

Baltimore County Dental Association

NEWSLETTER

MAY, 2019

May Annual Business Dinner Meeting and Staff and Spouse Appreciation Night

featuring Michael Downs, English Professor and Author of
The Strange and True Tale of Horace Wells, Surgeon Dentist

You won't want to miss BCDA's Staff and Spouse Appreciation Night Dinner Meeting on Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at the Red Lion Hotel North Baltimore, 2004 Greenspring Drive in Timonium. Sign up yourself, as well as your staff, spouse and friends for a great meal, a terrific lecture by Michael Downs entitled "Breathe deep. This won't hurt a bit." and go home with two hours of CE credit! As if that weren't enough, you'll be able to purchase a signed book to take home too!

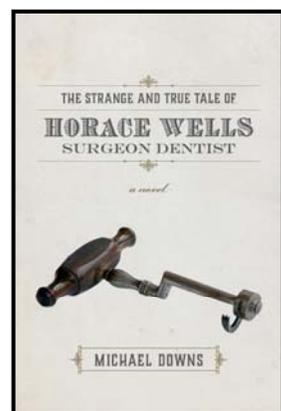


THE AUTHOR/SPEAKER: Michael Downs is the author of three books, most recently *The Strange and True Tale of Horace Wells, Surgeon Dentist*, which explores the life of the man widely credited with introducing general anesthesia - and thereby changing human history. Mr. Downs's awards include The River Teeth Literary Nonfiction Book Award, and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Mid-Atlantic States Arts Council, and the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance. He is a professor of English at Towson University and lives in Baltimore City.

THE LECTURE: For this year's Staff and Spouse Appreciation Night, we'll be stepping away from the clinical and business sides of dentistry and focusing a bit on the history and humanity that's shaped our practices today. Imagine your practice *without* anesthesia. That's where our May lecture, "Breathe deep. This won't hurt a bit." begins. Michael Downs, through his years of research into the life and times of Horace Wells, will bring us full circle into the present with the current opioid crisis and the once unforeseen complications of pain-free promises.

THE BOOK AND BOOK SIGNING: Moving through 19th-century New England to Paris and back again, *The Strange and True Tale of Horace Wells, Surgeon Dentist* imagines the sacrifices and struggles of the man widely credited with discovering anesthesia. The book is a love story but also a story of what love can't redeem; of narcotic dreams and waking insanity; of pain's destruction and what pains can never be eased. It immerses the reader in the 19th century, conveying through rich physical description and telling dialogue the tragic life of a dentist who gave everything to rid the world of suffering.

Michael Downs, a native of Hartford, Connecticut, where Wells practiced, built the novel out of years of research and study about Wells's life and times and dental practices of the era. The result is a book praised in the Los Angeles Review of Books as "hypnotic" and "a fascinating story in skilled elegant prose." *The Strange and True Tale of Horace Wells* was recently named a finalist in historical fiction for the Foreword INDIES Book of the Year Award.



Signed copies of *The Strange and True Tale of Horace Wells, Surgeon Dentist* will be available for purchase before and after the evening's lecture.

This is our Annual Business Dinner Meeting and Staff and Spouse Appreciation night. Cocktails at 6:00 p.m. and the buffet dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. This meeting is the perfect opportunity to treat that special someone and staff, so make reservations early. Return the enclosed reservation form with your check, call the BCDA office at (410) 560-0064, fax your reservation to (410) 252-7289 or register online at www.baltimorecountydental.org by **NOON on Tuesday, May 21, 2019.**

The President's Message

Dear Members,

Dr. Kevin Murphy gave a fascinating lecture for our April 30th meeting and return to Fazzini's Taverna. Our final meeting before the summer break on May 28th will not be held at the Hunt Valley Golf Club. Instead, we will be returning to the Red Lion Hotel North Baltimore to hear from a local author, Michael Downs. He has recently published his third book about the life and times of Horace Wells. Mr. Downs' extensive pre-publication research for *The Strange and True Tale of Horace Wells, Surgeon Dentist* has given him a unique "big picture" perspective into the good, the bad and the ugly of society's efforts to eradicate pain - starting, of course, with Horace Wells' obsessive pursuit of "pain-free" dentistry. His talk about the life and circumstances of the man who forever changed dentistry should be enlightening. I encourage everyone to bring their significant others, staff and friends to a fun and fascinating evening.



Now, my compliance topic for this month -

Dental assistants are critical yet highly-restricted professionals in our State. (Check DANB.com for the current guidelines about scope of allowed duties). It is hard to find a dental assistant who can perform at minimally acceptable standards, let alone one who is highly qualified. Training programs in dental assisting are expensive and produce poor quality graduates - often unable to perform successfully in a modern dental setting. Dental assistants often do not have opportunity for salary increases and regularly find it hard to support families because there is limited opportunity for career growth. This may explain the poor retention rate for assistants in the profession. It is my contention that we should take a look at expanding the legal duties for all dental assisting professionals, while the Maryland State Dental Board could investigate the calamity of the current auxiliary training situation in Maryland.

In Pennsylvania, I have my satellite practice and my Expanded Functions Dental Assistant (EFDA) can place fillings, polish teeth, polish restorations, adjust occlusion, place attachments for Invisalign and scan for impressions. She performs admirably in all that she does and can work in another room unsupervised when our work volume requires.

A Maryland Dental Assistant Qualified in General Duties (DAQGD) with the highest qualifications in Maryland can do none of these things. It's time for us to take a serious look at addressing issues of access to care and the mid-level provider concept by first expanding the duties and potential income of our valued current staff members: our assistants. Your Executive Board is introducing this topic to the House of Delegates at the MSDA hopefully in May. Please check the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners website or Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) for the current restrictions on your own dental assistants. You may be surprised how little they are allowed to do. Let's try to change that!

Steve Haywood
President

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE submits the following list of candidates for offices in Baltimore County Dental Association for the year September of 2019 to August of 2020. Voting will take place at our May 28, 2019 Annual Business Dinner Meeting.

President: Arash (Mike) Rostami

Vice President: Austin Bowden

Secretary: Caroline Owens

Treasurer: Stephen Mastella

Editor/Historian: Jerry Horodowicz

Immediate Past President: Steven Haywood

Executive Board Margaret Barry (3-year term), Michael Linnan (3-year term), Matthew Wallengren (3-year term), Mark Horner (2-year term)

MSDA House of Delegates: Steven Haywood (3-year term), Leslie Londeree (3-year term), Kathryn Mutzig (3-year term)