

# AMERICAN SOCIETY for DENTAL ETHICS

A Section of the American College of Dentists

## Newsletter May 2024

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of ASDE is to lead education and scholarship in dental ethics.

### **Core Values of ASDE**

Leadership  
Community  
Education  
Collegiality  
Scholarship  
Service  
Professional integrity

### **Officers**

President: Kathryn Ragalis (2024)  
President Elect: Carlos Smith (2024)  
Treasurer: Phyllis Beemsterboer (2024)  
Past President: Odette Aguirre (2024)  
Members at Large:  
Catherine Sarkis (2025), Regina Messer (2025), Terrence Hoffeld (2026), Robert Stevenson (2026)  
ACD Liaison: Pamela Zarkowski  
Executive Director: Frederick More  
Newsletter: Phyllis Beemsterboer



### **ASDE Ethics Course**

The American Society for Dental Ethics is sponsoring a complimentary half-day CE course in conjunction with Tufts University Dental School on July 19, 2024 in Boston, MA (in-person and online attendance options available).

### **The Truth About Veracity**

#### **Course Summary:**

We face challenges about truth from all sides today. People hold truth telling to be a personal core value while facing misinformation and falsehoods. Practitioners, educators, researchers, and others for whom truth is essential are suspected of being untruthful. This course will explore Veracity.

Veracity is one of the basic principles in dentistry. Truthfulness impacts relationship between dentists and the various stakeholders within the dental profession, including students, peers, patients, staff, family members and friends. This course will explore our understanding of Veracity and its application. Through discussions and cases, participants will explore the ethical and professional considerations surrounding veracity and our responsibility as mentors and healthcare professionals.

#### **Course Objectives:**

1. Understand the impact of veracity.
2. Examine current practices, challenges, and ethical dilemmas related to truth-telling.
3. Discuss the application for veracity with others.
4. Establish strategies to practice Veracity during difficult conversations.

Follow this link for registration information:

[https://reg.learningstream.com/reg/event\\_page.aspx?ek=0057-0020-8545d1975982453e8381dfa8fc953505](https://reg.learningstream.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0057-0020-8545d1975982453e8381dfa8fc953505)

## **ASDE Annual Meeting 2024**

The annual program and meeting of ASDE was held virtually on March 14, 2024. The program theme was AI: Continuing the Conversation. ASDE members presented at the ADEA annual session (held live in New Orleans March 9-11) on this topic and our program built on this interesting issue. Artificial intelligence in many forms has become part of healthcare and education and there are ethical issues associated with it. There was a great presentation followed by a lively discussion from members. The business meeting immediately followed with reports from the officers and addressed the ASDE projects that are underway such as the curriculum modules and facilitator guides for the ethics videos available at [dentaethics.org](http://dentaethics.org)

A suggested book on AI is titled “Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach by Peter Russell and Stuart Norvig, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. It is available in paperback for \$27.80 on Amazon.



Visit our ASDE Website

[www.societyfordentaethics.org](http://www.societyfordentaethics.org)

## **ACD Revised Ethics Handbook for Dentistry**

The ACD handbook revision is complete and new copies are now available. Highlights to the revision include new core values and an ethical obligations section. The four pillars of ACD, ethics, professionalism, leadership, and excellence remain the same and are at the core of the ACD mission. The team that worked on this effort are ASDE members; Toni Roucka, Pamela Zarkowski, Joshua Bussard, Catherine Sarkis-Frankl, Nanette Elster and Matthew Sherriff. Thank you for a job well-done! The new Handbook will continue to be sent to US dental schools.

## **ACD Ethics Summit in Maryland**

ACD will be hosting an ethics summit on September 12 and 13, 2024 in Rockville, MD entitled Breaking Down the Silos: Dentistry’s Ethical Responsibility as a Partner in Healthcare.

### Program Description

Despite repeated calls for health integration, dentistry remains isolated from mainstream healthcare. The ACD acknowledges the Santa Fe Group continuum, Advance Health Equity - an alignment and action summit, and seeks to build on the ACD’s white paper, Healthcare Integration Through an Ethical Lens. The purpose of this summit is to assemble a diverse and interdisciplinary cohort of oral healthcare professionals, policymakers, researchers, and industry leaders to develop strategies that break down silos and promote interdisciplinary collaboration. This summit aims to facilitate collaborative discussions and knowledge exchange, providing a platform to address the critical challenges at the intersection of dentistry and broader healthcare. With targeted sessions, keynote presentations,

and interactive forums, the summit seeks to explore innovative ideas, share cutting-edge research, and foster partnerships that uphold dentistry's ethical responsibility as an integral partner in the larger healthcare ecosystem. This summit endeavors to inspire action, advance evidence-based practices, and ultimately contribute to improving healthcare delivery, alleviating health disparities, better patient outcomes, and greater healthcare system efficiency.

### Learning Objectives

1. Understand dentistry's ethical responsibility to be a partner in overall healthcare.
2. Review progress and acknowledge the 2021 Santa Fe Group Continuum, Advance Health Equity - an alignment and action summit.
3. Examine the challenges faced by the dental profession in breaking down silos between healthcare professions.
4. Formulate and prioritize strategies to overcome barriers.
5. Develop an agenda for ongoing collaboration among dental leaders.



### ***Test your Ethics Vocabulary***

What does demur (dih mur) mean?

- a. prudence in government and public affairs
- b. wickedness
- c. to make an objection especially on the grounds of ethical considerations
- d. agree or acquiesce.

Answer is at the end of the newsletter.

### ***Your Dues help ASDE***

**ASDE depends on dues paid by members to support activities. Your support is essential for ASDE to continue our programs, such as continuing education programming, development of resources, student awards, as well as possibly creating more opportunities for members. Your dues are integral to our success!**

Please consider making a dues payment to ASDE: Fellows pay \$95 annually, and Affiliate members pay \$135. If you are not required to pay dues to the College, ASDE is grateful for your voluntary support. Visit the link at <http://acd.org/>

We want to highlight some of our most recent activities. ASDE has developed Facilitator Guides for the ethics videos in the American College of Dentists online library. We are in the final stage of creating a four-year modular ethics course that can be used in educational institutions. The Board is beginning the development of an in-person major ethics course for educators and practitioners that will take place in the next one to two years. A half-day course will take place at Tufts Dental School on July 19, 2024. ASDE members assisted in revamping the ACD Dental Ethics Handbook.

ASDE has met the challenge of engaging new leadership and working closely with the American College of Dentists to engage College members in special ethics courses at the ACD Annual Session every year.

We hope you will consider paying your dues to assist us in achieving our mission: To foster thoughtful discussion of, encourage and provide a forum for scholarly reflection on, and stimulate and assist educational programs in the professional and ethical issues that arise in or are related to dental practice, dental education, and dental research.

**Letter from President/President Elect**

Will you consider volunteering?

Five years ago, the ASDE Board created a Special Committee on Leadership. The goal was to bring new leadership forward and increase voices creating new projects for ASDE. The committee has been successful in achieving the goal.

We are actively seeking a few new members for the committee for 2024-2025. This is an excellent way to become involved with ASDE, network with peers, and help with upcoming projects. Committee members are included in planning conference calls and the Summer Board Meeting. This year, the Summer Board meeting will be in Boston. It includes a half-day CE course on Friday, July 19 at no charge to attendees. The Board meeting follows on Friday afternoon. A planning session begins on Saturday morning and adjourns at 3 PM on Saturday.

We invite anyone who is interested to send an email that includes a short bio sketch and resume. Send this to the ASDE executive director, Fred More by June 30, 2024 at fgm10012@gmail.com

Kathryn Ragalis and Carlos Smith



**ASDE Summer Board Meeting  
July 2024**

The leadership of ASDE will meet in person on July 19-20, 2024 in Boston at Tufts University.

**Interesting Quotes**

*The one real object of education is to have a man in the condition of continually asking questions.*

Mandell Creighton 1843-1901

*The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.*



## **ACD Liaison Report**

ASDE members Odette Aguirre, Kathryn Ragalis, Carlos Smith, and Pamela Zarkowski presented at the fall 2023 ACD Annual Session. The title of the interactive presentation was *ACD Ethical Dilemma Videos – A Valuable Tool for Practitioners and Educators*. Members also presented two sessions at the 2024 American Dental Education (ADEA) Annual Session: *AI Chat GPT and the Unknown: Cultivating an Ethical Approach and Response*, Carlos Smith and Odette Aguirre and *Ethical Dilemma Refresh: Drafting Topical Scenarios*, Toni Roucka, Breacya D. Washington and Pamela Zarkowski. All presentations were well received.

The ACD Ethics Handbook was revised and remains a valuable resource for practitioners and educators. The Handbook discusses the Four Pillars of College Ethics, Professionalism, Leadership, and Excellence. The ACD CARES, a list of core values, emphasizes ACD's commitment to promoting compassionate and patient-centered oral health care, highlighting the organization's dedication to the well-being and general health of all patients, oral health care providers, and society. Two new sections, Patients and Society and Professionals and Co-Professionals, highlight professional obligations for all dental team members. The Handbook also provides resources for ethical decision-making. ASDE members, including Toni Roucka, Pamela Zarkowski, Catherine Frankl Sarkis, Joshua Bussard, and Nanette Elster, contributed to revising the ACD Ethics Handbook.

ACD Welcomed a new Executive Director, Michael Graham. He attended the April 4-6 Spring Board of Regents meeting. In addition to addressing the Board of Regent's business, the Regents also worked on ACD's Strategic Plan to identify action steps for implementing the plan. ASDE continues to support the development of D1 through D4 Ethics Curriculum Modules. D1 and D2 are

complete, D3 is almost completed, and D4 is in progress. We are grateful to Catherine Frankl Sarkis and Regina Messer for their dedication and work on this project. As liaison, I also contributed to the revision of the ACD Bylaws. I serve as a member of the Continuing Education Committee, which is currently planning the ACD 2024 Annual Session.

I am honored to serve as ASDE's representative on the Board of Regents.

Pamela Zarkowski

### ***Ethical Dilemma Videos***

The following videos are available at [dentaethics.org](http://dentaethics.org) at no charge. If an asterisk follows the title, a facilitator guide is also available to aid in the use of the videos.

ACD Ethical Dilemma--Emergency Exam\*

ACD Ethical Dilemma--The New Dentist\*

ACD Ethical Dilemma--Adolescent Patient\*

ACD Ethical Dilemma--Coach

ACD Ethical Dilemma--Difficult Disclosure

ACD Ethical Dilemma--Fair Payment

ACD Ethical Dilemma--Full Care

ACD Ethical Dilemma--Making Decisions\*

ACD Ethical Dilemma--Patient in Pain\*

ACD Ethical Dilemma--Service

ACD Ethical Dilemma--The Jacket

ACD Ethical Dilemma--Third Opinion

ACD Ethical Dilemma--Tooth Colored Restorations

ACD Ethical Dilemma--Uninvited Attention

ACD Ethical Dilemma--Who Cares for the Patient?

ACD Ethical Dilemma--Who Decides? \*



## ***Membership***

We encourage dental, dental hygiene and advanced program educators, as well as dental and dental hygiene practitioners to join ASDE. If you are a member, encourage your colleagues to join.

For membership applications please use the following addresses at the ACD office:

- ❖ Mail submissions:  
ASDE Membership  
American College of Dentists  
103 North Adams Street  
Rockville, Maryland 20850  
301-977-3223 ~ [office@acd.org](mailto:office@acd.org)
  
- ❖ Email Submissions: [office@acd.org](mailto:office@acd.org)

The answer to the vocabulary quiz is C.