



2026 EL PASO DENTAL CONFERENCE

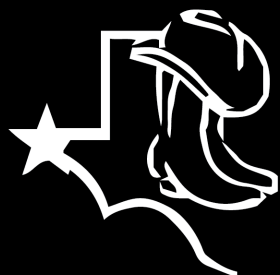
September 24-25 | El Paso, TX

EDUCATION PROGRAM

64TH ANNUAL MEETING

elpasodentalconference.com

Updated 9/18/2026



2026 EL PASO DENTAL CONFERENCE

September 24-25 | El Paso, TX

BROADEN YOUR HORIZONS AT THE EDGE OF TEXAS



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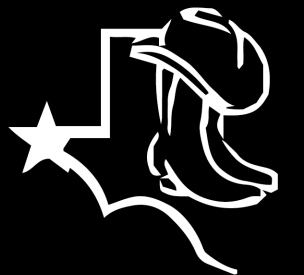
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**2026 EL PASO
DENTAL CONFERENCE**

September 24-25 | El Paso, TX

**BROADEN YOUR HORIZONS
AT THE EDGE OF TEXAS**



WELCOME

Welcome to the 2026 El Paso Dental Conference

Celebrating our 64th Year!

Dear Esteemed Participants,

On behalf of the entire organizing committee, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 64th Annual El Paso Dental Conference. For more than six decades, this meeting has brought our profession together at the edge of Texas, and it is an honor to open its doors to you once again.

As Chairman, I am proud to see dental professionals from across Texas, New Mexico, and Mexico gather here to learn from one another, strengthen our borderland community, and examine what is next in the field we all care so deeply about.

This year's program has been assembled with real intent. Our speakers were chosen to challenge and equip you — with sessions spanning periodontics, endodontics, airway, digital workflows, radiology, orofacial pain, pharmacology, and practice growth. Whether you sit chairside, work the front desk, or lead a practice, there is a seat here with your name on it.

I encourage you to make the most of every hour: attend a course outside your usual lane, walk the exhibit hall and meet the people building the tools you use every day, and reconnect with colleagues you may only see once a year. The hallway conversations are as much a part of this meeting as the lectures.

Finally, my sincere thanks to our exhibitors, volunteers, and organizing team. This conference exists because of their commitment, and we are grateful for every one of them.

Welcome to El Paso. Let's broaden our horizons together.

Warm regards,

Jose L. Alvarez, D.D.S.

Chairman, El Paso Dental Conference



Hosted by:

EPdds | El Paso District
Dental Society

Conference Sponsors:



MEETING INFORMATION

El Paso Dental Conference

September 24–25, 2026 | El Paso, Texas

Where Innovation, Education, and Community Meet — at the Edge of Texas!

Join us **September 24–25, 2026**, at the **Starlight Event Center in El Paso, Texas**, and experience the **64th Annual El Paso Dental Conference** — a vibrant, cross-border gathering of dental professionals from Texas, New Mexico, and Mexico.

Over **two exciting days**, you'll engage in cutting-edge CE sessions, explore a buzzing exhibit hall filled with the latest advancements, and build lasting connections through unmatched networking opportunities.

Come ready to **broaden your horizons**, gain valuable insights, and elevate your practice — all at the edge of Texas.

Learn boldly. Connect deeply. Practice better.

MEETING DETAILS

- ▶ The EPDC is a **regional dental educational meeting** hosted by the *El Paso District Dental Society*.
- ▶ Attracts **1000+ Dental Health Professionals** from the El Paso and New Mexico Borderplex.
- ▶ Supported by **40–50 Vendors** in the exhibit hall.
- ▶ **12 Hours of CE Credit** available over 2 days.
- ▶ Hosted at the **Starlight Event Center**, home of the 60-foot-wide LED video wall.

Register TODAY at elpasodentalconference.com





REGISTRATION FEES

2026 Registration Fees

Registration Category	On or before September 10th	After September 10th & Onsite
EPDDS Member Dentist	\$200	\$220
Military Dentist	\$200	\$220
ADA Member Dentist	\$200	\$220
Non-ADA Member Dentist	\$445	\$500
Hygienist	\$95	\$105
Dental Assistant	\$95	\$105
Office Personnel	\$95	\$105
Lab Technician	\$95	\$105
Spouse / Guest — Attending Courses	\$95	\$105
Spouse / Guest — Not Attending Courses	\$35	\$45
Student	\$40	\$50

Early registration closes September 10, 2026. Register on or before this date to lock in the lower rate — and to add a prepaid lunch, which is only available during early registration.



Register TODAY at elpasodentalconference.com

For assistance: elpasodentalconference@gmail.com · (915) 540-1705



2026 EL PASO DENTAL CONFERENCE

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BROADEN YOUR HORIZONS AT THE EDGE OF TEXAS



MEETING LOCATION



The 2026 El Paso Dental Conference
will be hosted at the

Starlight Event Center

6650 Continental Dr
El Paso, TX 79925

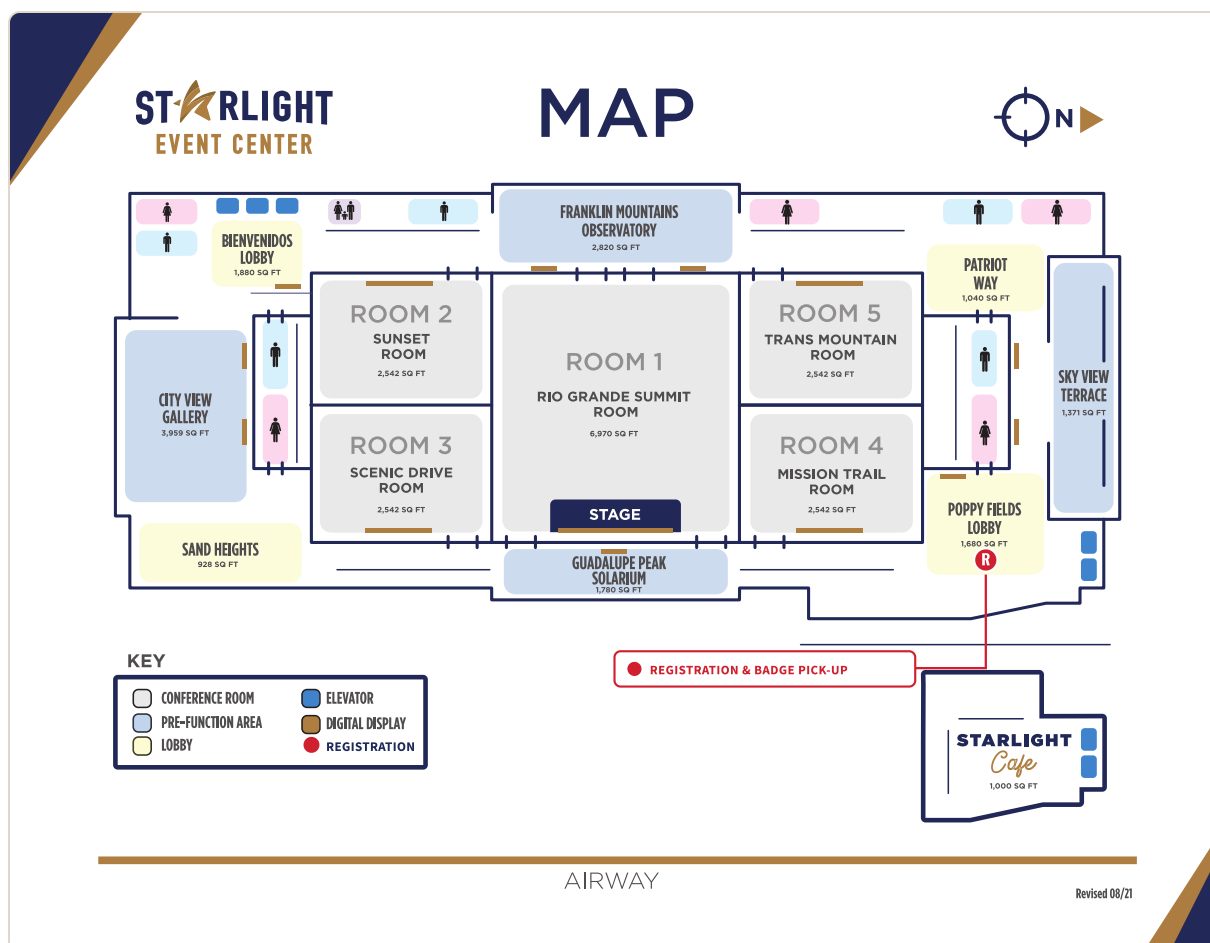


SCAN FOR
DIRECTIONS

FREE Parking in the parking garage and surface lots behind the event center.

All **CE Courses** and the **Exhibition** are located on the **6th floor**.

Registration & Badge Pick-Up are located in the **Poppy Fields Lobby**.





MEETING DETAILS

BADGES

Badges will be distributed on-site at the **Badge Pickup Booth** in the **Poppy Fields Lobby**. *Badges are not mailed in advance.*

Badges are required for entry into all courses and the exhibit hall. Lost badges can be replaced at **no additional cost** at the On-Site Registration Desk with valid ID.

COURSE TICKET POLICY

All courses at the El Paso Dental Conference are **ticketed**. **You must register for each course you plan to attend to receive CE credit.** The CE Verification system does not allow completion codes to be submitted for courses you did not register for.

CORRECTIONS / CHANGES / ADDITIONS

Corrections and updates can be made at **no charge** after initial registration. Log in at the registration portal or visit the **Registration Booth** in the Poppy Fields Lobby.

ONLINE HANDOUTS

Downloadable handouts can be accessed by registrants via the registration website portal. **Printed handouts will not be available on-site.**

CLASSROOMS

Classroom seating is limited and filled on a **first-come, first-served basis**. No additional attendees will be admitted once a room reaches capacity. Children are not permitted in classrooms. Please silence phones and pagers during all sessions.

CE REDEMPTION

To redeem CE and download your certificate, visit **elpasodentalconference.com**. You will need your **badge number** and the **course completion code** from each session. CE certificates will be available for six months following the event.

FOOD & DRINKS ON-SITE

Complimentary water and coffee will be available for all participants. The **Starlight Café**, located on the 1st floor, will be open for breakfast and lunch.

PREPAID LUNCH AVAILABLE

Skip the lines and stay focused on learning and networking. Add a **prepaid lunch** during online registration and your lunch ticket will be printed directly on your badge.

Choose from a variety of boxed lunches, including fresh salads and hearty sandwiches — each served with a dessert and beverage. Present your badge at the **Lunch Pickup in the Poppy Fields Lobby** (next to Registration).

*Only available during early registration — cutoff date **September 10, 2026**.*

COURSE DISCLAIMER

CE Courses provided by the El Paso District Dental Society are recognized by the TSBDE and other state licensing bodies and the Academy of General Dentistry. **In Texas, CE courses must be “technical or scientific as related to clinical care” to qualify for licensure CE credit.**

The El Paso Dental Conference and its sponsor, the El Paso District Dental Society, make every effort to present high-caliber clinicians in their respective areas of expertise. The presentations in no way imply endorsement of any technique, product, or service presented at the conference. The El Paso Dental Conference and El Paso District Dental Society specifically disclaim responsibility for any material presented.

QUESTIONS

Please contact us by email at **elpasodentalconference@gmail.com**, or by phone at **(915) 540-1705**.



FOOD & CONCESSIONS

Food & Concessions at the 2026 EPDC

Complimentary water and coffee will be available throughout the venue.

Lunch break: 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM both days

OPTION 1 · PREPAID BOXED LUNCH

Purchased in advance through the meeting registration website.

Choose from a variety of boxed lunches — fresh salads and hearty sandwiches — each served with a dessert and beverage. *Selections are shown during registration.*

Your meal voucher is **printed directly on your badge**. Pick up at the **Lunch Pickup in the Poppy Fields Lobby** (next to Registration).

Must be purchased by September 10, 2026.

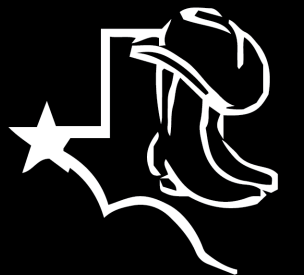
OPTION 2 · STARLIGHT CAFÉ

Located on the **1st floor**, open for **breakfast and lunch**. No advance purchase required.

Order via the **QR code below** or in person at the café.

Pre-orders are highly recommended for lunch to avoid the line and wait times during the midday break.





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2026 EXHIBITION

The **El Paso Dental Conference Exhibition** is where the future of dental healthcare comes to life — cutting-edge technology, groundbreaking products, and invaluable services under one roof. Located on the **6th floor** alongside all CE courses, the hall is steps from every classroom.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

7:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Exhibit hall open

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

7:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Exhibit hall open

1

DISCOVER WHAT'S NEXT

See the latest breakthroughs firsthand — from state-of-the-art imaging equipment to revolutionary treatment modalities reshaping the industry.

2

CONNECT WITH LEADERS

Engage in meaningful conversations with the experts and professionals driving innovation in dentistry, and network with peers from across the borderland.

3

ELEVATE YOUR PRACTICE

Explore products and services built to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of your practice — new materials, tools, and solutions in one place.



Please show your support for the dental industry's visionaries — our exhibitors. Your patronage fuels their commitment to advancing oral healthcare and the growth of our field.



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2026 EXHIBITORS

2026 EXHIBITORS

Updated 9/18/2026

Join these companies in the Exhibit Hall on the **6th floor** — open both conference days, steps from every CE course. Stop by, see what's new, and thank them for supporting the meeting.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| ◆ Air Techniques | ◆ ICT Solutions LLC | ◆ Shofu |
| ◆ AR Instrumed USA LLC | ◆ Ivoclar | ◆ Snap Dragon Dental Lab |
| ◆ Archy | ◆ Kerr Dental | ◆ Southwest Dental Refining |
| ◆ Bank of America | ◆ Kinetic Design Solutions & DEMSA Construction | ◆ Straumann |
| ◆ Benco Dental | ◆ LumaDent, Inc. | ◆ TechInnovation |
| ◆ Brasseler USA | ◆ MCNA Dental | ◆ The Gideons International |
| ◆ Carestream Dental | ◆ MediLoupes | ◆ United Healthcare Dental |
| ◆ Crest + Oral-B | ◆ Midwest Dental | ◆ VOCO |
| ◆ Dentsply Sirona | ◆ Nobel Biocare | ◆ Wingspan Transitions LLC |
| ◆ DEXIS | ◆ NSK America Corp | |
| ◆ Digital Doc | ◆ Optimize My GEO | |
| ◆ Doral Refining | ◆ Orascope | |
| ◆ Edward Jones | ◆ Patterson Dental | |
| ◆ El Paso Oral Surgery & Dental Ark | ◆ Premier Dental | |
| ◆ EPMG | ◆ Q-Optics | |
| ◆ Excellent Networks Inc. | ◆ Scentsy | |
| ◆ Henry Schein | ◆ SDI (North America) Inc. | |

43 exhibitors confirmed as of 9/18/2026 · sponsor-level companies in bold



Interested in exhibiting at the EPDC?

Contact the El Paso Dental Conference Administrator at elpasodentalconference@gmail.com or call (915) 540-1705. Booth space is limited and assigned in the order applications are received.



MEETING SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 Day One

EPDC REGISTRATION
7:30 AM – 5:00 PM

VENDOR EXHIBITION
7:30 AM – 5:00 PM

MORNING SESSION (A)

8:30–11:30 AM

CODE	COURSE & SPEAKER	ROOM
T01A	“Every Pill You Take...I’ll Be Watching You!” Successfully Interpreting Patients’ Complex Medication Histories Thomas Viola, R.Ph., C.C.P.	Room 1 Rio Grande Summit
T02A	Emerging Trends in Periodontics: New Dimensions in the Etiology and Treatment of Periodontal Disease Jim Grisdale, D.D.S.	Room 5 Trans Mountain
T04A	Airway: From Diagnosis to Treatment — Part 1 Naurine Shah, B.D.S., M.S. · William Graves, D.M.D.	Room 2 Sunset
T05A	40 Strategies in 3 Hours: Patient Experience, Marketing, Communication & Team Building for Dental Practices Minal Sampat, Marketing Strategist & Dental Hygienist NON-SCIENTIFIC	Room 3 Scenic Drive

LUNCH BREAK · 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

AFTERNOON SESSION (B)

1:00–4:00 PM

CODE	COURSE & SPEAKER	ROOM
T01B	“Sweet Dreams (Are Not Made of This)!” The Dental Implications of Diabetes Mellitus and the Medications Used To Treat It Thomas Viola, R.Ph., C.C.P.	Room 1 Rio Grande Summit
T02B	The Myths and Realities of the Link Between Oral Disease & Systemic Conditions and the Effects on Clinical Outcomes Jim Grisdale, D.D.S.	Room 5 Trans Mountain
T04B	Airway: From Diagnosis to Treatment — Part 2 William Graves, D.M.D. · Rouzbeh K. Kordestani, M.D., M.P.H.	Room 2 Sunset
T05B	Social Media for Dental Practices: From Engagement to Conversion Minal Sampat, Marketing Strategist & Dental Hygienist NON-SCIENTIFIC	Room 3 Scenic Drive

A = Morning Session · **B** = Afternoon Session · Each session = 3.0 CE hours · All rooms are on the 6th floor



MEETING SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Day Two

EPDC REGISTRATION

7:30 AM – 4:00 PM

VENDOR EXHIBITION

7:30 AM – 4:00 PM

MORNING SESSION (A)

8:30–11:30 AM

CODE	COURSE & SPEAKER	ROOM
F01A	“(Why Don’t You) Hit Me With Your Best Shots?” Mastering the Science and Safety of Dental Local Anesthetic Agents Thomas Viola, R.Ph., C.C.P.	Room 1 Rio Grande Summit
F02A	The Bioactive Revolution: Redefining Tooth and Pulp Care with Next-Gen Materials Ryan Walsh, D.D.S., M.S.	Room 2 Sunset
F03A	Soft Tissue Conditions Around Teeth and Dental Implants: Diagnosis and Management of Deficiencies and Complications Vahid Khoshkam, D.D.S., M.S.	Room 5 Trans Mountain
F04A	My Digital Practice: The Mundane to the Magnificent — Part 1 Michael Kroll, D.M.D., M.S., A.B.G.D., M.A.G.D. ALL DAY	Room 3 Scenic Drive

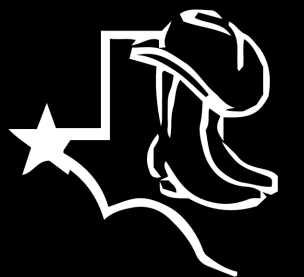
LUNCH BREAK · 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

AFTERNOON SESSION (B)

1:00–4:00 PM

CODE	COURSE & SPEAKER	ROOM
F01B	“Weed Will, Weed Will Rock You?” The Fall and Rise of Cannabis, Cannabinoids and Terpenes and Their Dental Considerations Thomas Viola, R.Ph., C.C.P.	Room 1 Rio Grande Summit
F02B	Beyond Materials: Mastering Irrigation, Obturation, and Technique for Predictable Endodontics Ryan Walsh, D.D.S., M.S.	Room 2 Sunset
F03B	Cracking the Code on Orofacial Pain Thomas Stark, D.D.S., M.S.S.	Room 5 Trans Mountain
F04B	My Digital Practice: The Mundane to the Magnificent — Part 2 Michael Kroll, D.M.D., M.S., A.B.G.D., M.A.G.D. ALL DAY	Room 3 Scenic Drive

A = Morning Session · **B** = Afternoon Session · Each session = 3.0 CE hours · All rooms are on the 6th floor



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COURSE INDEX & CE SUMMARY

CODE	COURSE TITLE	SPEAKER	AGD SUBJECT	CE	ROOM
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24					
T01A	"Every Pill You Take...I'll Be Watching You!"	T. Viola	010 Basic Science	3.0	Room 1 Rio Grande Summit
T02A	Emerging Trends in Periodontics	J. Grisdale	490 Periodontics	3.0	Room 5 Trans Mountain
T04A	Airway: From Diagnosis to Treatment — Part 1	N. Shah · W. Graves	370 Orthodontics	3.0	Room 2 Sunset
T05A	40 Strategies in 3 Hours	M. Sampat	550 Practice Management	3.0	Room 3 Scenic Drive
T01B	"Sweet Dreams (Are Not Made of This)!"	T. Viola	010 Basic Science	3.0	Room 1 Rio Grande Summit
T02B	The Myths and Realities of the Oral-Systemic Link	J. Grisdale	490 Periodontics	3.0	Room 5 Trans Mountain
T04B	Airway: From Diagnosis to Treatment — Part 2	W. Graves · R. Kordestani	310 Oral & Maxillofaci	3.0	Room 2 Sunset
T05B	Social Media for Dental Practices	M. Sampat	550 Practice Management	3.0	Room 3 Scenic Drive
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25					
F01A	"(Why Don't You) Hit Me With Your Best Shots?"	T. Viola	340 Anesthesia & Pain	3.0	Room 1 Rio Grande Summit
F02A	The Bioactive Revolution: Next-Gen Materials	R. Walsh	070 Endodontics	3.0	Room 2 Sunset
F03A	Soft Tissue Conditions Around Teeth & Implants	V. Khoshkam	490 Periodontics	3.0	Room 5 Trans Mountain
F04A	My Digital Practice — Part 1	M. Kroll	250 Operative (Restora	3.0	Room 3 Scenic Drive
F01B	"Weed Will, Weed Will Rock You?"	T. Viola	157 Substance Abuse	3.0	Room 1 Rio Grande Summit
F02B	Beyond Materials: Predictable Endodontics	R. Walsh	070 Endodontics	3.0	Room 2 Sunset
F03B	Cracking the Code on Orofacial Pain	T. Stark	200 Orofacial Pain	3.0	Room 5 Trans Mountain
F04B	My Digital Practice — Part 2	M. Kroll	610 Prosthodontics / F	3.0	Room 3 Scenic Drive

COURSES OFFERED

16

MAX CE PER ATTENDEE

12.0 Hours

CE PER SESSION

3.0 Hours

SPEAKERS

10

You must register for each course you plan to attend to receive CE credit. To redeem CE, visit elpasodentalconference.com with your badge number and the course completion code given in each session. Certificates remain available for six months after the meeting.



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T01A

MORNING SESSION

“Every Pill You Take...I’ll Be Watching You!” Successfully Interpreting Patients’ Complex Medication Histories

DAY & TIMES

Thursday, Sept 24

8:30–11:30 AM

CE CREDIT

3.0 Hours

AGD SUBJECT CODE

010 • Basic Science

AUDIENCE

**Dentist • Hygienist •
Assistants • Front Desk**

ROOM

Room 1
Rio Grande Summit

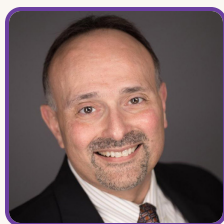
COURSE SUMMARY

With medically complex patients becoming a routine part of dental practice, understanding and interpreting extensive medication histories is more important than ever. This course equips dental professionals with the skills needed to analyze complex drug regimens, identify potential oral and systemic implications, and recognize red flags that may affect dental care. From cardiovascular and psychiatric medications to immunosuppressants and polypharmacy in older adults, attendees will learn how to assess risk, tailor treatment plans, and improve safety through effective communication and documentation.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Interpret complex medication lists and understand the dental implications of commonly prescribed drug classes.
- Correlate medications with underlying medical conditions to support accurate risk assessment and comprehensive treatment planning.
- Develop strategies for gathering complete and accurate medication histories, including over-the-counter drugs, dietary supplements, and unregulated substances.
- Recognize polypharmacy and high-risk combinations that may impact dental treatment or require medical consultation.

SPEAKER



Thomas Viola, R.Ph., C.C.P.

Tom Viola brings over 30 years’ experience as a pharmacist, educator, speaker, and author. His programs survey the most prevalent oral and systemic diseases and the drugs used to treat them, with emphasis on dental considerations and patient care planning. He serves on the faculty of twelve dental professional degree programs, has received multiple teacher-of-the-year awards, and is widely published in pharmacology, pain management, and local anesthesia.

Full bio at elpasodentalconference.com/speakers



T01B

AFTERNOON SESSION

“Sweet Dreams (Are Not Made of This)!” The Dental Implications of Diabetes Mellitus and the Medications Used To Treat It

DAY & TIMES

Thursday, Sept 24
1:00–4:00 PM

CE CREDIT

3.0 Hours

AGD SUBJECT CODE

010 • Basic Science

AUDIENCE

Dentist • Hygienist •
Assistants • Front Desk •
Lab

ROOM

Room 1
Rio Grande Summit

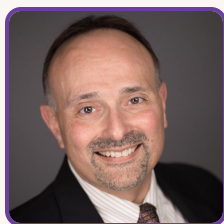
COURSE SUMMARY

Diabetes, as well as its numerous systemic complications, is often accompanied and exacerbated by other co-morbid conditions. This program provides an overview of diabetes mellitus, the arsenal of medications used in its treatment, and the complex interplay between diabetes and oral-systemic disease. Special emphasis is placed on new GLP-1 agonists such as Ozempic (semaglutide) and dual-action GLP-1/GIP agonists such as Mounjaro (tirzepatide) — for the treatment of diabetes and for the management of obesity.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Identify the different types of diabetes, including symptoms and differential diagnosis.
- Describe the complex interplay of diabetes and periodontal disease, as well as the origins of the oral-systemic connection.
- Review the various classes of medications used in the treatment of diabetes mellitus and its numerous co-morbidities.
- Explore patient management strategies essential for successful treatment planning and proper patient care.

SPEAKER



Thomas Viola, R.Ph., C.C.P.

Tom Viola brings over 30 years' experience as a pharmacist, educator, speaker, and author. His programs survey the most prevalent oral and systemic diseases and the drugs used to treat them, with emphasis on dental considerations and patient care planning. He serves on the faculty of twelve dental professional degree programs, has received multiple teacher-of-the-year awards, and is widely published in pharmacology, pain management, and local anesthesia.

Full bio at elpasodentalconference.com/speakers



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T02A

MORNING SESSION

Emerging Trends in Periodontics: New Dimensions in the Etiology and Treatment of Periodontal Disease

DAY & TIMES

Thursday, Sept 24
8:30–11:30 AM

CE CREDIT

3.0 Hours

AGD SUBJECT CODE

490 • Periodontics

AUDIENCE

**Dentist • Hygienist •
Assistants • Front Desk**

ROOM

Room 5
Trans Mountain

COURSE SUMMARY

Periodontal therapies are being introduced to dental professionals at a rapid pace. This course provides a comprehensive, in-depth view of current and future concepts of periodontal treatment. The etiology, diagnosis, and contemporary evidence-based treatment of periodontal diseases will be covered in detail. Participants will learn how to incorporate the latest technologies into everyday practice, including instrumentation, local delivery products, and host modulation drugs, and will learn the indications for non-surgical and surgical treatment.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Know the differences between past and contemporary etiology and diagnosis of periodontal disease.
- Compare the most current concepts of periodontal treatment and know when and how to apply them.
- Incorporate new technologies into practice, including instruments, equipment, local delivery products, and host modulation drugs.
- Understand and describe the fundamentals of the oral-systemic link.
- Negotiate between evidence-based and non-evidence-based periodontal therapies.

SPEAKER



Jim Grisdale, D.D.S.

Dr. Jim Grisdale is a board-certified specialist in both periodontics and prosthodontics. Formerly a full-time faculty member in the graduate periodontal residency program at Loma Linda School of Dentistry, he now lectures extensively across the United States, Canada, Southeast Asia, and Europe. He mentors periodontic and implant study clubs and has published on dentin sensitivity, implants, bone regeneration, and soft-tissue periodontal adhesives.

Full bio at elpasodentalconference.com/speakers



T02B

AFTERNOON SESSION

The Myths and Realities of the Link Between Oral Disease & Systemic Conditions and the Effects on Clinical Outcomes

DAY & TIMES

Thursday, Sept 24
1:00–4:00 PM

CE CREDIT

3.0 Hours

AGD SUBJECT CODE

490 • Periodontics

AUDIENCE

Dentist • Hygienist •
Assistants • Front Desk

ROOM

Room 5
Trans Mountain

COURSE SUMMARY

This course explores and explains in detail the interrelationships between systemic disorders and oral health. Emphasis is placed on the oral microbiome, symbiosis and dysbiosis, and the effect on healing from non-surgical to surgical treatments. The bi-directional link will be made between periodontal disease and systemic conditions — from understanding the pathways of inflammation and the host response to the impact on clinical practice outcomes. Risk assessment will be addressed in the context of the oral-systemic connection.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand current knowledge of the pathogenesis and mechanisms of periodontal disease.
- Describe the impact of periodontal disease on systemic conditions.
- Explain the influence of systemic disorders on periodontal health.
- Understand the oral-systemic link and how it can affect treatment outcomes.
- Look to future trends for causal-effect relationships between oral and systemic diseases.

SPEAKER



Jim Grisdale, D.D.S.

Dr. Jim Grisdale is a board-certified specialist in both periodontics and prosthodontics. Formerly a full-time faculty member in the graduate periodontal residency program at Loma Linda School of Dentistry, he now lectures extensively across the United States, Canada, Southeast Asia, and Europe. He mentors periodontic and implant study clubs and has published on dentin sensitivity, implants, bone regeneration, and soft-tissue periodontal adhesives.

Full bio at elpasodentalconference.com/speakers



T04A

MORNING SESSION

Airway: From Diagnosis to Treatment — Part 1

DAY & TIMES

Thursday, Sept 24
8:30–11:30 AM

CE CREDIT

3.0 Hours

AGD SUBJECT CODE

370 • Orthodontics

AUDIENCE

Dentist • Hygienist •
Assistants • Front Desk •
Lab

ROOM

Room 2
Sunset

COURSE SUMMARY

Dr. Naurine Shah leads much of the discussion involving airway diagnosis, oral function, chewing patterns, swallowing, tongue posture, growth and development, and myofunctional considerations. The session also covers CBCT evaluation, sleep studies, home sleep testing, wearable technologies, and practical screening tools.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Recognize clinical signs and symptoms associated with airway dysfunction.
- Understand tongue function and craniofacial growth.
- Identify appropriate patients for sleep testing or referral.
- Incorporate airway screening into routine dental examinations.
- Understand the interdisciplinary approach to airway diagnosis.

SPEAKERS



Naurine Shah, B.D.S., M.S.

Dr. Naurine Shah is a board-certified orthodontist who completed her orthodontic residency at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She specializes in developmental and functional concerns including mouth breathing, sleep-disordered breathing, tongue thrust, and parafunctional habits, emphasizing early intervention and airway health. Among the first Certified Orofacial Myologists in Canada, she has authored multiple publications, served on the IAOM Board of Directors, and is an Ambassador for The Breathe Institute in Los Angeles.

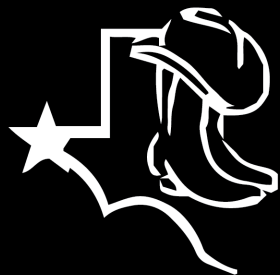
Full bio at elpasodentalconference.com/speakers



William Graves, D.M.D.

Dr. William Graves is a board-certified oral and maxillofacial surgeon and the Founder, President, and Chief Medical Officer of Full Smile Management, a multi-specialty dental organization with practices across Texas. His clinical interests center on airway health — obstructive sleep apnea, craniofacial growth, tongue function, maxillary expansion, MARPE, frenectomy, and orthognathic surgery. He lectures nationally and internationally and is Founder and President of the Full Smile Foundation.

Full bio at elpasodentalconference.com/speakers



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T04B

AFTERNOON SESSION

Airway: From Diagnosis to Treatment — Part 2

DAY & TIMES

Thursday, Sept 24

1:00–4:00 PM

CE CREDIT

3.0 Hours

AGD SUBJECT CODE

310 • Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

AUDIENCE

Dentist • Hygienist •
Assistants • Front Desk •
Lab

ROOM

Room 2
Sunset

COURSE SUMMARY

The afternoon session focuses on MARPE, frenectomy, interdisciplinary treatment planning, and selected orthognathic surgery concepts. Dr. Rouzbeh Kordestani, MD, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon, participates with a focused presentation on septoplasty and turbinate reduction and their role in comprehensive airway management.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the indications and limitations of MARPE.
- Review the role of frenectomy.
- Recognize nasal obstruction and its impact on airway disorders.
- Understand septoplasty and turbinate reduction.
- Identify patients who may benefit from orthognathic surgery.
- Better understand interdisciplinary airway care.

SPEAKERS



William Graves, D.M.D.

Dr. William Graves is a board-certified oral and maxillofacial surgeon and the Founder, President, and Chief Medical Officer of Full Smile Management, a multi-specialty dental organization with practices across Texas. His clinical interests center on airway health — obstructive sleep apnea, craniofacial growth, tongue function, maxillary expansion, MARPE, frenectomy, and orthognathic surgery. He lectures nationally and internationally and is Founder and President of the Full Smile Foundation.

Full bio at elpasodentalconference.com/speakers



Rouzbeh K. Kordestani, M.D., M.P.H. • Plastic & Reconstructive Surgeon

Dr. Rouzbeh Kordestani completed his general surgery residency at UCSF–East Bay and a two-year plastic surgery fellowship at the University of Oklahoma. For the past 22 years he has practiced in Amarillo and the Texas Panhandle, performing hundreds of complex plastic, reconstructive, hand, and microsurgery cases. He is the former Chief of Surgery at Northwest Texas Healthcare System and an Assistant Professor of Surgery at Texas Tech.

Full bio at elpasodentalconference.com/speakers



T05A

MORNING SESSION

40 Strategies in 3 Hours: Patient Experience, Marketing, Communication & Team Building for Dental Practices

DAY & TIMES

Thursday, Sept 24
8:30–11:30 AM

CE CREDIT

3.0 Hours

AGD SUBJECT CODE

550 • Practice Management & Human Relations

AUDIENCE

Dentist • Hygienist •
Assistants • Front Desk •
Lab

ROOM

Room 3
Scenic Drive

*** THIS IS NOT A SCIENTIFIC COURSE ***

COURSE SUMMARY

An engaging, interactive session for dentists, office managers, and teams. In three hours, Minal shares 40 strategies covering everything from elevating the patient journey — appointment to appreciation — to diverse marketing ideas that engage current and new patients, and initiatives that strengthen team culture. Learn about tools, resources, and how to leverage AI to prioritize, delegate, communicate, and lead effectively. Expect quick wins, live mini-workshopping, scripts you can use the next day, and smart ideas that fit real schedules and budgets.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Learn diverse dental marketing strategies, from traditional to digital, that encourage practice growth.
- Gain the skills to acquire and use powerful video testimonials that showcase your practice's success.
- Obtain team-building ideas that boost communication and trust.
- Leverage resources, tools, and AI to prioritize, delegate, and communicate effectively.

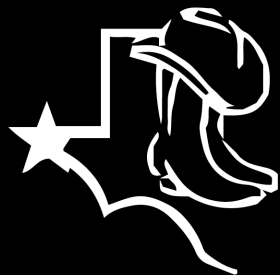
SPEAKER



Minal Sampat, Marketing Strategist & Dental Hygienist

Minal Sampat is a bestselling author, marketing strategist, social media coach, and dental hygienist. She launched her first company by breaking a Guinness World Record and has since helped hundreds of dental practices grow production while reducing marketing spend. She is the founder of Marketologist™ and CE on the Beach™, and her strategies have been featured on Forbes.com seven times in the last six years.

Full bio at elpasodentalconference.com/speakers



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T05B

AFTERNOON SESSION

Social Media for Dental Practices: From Engagement to Conversion

DAY & TIMES

Thursday, Sept 24

1:00–4:00 PM

CE CREDIT

3.0 Hours

AGD SUBJECT CODE

550 • Practice Management & Human Relations

AUDIENCE

Dentist • Hygienist •
Assistants • Front Desk •
Lab

ROOM

Room 3
Scenic Drive

*** THIS IS NOT A SCIENTIFIC COURSE ***

COURSE SUMMARY

Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, TikTok — where should you begin, and how can you use social media to grow your practice? This interactive, workshop-style course includes hands-on training for ads and capturing video testimonials (scripts included). Learn how to build an effective social media presence, navigate algorithms with confidence, and create posts that highlight your unique services. Minal also shares time-saving tools, copywriting tips, and strategies to engage current patients, strengthen your brand, and grow your practice.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Learn what, when, and how to use social media for conversions.
- Gain actionable insights and implementation tools you can use immediately to improve your social media pages.
- Discover the latest tactics and trends, including video and content redistribution.
- Learn how to create targeted social media ads.

SPEAKER



Minal Sampat, Marketing Strategist & Dental Hygienist

Minal Sampat is a bestselling author, marketing strategist, social media coach, and dental hygienist. She launched her first company by breaking a Guinness World Record and has since helped hundreds of dental practices grow production while reducing marketing spend. She is the founder of Marketologist™ and CE on the Beach™, and her strategies have been featured on Forbes.com seven times in the last six years.

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F01A

MORNING SESSION

“(Why Don’t You) Hit Me With Your Best Shots?” Mastering the Science and Safety of Dental Local Anesthetic Agents

DAY & TIMES

Friday, Sept 25

8:30–11:30 AM

CE CREDIT

3.0 Hours

AGD SUBJECT CODE

340 • Anesthesia & Pain Management

AUDIENCE

**Dentist • Hygienist •
Assistants • Front Desk**

ROOM

Room 1
Rio Grande Summit

COURSE SUMMARY

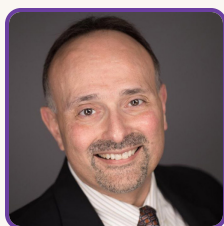
Effective Pain Management Starts In The Chair

Local anesthesia is foundational to pain control in dentistry, but its effective and safe use requires more than just technical skill — it demands a deep understanding of pharmacology, patient-specific considerations, and evolving clinical protocols. This course provides an in-depth review of local anesthetics used in dental practice, including mechanism of action, dosage guidelines, pharmacokinetics, contraindications, and potential complications. Special attention is given to patient-specific modifications, drug interactions, management of adverse reactions, and current best practices. Ideal for both dentists and dental hygienists, this course bridges science, pharmacology and therapeutics to enhance patient safety, comfort, and outcomes.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Explain the mechanism of action of local anesthetic agents and the real reasons for anesthesia failure.
- Differentiate between the two major classes of local anesthetic agents with respect to their metabolism, adverse effects, drug interactions, and contraindications.
- Discuss the rationale for the use of vasoconstrictors in local anesthetic solutions and their potential effects in common organ system disease states.
- Specify the various local anesthetic agent combinations most commonly used in dentistry and the rationale for their use in specific clinical situations.

SPEAKER



Thomas Viola, R.Ph., C.C.P.

Tom Viola brings over 30 years’ experience as a pharmacist, educator, speaker, and author. His programs survey the most prevalent oral and systemic diseases and the drugs used to treat them, with emphasis on dental considerations and patient care planning. He serves on the faculty of twelve dental professional degree programs, has received multiple teacher-of-the-year awards, and is widely published in pharmacology, pain management, and local anesthesia.

Full bio at elpasodentalconference.com/speakers



F01B

AFTERNOON SESSION

“Weed Will, Weed Will Rock You?” The Fall and Rise of Cannabis, Cannabinoids and Terpenes and Their Dental Considerations

DAY & TIMES
Friday, Sept 25
1:00–4:00 PM

CE CREDIT
3.0 Hours

AGD SUBJECT CODE
157 • Substance Abuse

AUDIENCE
Dentist • Hygienist •
Assistants • Front Desk

ROOM
Room 1
Rio Grande Summit

COURSE SUMMARY

The DEA considers cannabis to have no accepted medical use, and therefore it is illegal to possess. Yet almost every state has enacted legislation aimed at legalizing or decriminalizing cannabis for medical or recreational use. Despite this rise in social and legal acceptance, public health concerns regarding the use of cannabis remain — especially among dental professionals, since the major routes of administration of cannabis involve the oral cavity. This program introduces dental professionals to the pharmacology of cannabis, including its various dosage forms, routes of administration, and adverse reactions. Special emphasis is placed on the effects of cannabis use on oral health and dental treatment, as well as the proposed use of cannabis in dentistry for the management of patient anxiety and odontogenic pain.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Discuss the history and various types of cannabis, as well as its current legal status.
- Describe the pharmacology of cannabis, including its mechanism of action, routes of administration, available formulations, and proposed uses in dentistry.
- Explain the clinical considerations of cannabis use, including adverse reactions, drug interactions, contraindications, and effects on major organ systems.
- Explore the dental considerations of cannabis, including potential treatment modifications and strategies for patient care planning.

SPEAKER



Thomas Viola, R.Ph., C.C.P.

Tom Viola brings over 30 years' experience as a pharmacist, educator, speaker, and author. His programs survey the most prevalent oral and systemic diseases and the drugs used to treat them, with emphasis on dental considerations and patient care planning. He serves on the faculty of twelve dental professional degree programs, has received multiple teacher-of-the-year awards, and is widely published in pharmacology, pain management, and local anesthesia.

Full bio at elpasodentalconference.com/speakers



F02A

MORNING SESSION

The Bioactive Revolution: Redefining Tooth and Pulp Care with Next-Gen Materials

DAY & TIMES
Friday, Sept 25
8:30–11:30 AM

CE CREDIT
3.0 Hours

AGD SUBJECT CODE
070 • Endodontics

AUDIENCE
Dentist • Hygienist •
Assistants • Front Desk

ROOM
Room 2
Sunset

COURSE SUMMARY

Step into the future of dentistry where bioactive innovations are rewriting the rules of care. From vital pulp therapy breakthroughs to bioceramic sealers and next-generation composites, these game-changing materials are transforming how we preserve teeth, enhance workflows, and maximize patient outcomes. You'll explore the latest strategies for managing complex cases, discover how to integrate bioactive solutions seamlessly into your practice, and gain practical tools that elevate both efficiency and predictability. Packed with cutting-edge science and real-world applications, this session will equip you to deliver confident, contemporary care while positioning your practice at the forefront of modern dentistry.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Describe the latest advances in bioactive materials, including pulp therapies, bioceramic sealers, and composites.
- Evaluate how bioactive innovations can improve clinical workflows and patient outcomes.
- Apply practical strategies for integrating bioactive solutions into everyday endodontic and restorative care.
- Develop greater confidence in managing complex clinical cases using modern bioactive approaches.

SPEAKER



Ryan Walsh, D.D.S., M.S.

Dr. Ryan Walsh is a board-certified endodontist in private practice in Keller, Texas, and a Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics. For over a decade he has taught dentists and endodontists evidence-based, patient-centered care. His research focuses on bioceramic materials, resorption, irrigation technique, and cracked teeth. He holds a faculty appointment at Texas A&M College of Dentistry and has been voted a Fort Worth "Top Dentist" for ten consecutive years.

Full bio at elpasodentalconference.com/speakers

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A = Morning (8:30–11:30 AM) · **B** = Afternoon (1:00–4:00 PM) · **A/B** = All Day

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F02B

AFTERNOON SESSION

Beyond Materials: Mastering Irrigation, Obturation, and Technique for Predictable Endodontics

DAY & TIMES
Friday, Sept 25
1:00–4:00 PM

CE CREDIT
3.0 Hours

AGD SUBJECT CODE
070 • Endodontics

AUDIENCE
Dentist • Hygienist •
Assistants • Front Desk

ROOM
Room 2
Sunset

COURSE SUMMARY

By shifting the focus from *what* materials we use to *how* we use them, this course provides evidence-based, practical protocols for irrigation, instrumentation, and obturation. Participants will explore how to seamlessly integrate CBCT (Cone Beam Computed Tomography) into their workflow to map complex root canal systems and identify resorptive defects before a file ever touches the tooth. We will explore irrigation beyond simply filling the canal with chemicals to mastering fluid dynamics and advanced activation techniques that eradicate biofilm from complex anatomy, and focus on executing true three-dimensional hydraulics that ensure a dense, void-free obturation from the apex to the coronal interface. Walk away with the tools to eliminate guesswork, reduce procedural errors, and improve long-term treatment outcomes.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Interpret 3D imaging to identify complex anatomical variations, calcifications, and missed canals to prevent iatrogenic errors.
- Design a highly effective irrigation protocol using acoustic, ultrasonic, or negative-pressure activation to clean lateral canals and complex isthmuses.
- Understand single-cone obturation and warm vertical compaction techniques to ensure a dense, predictable apical and coronal seal.
- Execute canal instrumentation strategies that respect natural anatomy while confidently managing roadblocks like calcified canals.

SPEAKER



Ryan Walsh, D.D.S., M.S.

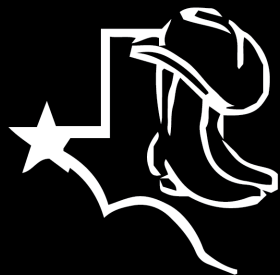
Dr. Ryan Walsh is a board-certified endodontist in private practice in Keller, Texas, and a Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics. For over a decade he has taught dentists and endodontists evidence-based, patient-centered care. His research focuses on bioceramic materials, resorption, irrigation technique, and cracked teeth. He holds a faculty appointment at Texas A&M College of Dentistry and has been voted a Fort Worth “Top Dentist” for ten consecutive years.

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F03A

MORNING SESSION

Soft Tissue Conditions Around Teeth and Dental Implants: Diagnosis and Management of Deficiencies and Complications

DAY & TIMES

Friday, Sept 25
8:30–11:30 AM

CE CREDIT

3.0 Hours

AGD SUBJECT CODE

490 • Periodontics

AUDIENCE

**Dentist • Hygienist •
Assistants • Front Desk •
Lab**

ROOM

Room 5
Trans Mountain

COURSE SUMMARY

This evidence-based lecture reviews the diagnosis, prevention, and management of mucogingival and peri-implant soft tissue deficiencies, highlighting their impact on long-term treatment success. Participants will learn to recognize common soft tissue deficiencies and complications, understand the biologic principles that influence treatment outcomes, and evaluate contemporary surgical and non-surgical treatment options.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Describe the anatomy, biology, and clinical significance of periodontal and peri-implant soft tissues.
- Differentiate between mucogingival conditions affecting natural teeth and peri-implant soft tissue deficiencies.
- Assess gingival phenotype, keratinized tissue width, vestibular depth, recession defects, and peri-implant soft tissue characteristics using contemporary diagnostic methods.
- Identify etiologic and risk factors contributing to mucogingival and peri-implant soft tissue deficiencies and complications.

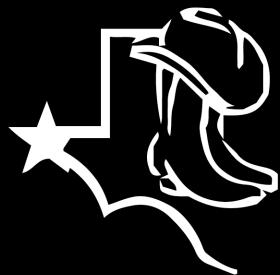
SPEAKER



Vahid Khoshkam, D.D.S., M.S.

Dr. Vahid Khoshkam is a board-certified periodontist and Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology. He completed his specialty training and a Master of Science in Craniofacial Biology at USC, where he is now an Adjunct Assistant Professor. He maintains a private practice in El Paso focused on periodontal plastic surgery, implant dentistry, and soft tissue augmentation. An ITI Fellow, he has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications and lectures internationally.

Full bio at elpasodentalconference.com/speakers



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F03B

AFTERNOON SESSION

Cracking the Code on Orofacial Pain

DAY & TIMES

Friday, Sept 25

1:00–4:00 PM

CE CREDIT

3.0 Hours

AGD SUBJECT CODE

200 • Orofacial Pain

AUDIENCE

Dentist • Hygienist •
Assistants • Front Desk

ROOM

Room 5

Trans Mountain

COURSE SUMMARY

This course provides clinicians with a practical approach to the evaluation and management of patients with TMD and other chronic orofacial pain conditions. Topics include background on contemporary pain management along with the pertinent epidemiologic, anatomical, and neuroanatomical factors related to pain. Emphasis is placed on establishing an accurate diagnosis and on using both conventional and complementary strategies to manage orofacial pain.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- List the key components of a comprehensive orofacial pain evaluation.
- Identify features related to common orofacial pain conditions.
- Provide an accurate orofacial pain diagnosis.
- Recognize factors that can contribute to chronic pain.
- List treatment strategies for patients with TMD and other orofacial pain conditions.

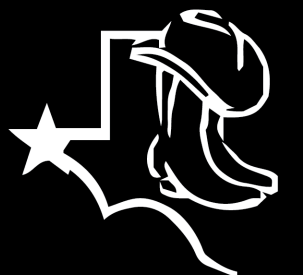
SPEAKER



Thomas Stark, D.D.S., M.S.S.

Dr. Thomas Stark is Chief of Graduate Dental Education and Dean of the U.S. Army Postgraduate Dental School. He earned his D.D.S. at the University of Iowa and completed residencies in pediatric dentistry at Texas A&M and orofacial pain at the University of Kentucky. Board-certified in pediatric dentistry, orofacial pain, and special care dentistry, he has 25 years of experience in military settings and has served as scientific lead for a pain and sensory trauma research team.

Full bio at elpasodentalconference.com/speakers



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F04A

PART 1 · MORNING

F04B

PART 2 · AFTERNOON

My Digital Practice: The Mundane to the Magnificent

DAY & TIMES

Friday, Sept 25

8:30–11:30 AM &

1:00–4:00 PM

CE CREDIT

6.0 Hours

AGD SUBJECT CODES

A 250 · Operative (Restorative) Dentistry

B 610 · Prosthodontics / Fixed

AUDIENCE

Dentist · Hygienist ·
Assistants · Front Desk ·
Lab

ROOM

Room 3
Scenic Drive

COURSE SUMMARY

This course follows one practice's path into fully digital dentistry — what drove the decision, what got in the way, and what the results look like chairside. Participants will walk through a complete digital system from intraoral capture through CAD, CAM, and connectivity, then explore a standardized template for same-day dentistry covering single crowns, implant planning and restoration, and anterior esthetic mock-ups. The session also addresses where analog still earns its place, how added services can grow practice volume, and how post-milling characterization turns an ordinary milled crown into a restoration worth showing off.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Evaluate the clinical and business rationale for adopting a digital workflow, and identify the common barriers to getting started.
- Describe the components of a complete digital system — from intraoral capture through CAD design, CAM milling, and inter-device connectivity.
- Apply a standardized template for same-day digital dentistry across single crowns, implant planning, implant restorations, and anterior esthetic mock-ups.
- Integrate photography, standardized supplies, and analog materials — including PVS and bite registration for dentures — to strengthen digital treatment planning.
- Expand practice volume and community engagement through services not currently offered, such as sports mouthguard clinics, sleep apnea scanning, and clear aligner therapy.
- Perform post-milling esthetic characterization to transform a routine milled crown into a magnificent final restoration.

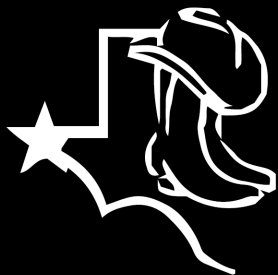
SPEAKER



Michael Kroll, D.M.D., M.S., A.B.G.D., M.A.G.D.

Dr. Michael Kroll is a U.S. Army dental leader, educator, and digital dentistry expert. He serves as Program Director of the AEGD-12 residency at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and has advised the Army Dental Corps Chief and the Defense Health Agency on integrating CAD/CAM and 3D printing to maximize operational readiness. He is board-certified, a Master in the Academy of General Dentistry, an ADA “10 Under 10” honoree, and a Fellow of the American and International Colleges of Dentists.

Full bio at elpasodentalconference.com/speakers



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