



**15th Annual Ava Roberts  
Oral Health Symposium  
Friday, November 15, 2024  
8:00am – 3:45pm**

**Course Descriptions and Objectives**

**Infection Control in the Era Emerging/Re-emerging Disease(s): What Dental Practitioners Need to Know**

**Instructor: Louis G. DePaola, DDS, MS, FAAOM, FACD, FICD**

Emerging and re-emerging diseases are a fact of life in the modern world. Preventing the spread of these new and/or changing infections in the dental office presents a continuous challenge for dental practitioners. New infection control guidelines have been and will continue to be instituted to ensure that the dental office is as safe as possible. Dental practitioners must be aware of evolving infection control guidelines to protect themselves and the patients they treat. In the last fifty years numerous infectious diseases have challenged the delivery of oral healthcare. In the 1980s-1990s: the emergence of HIV/AIDS mandated significant changes in infection control practices to ensure safe treatment of patients in the dental office. In 2020, the respiratory infection COVID-19 caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 rapidly circumnavigated the globe, clearly illustrating the potential for a respiratory pathogen to both spread very rapidly in the modern world and cause considerable morbidity and mortality. Just as alarming is the recent increase in vaccine-preventable diseases as well as STDs and TB. This program will provide dental providers with the latest information on the management of recent emerging diseases as well as COVID-19 in the dental office. Paramount to controlling this pandemic are the principles of respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette and enhancements in respiratory protection that may need to be implemented. Emphasis will be placed on compliance issues and how a practical, cost effective "safe workplace" can be achieved in 2024. This course fulfills CDE requirements for infection control and requirements for annual OSHA training.

The following topics will be discussed:

1. The epidemiology and nationwide spread of COVID-19 and emerging and

reemerging diseases (the latest epidemiology of COVID-19 and other prominent infections will be presented).

2. How can these diseases be prevented? (the best strategies for the prevention of these infections will be presented).
3. How can the impact of COVID-19 and other emerging diseases be minimized in the dental office?
4. What are the latest guidelines from the ADA, CDC and other organizations? Interim guidelines regarding COVID-19 and emerging and reemerging disease Infection control published by the CDC and OSHA will be reviewed.

## **Course Objectives**

This program will help the oral care provider to:

1. Understand the routes of transmission of infectious diseases and how to break the chain of infection.
2. Know the updated recommendations for Standard Precautions, inclusive of Contact, Droplet & Airborne Precautions.
3. Learn the principles of respiratory hygiene & cough etiquette to reduce the impact of respiratory diseases.
4. Understand the latest information on prevention, transmission, and management of COVID-19 and emerging/reemerging diseases.
5. Learn how to reduce exposure/contamination to the plethora of pathogens in the dental office.

## **Going for Gold: Shining a Light on Silver Diamine Fluoride**

**Instructor: Dr. Joy Void-Holmes, RDH**

In 2016, Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) was designated as a Breakthrough Therapy by the FDA for its unique ability to halt dental decay, marking a first in oral health therapy. Highlighted by James Nickman, former president of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, as potentially the most significant advancement in pediatric dental care since fluoridated water, SDF gained prominence for its critical role in emergency dental treatments during the Covid-19 pandemic onset.

In this course, participants will learn about the function and benefits of Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF), exploring its bactericidal properties, its capacity for arresting caries by inhibiting demineralization and promoting remineralization, its role in providing up to two years of relief from dentinal hypersensitivity, and approaches to reduce staining. Leveraging the latest evidence-based research, we will examine SDF's comprehensive benefits and practical applications in dentistry. Topics also include navigating informed consent, coding, and billing related to SDF treatments.

## **Course Objectives**

During the course, participants will:

1. Trace the historical development and global adoption of Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) in dentistry, from its early use in Japan in the 1970s to its designation as a breakthrough therapy by the FDA and its role in modern dental practices.
2. Assess the multifaceted functions, benefits, and clinical implications of Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) application in dental care, including its efficacy in caries arrest and its role as a desensitizer.
3. Explore the practical aspects of employing Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) in dental care, emphasizing its cost-benefit ratio, application ease, and strategies to mitigate potential drawbacks such as staining and brief gingival irritation.
4. Understand the processes involved in obtaining informed consent for SDF treatment, along with the coding and billing practices necessary for its integration into dental care services.

## **An Introduction to Artificial Intelligence in Dentistry**

**Instructor: Ahmed S. Sultan, B.D.S., Ph.D.**

This course will introduce participants to the fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and provide examples of applications of AI in Oral Medicine, Oral Pathology, and Oral Radiology. Participants will also be given the opportunity to challenge the AI in head-to-head diagnostic challenges of pathologic conditions of the oral cavity.

## **Course Objectives.**

After this course, participants will be able to:

1. Provide a definition for Artificial Intelligence (AI)
2. Recognize the main components of AI Classification
3. Provide examples of Applications of AI in Medicine, Pathology, and Dentistry
4. Identify the current Limitations and Ethical Considerations of AI
5. Provide examples of Future Applications of AI in Healthcare
6. Participate in an Interactive Challenge: Can you beat the AI? Audience versus AI Challenge

## **Mini-Clinics: Behavior Management and Minimally Invasive Pediatric Dentistry**

**Instructor: Jordan Virden, DDS**

A multi-topic clinical focused discussion on management and guidance of two common pediatric dental themes. Themes include touching on the first dental visit, minimally invasive dentistry, and behavior management. This course is directed at both general dentists, hygienists, and specialists who treat children in their practice setting. Dental caries is the most common chronic disease of childhood – treatment of dental caries is often guided by a child's dental caries risk. Many children, including those with special healthcare needs or complex medical histories can benefit from minimally invasive dental techniques including silver diamine fluoride and the hall crown stainless steel crown technique. Prevention starting from the first visit and creation of a dental home is a major tenant of pediatric dentistry. Knowing what to evaluate for at 1st visits and recall appointments including – diet, growth and development, homecare routine, soft tissue structures, habits, and more are all key elements.

### **Course Objectives:**

After this course, participants will be able to:

1. Complete a pediatric dental screening
2. Have a basic knowledge of several behavior management techniques
3. Complete a caries risk assessment
4. Complete several minimally invasive techniques