



MARYLAND  
Department of Health



**16<sup>th</sup> Annual Ava Roberts  
Oral Health Symposium  
Friday, October 3, 2025  
8:00am – 3:15pm ~ Ten Oaks Ballroom  
Clarksville, Maryland**

### **INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHIES**

#### **ANDRE' FARQUHARSON, DDS**

**Associate Professor, Oral Diagnosis & Radiology**

**Howard University College of Dentistry, Washington, DC**

**Course Title: Pathology, Oral Cancer: What You Need to Know**

Dr. André Farquharson is from New York City and attended Howard University College of Dentistry in Washington, D.C. After completing his dental school training, he further his training at a General Practice Residency at Harlem Hospital Center in New York, N.Y., then completed a Fellowship in Infectious Disease at Bronx Cares Center in The Bronx, N.Y. Dr. Farquharson went on to specialize in Oral, Head and Neck Pathology at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia. He taught in a residency program at Columbia University in New York and taught Oral, Head and Neck Pathology at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee and was Director of the General Practice Residency Program.

Dr. Farquharson is an Associate Professor in Washington, DC at Howard University College of Dentistry. He was the former Dental Director for the National Minority AIDS Education Training Center and Clinic Coordinator for Ryan White Care Act HIV/AIDS patients at Howard University. He is a Fellow in the Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology and a Diplomate in the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology. He has publications and lectured both nationally and internationally.

#### **Sharon Parsons, DDS**

**Dental Associates**

**Columbus, Ohio**

**Course Title: Opioids and Addiction: How Did We Get Here and Where Are We Now?  
A Guide to Managing Pain Responsibly**

Dr. Sharon Parsons graduated from the Ohio State University College of Dentistry in 1981. She currently owns a general practice in Columbus, Ohio where she practices with her younger son

and another associate. She is a past President of the Ohio Dental Association and is active in all levels of organized dentistry. She is a member of the American College of Dentists, the International College of Dentists and the Pierre Fauchard Academy, along with many other organizations. She is a recipient of a Lucy Hobbs Award, the Icons of Dentistry Award and the Joseph Crowley Distinguished Dentist Award.

In 2015 Dr. Parsons lost her older son to an opioid overdose. This has led her to be an advocate for opioid addiction prevention. In her year as ODA President she developed an Opioid Coalition, bringing together Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Addiction Recovery to share information. She is currently on the One Ohio Regional Board, which oversees the money spent in her region that the State receives from its lawsuits against the Pharmaceutical Companies that helped contribute to the Opioid Crisis. She has presented at SmileCon, the annual meeting of the American Association of Pediatric Dentistry and at several other meetings in Ohio.

**MARLENE ROBERTS, DrPH, MS, BSDH**

**Trainer**

**Course Title: Mid-Atlantic Prevent Abuse and Neglect through Dental Awareness**

Ms. Roberts has been a registered and licensed dental hygienist for more than 35 years with experience in community/public oral health. Ms. Roberts has traveled throughout the Caribbean, South America, and Africa providing oral health care and has been active in local community dental clinics. A former full-time faculty member at a local dental hygiene college providing didactic and clinical dental hygiene instruction, Ms. Roberts is currently practicing in a periodontal/implantology private practice in Washington, DC. Ms. Roberts continues to be involved in public health endeavors focused on improving oral health and access to care.