



The Hispanic Dental Association's NEWSLETTER

December 2020



HAPPY HOLIDAYS & HAPPY NEW YEAR



Dr. Edwin A. del Valle-Sepúlveda
2020 HDA President

With the holidays already upon us, I take a moment to wish all in the great family of HDA members and friends, and all loved ones: health, safety, prosperity and Peace. Thank you for your commitment and collaboration to the HDA during the very challenging year which will soon come to an end.

Institutionally HDA began the year with four main goals: Significantly increase membership, showcase Hispanism (culture, language), promote fitness and overall wellness, and stimulate the “spirit of giving” among its members.

We said farewell to our Ms. Jen Blake, as she deservingly retired as HDA's Administrative Officer and Managing Director.

We welcomed to the HDA family Mr. Gilberto Rios-Lopez and Ms. Lydia Ruiz-Trinidad as Operations Manager and Member Services Coordinator, respectively.

We thrived throughout 2020, planned, scratched, re-planned and executed to the best of our ability. We were curve balls and fast straights in an unanticipated haphazard fashion..., and we have stayed in the game. We

have a “dream team” Board of Trustees and chapters’ leadership. We celebrated (and continue to celebrate) 30 years of history.

We completed a thematic program and came up with new offerings to all (current and prospective HDA members). We had the Virtual National Anniversary Toast in April, the Move-Up in May, the Virtual National Student Regional Meeting hosted by the University of Pennsylvania SDM in September, the “20 for 20 CE Webinars” which began in June, and the Virtual Annual Conference (with the yearly **Nuestros Niños** and **Orgullo** contests presentations and awardees announcements), in December.

As an added value to – in the Hispanic Dental Association, the Web Portal HDAssoc.org was upgraded and 18-20 contact hours of free live continuing dental education (CDE), were offered in the novel 20 for 20 virtual webinars.. We covered a wide array of topics like Dental Sleep Medicine, COVID-19 (of course), Pediatric Dentistry, the Dental Professions, Paranasal Sinus Disease and Medical Cannabis, etc., among others.

Membership, the lifeline of every organization, grew and became more diverse. *Have you brought any new members to HDA lately?* We welcomed 300 new professional members, 3 stellar Honorary Members that make HDA proud and new Student Chapters in New York (Stony Brook), Las Vegas, Georgia and Oregon.

We began to organize our “Virtual National Professional Chapter”, appointed Dr. Alejandro Aguirre as its inaugural president and started the creation of new professional chapters in NJ and central Florida. Be an ambassador for HDA membership. Give the gift of professional membership to all players in your practice team. Make it a New Year’s resolution. Every new member, makes HDA footprint more indelible.

We continued to renew and strengthen our relationships with sister associations (ADA, NDA, SAID, NHMA, AAWD, AGD, etc.), the HDA Foundation, ADEA, public agencies (PHS, CDC, FDA, etc.) and our supportive commercial partners (Colgate, P&G, S.R.L., DentaQuest, H. Schein, Pharmacist Mutual, Bank of America, etc....). We are grateful to all of them!

We will continue to approach other professional associations like the American Dental Hygienists Association (ADHA), the American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA) and the Dental Technologists Association (DTA), to reciprocally collaborate with them in bringing all valuable members of the oral healthcare team to our diverse membership. In making the HDA the “Casa Grande”, “Big Roof” or HOME of all Hispanic oral healthcare professionals communication started and will continue among other related groups, with the National Association of Filipino Dentists in America and the Peruvian American Dental Association (PADA).

In 2020 the Diversified Dental Society, Inc. (DDS, Inc), a collaborative confederation of the HDA, the NDA and the SAID (Society of American Indian Dentists) was born. Our own Anna M. Munne of Houston (2018 HDA President) and Lilia Larin of San Diego (2012 HDA President) are DDS, Inc inaugural president and treasurer, respectively. We have planted many seeds, which we will care for and surely enjoy their rich harvest in the future.

Late Mexican poet and diplomat **Jose Amado Ruiz de Nervo Ordaz**

(a.k.a. Amado Nervo, 1870-1919), said it well in his

“En Paz”: “ ¡Vida, nada me debes! ¡Vida estamos en paz!”

Rest assured, we made the best lemonade with the lemons we were given...

We look forward to 2021 with high hopes and aware that there are uncertainties, but continuing committed to our **mission**:

*“To be the leading voice for Hispanic Oral Health.
To promote the overall health of Hispanics and other underserved communities,
providing service, education, advocacy and leadership*

and our **vision**:

*the elimination of Oral Health disparities in the Hispanic
and other under-served communities*

Please consider **making a donation** to the HDA and HDAF (both 501-C-3 non-profit organizations), this season to help us continue our respective missions, and to develop new programs. Remember that donations are tax deductible as charitable contributions.

As we say farewell to our Immediate Past President **Ricardo L. Mendoza** and wish him many blessings in the coming year. We also welcome the new members of our Board of Trustees.

Rosa Chaviano Moran, DMD
2021 President Elect

Mercedes Mota Martínez, DDS
Secretary (2022 President Elect)

Jose I. Álamo, DMD
Treasurer

Ana Zea, DDS, DrPH
Trustee (2021 Elected Treasurer)

Christina Meiners, DDS
Trustee (2021 Elected Secretary)

Ana N. López Fuentes, DDS, MPH
Trustee

Yanina Jouzy, DDS
Trustee

Martha J. Mutis, DDS, MPH
Trustee

Gene Romo, DDS
Trustee

Iván Vázquez, DDS
Trustee

Herta Granado, D4 UPenn
Student Trustee

2021 New Board Members

Dr. Irubiel Barbosa
Trustee

Gabriel Pérez, D2 Tufts Univ
2021-2022 Student Trustee

Some additional tidbits and memories of 2020:

COVID-19 VACCINATION



Encouraged by the ravages of the current pandemic and unprecedented U.S. Government economic incentives, after initial approval by the European Medicines Agency in the E.U., and subsequent emergency approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), several international drug companies (BioN-Tech – Pfizer and Moderna), have made available and began distribution to the public two vaccines against COVID-19.

HDA supports prompt and widespread vaccination against COVID-19, respecting the scientifically established exceptions or contraindications, using a sequence of prioritization (in which healthcare workers, front line workers and the most vulnerable (the elderly and the medically compromised), are immunized first). Healthcare underserved population (including African-Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, illegal immigrants and other socioeconomically deprived communities), that have experienced the hardest the pandemic must be tended with priority and urgency.

While HDA respects individual beliefs, based on the abundant science proving the safety and effectiveness of the currently approved for distribution and administration COVID-19 vaccines, we strongly advise the healthcare professions and the public to accept this preventive immunization, for improved individual and collective health.

HDA's 30th Anniversary Art Poster Contest:

Deadline for submission of original works extended thru February 28, 2021

VIRTUAL 5K FUN Run/Walk: Registration and deadline for completion extended thru February 28, 2021

Recreational, non-competitive fitness activity. Proceeds toward HDA's student leadership development fund. Register at www.active.com

Notes on the first HDA Virtual Annual Meeting (December 4-5, 2020)

Congratulations to the winners of the Nuestros Niños and Orgullo Contests.

HDA expresses its gratitude to sponsors Colgate and Procter & Gamble, to our top notch lecturers (among these Dr. Jeff Paz and Dr. Maria de los A. Loza), and to our special guests:

2019-20 ADA President and HDA Honorary Member, Dr. Chad Gehani (New York, NY)

Also, thanks to the special guests, former MLB Catcher, Parkinson's Disease patient-spokesperson and Ironman triathlete, **Mr. Samuel A. Ubinas** (Caguas, PR), rising Stand Up Comedian **Mr. Erick Rivera**, and Engineer and Bacardi Rum renown Master blender, **Mr. Joe Gomez** (Guaynabo, PR)



Samuel A. Ubinas with Dr. Edwin A. del Valle-Sepúlveda, poolside.



NYC and LA's Erik Rivera



Bacardi's Joe Gomez BSIE

The Video on Demand CE Supplement to the Virtual Annual Meeting will be available for viewing by January 11, 2021. We appreciate your patience and apologize for the inconveniences resulting from the delayed availability of this program.

2020 HDA Annual Awards

Committee Chairs

Dr. Luz Marina Aguirre, New York, NY (Membership)
Dr. Carla J. de la Fuente, Chicago, IL (Communication and Social Media)
Dr. Michelle D. Aguilos-Thompson (Communications and Social Media)

“Unsung Heroes”

Dr. Martha Mutis, New York, NY
Carlos Sánchez BSDH, MPH, Los Angeles, CA
Dr. Luis Yepes, San Antonio, TX

“Ironwoman/Ironman”

Dr. Maritza Morell, Boston, MA
Dr. Tyrone Rodriguez, Norwalk, CT
Dr. Victor Rodriguez, Houston, TX

“Woman/Man of La Mancha”

Dr. Anna M. Munne, Houston, TX
Dr. Ricardo Y. Mendoza, Chicago, IL

HDA Committee of the Year

Service and Outreach Committee

Innovative Program

20 for 20 Virtual CE Lecture Series

Professional Chapter of the Year

New York Chapter

Student Chapters of the Year

Columbia University (NY)
Tufts University (Boston, MA)
University of Texas - Houston

A word on Depression and the Holidays...

Due to the Pandemic and its associated new order, this year the festivities are different. To better deal with your emotional health:

1. Stay in touch with loved ones. Use technology to stay connected.
2. Do what you enjoy
3. Rest plenty, recharge
4. Think of the less fortunate, help if you can
5. Get money off your mind
6. Stay eating healthy, take it easy with alcohol intake.
7. Look to the future with optimism. 2020 is overstated!

Get help if you need it. Seek out family or friends for support. If things get bad, talk with your healthcare provider or counselor.

2021 will hopefully afford us many things to celebrate, among them:

“Citius, Altius, Fortius”

2021: The year of the XXXII Olympiad



“Faster, higher, stronger...” The Olympic Motto (Pierre de Coubertin, International Olympic Committee, 1894).

In sports as in life, to participate is more important than winning . The essence is not to conquer, but to put up a good fight... (1908, Ethelbert Talbot, Bishop, U.S. Episcopal Church, PA).

Postponed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Games of the XXXII Olympiad will take place in Tokyo and other locations in Japan, from July 23, 2021 to August 8, 2021.

As a personal privilege, I take this opportunity to publicly express my love and utmost gratitude to:

My wife and sons: Dr. Lilian de Laosa, Dr. Alberto E. del Valle and to Alejandro M del Valle (Veterinary Medicine student), my late mother in law, Ms Evora L. Vazquez Rosales (RIP), my coworkers in private practice (my brother Dr. Marcos L. del Valle, Ms. Eulalia Maldonado, Ms. Luz A. Fonseca and Ms. Vilmarie Rivera), my coworkers in the staff of the Dental Service of the Veterans Administration Caribbean Healthcare System (in San Juan and Mayaguez, Puerto Rico), and all the great volunteer leaders in our HDA Board of Trustees, Committees, Professional and 'Student Chapters. A special thanks also to the superb HDA Administrative Staff (Dr. Manuel Cordero, Mr. Gilberto Rios and Ms. Lydia Ruiz)

Thank you for the help and understanding you afforded me; for all your support and for bearing with me throughout 2020.

We look forward to the New Year with great expectations, guided by 2021 HDA President Dr. Rosa Chaviano-Moran, to continue pursuing our goals, living up to our institutional mission and vision..

Best in 2021! Fair winds and following seas...

Edwin A. del Valle-Sepúlveda DMD, JD
2020 President

The HDA is a 501 c (3) non-profit national professional association, with varied membership, including dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, dental students, administrators and other auxiliary personnel.

It was established in 1990.

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