

The NDA Today

The NDA is comprised of 35 state and local component societies throughout the US and Caribbean. It represents over 10,000 Black dentists and oral health professionals, and over 35 million African Americans. The organization is expanding its membership to include dental health professionals in Africa, Canada, Saudi Arabia, South America, and Latin America. It is also the parent organization of the Student National Dental Association National Dental Hygienists Association, National Dental Assistants Association, National Dental Association Foundation, University Student National Dental Association and Auxiliary to the National Dental Association.

The NDA Annual Convention includes all of these groups and features scientific sessions, the Women's Health Symposium, the Minority Faculty, Administrators and Practitioners Consortium, the Corporate Roundtable Meeting, the Leadership Institute, technical exhibits, and alumni reunions.

Since its inception in 1913, the NDA has provided its members with educational and technical information on oral health care improvements and patient service delivery. Updates on research and technological advances have made it possible for members to excel in their professional pursuits.

Current Programs

- **NDA Speakers Bureau Training:** Established through a grant from GlaxoSmith Kline in 2006, this training program is designed to develop media spokespersons and world class scientific presenters from among the ranks of NDA members.
- **SNDA Impressions Program:** This signature program of the Student National Dental Association was developed by the students as a "student-to-student" recruitment and mentoring program to increase the number of underrepresented minorities in dentistry. It is endorsed by the NDA, and NDA member dentists provide support for the students through the NDA local component societies. The Redwoods Group provided initial support for the program in 1998.
- **Bright Smiles/Bright Futures:** Launched by Colgate in 1991, NDA members constitute a massive volunteer network across America to provide dental screenings, referrals, and community health education to inner-city children and their families. NDA volunteers support this effort reaching millions of undeserved children in more than 132 cities in the US. To date, the program has reached a half-billion children in eight countries worldwide.
- **NDA-CHARM:** Grants provided by the Aetna Foundation have supported the expansion of local society programs that fall into the following categories: Community Health, Access, Recruitment, and Mentoring. Local chapters continue building community coalitions that enable them to promote NDA-CHARM.
- **CRT Partnerships @ the Grassroots:** This initiative was developed to strengthen partnerships between the local NDA membership and the NDA corporate partners. It is a strategic plan designed to cultivate relationships between NDA members and local/regional corporate partners, and promote local activities that will create win-win scenarios at the grassroots.
- **NDA Day on the Hill:** This annual program is heralded as one of organized dentistry's most successful public policy and legislative advocacy events. The event provides a forum for members of Congress to visit with NDA leaders, corporate partners, and other organization allies from across the country to discuss oral health issues that affect communities of color.
- **NDA Publications:** The *Flossline* Newsletter keeps members and corporate Roundtable Partners informed of oral health care issues, programs, and activities important to the NDA.

NDA *Today* Magazine includes in-depth feature stories on oral health care and dental trends, professional profiles of leading dentists and their local practices, crucial public policy news and columns from top experts in the burgeoning oral health care sector.

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