A Message from
the President of the Middle Atlantic Society
of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons

I write this as I wait for the arrival of spring in the Middle Atlantic Region. Hopefully, you have all endured another winter unscathed.

Your Board and Executive Director have been preparing for what I am sure will be an excellent meeting on April 25 and 26 in Wilmington, Delaware. This is the first time in more than five years that the Society has ventured out of the Baltimore metropolitan area. We are hoping to attract more of our members from New Jersey, Delaware, and eastern Pennsylvania, as well as our strong core group from metro-Washington and Baltimore. The first day begins with a golf outing at the highly touted and exclusive Fieldstone Golf Club. In the evening all registered attendees are invited to a dinner at the Christiana Hilton as guests of the Society. (You must be pre-registered to attend the dinner.) These are both great opportunities to spend time with old friends and to make some new ones.

The second day features Doctors Lew Estabrooks and David Moyer speaking on various aspects of anesthesia care and patient evaluation and is also highlighted by a CPC and closed case reviews from the files of OMSNIC. Clearly this is important information for all of us and the anesthesia-related continuing education credits are needed by many of us.

At our last meeting in November, Doctors Eric Carlson and Robert Ord presented lectures on oral cancer and aggressive lesions of the jaws. The record numbers of our members in attendance were treated to a compelling and extremely informative day.

Included in Dr. Ord's lecture was a presentation on bisphosphonate induced osteonecrosis of the jaws. In his series of over one hundred patients, there have been several deaths as a result of this new and not totally understood condition. Given this information in conjunction with the recent JADA and JOMS article on the subject, I think it is time for us (OMS's) as a profession to begin to educate our medical colleagues to this very serious potential complication of the medication they are prescribing (much as we did in the '70's with the radiation oncologists). I would suggest starting with the oncologists in our communities and recommending a full dental evaluation of all patients before instituting intravenous bisphosphonate treatment.

For me, the most frightening aspect of all of this are the unknowns concerning the long term use of oral bisphosphonates currently being used by millions of women for the treatment and prevention of osteoporosis. The risk of osteonecrosis from these drugs is not even listed in the PDR.

I apologize if any of this has ruined your day. However, sooner or later all of us will be confronted by patients with this problem and as I see it, this is the next big challenge confronting our specialty.

I hope to see you in Wilmington at the end of April.

James W. Adams, DDS
President
Dear MASOMS Colleagues:

I am delighted to give the District II Trustee’s Report. I am honored to serve District II and follow in the footsteps of our recent past Trustees (Drs. Simeone, Strauss, Lindner, Daley and Slade). For the record, I believe philosophically that the Trustee represents the members of District II to AAOMS. In essence, I am your liaison to AAOMS. Please feel free to contact me on any matters.

FYI:

Zimmer-Tutogen recall – This recall is specifically for “record keeping and procurement” irregularities. There has been no sterility issues. Through AAOMS’s urging, Zimmer has agreed to fund patient testing for those on the recall listing.

Bisphosphonates complications – Because of the observed clinical manifestations associated with bisphosphonates, AAOMS has appointed an Advisory Group to evaluate and develop recommendations. Currently there are no ICD-9 codes for ONJ associated with Bisphosphonates. Likewise, in the works are special “informed consents” being formulated for those patients, including patients on Fosomax, Actonel, etc.


Certified OMS Anesthesia Assistant program – This program is being re-evaluated by an AAOMS Task Force regarding possible conflicts with various state dental practices acts.

AAOMS Lobbying Firm – AAOMS has engaged its own Washington, D.C. lobbying firm - Armstrong Teasdale. This will enhance AAOMS’s advocacy issues at the Federal level. This is co-funded by AAOMS and OMSPAC.

Announcements:

May 1-3
AAOMS/ACOMS joint educational meeting (Las Vegas)

May 24
AAOMS Day on the Hill (Washington, D.C.)

June 2
OMS State Executive/Secretary Conference (Chicago)

June 3-4
AAOMS State Leadership Conference (Chicago)

June 28-30
British Association Meeting (England)

August 19
District II Caucus (Philadelphia)

October 3-4
Anesthesia Conference (San Diego)

October 4-5
AAOMS Coding workshop (San Diego)

October 3-7
AAOMS 88th Annual Meeting (San Diego)

October 16-20
ADA Annual Meeting (Las Vegas)

Arthur C. Jee, DMD
AAOMS District II, Trustee
MASOMS Hosts 2006 Meeting

The Society will host a very special Spring Meeting at the Hilton Wilmington/Christiana Hotel in Newark Delaware. Located in the countryside of the Brandywine Valley, the Hilton Wilmington/Christiana is an elegant resort hotel, offering first class service.

The featured speakers, Drs. Lewis Estabrooks and David Moyer will present “Anesthesia in Oral Surgery.” This program will address operator administered anesthesia techniques and the risks and complications that may develop. Closed anesthesia claims from the OMSNIC database will be used to demonstrate the risks and safety of anesthesia on oral surgery patients. The presenters will discuss current trends and the use of Propofol and Ketamine.

Dr. Estabrooks is a graduate of Tufts Dental School and Boston City Hospital Oral Surgery Program. He is chairman of the Board of OMSNIC and Fortress professional liability companies where he serves as chair for their claims committee.

Dr. Moyer graduated from Temple Dental School and completed a fellowship in anesthesia training at the Medical College of Pennsylvania. He received his oral surgery training at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Dr. Moyer has served as chairman and is currently a consultant to AAOMS’s Committee on Anesthesia.

This meeting will feature a variety of tabletop exhibits where vendors will be available to discuss and demonstrate the latest in equipment, materials and services available to the oral and maxillofacial surgeon.

In addition to the educational program, MASOMS has organized a golf tournament to be held Tuesday afternoon. We hope you have planned to be with us for this day of golf at the exclusive Fieldstone Golf Club in northern Delaware. Following the golf tournament, the Society will host a cocktail reception and buffet dinner at the Hilton Wilmington/Christiana for all meeting attendees. Please join your omc colleagues on Tuesday evening. The reception begins at 7:00 p.m.

If you have not yet registered for the above events, please contact the Society’s Executive Director, Ms. Maggie DiJulio at 301-217-0864. We hope to see you there!

MASOMS would like to extend a special thank you to the following companies who exhibited at the 2005 Fall Meeting.

Your continued support of our organization is appreciated.

Deka Laser Technologies
Dentsply/Friadent/Ceramed
Discus Dental
Eastern Medical Technologies
Harvest Technologies Corporation
Implant Innovations, Inc.
KLS Martin, L.P.
Lifecore Biomedical
Nobel Biocare
OMS National Insurance Company
Osteohealth Company
Paul Banditt, Inc.
Stryker Leibinger
Synthes Maxillofacial
Trealor & Heisel
Wident
Zimmer Dental
**The State of the Delaware...**

Recently, the Delaware State Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons has begun a recertification process for anesthesia permits. The process involves office inspection and facility evaluation as well as examination of the staff and techniques used. Chart review and documentation will be an important part of the overall process. This is for unrestricted permits only and will take place every six years.

Dr. Ed Granite is pleased to announce that the Christiana Care program has once again secured funding for an oral and maxillofacial intern in addition to our four regular residency positions.

Finally, congratulations go out to Dr. Greg Santarelli, one of our recent graduates, on becoming a fellow of The American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

**Eugene M. D’Amico, D.D.S.**
Newark, DE

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**The State of the District of Columbia...**

The DCSOMS met on January 12th, 2006 at Sam and Harry’s Restaurant in Washington, DC. Zimmer Dental graciously underwrote the meeting.

The Society heard reports on the two training programs in the District of Columbia. Dr. Dana Jackson discussed the Howard University Program and Dr. Steven Guttenberg gave a report for The Washington Hospital Center. The membership was also updated on efforts to open a new public hospital in the District in the wake of closing D.C. General Hospital. There is a tremendous unmet need for indigent care in the city and Dr. Renee McCoy Collins discussed funding issues as well as political issues regarding a new hospital.

Dr. R W Emery also represented the Society at a recent meeting of The District Council’s Committee on the Judiciary. The Committee convened on December 1, 2005 to gather information regarding malpractice reform in the District of Columbia. Dr. Emery testified as to the extremely high malpractice premiums paid by oral surgeons in the District and that rates in the District are about twice the national average. He was joined by similar representatives from the other health care associations in the District of Columbia.

In addition, the District of Columbia Board of Dentistry is reviewing the entire Dental Practice Act and is in the process of writing new regulations regarding qualifications for parenteral and enteral anesthesia as well as Nitrous Oxide delivery by dentists and oral surgeons in the District. Also under scrutiny are the qualification parameters of auxiliary personnel in the dental office and how those individuals are certified and monitored. Fortunately, the DCSOMS has a close relationship with the Board of Dentistry and our advice is being sought on all measures regarding the safe delivery of anesthesia in the dental and oms office. The Society anticipates that there will be minimal regulations imposed on the oral and maxillofacial surgeons in the District because the Board of Dentistry is well aware that oral surgeons in the District are certified under the AAOMS guidelines for Anesthesia delivery.

The society will meet again on May 11, 2006. An invitation to attend will be extended to the senior residents of both District of Columbia training programs.

**Richard M. Williams, DDS**
President. DCSOMS

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**The State of Maryland...**

The MSOMS sponsored their annual continuing education course on March 8 at the BWI Airport Marriott in Baltimore, Maryland. This year’s program featured Dr. Karl Zeren who presented an interesting lecture on “Evolving Trends in Implant Dentistry: Function and Aesthetics.” The Society thanks Zimmer Dental Company for their sponsorship of Dr. Zeren’s lecture. At the General Membership Meeting, Dr. Lewis Estabrooks discussed professional liability issues concerning OMSNIC and its subscribers. The Society is planning a coding workshop to coincide with the fall 2006 General Membership Meeting.

The MSOMS is proud to announce that Dr. Art Jee was elected to the AAOMS Board of Trustees, representing District II and Dr. Vince DiFabio was elected District II Caucus Chair. Maryland’s Delegates to AAOMS are Drs. Paul Schwartz and Dr. Vince DiFabio. The alternate delegates are Drs. Harry Canter and Bryan Keegan. In the fall 2005, Dr. Lynn Ascher was appointed as president of the MSOMS.

Some issues affecting our membership pertain to the re-writing of the anesthesia guidelines by the Maryland State Board of Dental...
Examiners. The Maryland State Legislature has a number of proposed bills that will potentially affect our practices. They are as follows:

- The Prescription Safety Act
- SB 839/HB 896 – Reform non-participating (Non-Par) Provider Compensation
- SB 448/HB 1169 Recognized Assignment of Benefits
- SB 686/HB 1003 – Enforce Network Adequacy
- SB 555/HB 868 – Stop HMO-Worker’s Compensation without Doctor’s approval
- SB 636/HB 574 – Cut Red Tape on Physician re-credentialing

The University of Maryland’s OMS residency program was re-accredited by AAOMS. There were no recommendations for the program and visitors emphasized several aspects of the program as praiseworthy. The program was prominently represented at the AAOMS meeting in Boston where Drs. John Caccamese and Domenick Coletti received their F.E.D.A. awards and Dr. Alex Pazoki obtained his F.A.C.S.

In closing, I am sad to report the death of Dr. Gerald Gaston, our teacher, friend and colleague, to prostate and bladder cancer on December 11, 2005.

Jay I. Chason, DDS
Vice President, MSOMS

The State of New Jersey...

The NJSOMS was proud to host Dr. Dennis Tarnow at our fall meeting. This was the first time in several years that we had an individual from outside the specialty present. Dr. Tarnow’s presentation was very well attended. His presentation style was interactive and the topics were selected randomly from the attendees. All feedback was positive. We hope to have Dr. Tarnow speak to the Society in the future.

Our spring 2006 meeting is co-sponsored with the New Jersey Dental School. Dr. John E. Griffin will be lecturing at this event. Dr. Griffin is the founder and director of the Baptist Memorial Hospital Fellowship in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery program in Columbus, MS. Dr. Griffin will focus his talk on diagnosis and the role of the oral and maxillofacial surgeon in the treatment of obstructive sleep apnea. The second half of his presentation will focus on aesthetic facial surgery with an emphasis on various types and modalities of laser skin resurfacing. This program will be at The Pines Manor on Wednesday April 19, 2006 beginning at 9:00 am.

Kayvon Haghighi, DDS, MD
Middletown, NJ

The State of West Virginia...

The flowers and trees are finally beginning to bloom in the Mountain State. The WVOSMS hired a lobbyist to help protect our interests during the last legislative session. We were able to avoid any major challenges to the State Dental Practice Act, specifically with respect to operator administered anesthesia. The WVOSMS membership came together well and provided a united resistance to many challenges over the past year. We are looking forward to a busy and enjoyable summer.

The WVOSMS summer meeting will be held at the Greenbrier the weekend of July 22 in conjunction with the WVDA Annual Session.

T. Dean Bobbitt, D.D.S.
Parkersburg, WV

Editor’s Corner

Recently it has come to my attention that current oral and maxillofacial residents may be losing touch with many of the techniques of the past. Today it seems to be all about rigid fixation, a wonderful technique to be sure. I feel fortunate to have trained in oral and maxillofacial surgery from 1984 to 1988. During the first two years of my residency, I was exposed to procedures including skeletal fixation for trauma and orthognathics, lingual stents, cross arch stabilization pins, external fixation using acrylic bars, wire osseosynthesis and skin graft vestibuloplasties to name a few. In the last two years of my training, rigid fixation and implants became the focus. Although the advances in oral and maxillofacial surgery of the last two decades have been impressive indeed, I believe that today’s residents should have an understanding of the past, both from a historical and practical perspective. One can never be sure where they may find themselves in the future. Also, as a wise professor once stated, “if all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail”.

Eugene M. D’Amico, D.D.S.
Highlights from the Fall 2005 Meeting at the Turf Valley Resort …

Dr. Leonard Goldman and Ms. Darlene Gaffney, Deka Laser Technologies.

Dr. Paul Schwartz and Mr. Todd Colvin, Zimmer Dental Company.

Mr. Phil Myers, Eastern Medical Technologies with Dr. Allan Garfinkel.
New Members receive their membership certificates from Dr. Jim Adams (far right).

Guest Speakers, Dr. Eric Carlson and Dr. Robert Ord.

Dr. David Bitonti with Ms. Lauri Victor and Ms. Jenniffer Whittle, OMSNIC.
The MASOMS Fall Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 8, 2006 at the Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City, Maryland.

Program information will be mailed in August. Please mark your calendars.