Greetings from the VSDS President!

I am pleased to invite you to the first ever Virtual Vermont Dental Conference! Spanning two and a half days, September 16 through September 18. I encourage the entire dental team to participate and obtain contemporary continuing education as well as learn valuable information about the ongoing business of the Vermont State Dental Society and the Vermont Dental Assistants’ Association. Whether you may be hungering for new information about nutrition and dental health or whether the reopening of dental offices in light of the Covid-19 pandemic has left you with a stiff neck and ergonomics is your desire, this Conference is for you! The Vermont Dental Conference has a long legacy of being one of the premier New England meetings, and our staff and continuing education committee are working hard to ensure that this continues, even in these unprecedented times.

We are excited to have our current ADA President, Dr. Chad Gehani, address us in virtual form during our Thursday evening 144th VSDS Annual Business Meeting. He plans to share how our members have been supported nationally during this pandemic and give us a look toward the future issues facing our membership in 2020 and 2021. I trust that the information to be shared by our president, in combination with our regular VSDS updates thus far, and the new material to be shared at the business meetings, will encourage all of you to participate as much as possible in supporting our annual Conference. In addition to the continuing education that supports the VSDS, there will also be a virtual exhibit hall where vendors will be available to help keep us informed of continuing products and services to help sustain our delivery of dental care.

The program times have been re-designed for more flexibility so that offices can as much as possible, maintain their current schedule of treating patients. The conference schedule will feature more evening programs, including our Thursday evening business meetings of the VSDS and VDAA, thereby enabling us to see patients during the day and allowing staff participation in the evenings as well. Although the shared in person contacts we are accustomed to enjoying during the Conference will not be available this year, our chance to support this great profession continues through participation in the ongoing work of the VSDS and VDAA. I look forward to our time together in September!

Thomas L. Opsahl, DMD
President, Vermont State Dental Society