DATE: November 9, 2010  
PLACE: The Summit Club  
TIMES: Hospitality Hour & Heavy Hors D’Oeuvres 5:30  
Announcements 6:15  
C.E. Program 6:30  

SPEAKER: Mia Geisinger, D.D.S., M.S.  

TOPIC: “The Effects of Periodontal Disease”  

Dr. Geisinger is an assistant professor in the Department of Periodontology and Periodontal  
Predoctoral Program Director at the University of Alabama School of Dentistry. She received her  
D.D.S. from Columbia University School of Dental Medicine and completed her Certificate in  
Periodontics and Implantology and her Masters of Science degree at the University of Texas Health  
Science Center at San Antonio. She is a diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology. Prior  
to joining the UAB faculty in 2007, she worked in a private practice limited to periodontology in  
Goodlettsville, TN. She is the 2009 recipient of the AADR William Clark Fellowship Award and  
the American Board of Periodontology Foundation Teaching Fellowship. She has lectured  
nationally and internationally on periodontology and periodontal education. Dr. Geisinger’s clinical  
practice includes all aspects of periodontology and implant dentistry and focuses on root coverage  
and aesthetic procedures as well as the links between systemic disease and periodontal  
inflammation. Her lecture will make you more aware of the increasing numbers of systemic medical  
conditions and the myriad interactions between periodontal inflammation and systemic diseases and  
more able to educate your patients about these interactions.  

The Summit Club is located at 1901 Sixth Avenue North. Come to the 31st Floor. We will have  
a variety of heavy hors d’oeuvres including shrimp cocktail, herbed lamb chops, bacon  
wrapped scallops, fruit and cheese, hot dip and chips, miniature desserts, iced tea, coffee,  
and a cash bar. Please send your check by Thursday before the meeting.  

Advance Reservations: $40  
Tickets at the Door $42
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Positive Directions!

On two fronts, we seem to be headed in a more positive direction. First, dentistry in Alabama is once again beginning to come together more cohesively and cooperatively. Second, our own Birmingham District Dental Society is working diligently towards improving as we closely examine and address our financial situation.

At the last Board of Dental Examiners (BDE) open forum, the BDE asked the Alabama Dental Association (ALDA) to form a special committee to study and make recommendations addressing the “access to care” issue. As dentists, we are aware that the concept of Mid-Level Providers is being studied and utilized by other states. We, in Alabama, feel that public safety should be a primary concern and that Mid-Level Providers, and even aggressive expanded auxiliaries, could lead to a two-tiered quality of care instead of truly accessing dental access.

Many years ago, the dentists of our state worked together to design the Alabama Dental Hygiene Program (ADHP), a concept that remains unique to our state, but one that successfully addressed the shortage of dental hygiene providers. Our state should be proud of the action we have already taken and stand on the fact that we have already addressed “access to care” on a large scale. Under this program, many rural area dentists have trained hygienists from their local population. Because of this, a positive impact in the area of prevention has occurred through more dental cleanings in under-served areas. This is a significant model that we can and should actively promote for other states to follow. In

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addition, there are other avenues to pursue, such as mobile dental units in the truly under-served areas. It is good to see ALDA and the BDE again looking to work together to come up with recommendations which are safe for the public.

Locally, the BDDS Executive Council is addressing the realities this economy has caused our local organization, like many other organizations and businesses, to face. Dr. Gerry Walker, BDDS treasurer, will be informing the society about our financial situation at the next meeting, November 9. We are encouraging suggestions from our members as we look for ways to stop the annual loss we have been experiencing. One way we are making changes is to look at ways we can cut expenses. This year, the Executive Council cut one expense by not spending as much money on the traditional dinner at our first meeting. This is just a small step since our expenses exceed our income. We will also need to look at other ways to be more efficient.

Another way we are making changes is by encouraging better attendance at our Friday meetings by inviting high quality speakers. Last month, Dr. DeWitt Wilkerson from the Dawson Academy spoke. Although this was our first attempt at this, the results are very encouraging. Not only did we make a profit, but all surveyed asked that we complete the series by having two more programs. Although these speakers are more expensive, the attendees felt that this high quality course was a great value, and we netted a greater profit than we typically net.

As has occurred throughout our history, when dentists in Alabama work together, solutions to problems are found! Please contact us with your suggestions. – Leigh Kent
CONGRATULATIONS to Dr. Steve Stricklin who won the election for a seat on the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama. A past president of our district, Dr. Stricklin practices in Alabaster. He says, "Let's all work together for the betterment of dentistry."

JANUARY INTERNSHIPS – Pre-dental students at Birmingham-Southern College are participating in pre-health internships which involve shadowing a dentist during the month of January. They will observe the patient and dentist to gain an appreciation of the dedication, lifestyle and interpersonal skills a health-related career demands. They will work for you a minimum of 30 to 40 hours per week. If interested in participating in this vital program, please contact Dr. Jeannette Runquist, Health Professions Program Advisor at 226-4882. Health-related professional and graduate schools now require that candidates have extensive shadow experience.

DENTAL HYGIENE STUDY CLUB members will hear Dr. Guy Rosenstiel speak on "Medical Emergencies" at their Nov. 8 meeting in Volker Hall, Room E, at 6 p.m. Contact Becky Walters at 823-5554 for more info.

THE EASTERN DENTAL HYGIENE STUDY CLUB will hear Paul Lawrence speak on 3M-ESPE, "Prevention Therapy" Nov. 9 at The First Baptist Church of Trussville at 6 p.m.


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SHINE A LIGHT is the theme of this year's United Way Campaign. Letters have gone out from Dr. Robert Rudolph, chairman, and you might be getting a call from one of the committee about your pledge. At this time, we've raised $10,000 according to Meredith Watkins, our liaison with United Way.

The goal is $68,500 and Meredith would like to have it wrapped up by Nov. 19. Our United Way committee includes Drs. Milton, Essig, Jennifer Davis, Debbie Sema and Justin Zellmer. Please dig deep!

GOOD NEWS about Dr. Mike Edwards who was injured in a motorcycle/truck accident after our September meeting where he spoke to us. Dr. David Holcomb says he is at home in Wedowee and getting around on a walker.

Dr. Edwards comes back to UAB two days per week for therapy. He had to have at least two surgeries - pelvic and foot - after his accident, so his progress is really good!

CHARITABLE DONATIONS – Our BDDS Dental Outreach Committee frequently encounters lab costs for patients they are helping. If you would consider a charitable contribution for this purpose, please mail a check to Birmingham District Dental Society, 1801 9th Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35205. It will be tax deductible!

NEW MEDICAL WASTE DISPOSAL COMPANIES – Drs. Russell Turner and Allen Kessler have informed us of two new companies in this area whose costs may be cheaper than what has been available to date. They are G Med Services and West Med Disposal.

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## 3. Nominee’s Professional Credentials

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## 4. Why Your Nominee Deserves This Honor

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**Nomination Form**  
**Birmingham Dentist of the Year Award**

1. **Name and Address of the Nominee**

2. **Name and Address of the Nominator**

**Deadline: Nov. 17, 2010**

Please mail to BDDS, 1801 9th Ave. South, Birmingham, Al 35205  
Or: FAX to 933-1707
# BDDS COMMITTEES 2010-2011

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Carolyne Scott  Pete Real
Lisa Miller

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Warren Arrasmith  Bill Findlay

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## COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY
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## DENTAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
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Mark Todd

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Jerome Scales

DENTAL EDUCATION & LICENSURE
Maureen Pezzementi 2010
Roy A. Smith, III 2010
Huw Thomas

DENTAL HEALTH & PUBLIC INFORMATION
Steve Mitchell, chairman, 2013
Richard Vest, 2013

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PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS Nov. 9. They are Drs. Catthey Davis, Vestavia Hills, Michael R. Marshall, Huffman, and Ralph D. Roden, Vestavia Hills.

Those unable to be present in September were Drs. Sonia Makhija, Kelli Albritton, Sudha Gutti, Medhi Karimipour and Karol Poczatek.

LEGISLATION
Janice Jackson 2014

MEMBERSHIP AND RELIEF
Debbie Sema, chairman 2012
Ashley Ford Guy Rosenstiel
Doug Beckham

THE NEW DENTIST
Melissa Nix Debbie Sema
Justin Zellmer Maureen Pezzementi
Robert Meador

STRATEGIC PLANNING & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
George Petznick 2013
Kent Palcanis 2013

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