

what is SCD?

Special Care Dentistry (SCD), is a unique international organization of oral health professionals and other individuals devoted to promoting oral health and well being for people with special needs.

Special Care Dentistry is headquartered in Chicago and has a wide ranging membership that includes: dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, non-dental health care providers, health program administrators, residents, students, and others who share our mission. There is also a participating membership category for hospitals, agencies that serve people with special needs and other advocacy and healthcare organizations.

Formerly, SCD was a federation of three independent organizations: the **American Association of Hospital Dentists (AAHD)**, the **Academy of Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities (ADPD)** and the **American Society for Geriatric Dentistry (ASGD)**. Since many of the goals and activities of these groups overlap, they joined forces knowing that they would be a strong force as one. AAHD, ADPD and ASGD are the now called SCD component organizations.

WHAT DOES SCD DO?

SCD is an international organization where professionals meet, communicate, exchange ideas and work together to improve oral health for people with special needs.

Information exchange occurs via our web site (www.SCDonline.org); the bi-monthly journal, *Special Care in Dentistry*; the bi-monthly newsletter, *InterFace*; email communication; and the annual *National Conference on Special Care Issues in Dentistry*. This conference brings together experts in various fields, combining scientific sessions designed to enhance clinical skills

for professionals working with people with special needs; forums devoted to health policy research and practice; sharing information about funding programs; and sessions devoted to developing advocacy positions for local and national programs.

SCD has three fellowship programs administered by the three component organizations that allow practitioners to earn credentials demonstrating advanced knowledge and expertise in their fields. SCD has also developed a Diplomate Certification Program through the American Board of Special Care Dentistry (ABSCD).

IN ADDITION:

- SCD advocates for national legislation.
- SCD is involved in shaping dental residency education with a program directors' group within the American Association of Hospital Dentists.
- SCD components develop practice guidelines, institutional protocols and other documents designed to assist practitioners in providing oral health services.

WHAT IS AHEAD?

SCD continues to evolve both as an organization and a force in the delivery of care to persons with special needs. The organization's Plan for Partnership recognizes the need for broad coalitions to work together to share information, develop and implement strong advocacy positions, and collaboratively improve oral health and well-being for people with special needs. Working with patients, their families and advocacy organizations, SCD helps shape public policy and stimulate change.

Special Care
DENTISTRY
ASSOCIATION

ACADEMY OF DENTISTRY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF HOSPITAL DENTISTS
AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR GERIATRIC DENTISTRY

401 N. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611

**Fellowship
& Diplomate**
CERTIFICATION
PROGRAMS

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Today our lives are busier than ever, but it is now more important than ever to advance your **educational level** in order to **enhance your career** and overall **improve patient care**. The time is now to earn your Fellowship or Diplomate. **Special Care Dentistry** offers **three fellowship programs** sponsored by the American Academy of Dentistry for **Persons with Disabilities**, American Association of **Hospital Dentists** and the American Society for **Geriatric Dentistry** and a Diplomate program through the **American Board of Special Care Dentistry**.



AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR GERIATRIC DENTISTRY (ASGD)

The American Society for Geriatric Dentistry (ASGD) is committed to the advancement of oral health care for older adults. Fellowship in ASGD indicates that the dentist or doctoral member has demonstrated, through a formal evaluation process that he/she possesses the experience, skills and knowledge needed to advance geriatric dentistry in institutional, academic, community, and private practice settings.



ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

- Member of ASGD for five years.
- Completed a 2-year postdoctoral education program focusing on geriatrics/geriatric dentistry and/or been involved in academic, institutional, community health, or clinical practice related to care of older adults.
- Submission of completed application at least 60 days prior to the date of the examination.
- Two letters of recommendation from SCD members familiar with the applicant's abilities and involvement with geriatric care.
- Documented completion of 100 CE hours with a focus on geriatrics/geriatric dentistry within the past 5 years or completion of a comparable experience option.
- Successful completion of an oral examination by Fellowship Council members which includes two case presentations and demonstration of basic knowledge of issues in geriatrics.



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF HOSPITAL DENTISTS (AAHD)

In 1982, the American Association of Hospital Dentists (AAHD) established a Fellowship certification program. AAHD was responding to the request of the growing number of dentists with appointments to hospital medical staffs with a requirement for additional credentials.

Fellowship in AAHD indicates that the dentist has demonstrated through a formal evaluation process, a basic level of knowledge and competency required in a hospital dental practice.

Fellowship in AAHD provides a relevant credential for providers seeking or maintaining medical staff appointments and clinical privileges.

ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility criteria include current enrollment in or completion of at least one year of postdoc-

toral hospital-based training and/or have been on the medical staff of a hospital for at least five years, membership in the AAHD, and a written examination.



ACADEMY OF DENTISTRY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (ADPD)

Why should a member pursue ADPD Fellowship status?

- It is useful for academicians seeking promotion or tenure.
- It provides an incentive to attend CE courses with a MRDD emphasis making you a better clinician.
- It is an opportunity to be officially recognized in the MRDD field.

- It gives you the status needed to discuss potential health care programs related to MRDD with community leaders and legislators.
- It demonstrates to your patients and their care givers your commitment to providing dental care to the MRDD community.

ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

- Five years of consecutive membership in ADPD.
- Demonstration of major contributions to the field of Dentistry for persons with disabilities.
- Documented completion of 100 CE hours in the five years prior to the Fellowship application, relating to oral health for disabled persons (MRDD).
- Two letters of sponsorship from ADPD members attesting to expertise and activities in oral health care for persons with disabilities.
- An oral presentation before the ADPD Fellowship Committee.
- Submission of completed application.

Upon the completion of this process of application the successful candidate will be formally presented with their fellowship at the next convocation at the annual meeting of the SCD.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information concerning fellowship and Diplomate Programs, please contact SCD headquarters at:

401 N. Michigan Avenue • Chicago, IL 60611
 Fax 312-673-6663 • Phone 312-527-6764
 SCD@SCDonline.org

DIPLOMATE CERTIFICATION

The American Board of Special Care Dentistry (ABSCD) was created to develop and award Diplomate certification to members of SCD who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and accomplishments in care of people with special needs in the areas of geriatric dentistry, people with disabilities, or hospital dentistry.

Recognition of these practitioners is based on SCD membership, the time a practitioner has practiced in this field and attainment of Fellowship in one of the component organizations, the American Association of Hospital Dentists (AAHD), the American Society for Geriatric Dentistry (ASGD) and the Academy of Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities (ADPD). The Fellowship programs of the SCD component organizations are integral to the Diplomate certification process, providing a vertical and ongoing pathway for individuals.

It is anticipated that the credential of Diplomate in Special Care Dentistry will be a valuable credential for individuals needing documentation of training and/or expertise.

The complete Bylaws of the ABSCD are available on the SCD web site in the "Members Only" section.

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