



MARYLAND
Department of Health



**16th Annual Ava Roberts
Oral Health Symposium
Friday, October 3, 2025
Ten Oaks Ballroom
Clarksville, MD
8:00am – 3:15pm**

Course Objectives

Pathology, Oral Cancer: What You Need to Know

Instructor: André Farquharson, DDS, Associate Professor, Oral Diagnosis & Radiology,
Howard University College of Dentistry, Washington, DC

Course Description: Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States. Oral cancer accounts for roughly three percent of all cancers diagnosed annually in the United States which equates to about 54,000 new cases per year. Oral cancer is a preventable condition. It can develop on the tongue, on the tissue lining the floor of the mouth and gingiva, ventral surface of the tongue, at the base of the tongue, and the area of the throat at the back of the mouth.

Objectives:

- Discuss the prevalence of oral cancer.
- Identify the signs and symptoms of oral cancer.
- Explain what's an oral cancer screening examination.
- Identify the common etiology of oral cancer.
- List the methods to detect oral cancer.
- Identify different types of oral cancer and look a likes.
- Provide early detection for oral cancer.
- Identify most common sites to see oral cancer.

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

Instructor: Sharon Parsons, DDS, Owner - Dental Associates
Columbus, Ohio

Between 2010 and 2020 the number of people becoming addicted to and dying from opioids increased dramatically. It seemed like it happened overnight, but actually it had been slowly building. Unfortunately, dentists unwittingly played a part in this crisis. How did we as a profession get in that situation and what can we do to be on the right side of it? In this course participants will learn to understand addiction and who is most vulnerable. There are now many alternatives to opioids in the management of pain, which will be discussed, as well as responsible prescribing.

Objectives

- Better understand addiction, how it happens and how to prevent it.
- Prescribe responsibly and help patients manage pain.
- Recognize signs and symptoms of drug use in patients.
- Understand how to help a patient that may be struggling with substance use.

Title: Mid-Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. (Prevent Abuse and Neglect Through Dental Awareness)

Instructor/Trainer: Marlene Roberts, RDH, DrPH, BSDH

Course Description: This course is designed to educate dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, and others about the problems of child abuse and neglect, bullying, intimate partner violence, elder abuse and neglect, and human trafficking. The Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners has approved the Mid-Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. course to fulfill the required 2 CE credits on abuse and neglect prevention needed every other license renewal cycle for Maryland licensed dentists and dental hygienists. Maryland licensed dentists and dental hygienists must complete both Part I and Part II of the course to earn the 2 CE credits.

Objectives:

- Describe the background, effects and risk factors of abuse, bullying, neglect and stalking on children, vulnerable adults, elderly, intimate partners and victims of human trafficking.
- Differentiate the physical findings that may be mistaken for abuse including injuries occurring from accidents, genetic and acquired conditions, infections, and cultural practices.
- Explain oral health professionals' ethical and legal responsibilities regarding reporting abuse and neglect, implementing appropriate screening questions, and eliminating reporting barriers.
- Identify appropriate local and national agencies to report abuse and neglect.