



AORTA

ALPHA OMEGA REVIEW OF TORONTO ALUMNI CHAPTER, PI CHAPTER | AUGUST 2020 VOL. 62. NO.1
WEB SITE: WWW.AOTORONTO.ORG

FRATERNITY NIGHT

TORONTO ALUMNI CHAPTER
**FRATERNITY
NIGHT**
ZOOM EVENT

MONDAY SEPT 14, 2020 AT 7:30 PM



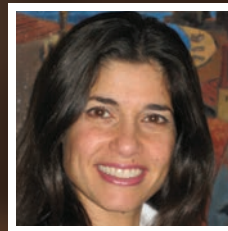
Dr. Alan Moltz

AO International President



Dr. Carole Gruson

Achievement Award Recipient



Dr. Iris Kivity-Chandler

*President AO Toronto
Alumni Chapter*

SPEAKERS SERIES



Gillian Mandich, PhD
HAPPINESS EXPERT

Achieving Happiness During Challenging Times



Amanda Jewson
SLEEP EXPERT

Sleep Strategies In Times Of Stress



Jordana Hart
NUTRITIONIST

Achieving Nutritional Balance

IRIS' INSIGHTS



Let us imagine some incredible sight in nature. It inspires, engages, and makes you appreciate the glory of our world. Nature - it can be our friend and then it can turn on us with a vengeance. SARS-CoV2 and its ensuing pandemic have been both, but I am undoubtedly leaning towards classifying it as a fierce and unforgiving force of an angry fiery foe. First off, it is abhorrent as it created incredible havoc from which it will take many years to recover. Loss of lives and livelihood, and a toll on mental health are at the top of the list. So how was it any good? This enigmatic virus cannot be personified to have qualities of an ally, but one can look at the positives that occurred: strengthened connections within families; opportunities for deep introspection; an opportunity to press the reset button; the creativity of many individuals and organizations; and a reminder to count one's blessings.

The point is to look at the silver lining, especially so that we can develop the essential resilience at times like these when the unknown and the unexpected are so harsh. We, any adult reading this article, need to be a beacon in the dark to show others that we do not stop, we cannot stop, and we forge ahead. We will continue the Practice of Dentistry, if we are physically able to, helping people no matter what the circumstances, and we CAN do that with protocols in place. We need to find the motivation to be the best that we can be and share our positive influence on the world.

Here is how the shutdown affected me: I enjoyed the Holiday; the spinning wheels slowed down. I loved the learning through webinars, the Zoom meetings, and commiserating with friends and colleagues. I was so happy to connect with my kids and many old and new friends. I had more time to socialize, albeit from the comfort of my couch,

and as the weather improved, in my backyard. We repeatedly said that "we are in this together". We declared to our families, staff, and patients (I was covering my emergencies throughout the months of March, April, and May) that we will get past this, and that it will get better. I cannot say it enough, thank goodness for great friends and colleagues as we were able to hold each other up. The best parts of this forced Sabbatical are the long morning walks with our dog, Jazzie, and that I finally made some delicious foods. At last, my daughters like something that I cooked. My new speciality is turkey burgers. Email me if you want a recipe (iris.aotoronto@gmail.com) or if you want some inspiration.

How did Alpha Omega show up throughout the last 5 months? Alpha Omega never stopped. It had and has a life of its very own. The Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity was founded well over 110 years ago. It has snowballed, picked up momentum and became a global phenomenon (sounds familiar; hint: rhymes with Ramona). AO has been a positive influence on the world as we have a mandate to leave the world in better shape than how we got it, it is called Tikkun Olam. There are Chapters all over Canada, the US, Europe, and Israel. AO International and the Toronto Alumni Chapter set to work at the onset of the shutdown that began in mid-March 2020 (will we ever forget this year?). New CE courses were rapidly sourced by AO International with a packed schedule in April and May. And locally, we took our existing programs and set up Zoom CE, a Zoom ABM and Zoom Annual BBQ and Installation (minus the BBQ, coleslaw salads, buns, and requisite rugelach dessert). Then, when our original agenda came to an end, the Line Officers sought out extra speakers who are in the know and able to shed some sense in the senselessness. All of us needed to know what was coming down the pipeline in terms of opening our practices and navigating the mess of PPE requirements, PPE price hikes, and PPE shortages. All of us were gripped with fear at the thought of making physical changes to our existing offices. We tapped into our ties with professors and various researchers at the U of T Dental School to shed some light so that we could be at the forefront. Thank you to Drs. Tenenbaum, Glogauer and Quinonez for rising to the occasion.

Our Website is also being revamped to reflect the ever increasing need to navigate

the requirements from Covid-19, as well as refreshing the section for donations to local chapter and AO Foundation. Many vendors, of products and services, have approached us to send out an Eblast to our members on their behalf. The Line and Executive had decided that we will not inundate our members with excessive Eblasts and as such, Stephen Kay launched the AO Marketplace. Check it out!

There were also light and fun events, like the Lemon Cheesecake baking class with Carolyn Cohen and a Happy Hour with Harry, a professional bartender and mixologist. More of Harry with new cocktail recipes in October 2020 (still will not forget this year!).

Everything that happens within AO is through teamwork. I am humbled by the intelligence and resourcefulness of the many AO Line Officers from the recent past and those who are working with me currently. The list is long so I will stick to the immediate timeline that includes Steven Millman (still spearheading the Purchase Program and has recently taken on the position of International Regent), Carole Gruson (an incredible powerhouse and much deserving of the upcoming Alpha Omega Toronto Chapter Achievement Award), Allan Katchky (wise, resourceful and always solution-oriented. It was hard for me to let him leave the Line), Stephen Kay (the calm in the storm, a great mentor and Covid A Captain. He calls me Covid B Captain Stephen brought in The AO Marketplace that is a great member-benefit. Check it out on our Website), Laurel Linetsky-Fleisher (has the most amazing connections, the mastermind behind all the fun and eclectic stuff that AO Toronto offers), Tammy Herzog (super sharp and always finds alternative angles to address a dilemma) and Lani Kraus (the new generation, well-connected with International and local AO members and will be bringing in the newest venture: AO Social Media Committee). I would be remiss if I did not mention the Advisors during my term on the Line. The Advisors steer the Line Officers during each President's term and besides being brilliant, they are beyond indispensable. Basically, we dragged in Steven Corber, Alan Vinegar, Ira Marder and now Gary Elman. I can personally say that I would be lost without Gary, forever humble but that's just an act. He makes running the Fraternity seem like a breeze. He just gets it! So as not to be remiss, I'll let you in on my secret weapon, my sister-in-law, Bonnie Chandler, who, IMHO (Gen Z's "in my

humble opinion”), set the bar very high and just like any little sister, I look up to her and all that she exemplifies; wisdom, creativity, practicality and so much more. Bonnie and Miriam Rosenberg will each be receiving the Certificate of Merit once we can have an in-person dinner, which will hopefully be at the upcoming Spring 2021 ABM.

A quick mention on upcoming programs: For the foreseeable future, or at least until December 2020, there will not be any in-person meetings. All CE evening courses will be via Zoom. Delicious Dish and Fall Social will be Virtual. For the first time ever, we will hold a VIRTUAL FRATERNITY NIGHT on Monday September 14, 2020. If you think you will miss the meal, rest assured that we hope to make it up somehow in Spring 2021. However, Virtual Frat Night will fill your soul and spirits with a lineup of amazing speakers. I will be especially honoured to see familiar faces on Zoom as I am sworn in, will give a short and poignant speech and the evening will be enhanced by the AO Speaker Series. The 3 Speaker Series presenters

will each share their own expertise: Happiness, Nutrition and Sleep Apnea/Sleep Breathing Disorders. We promise to stay on a tight schedule as the evening will finish off with a few words from Rabbi Adam Cutler, Senior Rabbi from Adath Israel, since Rosh Hashana falls 4 days later.

I want to add that we are so lucky to be in this great country. Look at the predicament in the US and in Israel. As I see it, Canada is for the most part made up of a cooperative and appreciative population. Many are doing their part in keeping the spread at bay. Let's pray for continued diligence from those who walk in our doors and those with whom we share the air we breathe.

In closing, I plan to make it through my presidency by taking small steps, grasping at positive opportunities, gearing myself to always living with a smile inside and out and seeking the beauty of nature in peaceful moments.

Iris Kivity-Chandler.

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AORTA



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of Alpha Omega**

Adath Israel Synagogue

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Next Executive Meeting

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

Next AORTA Deadline (October)

Monday, September 7, 2020

Notable Achievements

Please inform the AORTA of fraters or members of their families who have achieved success, honours or milestones.

Benevolence

Please call Stan Markin regarding illnesses or deaths of fraters.

Office: (416) 497-2122

Home: (416) 789-2067

Associate Placement

Fraters who are interested in having an associate join their practice or who are interested in associating with another dentist (full or part-time) contact Philip Novack

Office: (416) 224-2114

Fax: (416) 224-1282

The opinions as expressed by the editors and columnists of the AORTA do not necessarily reflect the views of Toronto Alumni Chapter and/or its executive. All correspondence should be sent to the editor at barryreinblatt@sympatico.ca

DENTAL VOLUNTEERS FOR ISRAEL

Dentists needed... to treat disadvantaged children in Jerusalem who cannot help themselves.

For information, contact **Les Train** at drtrain@rogers.com, or check our website at canadianfriendsofdvi.org.

RCDSO PET EXAMS

Are you writing the RCDSO Pet exams?
Do you want to join others who are writing for a study group?

Email Jackie at info@atoronto.org and we will put you together.



You are invited to join the Toronto Alpha Omega Fraternity group on Facebook

Do you have a story to tell that other Fraters would love to hear?



Contact the AORTA editor Barry Reinblatt at barryreinblatt@sympatico.ca with your suggestions!

SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

If any Alpha Omega member knows of individuals or corporations who may be interested in sponsoring our programs please let me know. This will ensure the quality of our programs and events.

Please email this information to drbgreenbaum@rogers.com. To all committee chairmen, please forward a list of your corporate sponsors. Also please list the contacts and email addresses.

Thank you.
Robert Greenbaum

FROM THE EDITOR



I think we can all agree that this has been a summer like no other. You hear a lot of talk about the 'new normal', however I can barely remember what the 'old normal' was. I guess that is just the way of the world and we will all have to figure it out as we go forward.

Alpha Omega Toronto has already figured it out and is moving forward with its slate of 'new normal' programming. Even with the restrictions of the pandemic, we have in this issue a report from a Virtual Cocktail Hour sponsored by AO Revival. There are also the recipes of the three drinks made during this program for everyone to try.

September will still bring us Fraternity Night Dinner although you will have to supply your own dinner this year. Details of this event can be found in this AORTA. We also have articles from some of our usual contributors. Stan Kogon talks about Dental School admission in his piece titled 'Weren't We Lucky', Steven Brown gives us his latest whimsical thoughts in 'I've Been Preparing For This For Forty Years', and Barry Korzen checks in with his latest instalment of Israel Insights.

Finally, we get an update on the goings on at the DVI Clinic in Jerusalem from Leslie Train, and Sheldon Cooper sends us a picture to let us know how he has been spending time during the pandemic.

I hope all of you are staying safe and healthy and enjoy this edition of the AORTA.

Barry Reinblatt

WHAT I DID DURING THE PANDEMIC

In the last issue of the AORTA, I asked for all of you to share with me how you have spent your down time during the pandemic. Sheldon Cooper sent me this picture showing how he has become the sous chef for his daughter Alanna. With his other daughter Kayla and granddaughter Leora staying with them, they

have all had to chip in to help out around the house. Thanks so much for sending this Sheldon! If anyone else has something they want to share, please send it along to barryreinblatt@sympatico.ca and I will print it in the October issue.



UPCOMING EVENTS

FRATERNITY NIGHT DINNER

Monday, September 14, 2020

Zoom meeting

EVENING CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINAR

Thursday, October 1, 2020

Zoom meeting

HAPPY HOUR COCKTAIL CLASS

Thursday, October 15, 2020

Zoom meeting

FALL SEMINAR

Friday, October 30, 2020

T.B.D.

AO REVIVAL COOKING DEMONSTRATION

Wednesday, November 18, 2020 &

Thursday, November 19, 2020

T.B.D.

Mazel Tov

To...

Paul Chapnick on his recent appointment to the Board of Tel Aviv University.

Just A Reminder...

The Roster is for the exclusive use of the membership of Alpha Omega Fraternity. Anyone found using this directory for solicitation purposes will be prohibited from advertising to Alpha Omega and may be the subject of legal action.

TORONTO ALUMNI CHAPTER

FRATERNITY NIGHT

ZOOM EVENT

MONDAY SEPT 14, 2020 AT 7:30 PM



- Welcoming International President Dr. Alan Moltz
- Installation of Dr. Iris Kivity-Chandler as President Toronto Alumni Chapter
- Honouring Dr. Carole Gruson with the Alpha Omega Toronto Alumni Chapter Achievement Award
- Honouring Toronto AO Alumni 50-Year members
- Speaker Series Event with Dr. Gillian Mandich, Amanda Jewson and Jordana Hart
- Closing remarks on Rosh Hashana from Rabbi Adam Cutler, Senior Rabbi at Adath Israel Congregation



Dr. Alan Moltz
AO International President



Dr. Carole Gruson
Achievement Award Recipient



Dr. Iris Kivity-Chandler
President AO Toronto Alumni Chapter

SPEAKERS SERIES



Gillian Mandich, PhD
HAPPINESS EXPERT
Achieving Happiness During Challenging Times



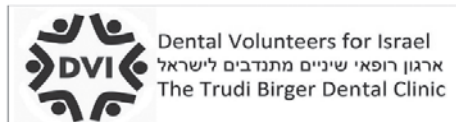
Amanda Jewson
SLEEP EXPERT
Sleep Strategies In Times Of Stress



Jordana Hart
NUTRITIONIST
Achieving Nutritional Balance

A Zoom meeting invite will be sent out via email prior to the event

FROM THE CANADIAN FRIENDS OF DVI



DVI – the ONLY totally FREE dental clinic in Israel!

With your support, DVI will continue to provide free restorative dentistry and Oral Health Education to poor, abused, at-risk youth, post-IDF needy soldiers, abused women, needy elderly and Holocaust Survivors!

At-Risk Youth: Youth from lower socio-economic backgrounds are particularly prone to dental disease. In fact, 80% of all caries occur in just 25% of kids. We know this to be true from DVI patients, as their level of dental decay and caries is truly shocking to our volunteer dentists. Lack of access to dental care directly affects the matriculation and academic success of low-income youth, and is directly tied to the cycle of poverty. DVI is also proud to announce that the clinic was recently renovated to become a fully handicapped accessible clinic.

DVI's younger patients (often coming from shelters or special needs, requiring a pediatric dentist) will always have a home at DVI. And the directors of boarding schools (such as Boys Town and Girls Town for orphaned, poor and abused youth) and shelters for abused children (eg. Beit Schusterman) and shelters for at-risk youth (including Elem, Atnachta, and shelters for abused women) say that, since they have no way to pay for the needed dental services, DVI is their only option.

WHY DVI? DVI is the most cost-efficient free dental clinic, with our dentists' time, equipment and supplies all donated, enabling DVI to maintain high standards on a shoe-string budget. **DVI's patient numbers reveal the incredible impact of every dollar donated!**

Trudi Birger's philosophy of true tsedaka (charity) - giving a needy person the same as you would want for your own family member...is precisely what our volunteer dentists are doing at DVI.

Patient Story: Eliahu, pictured below with our own Dr. Madras, is a 21 year old young man who was referred to DVI from Atnachata, a hostel for youth at-risk. He is the youngest of five children.

Because of the lack of proper nutrition and the poverty in which his family lived, Eliahu became unfocused and unable to learn. As a result, when it was time to draft into the IDF at age eighteen, he was classified as unfit to serve. However, Eliahu fought the decision as his desire to serve his country was very strong. Ultimately, he was accepted into the National Volunteer Service Program where he began to thrive. Eliahu volunteered with at-risk kids. The work was so meaningful to him that he continues volunteering there. He hopes to go to university and study technology as it relates to the field of botany. Eliahu came to DVI after years of dental neglect, requiring a host of treatments. To date he has had a root canal done, cavities filled, hygienist appointments and more. **His gentle manner and heartfelt appreciation to the dentists and staff at DVI is representative of so many of our patients.**

Free Dentures Program UPDATE: DVI volunteer dentist have begun to do preliminary work on the elderly patients, while Dr. Sarit Palmon, an Israeli prosthodontist with expertise in geriatric dentistry, ensures that patients receive the best care and continuity of care. **A high percentage of these patients come in with no teeth, or two or three teeth, having suffered that way for 10, 20, even 30 years. In 2019, DVI treated 152 patients, almost half of them Survivors!** In Year 3 (9/2018- 9/2019), DVI provided \$382,000 value of treatment to needy elderly and Holocaust Survivors, though the total project cost was still only \$137,000, **thanks to donated supplies and volunteer dentists.**

Elderly people in Israel with NO ability to pay any type of co-pay have absolutely no access to dental care, and many of these people are Holocaust Survivors. There is a total of 30,000 needy elderly in Jerusalem alone. DVI is now providing them with FREE dentures. In 2019 alone DVI treated and provided free dentures to 152 very poor elderly, almost half of them Survivors, and many Palestinians and Arab Israelis. **DVI's free dentures project in no way interrupts DVI's ongoing work with abused and special needs kids and at-risk youth.**

Nella, a survivor, is presently in treatment at the clinic. **"I was so emotional, it really**

brought tears to my eyes. I've never had the opportunity to work on a Holocaust Survivor before." said her volunteer dentist. Nella came to the DVI free dentures projects with only a few remaining black stubs of teeth in her mouth, totally unable to eat any solid foods. Even before she was fitted for full dentures, much dental work had to be done. Luckily, DVI's volunteer dentists are now integrated into this project so that a woman like Nella, who struggles with mobility issues and uses a walker in addition to other issues, can get all of the necessary work done in one place and at no cost. She is the proud mother of two sons, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren and she looks forward to being able to smile openly and share meals with her family.

Please watch a film clip of the free dentures patients! <https://youtu.be/nzKJMqPqew>

The Bottom Line: In 2019 alone, DVI helped 2,711 patients receive free treatment. **The VALUE of the treatment DVI provided to youth in 2019 was \$1,093,311 and \$325,143 value of treatment was provided to needy elderly and Holocaust Survivors – though total cash expenditures were only \$603,245!!** Your donation could not go further to help a needy person with any other organization. **Pretty amazing.**

Donations may be made through **Canadian Friends of Dental Volunteers for Israel c/o Dr Victor Bederman, 69 Yonge St, PO Box 17001, Toronto, Ontario, M5E 1K0**

Important news! The AO Line officers have thrown their support behind a new initiative of the Canadian Friends of the DVI to raise funds. This summer we are calling on fraters - and their families and friends! - to take part in Miles for Smiles in support of Canadian Friends of DVI. This is a Canada-wide project. Participants will bike, run, walk, swim, golf, play tennis - any form of exercise! - on their own or in teams, at any time before Labour Day. We will be e-blasting more info to members of Alpha Omega Toronto Chapter this summer.

Leslie Train
drtrain@rogers.com
DrTrain.ca

AO REVIVAL HAPPY HOUR VIRTUAL COCKTAIL CLASS

WITH HARRY HANSON
THURSDAY JUNE 25TH, 2020

On Thursday June 25th in the comfort of our own homes we had the pleasure of virtually participating in a cocktail class lead by award winning bartender Harry Hanson. Harry has slung drinks at some of the best bars and restaurants in Toronto and all over East London, UK. He spent a year teaching cocktail classes all over the UK but in light of current events he has decided to take his talents to the internet. We were fortunate to have him come and teach us. He is young, handsome, knowledgeable and has terrific energy and enthusiasm. I participated with 2 of my 4 sons and one of their girlfriends and we had such a blast! Harry sent the ingredient and equipment list to us all ahead of time

so we could all be prepared. He taught us how to prepare 3 different cocktails. My favorite was the Vodka Smash which started with muddling (a new word for me that meant crushing in the bottom of your glass) raspberries and blueberries. We then made a mixture of equal parts honey and hot water (called honey syrup) and juiced fresh lemons. So added to the bottom of the berry muddle was 2 oz vodka, 1 oz freshly squeezed lemon juice, ¾ of an ounce of the honey syrup and ice cubes. This was then topped up with sparkling water, I used flavoured Perrier. It was delicious!! If you are not a vodka drinker you could swap out the vodka for gin, tequila, rum or whiskey. Harry also taught us to make a Tommy's Margarita with tequila and a Gold Rush with whiskey. I learned that I personally do not like tequila or whiskey, but the Vodka

Smash was delightful!! The recipes for all 3 drinks are included below.

This class was free for all AO members and their families. Thank you to everyone who participated, we had a terrific turnout. We will be offering another evening with Harry in the fall so if you were not able to participate this time know that you will have another opportunity in the near future. Harry will be teaching us 3 new cocktails at that time.

Hoping you and your families are all well at this time.

Respectfully submitted
by Dr. Laurel Linetsky-Fleisher

Virtual Cocktail Class

Alpha Omega Cocktail Recipes

Drinks We Made:

	 Cocktail #1: Tommy's Margarita	 Cocktail #2: Gold Rush	 Cocktail #3: Vodka Smash
Alcohol:	Mezcal/Tequila	Whisky	Vodka
Instructions:	2oz Tequila 1oz Lime Juice 0.5oz Agave Nectar or Honey Syrup Shake with Ice Strain Fresh Ice Drink!	2oz Bourbon 0.75oz Lemon Juice 0.75oz Honey Syrup Shake with Ice Strain Fresh Ice Drink!	Muddle, in your drinking glass: Mixed Berries Add: 2oz Vodka 1oz Lemon Juice 0.75oz Honey Syrup Add Ice Top with Soda Drink!
Notes:	Swap out the Tequila for a smoky Mezcal or add a pinch of Cayenne pre shake.	Bourbon is best: Wild Turkey, Buffalo Trace, Woodford Reserve, Bulleit	Swap out the Vodka for Gin, Tequila, Rum or Whiskey!

ISRAEL INSIGHTS

WHERE IS EVERYONE?

Unfortunately, in order to try to bring the Corona pandemic under control, Israel has been forced to close its borders to incoming visitors except for exceptional cases. And this has led to a devastating impact on all aspects of the economy, especially the tourism industry. This poor tour bus driver, in the middle of the highway that runs through the Negev, seems to be waiting for the tourists to return.



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WEREN'T WE LUCKY?



Every academic, whether they are full or part-time, has had a colleague confront them with a scowl and a question. "How could you have let Nebbish Nudnik, into your school and then graduate him? I can tell his work by the thumbprint on his amalgams." There are two issues here- applicant admission and student progression. This essay deals with the former.

During my tenure at Western, both as Chair of Admissions and again as Director, I could think of no more important activity than selecting the best applicants who would become, one would hope, the best dentists. After more than 100 years of accepting students into the two Ontario programs, you might think that this process has been refined and settled and the schools simply engaged the tried and true technique. The fact is - this has not happened. That is not to say that dental schools have no interest in making improvements or that it costs too much to adopt a sure-proof procedure, its just that it may be a task which cannot be achieved. Comparative outcome studies using non-selected applicants and the admitted class is impossible. Realistically, we select a cohort of humans from a population of humans by another set of humans. I believe that there is just too much noise in the system. Dental schools and pedagogical commissions have put a great deal of effort into squeezing out as much noise as possible, but we still have a system, that despite our best intentions, is imperfect.

There is a rather robust literature that explores selection techniques for applicants to most occupations. Human resource personnel study the research and apply the results where they can, but they would be the first to admit that the process is crude, often has subjective elements, and for many jobs, the employer hires provisionally. For entry into dental

professional schools, the conclusion seems to be - after determining and setting out baseline prerequisites - your guess is as good as mine. That is not to say that there is indifference in selecting for attributes such as manual dexterity, motivation, ethics, teamwork, and empathy; but how sure are we that these are the attributes that make a fine dentist? If there was a high level of agreement here, we could choose the best test instruments and try to select the candidates who meet all or at least most of the characteristics.

HR personnel invariably rely on biographical documents, scholastic results, reference letters, aptitude tests and interviews. Dental schools have done the same. Grades and aptitude test scores are accompanied by reference letters, interviews and at some Canadian dental schools an autobiographical sketch (ABS). The interview and ABS attempt to collect, in a standardized manner, material which is non-academic and reveals personal attributes.

Broadly speaking, grades and aptitude tests are objective; however, they may not be universally predictive. Some mention should be made about the value of grades as they pertain to the mainstream applicant. There is no doubt that there has been a gradual and consistent inflation in secondary and post-secondary grades. Mean grades have risen to the point that the range distribution is squeezed into smaller standard deviations. When there was a mean grade of 76% +/- 4%, a score of 70% might make the class. Today, that score would be unlikely to get past a preliminary screen. I am quite certain that recent classes, with a bottom score of 82% and a mean grade of 85% +/- 2% do not reflect a brighter cohort of students. The problem confronting admission committees is that there is no longer a normal distribution of grades. Since the maximum average grade cannot exceed 100% (realistically about 95%), the result is that the median grade of successful applicants is very high. Although committees know that there is no real difference between a grade of 87% and 85%, they may be faced with not offering a place to the candidate with 82% even if he/she excels in other application categories. In addition, it has been well established that general science grades from all universities cannot be equated. As well, some candidates make course choices which favour high grades. These are confounding issues which challenge Admission Committees. On

the positive side, when only objective measures are used and when demographic and personal information is encrypted, schools cannot be accused of favouritism or discrimination in the selection process.

There is a factor which neither the public nor, I believe, the profession, fully understand. Dental schools do not select for the best dentists. They select for the applicants who are most likely to succeed in their programs. This alone is no easy measure. Over the last fifty years the pragmatic focus has been on eliminating candidates who will be weak in acquiring manual skills that are usually taught in the first two years of the restorative dentistry courses. Dental aptitude tests have used assessments such as cutting geometric shapes into chalk or soap, bending wires and the current pen and paper test (The Perceptual Ability Test). Regardless of the test, each year there are students who struggle to develop skills at a rate which keeps up to the class. Despite the poor correlation between manual aptitude tests and performance, it is not difficult to find a cohort of faculty who petition for a return to physical manual testing of some kind.

Dentists and the public have argued that choosing future dentists should entail more than filtering for high grades and aptitude testing. Admission committees should strive to find students who demonstrate the attributes of the 'good dentist'. Many schools over the last four decades added the submission of solicited reference letters and a face-to-face interview. These would be classified as subjective inputs. It is no surprise that the cool or negative solicited reference letter is exceedingly rare. When I occasionally received unsolicited letters, they were either excessively exuberant or vile. Neither could be trusted. The value of these character references in the selection process became apparent and Western, as well as many other Universities, long ago discontinued asking for letters of reference.

To satisfy the demand for more personal input into candidate selection, many schools introduced an interview. The impetus did not come exclusively from the faculty or admission committees. Alumni, local dentists, and members of the public thought that an interview could provide added benefit to the critical decision of who to offer a seat. Some Deans and Directors, although not supportive of adding subjective inputs, saw the interview as mitigation of the

suspicion that inevitably occurs with a process that is not transparent. Panels that were composed of some combination of faculty, alumni, local dentists, members of the public and in some schools, dental students, held face-to-face interviews with selected applicants. Each school developed its own format and the outcome of the interview contributed some weight to the deliberation. As expected, the quality of the questions and evaluation of the answers varied considerably as there was neither formal training nor any consistency in depth and scope of topics covered.

Here is a hypothetical list of answers to a simple question- Why do you want to be a dentist? If you were on an interview panel, how would you rate these responses?

-My uncle is a dentist and I admire what he does.

-I want to help people.

-I like working with a team.

-I want to be my own boss and run an office.

-I like working with my hands. I make model airplanes.

-I like the artistic side of dentistry.

-I do not want to be on call.

-My parents want me to be a professional.

-Dentists do well financially.

The responses invoke value judgments that reside in us, as much as the respondent. Although we might favour one response over another, no one has established a hierarchy of responses. Is 'not wanting to be on call' a more laudable answer than 'I want to run my own office'? What harm is there in noting that dentists can do better than average in annual income? Does 'helping people' rank higher than 'I like working with my hands'? Of course, candidates would have more than a single response, which makes the assessment even more complex.

To provide more consistent interviews, organized dentistry developed the standardized candidate interview with a uniform question platform and a template to evaluate the responses. A bit of time was put aside for open questions. To assist in developing consistency, training was provided to the interviewers. Each panel asked the candidates the same questions and had an expected reply against which the interviewee's response could be judged. At first, the responses were varied enough so that panels felt that real differences existed between candidates' answers; however, as with most types of societal testing schemes, the questions

became known and the responses predictable. My discussion with interviewers yielded a few anecdotes of finding superb or grossly inferior applicants. Since only the negative side of the distribution was important, for these few, the outcome, especially if the interviewers were not unanimous, provoked the possibility of a litigious enquiry or appeal. Over time, the real value of standardized interviews came under scrutiny and the cost/benefit of extensive applicant interviews was questioned.

The ABS has recently been introduced as another applicant filter. This device differs significantly from face-to-face interviews and reference letters. Applicants provide material which supplements basic scholastic data such as courses taken and GPA scores. This includes honours and awards, research activity and other post-secondary education pursuits. Applicants are asked to relate their experience as a volunteer, shadowing dentists, playing sports, and doing hobbies. The ABS requires that the applicant includes verifiers for their statements. It is assumed that schools scrutinize a selection of these references to maintain some degree of validity. The applicant is also asked to compose a brief essay on both a general and a dental based subject. The candidate's ABS is reviewed and graded against a standard by a dentist not on the Admission Committee.

Although the evolution of candidate admission requirements to dentistry is interesting, is there a conclusion or an observation that might be significant? I pondered this question before, during, and after writing this essay. I suggest that it may be of value to stand back and look at the practising dentists over the last 75 years. It would be inappropriate to put specific dates on the critical phases, as schools adopted or adjusted entry requirements at different times to meet their individual needs and goals. Until about 1963 almost all Ontario dentists entered dental school solely with the submission of senior matriculation grades. By the mid 60's a manual dexterity test (chalk carving) was added to the application requirement and about the same time direct entry from high school was ended. Applicants were required to have completed at least one and then two years of university which included some prerequisite subjects. In the 70's the chalk carving test was included in a battery of tests called the DAT. Over the next 25 years there was a gradual increase in the science prerequisites until most

applicants had at least a B.Sc. The DAT test remained, although many of the science and math subsets were dropped leaving the test of visual perception, manual dexterity, and English comprehension as the only seemingly valid components. As a response to the demand for more non-academic input, non-standardized and then standardized interviews were incorporated. The changes that were adopted by admission committees were a result of organized dentistry taking an objective look at the admission process and supporting research into the effectiveness of the tests in predicting success. Letters of reference were quickly dropped as well as many of the DAT components. Today, for the mainstream applicant, schools require a GPA derived from at least the best two years of general science degree, some component of the DAT, an ABS, and an interview.

Over this time span, the requirements for application to dental school varied from a cursory review of high school grades to a complex process with input from a variety of academic, aptitude and subjective filters and tests. I have no idea whether the dentists who graduated in the last 10 years are better, worse or about the same as the cohort of dentists who entered the profession in the 1960's. If there has been research that correlates application standards and dental practice performance, I have not seen it. If the Regulatory Colleges have done a study relating complaint and discipline actions to dental school application protocol, I have missed that as well.

So, when confronted by the scowling colleague who is disturbed about what to him is a poorly performing professional colleague and who thinks that the blame lies somehow with the admission process, at least we can say- we did the best we could.

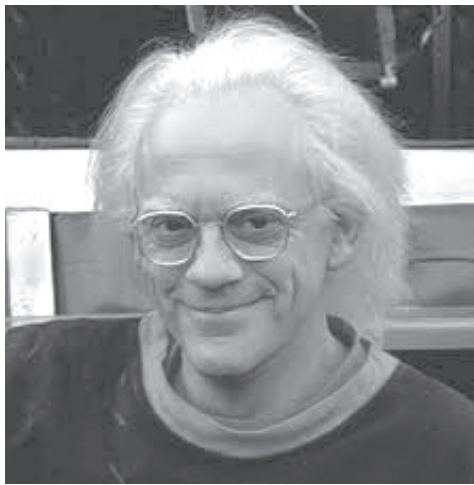
There is one other observation to add to this admission ramble; For the last 50 years, the ratio of applicants to seats at the Ontario schools has hovered around 8:1. Putting Nebbish aside – weren't we lucky!

1. Personal Communication, Harvey Goldberg, Current Chair, Admission Committee, Schulich School of Dentistry

2. Personal Communication, Tom Mara, Past Chair, Admission Committee, Schulich School of Dentistry.

Stan Kogon

I'VE BEEN PREPARING FOR THIS FOR FORTY YEARS!



By Steven Brown

OK. So that's not the only reason I went into dentistry. But who was better trained, and prepared for this pandemic than dentists? I already wash my hands forty times a day. I already wear a mask eight hours a day. Unlike some people, I always change my clothes daily. And I always try to stay at least six feet away, when I see a patient on the street. Now they have to learn how to do all the things I've been doing all along. I've seen a 'gentleman' in a convertible BMW, driving at seventy kilometres an hour down Yonge Street, with the top down, wearing a mask! I've seen a person walking towards me smoking, with their mask covering their chin. I've seen people wearing masks, face shields, and gloves scratching their faces, and the only thing they haven't done is wrapped themselves in a vapour barrier. They have to learn all this, and the right way to do it. And we already know how. We're dentists, and we've been ready all along. Also, I hope the people who refuse to wear masks, also refuse a ventilator when they need it. A mayor in Italy, saw two women getting their hair done at the height of the pandemic, and said - "Don't they know it'll be a closed casket?"

Anyway, when I started to write this, my wife said - 'Shorter is better!' So I asked her why she married a guy six foot three. So this is my stuff, and I'll stop when I want to. And you probably don't know this, but not all Jewish men, when they came to Canada, were tailors. A lot of them worked in label making. Hence a lot of Jewish men are named Label. This will be terribly disjointed, but see if you can follow

along. I've joined a group of bored people during the pandemic, and right away they put me on the 'bored'. So I quit. I also had time on my hands, so I went to a substance abuse clinic, but I didn't like the substance they were abusing, so I quit that too. And I read in the Globe the other day, about the spread of Covid in 'Meat Plants'. Are those two words not the best oxymoron of all time? And I sometimes wonder how many people wearing masks are smokers? Just wondering. Whatever. This morning I heard a great line from a married couple who always come together for their appointments at my office. So I saw the wife, and then we went to the 'reception area'. It's not a waiting room! And I said to the husband - 'We're booking fifteen minutes between appointments now, but in that you've been my patients for thirty years, and you're happily married, I think you can come in right away.' He said, 'I guess I should wait then.' She laughed.

And I really stopped watching most TV about nine years ago, but with so much time on my hands, there's only so much reading you can do. So too much TV was in the cards. And I've learned a lot about why I stopped watching. Aside from the inane shows, the repetitive commercials are just too much. So it's crossed my mind. Wouldn't it be nice, if there was a law that all commercials had to be truthful. Then there wouldn't be any commercials. Because remember, if you phone in the next ten minutes, we'll double your order for something you didn't need in the first place. And we've been watching so much CNN, that every afternoon at five o'clock, before I go into the den to watch Wolf Blitzer, I tell Paula if she needs me, I'll be in the 'Situation Room'. And this was absolutely true. Once, when Jim Acosta, the main White House Correspondent was back and forth with Wolf, he actually said, 'I don't know if you're aware Wolf?' Oh he's aware of Wolf alright. I hope they were laughing in the control room.

But back to the pandemic for a minute. I can't believe EVERYONE isn't wearing a facemask in stores. If they weren't so selfish and everyone wore one, I wouldn't have to. And I've been reading about how to deal with the boredom. The experts say to just take it one day at a time. I actually tried taking it two

days at a time, and it's next to impossible. So I guess the experts are right. And speaking of the experts, because I still actually read the newspaper - in the business section, when the experts tell us why the markets went up or down, yesterday - Isn't that like the weather reporters telling us why the weather was like that yesterday. Just tell me what the markets are going to do TOMORROW! Last pandemic story. I'm right beside a large Shoppers Drug Mart, and I know the Pharmacist owner quite well. And none of the staff were wearing masks. So I asked why, and he said he was having trouble getting them. So I took him a couple of boxes. And he asked me if I needed anything. And I told him I was fine. So he asked me if I had an Optimum Loyalty card, and I told him the only loyalty card I had was to my wife. So he pressed me, and asked if my wife had one, and of course I said she did. So he asked me to have her phone him with the number, and he'd make her a partner. When I told her a partner gets twenty percent off every day, on all regularly priced products, including makeup, she went berserk, and phoned her best friend, and told her she'd take her with her next time for name brand makeup at twenty percent off. But I got on the phone and said - 'Marisa, before you get too excited, just remember, there's a \$10,000 limit per day.'

Now my totally random thoughts as per usual. I know there's been quite a brouhaha, about taking down certain statues across North America. So maybe there should be a 'Statue of Limitations'. That would solve it. And even with all the TV, I've still been reading, and I just finished '24'. The Willie Mays story. And in it he tells of an older fellow teammate, in the old Negro Leagues - Bill Greason. He said Bill told him in the Battle of Iwo Jima, two of his best buddies within ten feet of him 'Got it', and never made it home. So Bill told Willie - 'I promised God, if he got me home in one piece, whatever he wanted me to do, I'd do it.' And he obviously made it home. But no offence to Bill, but didn't he know the two that 'Got it', and died during the war, asked God the same thing. Just like when the winning quarterback thanks 'My God and saviour' for the win. I don't think she really cares. Nor do I think she bets. I'm an equal opportunity God type person.

Next. I was sitting on my porch reading and minding my own business, when a lady came up and handed me an Epoch Times newspaper. That's like saying, 'I can't get rid of this. You throw it out.' And I've never told anyone this, but when we got married, (after my first year of work), Paula demanded a prenuptial agreement stating that if we ever got divorced I'd owe her half of everything I had, coming into the marriage. And if we ever do, I will definitely split that hundred dollars with her, right down the middle. And let me make it perfectly clear once again. I don't care when I'm driving behind you, if you have a baby on board, or if you love parasailing, or even that you love your pet schnauzer. Tell your friends. Rent a billboard. I DON'T CARE! And now let's talk magic tricks. OK. Has anyone? I mean ANYONE!, ever seen a dandelion change from yellow to fluff. Now, that's magic. And now that dandelion season is over, I must say my favourite season is June 4th. I mean Spring. And dates. I'm waiting for the U.S. Presidential election on November 3rd. But for now I'm just going to be BIDEN my time, and hoping for the best. Now, see if you can TRUMP that. I hope not. See, this is easy, because I do sit down comedy eight hours a day at the office. I can't do standup, because my back hurts.

And nothing would be complete without another true story about my parents, Frank and Estelle Costanza. Sixty years ago, on a Saturday morning I was driving downtown (south), with my father on Bathurst Street. (He was driving. I was little.) And at St.Clair, a streetcar also going south, and our car hit sides. The streetcar stopped, and my father got out and started yelling at the driver of the streetcar, that it was his fault. No joke. And I was an only child! That's why I write these. I need someone to talk to. Now, on another note, let me tell you how your brain works, although I don't really know either. But this is a true story that happened a few weeks ago. I hope you don't have to be a hockey goalie to understand this, but if you are you'll totally get it. I was a goalie in high school, and at U of T for New College, and then for Dentistry. But I haven't played goal for forty years. I was walking up Yonge Street after work on a windy day, and a guy's hat flew off, that was walking about twenty feet in front of

me. (Not the hat. The guy. Hats can't walk.) He was running toward me to step on it and stop it, but as it approached me, I put my hands out, and turned my right foot sideways, and made the stop. And THAT'S how your brain works. Even forty years later. If you think you have any control over it, (Your brain. Not the hat.) I suggest you think again. Or maybe that won't work, because your brain is in control, as you've just learned. It's just waiting forty years to surprise you.

Finally, - signs. Fraters, Sororites, and Societyers under fifty - you can google this one. A classic song from my youth. 'Signs, Signs. Everywhere there's signs. Blocking out the scenery. Breaking my mind. Do this. Don't do that. Can't you read the signs?' The Five Man Electrical Band. 1970. It's worth a listen. Anyway, Shopper's Drug Mart only allows so many people in at the moment as you know, and I went in and was behind about seven people, waiting in line for a prescription. In the aisle in front of me, one of the categories of products on the sign for that aisle was - 'Weight Management'. I said to the lady in front of me, it should be renamed 'Wait Management'. And a sign on a store on my way to work - 'Please don't visit us if you are sick.' I often walk aimlessly downtown when I'm sick, and go into stores. And, the sign - 'Drinking alcohol during pregnancy should be avoided.' If that's when you become aware of that, I don't give your children much of a chance. Sorry. Also - 'Descent Auto Repair, at College and Bathurst. Don't go yet, because I'm looking for 'Better than Average Auto Repair', and I'll tell you if I find it. Oh, oh. Paula just said it's Descent, not Decent. Sorry again. Skip that. And Toronto doesn't change, or upgrade areas. They just rename areas with new signs. So they don't get into trouble, with all this political correctness these days, I have an answer. Just put up signs on every block that say 'The Condominium District.' True, AND politically correct. And I was recently looking for parking outside a church. But right outside, a sign said 'No Parking Between Signs'. But there was no other sign, so I had to keep driving, and I couldn't park. I missed the whole ceremony.

And finally, - really. I'll leave you with this. The murder of George Floyd had me thinking

recently about the police actions throughout North America. On the old TV show 'Hill Street Blues', the Captain, before sending out his officers in the morning would always say 'And don't forget. Be careful out there'. Well, I think Captains should also say to their officers before they go out - 'And remember. There's only one letter different, between Lawful, and Awful when making an arrest'. I hope Mr. Floyd is the spark that puts the 'L' back in during arrests! The American Dream has truly become the American Nightmare. Leaving on a down note, but it's a difficult time. Sorry folks.

As always,
I remain,
SHB

TRIBUTE

PLATINUM CARDS

Condolences

Dr. Howard Steinman on the loss of his mother and father

Dr. Stephen Abrams

Terry Braunstein and family on the loss of her husband, Past International President Frater

Dr. Steven Braunstein

Dr. Marcy Schwartzman

Dr. Phil Novack on the loss of his son

Dr. Stephen Abrams

Dr. Howard Rosen on the loss of his mother

Dr. Stephen Abrams

GOLD CARDS

Mazel Tov

Dr. Alvin Sher on your retirement

Andy & Mita Hoffer

Condolences

Drs. Mel and Stephen Kay on the loss of his mother-in-law and his grandmother

Dr. Andrew & Wendy Kay

Elaine Leve on the loss of her husband Frater

Dr. Russell Leve

Dr. Stanley & Ellen Markin

SILVER CARDS

Condolences

Rosalyn Cherry and the Bassett Family on the loss of her husband Frater Dr. Bernie Bassett

Dr. Arthur & Harriet Tarshis

The Kay Family on the loss of their mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

Dr. Bonnie Chandler

The Wolfstadt Family

Dr. Stephen Kay on the loss of his grandmother

Drs. Gary Elman & Ira Marder

Dr. Phil & Bonnie Novack on the loss of their son

Drs. Gary Elman & Ira Marder

Dr. Stanley & Sharon Jacobson

Dr. Paul and Hyla Okorofsky on the loss of their daughter

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Drs. Gary Elman & Ira Marder

Elaine Leve and family on the loss of her husband Frater Dr. Russell Leve

Dr. Bonnie Chandler

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Mazel Tov

Steve Kirshenblatt on the occasion of his birthday

Dr. Aubey & Marilyn Banack

Condolences

Carole Banach on the loss of her husband

Dr. Aubey & Marilyn Banack

Muriel Brunner on the loss of her husband

Dr. Murray & Marilyn Wagman

Dr. Milt Cohen on the loss of his wife

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Dr. Russell Leve

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Dr. Robin Kutner on the loss of her father

Dr. Ari Gold

Marian Lane on the loss of her mother

Dr. Aubey & Marilyn Banack

Renee Dallal on the loss of her husband Frater

Dr. Naim Dallal

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Susan Fremar on the loss of her mother

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Condolences

Carolyn, Dr. Mel, Dr. Stephen and Gina Kay on the loss of their mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

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Dr. Mel Kay on the loss of his mother-in-law

Dr. Stephen Kay on the loss of his grandmother

The Grossman Family on the loss of Frater Dr. S.W. (Mickey) Grossman

The Bassett Family on the loss of Frater Dr. Bernard Bassett

Dr. Edward Reiter on the loss of his mother

The Leve Family on the loss of Frater Dr. Russell Leve

Dr. Milton Cohen on the loss of his wife

Dr. Amit Benyovits on the loss of his father

Dr. Robin Kutner on the loss of her father

The Dallal Family on the loss of Frater Dr. Naim Dallal

Anyone needing help or information with tribute cards, please contact:

Harvey Cooperberg at tribute@aofoundation.ca, or call Harvey at (416) 223-4616. As well, anyone who wishes to volunteer some time assisting with this very worthwhile cause, please contact Harvey as above.

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The Alpha Omega Foundation of Canada distributes funds from the sale of tribute cards to Dentally related agencies such as:

- Dental Volunteers for Israel • Yad LaKashish (*Services to the Elderly*)
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- Dentistry for All (*Clinic in Guatemala*) • ALEH C.A.R.E.S. Dental Clinic
- Princess Margaret Hospital Dental Clinic

Support Dental Research in Israel and Canada



Dear Fellow AO members,

After much deliberation, the Board of Directors has, out of concern for the health and safety of our Convention attendees, to cancel this year's St. Petersburg, Florida Convention.

The recent rise in COVID -19 cases in Florida, along with international and domestic travel restrictions, will make it impossible for many to attend. The most compelling reason for cancellation is the health and safety of our attendees. As much as we love and revere our Annual Convention, we love our members more and want to ensure your safety.

Your Board of Directors will be hard at work monitoring the pandemic and planning our next Convention. We are working with the Renaissance Vinoy to secure dates for December 2021. We will keep you posted. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Fraternally,

Alan Moltz, 2020 International President
Gary Scharoff, 2020 Convention Marshal



Alpha Omega
International Dental Society
<http://www.ao.org>



COVID-19 AND YOUR BUSINESS INTERRUPTION COVERAGE

Most of you who are reading this returned to practicing dentistry and caring for your patients two months ago, albeit in a very different and more challenging manner than you had ever imagined.

However, prior to your return, most of your practices were closed and not earning any income from mid-March 2020 onwards due to the strong recommendation of your College, the CDC and the Provincial government.

I personally sympathize with your plight during this unfortunate pandemic as my spouse, a periodontist and a long-standing member of Alpha Omega, was required to close her practice for over 3 months.

The first place many of you turned to for help when you were no longer earning an income was your practice's insurance company. Most of you have faithfully paid your insurance premiums for years or even decades without making a claim. You felt this was an opportune time to make a claim as your practices were forced to close. You thought that your insurance company would have your back and would pay your business interruption claim until you were able to once again treat patients and open your practices.

Unfortunately, this did not happen. Dentists who made business interruption claims were denied, and others were told by their broker or insurer over the phone not to bother making a claim as there was no coverage for the COVID-19 pandemic under the Policy.

For the few fortunate practice owners that had CDSPI Aviva coverage, dentists were able to claim a lump sum ranging from \$20,000 to \$100,000, as a result of that Policy's Triple Guard insurance pandemic coverage, but at the same time were also denied their business interruption claims.

In summary, to the best of my knowledge, no insurance company has paid a single business interruption claim to a dental practice as a result of being forced to close during the current pandemic.

The primary reason for denial of coverage is that all of the policies require a "direct physical loss" for coverage to be triggered, such as a flood or fire resulting in physical damage to the dental office.

In addition, I have seen in at least one policy an exclusion of "virus" from coverage.

So, for those of you who did not make a claim due to being advised not to bother or for those of you who have had your claims denied, what recourse do you have?

I have been practicing insurance law for 25 years and have represented hundreds if not thousands of clients, all of whom have been told that they had no claim or had their claims denied so the current approach by the insurers handling these claims is neither novel nor surprising.

Be aware that you indeed have legal recourse.

We intend to commence litigation proceedings against the insurers who denied your claims and argue that there is validity in stating that the existence of the coronavirus at your dental practice or the threat of the existence of that virus at your practice constitutes a direct physical loss. Moreover, we intend to argue that physical loss need not equate with physical damage, such as occurs in a flood or fire claim.

We will as well argue that your practices have indeed sustained a physical loss by not being able to be physically utilized by yourselves and your patients during the forced closure.

Similarly, we intend to argue that it is contrary to public policy to deny all these claims.

Finally, we intend to argue that until such time that the insurer can prove that the virus was indeed present at the premises of your practice they will be barred from utilizing the "virus" exclusion of the Policy, if applicable, to deny your claim.

A trickle of case law from litigation of these claims is being generated at the moment, mostly in the USA, and we expect many of these types of cases to work their way through the legal system both in the USA and Canada over the next several years.

As our firm is taking these cases on a contingency basis with no up-front retainer fee and a guarantee that you don't have to pay us anything unless we are successful in obtaining compensation for your business interruption claim I invite all of you at this time to contact myself by email or phone and join our firm's pursuit of denied dental business interruption claims on behalf of members of Alpha Omega and the dental profession.



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