV. A “current COA certificant” is not eligible to retake the OA exam per DANB policy, and a “former CDA certificant with orthodontic work experience” can apply under COA exam Pathway I.

#### Change in Return of Incomplete Applications

To protect the exam applicant’s sensitive information (e.g., personal identifiers and contact information), effective Jan. 1, 2018, DANB will only send the candidate a letter notifying the applicant why the application is incomplete and not return the incomplete application and any eligibility documentation. DANB staff will add notifications within the DANB exam application packets that if an application is incomplete, no submitted materials will be returned to the individual, and include additional reminders to candidates to keep copies of the application and documents they submit.

#### Updates to II.309.1 – Changes After Application Submission Rescheduling

The Board approved limiting the time frame to request a new testing window to 0-60 days rather than up to 120 days after the original testing window ends for the current \$60 fee, effective Jan. 1, 2018, or when DANB’s new database management system launches. In addition, effective immediately, all exam candidates who miss an exam appointment may reapply for a reduced fee. Previously, if an exam candidate missed an exam appointment for an exam with a fee of less than \$200, the candidate had to reapply and pay the full fee again.

#### Update to II.309.2 – Changes After Application Submission Rescheduling – Due to Emergency

Effective immediately, candidates who experienced a documented personal emergency on or within seven days before their scheduled exam appointment and who canceled the exam appointment at least 24 hours prior to the appointment may be eligible for a new 60-day testing window for no additional fee.



## **DANB Certificant Services Updates**

### **Update to CDE for Renewal Requirements**

Effective Jan. 1, 2018, a maximum of 8 credit hours earned in a 24-hour period can be used to meet DANB's recertification requirements.

Effective Jan. 1, 2018, candidates must earn at least 3 CDE credits in infection control, including 1 credit on OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens standard. Currently, certificants must earn two credits in infection control, with no requirement that one of those credits be on OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens standard. The updated language that will be effective Jan. 1, 2018 is as follows:

*All certificants, whether they hold one or more DANB certifications, must annually earn a minimum of three (3) Continuing Dental Education (CDE) credits that meet the following requirements:*

- *One (1) CDE credit on OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens standard (for example, certificants may use proof of meeting the federally mandated OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens standard training), and*
- *Two (2) CDE credits on infection prevention, control or safety (for example courses may include any topics listed in DANB's Infection Control exam blueprint, which includes but are not limited to information in the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens standard.*

## **Update on DANB Collaborations**

### **Collaboration with Temple University**

DANB and the DALE Foundation continue to collaborate with Temple University's Kornberg School of Dentistry on a post-baccalaureate program for aspiring dental students.

The goal of the post-baccalaureate program is to provide students who are interested in studying dentistry an opportunity to advance their education and improve their admission applications for dental school. The program began in June 2015; ultimately, 40 students participated in the 2015-16 program. Now in its second year, the program drew hundreds of applicants for the 2016-2017, from which 42 participants were enrolled.

During the first 10 weeks of the academic year, students enrolled in the Temple University Kornberg School of Dentistry's post-baccalaureate program receive education based on a dental assisting curriculum. To provide foundational education and to help to prepare the post-baccalaureate program students for the three components of DANB's National Entry Level Dental Assistant (NELDA) exam, Temple University requires students to complete DALE Foundation review courses covering DANB's RHS; Infection Control (ICE); and Anatomy,



Morphology and Physiology (AMP) exams; and provides them with access to the DALE Foundation's DANB RHS, ICE and AMP practice tests.

Before being allowed access to the dental school clinic, these post-baccalaureate program students are required to pass DANB's RHS, ICE and AMP exams, which are the component exams of DANB's NELDA certification program. The post-baccalaureate students serve as dental assistants to the current third and fourth year students in Temple University's Kornberg School of Dentistry.

After successfully completing the post-baccalaureate program, students who meet the admission requirements are conditionally admitted to Temple University's Doctor of Dental Medicine program.

In addition, in academic year 2016-2017, two internationally trained dentists took the DANB Radiation Health and Safety (RHS) exam as part of the requirements for entry into the Temple University's Kornberg School of Dentistry dental program. These students are required to pass DANB's RHS exam to ensure that they possess the minimum knowledge-based competency to safely expose patients to x-radiation during their dental school program. In the future, there will be up to 10 internationally trained dentists who will take the DANB RHS exam during the same time period as the post-baccalaureate students. While they are not a part of the post-baccalaureate program, these students are taking the DANB RHS exam (and will have access to the DALE Foundation DANB RHS Review Course and Practice Test) because of the relationship between Temple University and DANB/the DALE Foundation.

In academic year 2016-2017, all 42 students enrolled in the post-baccalaureate program passed all three components of DANB's NELDA exam (RHS, ICE, AMP). In addition, the two internationally trained dentists who took the DANB RHS exam during this same time period passed the exam.

#### Collaboration with OSAP

DANB and the DALE Foundation are collaborating with the Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention (OSAP) on a multi-year infection control education and credentialing initiative. The initiative will establish a standardized infection control educational program leading to a certificate, with future plans to develop a professional certification program that will result in a credential for those who pass. The Assessment-Based Certificate Program and professional certification program are being developed for those involved in providing infection prevention, control and safety in dental settings, or educating those who do. This initiative advances the organizations' missions, both of which relate to enhancing patient and practitioner safety.

DANB and OSAP will also reach out to communities of interest to participate in various advisory committees and forums.



### **Report from the DALE Foundation**

The DALE Foundation, the official DANB affiliate, held its Winter Meeting Feb. 1, 2016.

The DALE Foundation released its 24th product (co-owned with OSAP and co-branded OSAP-DALE Foundatio), a Continuing Dental Education Article (CDEA) module titled “Understanding CDC’s Summary of Infection Prevention Practices in Dental Settings.”

Two other new products are scheduled for release in FY 2016-17: an expanded functions practice test, for which item writing was completed in January; and a new 12-credit CDEA module covering dental assisting functions related to restorative dental procedures.

In January 2017, the DALE Foundation’s website was updated with a more modern design that more prominently features the most popular products. The product catalog page was also reorganized, so visitors can search for products by topic or category more easily.

The quantitative portion of the “Value of Dental Assistants to the Dental Practice” research project has been completed, and data analysis has begun, with results coming later in 2017.

### **The Liz Koch Memorial Scholarship**

In spring 2017, the DALE Foundation launched the 2017 Liz Koch Memorial Scholarship. Applications are being accepted through May 25, 2017. The winners will be announced in the fall 2017.

### **Upcoming DALE Foundation Board of Directors Meetings**

The DALE Foundation Board of Trustees will hold its next annual meeting Aug. 10, 2017, and its next winter meeting Feb. 1, 2018. Additionally, the Board of Trustees will meet by conference call throughout the year, between its two scheduled in-person meetings.

### **Upcoming DANB Board of Directors Meetings**

DANB’s Board of Directors will hold its next annual meeting Aug. 11-12, 2017, and its next winter meeting Feb. 2-3, 2018. Additionally, DANB’s Board of Directors will meet by conference call throughout the year, between its two scheduled in-person meetings.

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