

## ALD Leadership

### Board of Directors 2023-2024

#### President

**James Carreiro, DMD | Private Practice, Largo, Florida**

Dr. Carreiro is a general dentist and has been utilizing laser technology since 2007. He incorporates laser technology in almost every aspect of patient care including photobiomodulation. Dr. Carreiro is a graduate of Fordham University and earned his dental degree from Boston University School of Dental Medicine. In addition, he holds Mastership Certification and Advanced Proficiency Certification from the Academy of Laser Dentistry and is a member of the Academy's Speakers Bureau. Dr. Carreiro has also earned Fellowship Certification with the World Clinical Laser Institute.



Contact Dr. Carreiro by e-mail at [carreirojs@hotmail.com](mailto:carreirojs@hotmail.com).

Disclosure: Dr. Carreiro has a financial interest in Perioscience Corporation and occasionally teaches for Biolase and receives compensation.

#### President-Elect and Chairman of 2024 Conference

**Walid Altayeb, DDS | Private Practice, Dohar, Qatar  
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE)**

Dr. Altayeb is the 2023 recipient of ALD's Leon Goldman Clinical Excellence award and the 2019 recipient of ALD's John Sulewski Distinguished Service Award. He received his dental degree from the Faculty of Dentistry, Damascus University, in 1998 and completed his Master of Science degree in Periodontics in 2004 and Doctorate of Philosophy in Periodontics in 2007. He had been working as a clinical supervisor in Department of Periodontics, Damascus University, Syria.



Dr. Altayeb achieved an advanced level of knowledge in the application of lasers in dental science and patient treatment, including Advanced Proficiency certificates from the Academy of Laser Dentistry in 980-nm diode and Er:YAG lasers. He has Mastership in the Academy of Laser Dentistry and is Chair of the ALD Gulf Laser Chapter. Dr. Altayeb conducts "Pink Aesthetics & Laser Dentistry" courses with the British Academy of Implant and Restorative Dentistry in Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and UAE. He is working in private practice as a periodontist and implantologist in the Tamim Dental Polyclinic, Doha, Qatar, The British Lasik and Cosmetic Surgery Center, Dubai, UAE, and the Masters Dental and Aesthetic Center, Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Contact Dr. Altayeb by e-mail at [dreltayeb@hotmail.com](mailto:dreltayeb@hotmail.com).

Disclosure: Dr. Altayeb is a speaker in the British Academy of Implant and Restorative Dentistry and receives a modest honorarium for his educational activities.

## Treasurer

### **Grace Sun, DDS | Private Practice, Los Angeles, CA**

Dr. Sun is the 2021 recipient of ALD's Leon Goldman Award for Clinical Excellence. She graduated from the University of Southern California School of Dentistry in 1981 and has maintained a full-time comprehensive cosmetic practice and dental laboratory in the Beverly Hills, California, area since 1983. She advocates education and has been accredited several prestigious statuses, including the first female Accredited Fellow of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, where she served on the AACD Professional Education Committee for two terms. Dr. Sun is a Master of the Academy of General Dentistry, a Master and Educator with the Academy of Laser Dentistry (ALD) and an international lecturer for dental laser and PBM education; she is a senior instructor with the International Association for Orthodontics (IAO) and holds Mastership status with the International Congress of Oral Implantologists (ICOI).



As of January 2022, Dr. Sun received Dental Acupuncturist certification with an emphasis on orofacial pain management from the UCLA Center for East-West Integrative Medicine. In order to improve the quality of care provided to her patients, Dr. Sun utilizes multiple wavelengths of dental lasers, including photobiomodulation applications, acupuncture and photoacupuncture in various treatment procedures.

Her articles on dental lasers have been published in Dental Clinics of North America.

Contact Dr. Sun by e-mail at [reception@sundds.com](mailto:reception@sundds.com).

Disclosure: Dr. Sun is founder of Oral IQ LLC, an oral health care company and therapeutic light manufacturer.

## Secretary

### **Shigeyuki Nagai, DDS, PhD, Private Practice, Tokyo Japan**

Dr. Shigeyuki Nagai was awarded the 2022 ALD Dr. Glenda Payas Outstanding Education Award from the Academy of Laser Dentistry. He received his DDS from the Osaka Dental University, Japan in 1987 and studied at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine as a Clinical Fellow from 1989-1992. He practiced at the Massachusetts Veterans Administration Medical Center and Massachusetts General Hospital in 1991. He received his PhD from Tokyo Medical and Dental University.



Dr. Nagai serves as a Board member of the Japanese Society for Laser Dentistry, Asia and Pacific Division of the World Federation for Laser Dentistry and Vice President of the Japanese Academy of Color for Dentistry. He served as the board member of Academy of Laser Dentistry from 2010-2018.

He is a committee member of the Japan Academy of Esthetic Dentistry, Japan Society for Laser Surgery and Medicine and Japan Association of Microscopic Dentistry.

In addition to the 2022 Dr. Glenda Payas Outstanding Education Award from the Academy of Laser Dentistry, Dr. Nagai received the ALD Leon Goldman Award for Clinical Excellence in Laser Dentistry in 2010. In 2008, the Excellent Presentation Prize of the Japanese Academy of Color for Dentistry was presented to Dr. Nagai.

In addition to all of these noted appointments and positions, the most important of all is Dr. Nagai's kind, gentle manner and willingness to teach others. He is responsible for translating ALD's certification examinations in Japanese. Dr. Nagai maintains a full-time private dental practice in Tokyo, Japan. Dr. Nagai is a visiting lecturer at Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Department of Periodontology.

Contact Dr. Nagai by e-mail at [NagaiDC@aol.com](mailto:NagaiDC@aol.com)

Disclosure: Dr. Nagai has only academic interests in further studying and understanding lasers and their interactions with biological tissues.

## Immediate Past President

**Samuel B. Low, DDS, MS, MEd | Private Practice, Palm Coast, Florida**

Dr. Low is Professor Emeritus, University of Florida, College of Dentistry, and an Advisor Member of the Pankey Institute. He is a past president of the American Academy of Periodontology and is a current officer of the Academy of Laser Dentistry as Immediate Past President. Dr. Low provides periodontists, dentists, and dental hygienists with the tools for successfully managing the periodontal patient. He was selected "Dentist of the Year" by the Florida Dental Association, Distinguished Alumnus by the University of Texas Dental School, and recipient of the Gordon Christensen Lecturer Recognition Award. He is a Past President of the Florida Dental Association and past American Dental Association (ADA) Trustee.

Contact Dr. Low by e-mail at [slow@dental.ufl.edu](mailto:slow@dental.ufl.edu).

Disclosure: Dr. Low has relationships including compensation and equipment with the following: Biolase, Florida Probe, Perioscience, and EMS.



## Executive Director

### **Gail Siminovsky, CAE | Coral Springs, Florida**

Ms. Siminovsky is a leadership professional and has served as executive director of the Academy of Laser Dentistry since 1999. Gail is the 2019 Florida Society of Association Executives of the Year. Gail serves the ALD Board as an advisor. She earned and maintains the credential Certified Association Executive (CAE) from the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) and served on ASAE's Small Staff Advisory Committee. Gail is an active member of FSAE after serving as Chairwoman of the Board in 2021-22 and is a member of the American Dental Association's Committee on Dental Meetings and National Coalition of General Dental Organizations (NCGDO). Gail has a passion for helping dentists revitalize the way they interact with patients by providing new and improved solutions for dental care. Gail raises awareness of the role of lasers as beneficial tools that dentists and hygienists have for treating dental disease. She speaks on governance and board leadership, building strategic alliances, and the importance of associations being trusted knowledge brokers.



Contact Ms. Siminovsky by e-mail at [siminovsky@laserdentistry.org](mailto:siminovsky@laserdentistry.org).

Disclosure: Ms. Siminovsky is a salaried employee of the Academy of Laser Dentistry. She has no other financial affiliations or personal conflicts of interest.

## Directors at Large

### **Lynn Atkinson, RDH | Private Practice, Torrance, California 2022-2025**

Lynn Atkinson, RDH is the 2022 Distinguished Award Honoree of the Academy of Laser Dentistry's 2022 Leon Goldman Award for Clinical Excellence. Lynn has been a Registered Dental Hygienist for 30 years. She graduated from Cypress College with a degree in Dental Hygiene in 1989 and was fortunate enough to be a part of several dental teams that incorporated state-of-the-art technology. Since obtaining the Associate Fellowship Certification through the World Clinical Laser Institute (WCLI) in 1996, Lynn has been actively applying the use of dental lasers in hygiene on a daily basis. She went on to achieve the Standard Proficiency Certification through the Academy of Laser Dentistry (ALD) in 2013 and the Advanced Proficiency Certification Parts I and II in 2019. Lynn is currently practicing four days a week and is also training hygienists and dental other team members on the use of lasers along with strategies to incorporate dental lasers into their protocol with her company, Laser Focused Hygiene. She is an active member of the Academy of Laser Dentistry, the American Dental Hygienists' Association, and the California Dental Hygienists' Association. She serves on the ALD Board of Directors as Auxiliary Committee Chair and is involved in the certification testing sub-committee.



Contact Ms. Atkinson by e-mail at [laserfocusedhygiene@gmail.com](mailto:laserfocusedhygiene@gmail.com).

Disclosure: Ms. Atkinson is the Hygiene Member of the Biolase Advisory Board and is a principal in Laser Focused Hygiene.

**Juliana Barros, DDS, MS | Houston, TX  
2021-2024**

Dr. Barros is an Associate Professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry and Prosthodontics at the University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston. She serves as the Director for the Laser Dentistry Clinic, Operative Dentistry I and II. Dr. Barros earned her DDS from the University of Uberaba, Brazil, in 1995. She has postgraduate training in Restorative Dentistry from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry. In addition, she has earned a master's degree in Laser Dentistry from the Nuclear and Energy Research Institute and University of São Paulo, Brazil. Dr. Barros lectures and conducts research in the fields of restorative dentistry, biomaterials, and hard/ soft tissue laser applications. Recognizing opportunities to advance knowledge and treatment in laser dentistry, she developed the laser dentistry curriculum at UTHealth School of Dentistry at Houston and is the acting director of the laser clinic. She is a member of several organizations such as the Academy of Laser Dentistry (ALD), Academy of Operative Dentistry (AOD), International Association for Dental Research (IADR), American Dental Education Association (ADEA), and Consortium of Operative Dentistry Educators. In 2019, Dr. Barros was the recipient of the Academy of Laser Dentistry's T.H. Maiman Award for Excellence in Dental Laser Research.



Contact Dr. Barros by e-mail at [Juliana.Barros@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Juliana.Barros@uth.tmc.edu).

Disclosure: Dr. Barros has only academic interests in further studying and understanding lasers and their interactions with biological tissues.

**Laura Braswell, DDS | Private Practice, Atlanta, Georgia  
2022-2025**

Dr. Braswell is the owner of Buckhead Periodontics where she enjoys treating patients using alternative therapies that save teeth and enhance esthetics. She is passionate about laser periodontal therapy and works with several companies on research and development. Dr. Braswell graduated from the University of North Carolina School of Dentistry in 1982. After practicing general dentistry in Raleigh, North Carolina, she joined the faculty of the Emory University School of Dentistry and completed a four-year surgical residency in Periodontology. Dr. Braswell was an undergraduate instructor, director of the hygiene clinic, periodontal research center investigator, graduate resident faculty member, and a research faculty member at Yerkes National Primate Research Center at Emory University. Dr. Braswell is the staff dentist for Zoo Atlanta, the Georgia Aquarium, and the Georgia State University Primate Research Laboratory. She is an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Periodontology at the Dental College of Georgia at Augusta University. Dr. Braswell is a Fellow of the American College of Dentists, the International College of Dentists, and the Pierre



Fauchard Academy. She is a Diplomate of the American Academy of Periodontology, a Charter member and Master Clinician in the Academy of Laser Dentistry, and an Honorary Fellow of the American Veterinary Dental Society.

Contact Dr. Braswell by email at [laurabraswelldds@gmail.com](mailto:laurabraswelldds@gmail.com).

Disclosure: Dr. Laura Braswell has received research support from Biolase in the past. She currently conducts research on periodontal therapy involving diode lasers.

### **Nancy Fitzgerald, DMD, BSDH | Glendale, Arizona 2022-2025**

Dr. Fitzgerald received her Graduate Dental Hygiene degree from the University of Minnesota in 1985. After practicing as a Dental Hygienist for almost 20 years she returned to the University of Minnesota and attained her BS in Dental Hygiene Education in 2005. Dr. Fitzgerald earned her DMD degree from Midwestern College of Dental Medicine, Glendale, Arizona, in 2012. She has practiced dentistry in both Florida and Arizona. She served as a part-time Preclinical Adjunct Faculty member for Midwestern University during 2013 - 2014, then transitioned to full-time Preclinical Assistant Professor in July 2014. Dr. Fitzgerald holds certifications in Oral Sedation Dentistry, Comprehensive Orthodontics and Craniofacial Orthopedics, Epigenetic Orthodontics with the DNA Appliance<sup>®</sup>, Laser Dentistry, and the Las Vegas AAID Implant Maxicourse. She is an active member of The Academy of General Dentistry, Academy of Laser Dentistry, American Dental Education Association, and an Associate Fellow of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry.

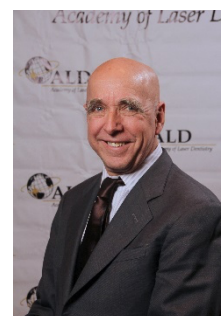


Contact Dr. Fitzgerald by e-mail at [nfitzg@midwestern.edu](mailto:nfitzg@midwestern.edu).

Disclosure: Dr. Fitzgerald is an Assistant Professor at the Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine and has no commercial affiliations or personal conflicts of interest relative to this presentation.

### **Dr. Donald Patthoff, Editor | Private Practice, Martinsburg, West Virginia Journal of Laser Dentistry, Editor-in-Chief**

Dr. Patthoff is a general dentist in Martinsburg, West Virginia. He was a principal research investigator at the Martinsburg VA dental clinic and is a past president of the West Virginia Dental Association and the Professional Ethics in Dentistry Network. He co-authored a dental ethics column in the Academy of General Dentistry's AGD Impact and is an ethics consultant to the American Dental Association's Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs (CEBJA). He is a co-author of *Dental Ethics at Chairsides* (2018, George Washington Press). Dr. Patthoff was past editor-in-chief of ALD's *Journal of the Academy of Laser Dentistry* and has returned to that position for special issues. He chaired the dental sessions of the Engineering Conference International's (ECI's) three conferences on light-activated tissue regeneration and two Optical Society of America incubators on photobiomodulation. He chairs the George Washington Institute of Living Ethics and is a liaison to the International Dental



Ethics and Law Society from the American Society for Dental Ethics. Dr. Patthoff is current chair of ALD's Ethics Committee.

Contact Dr. Patthoff by e-mail at [donaldpatthoffdds@gmail.com](mailto:donaldpatthoffdds@gmail.com).

Disclosure: Dr. Patthoff is in private practice in Martinsburg, West Virginia, and has no other commercial relationships.

**Marina Polonsky, DDS, MSc | Private Practice, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada  
2022-2024**

Dr. Polonsky graduated from the University of Toronto, Canada, in 1999, with the Dean's Gold Medal of Achievement and maintains a private general practice in Ottawa, Canada, with focus on multi-disciplinary treatment utilizing lasers of different wavelengths. She holds a Mastership with the World Clinical Laser Institute (WCLI), and Master of Science in Lasers in Dentistry degree from RWTH University in Aachen, Germany. She is a recipient of Mastership Certificate from ALD (Academy of Laser Dentistry) and is a recognized member of the ALD Speaker Bureau. Dr. Polonsky is a founder of the Canadian Dental Laser Institute (CDLI), an organization dedicated to providing quality continuing education in Laser Dentistry in Canada. CDLI is the only ALD-affiliated international study club in Canada. Dr. Polonsky is actively involved in the educational aspect of dental laser technology by teaching laser safety courses, diode and erbium certification courses, as well as lecturing world-wide on laser-assisted dentistry. She is a key opinion leader (KOL) and a faculty member for Biolase Technologies Inc. and has been involved in the development of the newest all-tissue laser system, Waterlase Express. Dr. Polonsky is the author of multiple scientific papers, reviews and case reports on the uses of lasers in dentistry. She is the chief editor for JLAD (*Journal of Laser-Assisted Dentistry*) and a peer-reviewer for LIDS (*Lasers in Dental Science*) by Springer. She is the Chief Editor of Laser Dentistry issue and co-editor of General Dentistry March issue of the *Oral Health* journal and is a member of the Executive Committee of the *Oral Health* Journal.

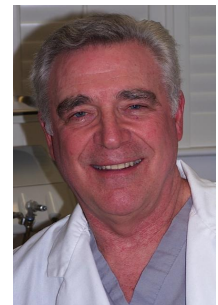


Disclosure: Dr. Polonsky is a trainer for WCLI International, and a key opinion leader for Biolase for Waterlase Plus and Epic X lasers.

Contact Dr. Polonsky by e-mail at [polonmar@gmail.com](mailto:polonmar@gmail.com).

**Craig Sanford, DDS | Private Practice, Nantucket, Massachusetts  
2021-2024**

Dr. Sanford graduated from Norwich University with a BS in Biology and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps. He was a Research Assistant at the U.S. Army Institute of Dental Research at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and received his DDS from Georgetown University School of Dentistry. As a Captain in the U.S. Army Dental Corps, he completed a General Practice Residency at Irwin Army Hospital, Ft. Riley, Kansas (1st Infantry Division) and served as the Assistant Clinic Chief for the 766th Medical Detachment in Baumholder, Germany (8th Infantry Division). In addition to obtaining Standard Proficiency in diode, Er:YAG and CO<sub>2</sub> lasers, Dr. Sanford received Advanced Proficiency certification in Er:YAG and Mastership status from the Academy of Laser Dentistry (ALD). He is a member of the ALD Speakers Bureau and was a Faculty Member of the 2016 American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery (ASLMS). Dr. Sanford maintained a private dental practice in



Stamford, Connecticut, for 25 years until relocating to Nantucket Island for the past 10 years while integrating multiple laser wavelengths into all disciplines of General Dentistry.

Contact Dr. Sanford by e-mail at [craig@sanford-dental.com](mailto:craig@sanford-dental.com).

Disclosure: Dr. Sanford owns his private practice in Nantucket and has no other commercial relationships.

### **Christopher Walinski, DDS | Valhalla, NY**

**2022-2024**

Dr. Walinski is an Associate Professor in the Department of Dental Medicine at the Touro College of Dental Medicine (TCDM) in Hawthorne, New York. He serves as the Director of Laser Dentistry and is the Laser Safety Officer for TCDM. In addition to his clinical duties, he also lectures and leads lab exercises in the preclinical simulation lab in fixed prosthodontics and esthetic dentistry. Dr. Walinski has served as the Executive Director for the World Clinical Laser Institute since 2010 and is a Fellow of the International College of Dentists and the American Society for Lasers in Medicine and Surgery. Dr. Walinski is a past- president and Diplomate of the World Congress of Minimally Invasive Dentistry. Dr. Walinski serves on the ALD Seidner Board of Trustees.



Contact Dr. Walinski by e-mail at [thezendoc@gmail.com](mailto:thezendoc@gmail.com).

Disclosure: Dr. Walinski is a consultant for Biolase and receives an honorarium when speaking on their behalf.