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Application for MDS Board of Trustees Position Governance Year Beginning July 1, 2023

Thank you for your interest in being a member of the Massachusetts Dental Society Board of Trustees. As a member of the Board, you have the opportunity to play a significant role in setting the long-term direction of the MDS. The MDS values and seeks diverse leadership as defined by race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, nationality, disability, appearance, geographic location, professional level, etc.

Full Name

Primary District

Region

Phone

Email

Position Applying for:

- Vice President (2-Year Term)
- Secretary (2-Year Term)
- Regional Trustee (2-Year Term)
- At-Large Trustee (1-Year Term)

Please review the Regional Trustee/At-Large Trustee requirements and duties on the [Governance Information page](#) on the MDS website and check that you have read and understand them.

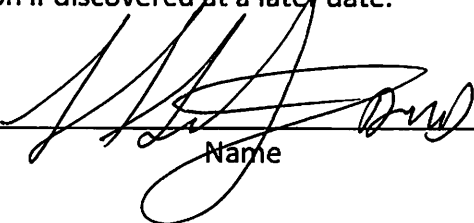
Have you ever served on a District Executive Committee, MDS Committee, or similar leadership roles in other organizations? Yes No

Have you ever participated in any leadership training programs through the MDS, ADA or other organization? Yes No

Do you have a valid Massachusetts dental license? Yes No

Have you ever been disciplined by the Board of Registration in Dentistry? Yes No
If so, please explain:

I certify that all information provided in this application is true and complete. I understand that any false information or omission may disqualify me from further consideration for the position I am applying for and may result in my removal from the position if discovered at a later date.



Name

9/29/2022
Date

-
- District letter of support included
 - Candidate CV included
 - Candidate personal statement explaining why they would like to be on the Board included

Sent separately

Please submit this application to your District Secretary
for inclusion with your Candidate Information Packet

Metropolitan District Dental Society
Tina Wang, Chairperson
Adam Lowenstein, Chair-Elect
Frank Schiano, Vice Chair
Ken Marsh, Secretary
Maryam Shomali, Treasurer

On behalf of our executive board and the entire constituency of the Metropolitan District, this letter is to serve as district support for the candidacy of Dr. Steven Spitz for vice president of the Massachusetts Dental Society.

Steve is our immediate past chairperson, and has served in several other officers positions, all with distinction. For several years now, he has been in charge of overseeing our budget, keeping us informed and afloat. He has been a diligent volunteer for our charitable events and CE courses, and has always been a staunch supporter of organized dentistry.

We are extremely proud that Dr. Spitz has put his name up for candidacy for MDS Vice President.

Dr Ken Marsh

In 2022, for the first time, the Massachusetts Dental Society canceled all Yankee Dental Congress Saturday programs, courses, exhibits, and events due to inclement weather. Even here in New England, this was surprising, catching everyone off-guard. As the Yankee was being shut down, I was asked by friends and colleagues if I would speak via zoom to deliver relevant content to our fellow dentists who would be home weathering the storm. Many clinicians were counting on the CE that they would now be missing. I agreed and had the know-how to offer CE expeditiously. As social media spreads the word fast in our tight Boston dental community, more than 1500 members signed on to hear a myriad of lectures that day. At that moment, we learned that with technology and leadership, a nimble organization could change in direction in an instant.

As a result of forward-thinking from our more recent MDS presidents, I became more aware of, and involved, in MDS programming and planning via the Chair and Vice-chair zoom meetings, and, this past year, I had the privilege of serving as the Chair of the Metropolitan District. Communication, transparency, and growth are the most critical aspects of any organization. It is currently done well, but how can we improve? The Massachusetts Dental Society is a phenomenal organization that does many things for its members, and I believe we can do more. With the issues raised in recent years, such as Delta Dental changes and board regulation enforcement, many dentists are looking to social media and the MDS for information. With the MDS being that source, we can flourish if we utilize the resources we have.

I would like to take on this challenge and am, therefore, running for the position of Vice-President of MDS for 2023.

Since my involvement in the MDS Leadership Program in 2009, I have served various roles in the Metropolitan District, including membership, assistant treasurer, treasurer, chair-elect, and chair. I have also spent my career taking leadership roles in dental organizations, including Alpha Omega International Dental Society. There I served as International President in 2019, following many years of service including Editor of the Alpha Omega Journal, Communication vice-president, International President-Elect.

Alpha Omega, a 119-year-old worldwide organization, is a 5000-member organization spread out over four continents and vast communication is essential.

I have practiced dentistry in the Boston area for 25 years, with a second practice sold in Pembroke in 2018. I graduated from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in 1994, completed my certificate in prosthodontics at Harvard University in 1997, and have been a mentor for the Boston University Apex program since 2008. I am passionate about dentistry and want to see the future generations of dentists have the passion and camaraderie in dentistry that we have had for all these years. With being more online and less accessible, I believe that we need to find new ways to progressively approach our community. Especially when weather and other uncontrollable factors are feasible, large organizations like the MDS needs to be nimble, have leaders who can make decisive and effective decisions, and have the manpower and technology to make changes in unforeseen situations. I hope to add my knowledge and vast experience to an organization that has been a big part of my dental career.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to being a candidate for the Vice-Chair position for the Massachusetts Dental Society.

Smile always,

Steven D. Spitz, DMD
Immediate past chair
Metropolitan District Dental Society

As I sat writing and assessing where I see the Massachusetts Dental Society heading in the future and how my personal leadership can make a difference, I received various texts and phone calls asking, “What’s the deal with *Question 2*, yes or no?” This question, which today is five weeks prior to the election, would not bother me if it came from non-dental friends. However, what concerns me is that one call did. In addition, it is even more distressing because I, myself, had not known or understood *Question 2* just a few months ago.

Through a bit of research, I found the following in our MDS archives:

“In 1969, Dr. Walter C. Guralnick became president of the MDS. He was responsible for important changes and the elevation of the profession’s hospital status. In 1966, he recognized that an insurance program was necessary to increase access to dental care. Together with other MDS partners, he sought legislative approval for the setting up of the Massachusetts Dental Service Corporation. 10 years later, it became Delta Dental of Massachusetts.”

How did we get from creating Delta Dental as access for patient care to being a for-profit organization that negates the legitimate responsibility and coverage for those patients, and dentists, who need it most?

So far this Sunday morning, I have seen two commercials for ‘Say NO to 2’, promoting that if passed, access to care will be compromised, individual dental fees will go up, and the quality of care will go down. Of course, we, as the dental community, know this not to be accurate, but the general public does not. During that same time, I have not seen any commercials explaining why we should vote YES. I have been told that YES commercials are coming and that the advisors don’t want too much information to be out far before the election as a strategy against the insurance companies. However, I have learned in my 25 years of running a dental practice and leading an international dental organization that it is not *what* you say that gets people anxious; it’s what’s *not said*. This lack of information and transparency is one example of why many dentists I speak with feels like the MDS and the ADA are not fully working for them. With that, how do we convey this message, and others, in a way to gain and preserve the trust and support of all our constituents? Seeing the messages coming from MDS to our MDS members is great, but we have to think about what more we can do to make sure that our dentists, as well as the general public, understand it.

This is where I contemplate how I will make a difference in this 150-year-old organization. I believe that communication, transparency, and prevailing change with the times are essential in keeping an organization strong and nimble. Dentists today face a myriad of challenges, including insurance companies as they continue to decrease reimbursements and the constant increase of BORID regulations. In addition, the ever-multiplying cost of education and the reality of graduating with tremendous debt, the business challenge of finding assistants, hygienists, and administrative workers, as well as the rising cost of supplies and more, cause realistic anxiety and concern. At the same time, this is actually

the most amazing time to be in dentistry. With new technology like the CBCT, digital dentistry, 3D printing, and the ever-growing new materials making dentistry better, dentistry has become more predictable while creating less trauma and discomfort for our patients. The time of painless dentistry is also here with lasers and the development of robotics, while the leveling of treatment skills is just around the corner.

As per the MDS website, “The Massachusetts Dental Society is dedicated to the professional development of its members through the initiative in education, advocacy, and promotion of the highest professional standards, and championing oral health in the Commonwealth.” To accomplish this mission, we, the MDS, need to look back to the original mission of the MDS, to improve the oral health of the public and promote the professional development of its membership, and solidify the trust of our members. The conviction to change with the times, to substantiate the faith to listen to and work with the challenges our members face, and to convey that we are working to make the lives of our dentist members better. One idea is to partner with the dental hygiene, dental assistant, and dental laboratory associations, as well as collaborate with other partners in dentistry.

The MDS is a great network that does so much. With what we know today and what we know is coming, I look forward to having the opportunity to lead MDS into the future.

STEVEN D. SPITZ, DMD
DrSpitz@Smileboston.com
617.504.1029

Who is Dr. Steven Spitz

Five Things: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXYmvCprt6A>
HSDM: <https://www.smileboston.com/treating-patients-on-the-wild-side/>
ADA: <https://www.smileboston.com/boston-red-sox-team-dentist-gives-back-to-community/>

Clinical Positions

- 1997-present Smileboston Cosmetic and Implant Dentistry
Owner/CEO
Professional prosthodontic private practice specializing in aesthetics and overall oral health, including all phases of dental implants, restorative, and cosmetic dentistry.
- 2008-present Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine, APEX program host
- 2004 Institute for Advanced Laser Dentistry
Co-Founder, Chief Executive Officer
Advanced training courses for general and specialty dentists on the clinical skills of laser dentistry.
- 2003 Co-Inventor of PerfectFit Laser Implant Surgical Guide
- 1997 - 2012 Harvard School of Dental Medicine;
Clinical Instructor/Post-Graduate Prosthodontic Department

Education/Training

- 1995-1997 Harvard School of Dental Medicine/Boston VA Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Prosthodontics Certification
Clinical Supervisor of Boston University AEGD/Harvard University Dental Students
- 1994-1995 Jackson Memorial Hospital/V.A. Hospital
Miami, Florida
General Practice Residency -- *Strong Periodontal Concentration*
- 1990-1994 Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, DMD
Boston, Massachusetts
Honors in fixed Prosthodontics and restorative dentistry
- 1986-1990 University of Massachusetts, BS; Animal Science/Pre-Veterinary Medicine

Licensure/Certification

- 1997 Conscious Sedation (DOCS)
1995 Commonwealth of Massachusetts Board of Dentistry
1994 Northeast Regional Board
1994 State of Florida Board of Dentistry
1994 Nitrous Oxide Certification
1993 Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Dental Hygiene
Approximately 200 CE credits achieved per calendar year

Affiliations

Master Certification; World Clinical Laser Institute	American Dental Association
International Congress of Oral Implantologists	Massachusetts Dental Society
American College of Oral Implantologists	Alpha Omega International Dental Society,
American College of Prosthodontists	International Past President, 2020, 2021
Mass Dental Alliance	International President, 2019
Academy for Sports Dentistry (Boston Red Sox)	Communications VP, 2015-2017
Academy of Osseointegration	International Editor, 2013-2015
	Boston Chapter President, 1999-2004
	Active Chapter Board Participant, 1996-present

Clinical Positions

2004 - 2014	<i>Harvard University School of Dental Medicine</i> Prosthodontics Department of Postgraduate Prosthodontics
1999 - 2012	<i>Franciscan Children's Hospital</i> Clinical Restorative Dentist
1997 - 2004	<i>Harvard University School of Dental Medicine</i> Prosthodontics Department of Restorative Dentistry

Additional Positions/Activities

2010-present	Bright Spirit Children's Foundation, Vice President/Charter Member/Board of Directors
2012-present	Boston Red Sox - Dentist of record
2012-present	Peter Emily International Veterinary Dental Foundation (PEIVDF)
2014-present	Zoo New England, Primary Animal Dentist/Consultant
2016-Present	PEIVDF, Advisory Board
2016-Present	Zoo New England, Advisory Board
2016-Present	New England Wildlife Center, Dental Consultant
2013-2016	Birthing of Giants, Entrepreneurs Organization
2013-15	Massachusetts Metropolitan Dental Society, Assistant Treasurer
2015-17	Massachusetts Metropolitan Dental Society, Treasurer
2017	MDS Leadership Academy
2016	Alpha Omega, Section Editor, Compendium

Lectures/Speaking Engagements/Topics

Veterinary Dental Forum: Lasers and Veterinary Dentistry
New England Wildlife Center: Dental Care for Wildlife
Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity: Exotic Animal Dentistry
Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine (One Health Day): Exotic/Wildlife Animal Dentistry
MDDS: Veterinary Dental Care
Alpha Omega: Global Diagnosis
Massachusetts Dental Alliance: Treatment Planning
Tufts University: Cosmetic Dentistry

Publications

Alpha Omega 2008 Dec; 101(4) 188-94
Lasers in Prosthodontics: Clinical realities of a dental laser in a prosthodontic practice
Dental Economics 2008 Aug; 98 (8)
Digital Workflow