

Thursday, September 17th, 2026

Changing the Script: Opioid Stewardship (2 CE's)

Sponsored By: UND School of Medicine

Presented By: Dr. Marcus Tanabe

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.



Dr. Marcus Brian Tanabe is an oral and maxillofacial surgeon based in Grand Forks, North Dakota. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Natural Sciences from Saint John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, before completing his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry in 2003. Dr. Tanabe completed advanced residency and chief residency training in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery through Saint John Health in Detroit, Michigan, as well as additional clinical training at the Medical College of Wisconsin and the Minneapolis VA Medical Center.

Board-certified by the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, Dr. Tanabe has been actively involved in organized dentistry throughout his career. He has served in leadership roles with the North Dakota Dental Association, the North Dakota Board of Dental Examiners, and the American Student Dental Association. In addition

to his clinical practice, he has teaching experience in advanced oral surgery education and continues to serve as a Basic Life Support Instructor and director of the Red River Study Club. Dr. Tanabe has received numerous honors for leadership, service, and professional achievement within the dental community.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This interactive presentation explores modern opioid stewardship in dentistry through the lens of evidence-based pain management, whole-patient care, risk mitigation, and practical workflow integration. Participants will gain actionable tools to improve prescribing practices, enhance patient safety, and support interdisciplinary approaches to substance use risk within everyday dental practice.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Apply evidence-based strategies for acute dental pain management using non-opioid first-line therapies when appropriate.
- Describe the evolving role of opioid stewardship in dentistry and its impact on patient safety, public health, and clinical outcomes.
- Demonstrate appropriate and compliant use of Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) tools, including workflow integration in dental settings.
- Identify patient-specific risk factors for opioid misuse, adverse events, and substance use disorders that may influence prescribing decisions.
- Incorporate brief screening, trauma-informed communication, and SBIRT principles into routine patient assessment and treatment planning.
- Implement team-based approaches that engage dentists, hygienists, assistants, and administrative staff in pain management and opioid stewardship efforts.
- Recognize referral pathways and community resources for patients who may benefit from further evaluation or treatment related to substance use concerns.
- Develop practical strategies to balance compassionate pain control with responsible prescribing in oral healthcare practice.

State Governance and Rulemaking 101 (1 CE)

Sponsored By: ND Board of Dental Examiners

Presented By: David Schaibley, Esq.

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.



David Schaibley has served as the Executive Director for the North Dakota State Board of Dental Examiners since 2023. In that role he assists with day-to-day operations, including the logistics and substance of Board meetings, testifying on the Board’s behalf, and drafting proposed statutes and rules. Prior to joining the Board, he served as an Assistant Attorney General for just over a decade where he provided legal advice to many state agencies, including about a dozen licensing boards—one of which was the NDSDBE.

Mr. Schaibley was born and raised in Bismarck, earned a bachelor’s degree in public administration from the University of North Dakota, and served twelve years in the North Dakota Army National Guard—to include deployment in Operation Desert Storm. He then attended law school in St. Paul and worked for about 15 years as an attorney in the Twin Cities in a variety of roles, including serving as legal counsel at non-profits and corporations, and in a private litigation practice, before returning to North Dakota.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This session provides an introduction and overview of the North Dakota State Board of Dental Examiners (Board)—the state governmental entity charged with the responsibility of regulating the practice of dentistry. Included will be a discussion of the oversight provided by the Governor and Legislative Assembly, Board members, appointments and terms of office, laws that govern the dental profession, and the Board’s roles, duties, obligations, and limitations. Specific attention will be paid to the complaints and disciplinary process, and the Board’s rulemaking responsibilities.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- The role of the Office of the Governor and State Legislative Assembly, and Board’s relationship with them.
- The Board’s roles, responsibilities, obligations, and limitations.
- The Board’s relationships with and differences between the Board and other governmental and non-governmental entities.
- State regulation of the practice of dentistry and licensees, with a focus on the applicable statutes, rules, regulations, and policies, and how they impact licensees.
- The complaint and disciplinary process.
- The rulemaking process, including the overall procedure and the roles of the Board, its licensees, stakeholders, and the Legislative Assembly.
- Your opportunities and means of effectively engaging with the Board.

Stress, Resilience, and Mental Health in Dentistry (2 CE's)

Presented By: Michael C. DiTolla, DDS, FAGD

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.



Dr. DiTolla was in private practice for 15 years before becoming Director of Clinical Education for Glidewell Labs for the next 15 years and led the clinical team that developed and brought BruxZir Solid Zirconia to market. In 2011 he received the "Most Effective Dentist Educator" award in a nationwide survey of dentists. He recently received the Gordon J. Christensen Award Distinguished Speaking from the Chicago Dental Society. His online educational videos have over 16 million views on YouTube. He currently maintains a private practice focused on clear aligners, veneers and obstructive sleep apnea in Lodi, California.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Dentistry is a demanding profession where stress and burnout often go unspoken. In this engaging and relatable presentation, Dr. Mike DiTolla uses humor, personal stories, and psychologically grounded insights to explore the emotional challenges dentists face in modern practice. Participants will gain a better understanding of how stress affects their work, relationships, and wellbeing — and why caring for themselves is essential to caring for their patients. This program offers practical perspective, renewed connection, and a more sustainable approach to a fulfilling career in dentistry.

Friday, September 18th, 2026

Beautiful Preps and Impressions Made Easy (3 CE's)

Presented By: Dr. Michael DiTolla

8:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.



Dr. DiTolla was in private practice for 15 years before becoming Director of Clinical Education for Glidewell Labs for the next 15 years and led the clinical team that developed and brought BruxZir Solid Zirconia to market. In 2011 he received the "Most Effective Dentist Educator" award in a nationwide survey of dentists. He recently received the Gordon J. Christensen Award Distinguished Speaking from the Chicago Dental Society. His online educational videos have over 16 million views on YouTube. He currently maintains a private practice focused on clear aligners, veneers and obstructive sleep apnea in Lodi, California.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Tooth preparation with adequate reduction in the proper areas has more to do with producing esthetic anterior restorations than selecting the correct shade. Techniques will be presented to ensure that dentists give their laboratory technicians the best chance to fabricate a beautiful restoration.

A New Era in Conservative Esthetics (3 CE's)

Presented By: Dr. Michael DiTolla

1:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will examine how technology has made it possible for clinicians to turn any prepped veneer case into a no-prep case, making our treatment much more conservative, and more acceptable to the patient. With today's high-strength ceramics, veneers can be made as thin as 0.3mm, making esthetic no-prep veneers possible, if the teeth are in the correct position. No-prep veneers are more difficult to seat than prepped veneers or crowns, and a live demonstration will show a seating technique to mitigate those difficulties.