

On the Cusp

March 2021 Newsletter



Welcome to our Newest Members

Dr. Raunak Singh

Welcome Students

Dr. Juliette Sinex
Dr. Tristen Evleth

Greetings

We are excited to report that we had 70 participants log in for our virtual CE, **The Opioid Crisis in Nevada**. Not only was this course required for licensure renewal, but our speaker shared great information. We hope to be able to offer this course as self-study in the future.

Also, many of our members have been advocating on your behalf regarding the dental therapy regulations that are currently being considered with the Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners (NSBDE). Well in advance of the meeting, each line of SB366 was reviewed and testimony was written to address concerns. This testimony was submitted as public comment for the February 17th NSBDE meeting.

Finally, given the licensure year is ending, NV AGD will continue to bring value with live continuing education opportunities. [Check out the amazing courses that are scheduled...](#) you're not going to want to miss them!

All the best,
Emily Ishkanian Neal DMD
NV AGD, President

Upcoming Webinars from Nevada AGD

What the Hell is That? Incidental Findings in Radiology

Wednesday, April 7, 2021 from 6-7 pm (pst)

Presented by: Dr. Jacob Dunn DMD, MS

Fee: Members: \$25; Student AGD: FREE; Non-Member Students: \$5; Non-Members: \$50

Fulfills live NSBDE licensure requirement

Sports Dentistry in the Desert

Vegas Golden Knights Team Dentist

by: Dr. Byron Blasco DMD

Looking back, as far as my memory can take me, I cannot remember not skating and playing hockey. Growing up in Canada, hockey is not a sport, it is interwoven into the fabric of the culture. From the time most of us can lace up a pair of skates and hold a stick, we dreamed the dream. Going down the ice making our way to the net and scoring the game winning goal. Looking at our parent's faces, dreaming of the roar of the crowd and the adulation of our teammates.

Well, millions dream the dream but the ultimate glory of hoisting The Cup is to be realized by a small fraction of those that started down the path. Growing up, our school had its own indoor rink that we used from September through May. School team, house league, P.E. class, and pleasure skating. At one time during high school, I was on an ice surface 11 times each week. Carving my way on a frozen sheet of water, on an 1/8-inch piece of sharpened steel was as much at home as sitting on the sofa watching SNL or the Midnight Special!

But as reality and life encompasses us and dreams fade, life takes us on many adventures. Upon finishing high school in Toronto and moving to the desert, where the only ice seen daily was in a glass, life happened. Only lacing up the skates on random occasions. Then one day I received a call while I was in practice. A friend that was in Boston the same time I was attending dental school stated that his orthopedic residency program



addressed the needs of the Boston Bruins. He was approached to head the medical team for the Las Vegas Thunder & wanted to know if I was interested in the new adventure. There was not a moment of hesitation on my part to be associated with hockey! The camaraderie and culture are unique and special.



When the Thunder franchise came to an end, there was a void. The Wranglers established themselves bringing hockey to the desert, but in time there were rumblings of the NHL coming to Vegas. I let the powers that be know I had a vast background of experience and knowledge about the sport, the culture and the trauma one can sustain, and that I was interested in providing my services. I was involved with UNLV sports, along with a long list of athletes I had treated over the years. I was ironically at Tufts University, (where my dental journey began), as a WREB examiner, when I received the call offering me the opportunity to join the Vegas Golden Knights.

It has been an exciting adventure thus far! Avulsed, impacted, and displaced teeth, bone fractures, joint trauma, fractured prosthetics, lacerations and watching the great dentistry you placed explode with the impact of a 3 inch vulcanized rubber disk traveling faster than you drive on the highway, and the soft tissue injury of 6 ounces it leaves in its wake.

Outstanding moments range from the journey on the quest for The Cup, to a player coming off the ice after fracturing 11 teeth, covered in blood from his lips to his team crest saying "Doc, I think it's bad, really bad!" (only missing 1 shift that game & making his flight at 8:30 am, after 1 ½ hours in the office that morning) to having a player kneel on the ice to pick up the beautiful restorations you had placed!

It is exciting, traumatic, stressful but most of all rewarding. I'm involved in a life-long dream whose flame has faded at times but has never extinguished. Sports dentistry has provided relationships that will last a lifetime and has provided opportunities to be associated with the Las Vegas Aces, UNLV Basketball, Football and Hockey.

My association with the Academy for Sports Dentistry, provides the opportunity to learn, share and network with like-minded and experienced team physicians, dentists and athletic trainers all over the world, gleaning a pearl here and there to enhance the adventures we face.

Being part of a team is just like a family chasing a common goal. Working together through the ups & downs, the excitement remains. Even though now the dream may be realized in a slightly different manner, that little kid's dream of hoisting The Cup, or a multitude of other accolades, remains a reality and is just as sweet because we did it together!

PHOTO CREDIT: All photos provided with permission from Dr. Byron Blasco



We're Making It Easy... Renew Your Membership [HERE](#)

Current AGD Members: Click [HERE](#) to renew your AGD membership.

AGD recognizes that members' circumstances change throughout their careers. To assist members through these transitions, AGD offers various membership status options to current members in good standing. If your circumstances have changed, please view the [membership status change request form](#).

Former Members: Do you want to rejoin AGD? We would love to have you back!

To rejoin AGD, please contact the AGD Membership Services Center at 888.243.3368 (toll-free) or 312.440.4300, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. CST.

Upcoming Webinars from AGD

Dental Safety in the Shadow of COVID-19

Tuesday, March 2, 2021: 7:00 pm - 9:00pm CST

Presented Nancy Dewhirst RDH, BS

Fee: **FREE**

The Great COVID Reset

Thursday, March 4, 2021: 7:30 pm - 9:00pm CST

Presented by Michael Abernathy, DDS

Fee: **FREE**



2023 AGD Scientific Session is coming back to Las Vegas!

Are you interested in volunteering for the Local Arrangements Committee?

We could use amazing people to help us...including our remarkable students.

Connect with us at agdnevada@gmail.com to participate!

Otherwise...mark your calendars

to be with us at AGD2023, July 13-15, 2023 in Las Vegas, Nevada!

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