

Officers 2020-2021

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A component of the  
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Dear MAPD Members,

I hope this letter finds you all healthy and recovering personally and professionally from the emotional and financial toll that the last few months has had on us all. It is my privilege to serve you, as President of the Michigan Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, for the upcoming year. I would like to extend my gratitude to our immediate Past President, Dr. Suzanne Port, for her dedication and service to our organization over the past 5 years. As always, our board members have been working hard to keep the Michigan Academy of Pediatric Dentistry running smoothly during these new and trying times.

My thanks to our President-Elect Dr. Neeru Ramaswami, and our board members Dr. Sam Blanchard and Dr. Jane Stieber for their continued commitment and hard work. We continue to be very grateful to have Carol Lutely as our executive secretary, as she continuously guides us and keeps things running smoothly. I also want to recognize Dr. John Deppen, our Public Policy Advocate, for his continued commitment to our organization. Dr. Deppen also serves on the Peer Review Committee for MAPD, and his years of service are greatly appreciated.

In addition to the many tasks Dr. Deppen undertakes for our membership, he is also currently involved in navigating the difficulties with access to operating room time in Michigan. Please forward any and all OR access problems or concerns you have to Dr. Deppen. He will then forward them to the AAPD and Dr. Paul Casamassimo, who is working on this issue at a national level. Dr. Deppen's email address is: [jhdeppen@gmail.com](mailto:jhdeppen@gmail.com). Dr. Sam Blanchard is the editor of our new website, which you can find at <https://www.michiganapd.org/home>. Dr. Blanchard is open to any suggestions you may have regarding the new site. Please feel free to reach out to him at any time.

Due to restrictions on the size of indoor gatherings in the State of Michigan, we made the decision to cancel our July 2020 continuing education meeting in Petoskey. As I write this letter, the restrictions continue in our state and the Director of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has limited indoor gatherings to 20 people per 1000 feet. Based on this restriction, in combination with the steady rise in percent of positive coronavirus tests over the last few weeks, we have decided to also cancel the February 2021 meeting which was originally scheduled to be held in Grand Rapids. This was a difficult decision for us to make, however it is our top priority to keep our membership and their friends and family safe and healthy. If you are in need of CE, please refer to the AAPD website for numerous online courses. As we are not able to meet in person, we are not currently able to vote on an incoming board member. This vote will be delayed until the September 2021 meeting.

***As we have had to cancel these two meetings, the board has voted to waive dues for the upcoming year (2021). This will apply to members in active status for 2020. Dues will start again for the year 2022.***

Our plan going forward for our CE Courses is as follows:

On September 17-18, 2021 our meeting will be held at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids. Suzan Gunn will be discussing the issue of embezzlement in the dental office. On February 11-12, 2022 we will meet at the Graduate Hotel in Ann Arbor. Dr. Margherita Fontana will give us an in-depth review of cariology. At that meeting we will also be offering a PALS course. And finally, on September 16-17, 2022 we will be at the Marriott in East Lansing. Jodi Schafer from Human Resource Management will be giving us tips and techniques for working with our teams. I'm very excited for our upcoming speakers and look forward to a time when we can all meet in person.

This has been a difficult year for everyone, and a very challenging time for the practice of dentistry. The coronavirus pandemic has required us to shut down our offices for extended periods of time. We had to learn how to safely return to work and provide care to our patients. We had to implement new infection protocols to protect our staff, ourselves and our patients. As the number of coronavirus cases in Michigan continues to rise, please know that the MAPD is here to support you. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or concerns you may have. I look forward to another year on the MAPD board and hope to see you all soon.

Respectfully,

Veronica Hamilton, DDS, MS  
MAPD President