

Greetings! I hope you are all as anxious for spring and warm weather as I am!!

I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know about recent updates.

At our February Board of Trustees meeting, the board approved the development of an objective structured clinical examination (OSCE), a type of high-stakes exam that evaluates clinical and critical thinking skills, widely used in health sciences, including optometry, medicine, nursing and physical therapy.

The Board directed that a pilot of the Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE) be available in 2019; and an exam deployment in 2020.

Details of the exam — from content and structure to policies and staffing resources — remain in the works. The Board is creating a DLOSCE Steering Committee tasked to:

- Identify and establish content areas and test specifications for the examination.
- Conduct a practice analysis.
- Establish general structure for examination (number of stations) and permissible item formats (manikin, haptic feedback device, etc.).
- Identify and contract with key vendors, including technology and administration, in support of the exam.
- Identify and establish test construction committee structure.
- Develop the candidate guide.
- Call for test constructor applications.
- Identify appropriate governance structure for DLOSCE administration.
- Identify first state(s)/region(s) for the DLOSCE field test.

The DLOSCE will be a national exam, based on an analysis of U.S. dental practice. It will remain the same regardless of the region of the country where it is administered, and will become a third-party assessment of competencies regularly evaluated at accredited dental schools.

Both the ADA Council on Dental Education and Licensure and the ADA/American Dental Education Association Joint Licensure Task Force endorsed the initiative, which has been working closely on licensure issues over the past couple of years.

In December of 2015, the Council on Dental Education and Licensure recommended the development of a business plan for an OSCE. The development of the DLOSCE supports current ADA policy calling for the elimination of patients from the dental licensure examination process.

In creating the business plan, the council and the Board considered advancements in high stakes clinical testing over the past 20 years and sought the expertise of the ADA Department of Testing Services, which received input from selected state dental boards during a forum at the 2016 ADA annual meeting in Denver.

Currently, only Colorado accepts an OSCE for initial licensure with no restrictions. Minnesota accepts the OSCE administered by the National Dental Examining Board of Canada for initial licensure, which is administered annually at the University of Minnesota for their graduates only. This type of dental exam has been given in Canada for many years and has proven to be a reliable way to test competency.

As a result of Resolution 67, which the House of Delegates passed in October 2016, the ADA is investing \$18 million in a 3-year digital consumer advertising campaign to direct consumers to make an appointment with an ADA dentist. The initial focus of this campaign is a new ADA Find-a-Dentist tool launching in April, which provides consumers with a user-friendly experience and additional search fields to easily find an ADA dentist. Before the marketing begins to consumers in May, make sure you get the full benefits of this campaign by updating your Find-A-Dentist profile. Just search “update your find a dentist profile” on ADA.org. Remember to include your photo as pictures are a key factor to presenting a human face to potential patients!

This month, the ADA released its 2016 highlights video. Watching this video reminds me of the many, many benefits of ADA membership. It was an incredible 2016 and together we accomplished so much. I am proud to be a part of this wonderful organization and hope that you feel the same way after viewing it.

I have attached the youtube link for this video below. Spread the word to other members about all that membership in our national organization provides in one year!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLfEGFX1ZU8>

All the best,

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