

# THURSDAY 5.15.25

## Keynote Speaker

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM | CE: 1 hr. Practice Management

## Courageous Leadership-"Living a Life of Influence"

**Speaker:** [Dan Meers](#)

**Bio:** Dan Meers goes to work each day like many other men, dressed in a suit. The only difference is that instead of wearing a tie with his suit, Dan wears a tail. You see, Dan is a professional mascot. Dan began his career in 1986 at the University of Missouri-Columbia, dressed as the Truman Tiger. He was selected as the nation's #1 college mascot in 1989 and began receiving offers to use his talents at the professional level. He began his professional career as Fredbird, the mascot for the St. Louis Cardinals. Soon he would trade his bird suit to become a wolf. Today Dan is widely known as KC Wolf, the official mascot of the Kansas City Chiefs. He travels throughout the United States and the world entertaining thousands of people both in and out of costume. Dan is in high demand not only as mascot, but also as a humorous and motivational speaker. His enthusiasm, optimism, and love for life are contagious and makes Dan an inspiration to all those he meets.

**Course Description:** Dan Meers came within inches of losing his life while practicing a bungee jump and zip line stunt at Arrowhead Stadium...home of the Kansas City Chiefs. What Dan anticipated being the thrill of a lifetime ended up being the spill of a lifetime. The stunt went terribly wrong, and Dan plummeted 75 ft. before crashing into the stadium seats. Miraculously Dan survived. During this powerful presentation Dan will share his incredible story and the important lessons that he learned during his long journey to recovery about leadership and about life.

## CE Course

9:15 AM – 12:15 PM | CE: 3 hrs. Practice Management

## Professional Protector Plan® for Dentists Risk Management Seminar (Dentists Only)

**Speaker:** Dr. John Vaselaney (Sponsored by [Goodman Gravley](#))

**Bio:** Dr. John Vaselaney is the Director of Risk Management for the Professional Protector Plan® for Dentists, where he oversees the program's risk management activities and serves as a resource to insured dentists, dental organizations, underwriters and claim specialists. He has presented over 300 dental risk management programs nationally and internationally to dentists, dental students, and dental staff on a variety of risk management topics, and is the primary author of the program's dental risk management resources. Dr. Vaselaney has held the position of chief dental officer at a community health center and a mid-sized dental support organization, where his activities focused on quality of care, risk management, and compliance. He has also served as vice chairman and director of quality assurance for a hospital dental department, administrative faculty of a dental general practice residency program, and as a consultant for a national firm providing professional consulting services to the dental benefit insurance industry.

**Course Description:** Dentists and dental teams strive to safely provide quality care that results in good treatment outcomes and satisfied patients. However, things don't always go as planned. This course will help dentists and their staff to identify risks in dentistry and take steps that reduce the likelihood of a dissatisfied patient, a dental board complaint, or even a malpractice claim. We'll provide you with practical tips and techniques to help you better manage patients and their care, and reduce the chance of an undesired outcome.

After this course, you should be able to:

- Communicate more effectively with patients, staff, and colleagues
- Create documentation that supports your care and reduces risks
- Use the informed consent process to educate patients and improve their understanding
- Identify and manage the risks associated with patient assessment and clinical care
- Recognize and respond appropriately to adverse events and untoward outcomes

**CE Course**

9:15 AM – 12:15 PM & 1:15 PM – 4:15 PM (Repeat Course) | 3 hrs. Academic or Clinical

**Talking Dirty: "An Enlightening & Engaging Presentation on OSHA & Infection Control"**

**Speaker:** [Karen Daw](#)

**Bio:** Karen completed her education and worked at Ohio State University, serving as the Assistant Director for the Sterilization Monitoring Service and Director of Clinic Health and Safety within the College of Dentistry. As a speaker, consultant, and OSHA authorized trainer, Karen infuses hands-on activities, exercises, insightful stories, and dental and medical-specific examples into her work. As a result of Karen's work, professionals across the globe have gained the confidence to meet regulatory standards, implement lean processes, create safer work environments, provide excellent care, and maintain the bottom line.

**Course Description:**

*"Is it really annual safety training time? Again?"*

*"How can we possibly remember all the rules and regulations, and what do we actually need to be doing anyway?"*

*I know, I know, ...OSHA...CDC...IC...PPE...wake me when it's over."*

Even if you think you've heard it all before, you've never heard it the way Karen Daw, "The OSHA Lady," delivers safety training for dental and medical professionals.

With a fresh, fun, and efficient approach, Karen keeps things moving, always grounded in real-world examples of what can go wrong (sometimes in a matter of seconds) if we let our guard down.

Complacency is the enemy in infection control and safety; Karen's in-depth informative workshops put principle into practice by taking an unexpected and engaging approach to compliance training topics like hand hygiene, sharps safety, instrument sterilization, and appropriate barriers for bloodborne, contact, droplet, and airborne pathogens. So, leave the OSHA and CDC binders on their shelves for a little while and let Karen guide your team through an entertaining, interactive, and potentially life-saving refresher course exclusively tailored for those working in healthcare.

Learning Objectives:

1. Understand federal laws and guidelines regarding infection control and prevention
2. Discuss new and upcoming regulatory standards that pertain to healthcare practices
3. Apply Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requirements specifically to healthcare practices
4. Illuminate the role and responsibility of the infection control coordinator
5. State principles of Global Harmonized System training (mandatory as of 2013)
6. Learn the optimal design of central sterilization, cleaning and sterilizing protocols, biological and chemical monitors, sterilizer options, pouches, wraps and more
7. Demonstrate how to conduct a Personal Protective Equipment assessment
8. Describe the contents of an Exposure Control Plan and Post-Exposure Protocol
9. Define how to test and maintain waterlines
10. Name the ten most common OSHA healthcare citations and how to avoid them
11. Gain the skills and understanding to rock your compliance program

**CE Course**

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM | CE: 2.5 hrs. Academic or Clinical

**Don't Be So Sensitive: "Managing Dentinal Hypersensitivity Pre & Post Debridement"**

**Speaker:** [Dr. Joy Void-Homes](#)

**Bio:** Dr. Joy D. Void-Holmes brings nearly 30 years of experience in oral care, empowering audiences through education on self-care, boundaries, and professional growth. She covers a wide range of clinical topics, including instrumentation, infection control, cultural diversity, and implicit bias. Dr. Joy is the creator of the P3 hands-on instrumentation workshops designed to help clinicians develop and deliver mastery in their craft. As the founder of Dr. Joy, RDH, she advances the dental hygiene profession through education, research, and product testing. She is also the co-founder of JELL-ED, creator of the Dental Hygiene Student Planner™, and a skilled technical writer. Dr. Joy serves in numerous influential roles, including as a member of the CDCA-WREB-CITA examination board, the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners, the editorial advisory board for Inside Dental Hygiene, and the advisory board for RDH Magazine. She actively participates in several professional organizations, further demonstrating her commitment to the field. Her academic achievements include a dental hygiene certificate from Howard University, a Bachelor of Science from the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, and both a Master's and Doctorate of Health Science from Nova Southeastern University.

**Course Description:** Dentinal hypersensitivity is a common dental condition that affects approximately 57% of the general population. Dentinal hypersensitivity can be caused by a variety of factors; however, one cause often overlooked or simply ignored is improper manual and ultrasonic instrumentation. The good news is clinical management of dentinal hypersensitivity is possible. This course will explore effective stroke dynamics to reduce the incidence of dentinal hypersensitivity caused by improper instrumentation. A thorough discussion of treatment options to address patient discomfort pre and post debridement will be had.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Identify the clinical signs and symptoms of dentinal hypersensitivity
2. Review cause of dentin exposure
3. Examine basic instrumentation techniques that facilitate effective, comfortable, and patient-centered care
4. Explore treatment modalities that address patient comfort pre and post periodontal debridement

## CE Course

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

### Turning Ordinary into Extraordinary

**Speaker:** [Dr. Ankur Gupta](#)

**Bio:** Dr. Gupta graduated from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry in 2004. In 2005, after completing a one-year General Practice Residency in Cleveland, Ohio, he and his partner Dr. Nisha Gupta started North Ridgeville Family Dentistry. In addition to founding North Ridgeville Family Dentistry, Dr. Gupta is a member of the American Dental Association, Greater Cleveland Dental Society, Ohio Dental Association, ADA Success Speaker Corp, and an active board member and speaker for Catapult Education's Speaker Bureau. He happily shares the failures and successes with dental and community groups throughout the country, always ending his presentations with practical, implementable and step-by-step ways to be better.

**Course Description:** Dentistry is hard. At times, patients have gag reflexes, big tongues, poor oral hygiene, or a multitude of other factors that make working on them difficult. Then, our wonderful team members can sometimes be moody, late, forgetful, or tired. To make things even worse, us dentists have our own set of flaws that don't serve us, our team, or our patients. How can such a collection of frustration and annoyance lead to an absolutely remarkable, positive and inspiring profession? Join Dr. Gupta in this highly relatable and entertaining presentation where he combines tech, systems, psychology, and innovation to transform your dental practice.

Objectives:

- Gain strategies and tools for inspiring a culture of self-directed leaders in the practice
- Explore a culture of autonomy in which team members feel ownership with practice improvement and implementation
- Discuss several highly relatable clinical scenarios that can be highly simplified using the most current and up-to-date technology and resources
- Learn the current mindset and expectations of today's patient
- Discover the most common causes of burnout, and how to avoid them
- Learn new techniques, exercises, and technology to maintain healthy back, neck, and hands

## CE Course, Lunch, & Networking

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

### Early Career Dentist Lunch with Tips & Pearls Contest

*Free for dentists 10 years or fewer out of dental/grad school attend for FREE!*

**Speakers:** South Dakota Dentists

**Course Description: Attention early career dentists and long-serving dentists alike!** Following Dr. Gupta's, "Turning Ordinary into Extraordinary", join dentists from around the state and learn their favorite "Tips and Pearls." This is a wonderful chance to network with SDDA leadership and dentists from around the state, while learning valuable pieces of advice and insights from experienced practitioners that focus on best practices for patient care, clinical techniques, and practice management. Vote on your favorite, enjoy lunch, and take back vital information to your practice!

## **CE Course**

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM | CE: 1.5 hrs. Practice Management | Office Admin. Track

## **Making Medicaid Work in a Busy Private Practice**

**Speaker:** Dr. Jessica Meeske

**Bio:** Jessica Meeske is a pediatric dentist in Hastings and Grand Island, NE. She is the senior partner of Pediatric Dental Specialists of Greater Nebraska. Dr. Meeske is a graduate of Hastings College and the University of Missouri-K.C. College of Dentistry. She completed further training in pediatric dentistry and public health at the University of Iowa, College of Dentistry. Dr. Meeske is board certified by the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry. Dr. Meeske is the past vice chair of the ADA's Medicaid Reform Task Force and the Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention. She is the president of the Nebraska Dental Association where she has helped to pass more than 17 bills in the Legislature related to access to dental care. She has served in numerous leadership roles with American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry including past trustee and councils of membership, dental benefits, and government affairs. Dr. Meeske is part-time faculty at UNMC College of Dentistry where she teaches dental students and residents in pediatric dentistry. She has given numerous lectures on children's oral health issues with specific emphasis on ensuring that all children have affordable access to dental care. She provided testimony to the U.S. House Subcommittee on RAC Audits and Aging for the ADA. Furthermore, she was invited to the White House for the signing of the Affordable Care Act by President Obama. Dr. Meeske's awards include the AAPD's Pediatric Dentist of the Year, NDA's 2003 New Dentist of the Year, the ADA's 2002 Golden Apple New Dentist of the Year, the Nebraska Rural Health Association's 2002 Health Care Provider of the Year, the University of Missouri, School of Dentistry's 2003 Young Alumnus of the year. Her colleagues have elected her into the American College of Dentists and the International College of Dentists. Dr. Meeske was selected by the UNMC's Chancellor to receive the Jack G. Elliot Award for Outstanding Service in Health Care to Nebraskans and in 2010 was awarded the Edward Shils Award, a national dental public service award.

**Course Description:** Seeing patients with Medicaid and working with Medicaid programs can be challenging. However, South Dakotans who rely on Medicaid need dental homes with dentists. In addition, the SDDA has been successful getting reimbursement increased. If dentists refuse this population care, not only will this population not get needed dental care, it could cause the fees to go back down. This presentation will discuss the challenges and offer solutions to be productive and successful caring for patients with Medicaid by exploring business, clinical, and public policy recommendations.

## CE Course

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM | CE: 3 hrs. Academic or Clinical

## The Paradigm Shift: "Reimagining Your Dental Hygiene Appointment"

**Speaker:** [Dr. Joy Void-Homes](#)

**Bio:** Dr. Joy D. Void-Holmes brings nearly 30 years of experience in oral care, empowering audiences through education on self-care, boundaries, and professional growth. She covers a wide range of clinical topics, including instrumentation, infection control, cultural diversity, and implicit bias. Dr. Joy is the creator of the P3 hands-on instrumentation workshops designed to help clinicians develop and deliver mastery in their craft. As the founder of Dr. Joy, RDH, she advances the dental hygiene profession through education, research, and product testing. She is also the co-founder of JELL-ED, creator of the Dental Hygiene Student Planner™, and a skilled technical writer. Dr. Joy serves in numerous influential roles, including as a member of the CDCA-WREB-CITA examination board, the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners, the editorial advisory board for Inside Dental Hygiene, and the advisory board for RDH Magazine. She actively participates in several professional organizations, further demonstrating her commitment to the field. Her academic achievements include a dental hygiene certificate from Howard University, a Bachelor of Science from the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, and both a Master's and Doctorate of Health Science from Nova Southeastern University.

**Course Description:** Can you imagine a dental hygiene appointment without the use of hand instruments that yield greater treatment outcomes for your patients? With this course, Dr. Joy helps you to reimagine your dental hygiene appointment by discussing the possibilities of achieving success in instrumentation through innovation. In this class Dr. Joy will address current paradigms related to diagnosing and treating diseases of the periodontium using the new AAP Periodontal Classification System. Dr. Joy will focus on the role of biofilm and the importance of preservation of tooth structure to achieve greater treatment outcomes. She will also present new technology that will enable the dental hygienist to provide effective therapy without the use of hand instruments based on evidence-based research. This technology will not only enhance the patient and operator experience but will allow the innovative dental hygienist to reimagine the implementation of their care. Attendees will be armed with the most current knowledge of advances in equipment, technology, and techniques.

Learning Objectives:

1. Avoid common problems of disease recognition using outdated principles for diagnosing periodontal disease
2. Use the most current equipment and technology to effectively treat patients with various levels of disease
3. Demonstrate effective techniques during manual and ultrasonic instrumentation to enhance the preservation of tooth structure
4. Incorporate technologies that facilitate removal of calculus and enhance the disruption of biofilm to achieve successful treatment outcomes
5. Be empowered to treat patients with a futuristic approach to providing care

## CE Course

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM | CE: 3 hrs. Academic or Clinical

# I'm Not Quite Healthy, but Not Quite a Cavity: "Understanding the Vast Continuum that Separates healthy Enamel on One Side, to a Lesion in need of a Drill and Fill, on the Other"

**Speaker:** [Dr. Ankur Gupta](#)

**Bio:** Dr. Gupta graduated from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry in 2004. In 2005, after completing a one-year General Practice Residency in Cleveland, Ohio, he and his partner Dr. Nisha Gupta started North Ridgeville Family Dentistry. In addition to founding North Ridgeville Family Dentistry, Dr. Gupta is a member of the American Dental Association, Greater Cleveland Dental Society, Ohio Dental Association, ADA Success Speaker Corp, and an active board member and speaker for Catapult Education's Speaker Bureau. He happily shares the failures and successes with dental and community groups throughout the country, always ending his presentations with practical, implementable and step-by-step ways to be better.

**Course Description:** Advances in imaging, lasers, and artificial intelligence have made it much easier to identify incipient enamel lesions way before they become frank cavitation requiring invasive interventions, usually involving an injection, a drill, and a costly restoration. These innovations have demonstrated to both dentists and their patients numerous small inter proximal or marginal areas of concern, but there has never been much consensus about what to do at that point. Fortunately, advances in preventative treatment have been just as impressive and innovative as the advances in diagnostic tools. In this highly pragmatic and entertaining presentation, Dr. Gupta introduces the numerous preventative strategies, when to use them and how to properly implement them in your already busy and productive clinical operation.

## Learning Objectives:

- Discover the extremely diverse offerings of topical preventative fluoride and silver diamide fluoride, and what the most appropriate clinical situations are for each
- Learn about how AI radiology interpretation is a must-have for any cutting edge clinical environment
- Discover the most up to date research about the best possible home care regimen (this one will surprise you)
- Realize the financial opportunities that will allow for your new preventative philosophies to maintain clinical profitability

**CE Course**

2:45 PM – 4:15 PM | CE: 1.5 hrs. Practice Management (Office Admin. Track)

## Understanding Poverty: "Practical Insights for Creating Positive Change in Your Practice"

**Speaker:** [Tracy Palecek](#)

**Bio:** Tracy is a Licensed Professional Counselor and Human Services professional who has a passion for helping those who are facing adversity. Tracy has over 20 yrs of experience working with trauma, poverty, and resiliency in those she has served. She has served as an advocate, program developer, disaster relief responder, community trainer, mental health therapist and mentor. She loves to work within systems to create change and help people find meaning and purpose in their lives. She is the CEO and owner of Palecek Therapy & Consulting and is blessed to spend her time between her therapy practice, public speaking, and consulting in areas of mental wellness, poverty reduction, and interpersonal skill building.

**Course Description:** Following Dr. Jessica Meeske's course join this session where we will discuss the dynamics of poverty in our communities, the stereotypes, and the most common barriers that people in poverty face. Learn how brain science and crisis living impacts individuals and families and make it difficult to navigate middle class systems. Finally, we will explore 4 research-based methods that dental practices can implement to mitigate these social issues resulting in increased revenue, client retention and a more positive workplace culture.

**Social**

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

## Exhibit Hall Reception

**Room:** Rushmore 1-3 | SDDA Exhibit Hall at The Monument

Gather and network with the Exhibit Hall Vendors. Hear about the latest products and services in a relaxed environment, ask questions, see demonstrations and enjoy light appetizers and beverages!

\*Earn 5 hours Clinical-Exhibit Hours for visiting the Vendor Hall and Attending the Meeting!

**Social**

5:30 PM – 10:00 PM

## President's Mixer & Foundation Fundraiser

**Room:** Dakota Ballroom | Double Tree by Hilton

**Comedian:** [John DeBoer](#) & [Colt 45 Entertainment \(DJ Services\)](#)

Make plans to attend the 2025 President's Mixer and South Dakota Dental Foundation Fundraiser! John DeBoer, a comedian from Minneapolis, MN will be joining us, and there will be music, games, prizes, food and drinks! This is a great way to bring the entire team together for a night of fun and laughter!



