

1 Michigan Dental Association

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3 **Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

4 **Held via Zoom Videoconference**

5 November 17, 2021

6
7 **PRESENT**

8 Mehul Patel, DDS, Chair

9 Vincent Lizzio, DDS, Liaison

10 Jessica Rickert, DDS, Member

11 Daniel Miller, DDS, Member

12 Prabhjot Singh, DDS, Member

13 Rita Benjamin, Student Member

14 Kristi Thomas, DDS, Member

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16 **ABSENT**

17 Tamar Shrikian, DDS Vice Chair

18 Ronald Livingston, DMD, Member

19 Juan Rodriguez, DDS Member

20 Tazeen Rahman, UM Student

21 Rich Evans, Director of Marketing and Communications

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23 **STAFF**

24 Brandy Ryan, MBA, PHR, SHRM-CP, Director of Human Resources

25 Kelly Risley, Human Resources Administrative Assistant

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27 **CALL TO ORDER**

28 The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Dr. Mehul Patel, Chair

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30 **JOURNAL ARTICLE SUBMISSION IDEAS**

31 CDEI established submitting DEI articles to the journal for consideration as a priority at the
32 August meeting. As a follow-up to this initiative, Ms. Ryan shared the Journal's 2022 Production
33 Schedule and Deadlines chart with the committee. The committee discussed a variety of topics.
34 One topic discussed was how Covid has impacted the different practice models, such as MCDC,
35 and whether there has been a noticeable impact on the patient's ability to return to the office.
36 Another suggestion was to highlight generational differences of practicing dentists and what
37 that looks like in the office. The committee would like their first article to highlight their

38 initiatives and focus on inclusion and communities. The message will emphasize bringing people
39 into organized dentistry and appreciating the contributions of all members.

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41 Another idea was to highlight the different practice models, such as having people in those
42 practices tell their story. The author page would give the committee additional exposure. Dr.
43 Lizzio mentioned considering the length of the articles that are submitted, as long articles can
44 be tough to write and harder to fit within the space allotted. Dr. Lizzio would like to see
45 different groups highlighted in various communities, such as activities within diverse
46 communities.

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48 Dr. Patel asked that the committee discuss what information should be provided to encourage
49 membership in the MDA and ADA. Dr. Rickert stated the importance of attracting dentists and
50 students from diverse backgrounds and providing the benefits of being an MDA member.
51 Dentists have the same goal to provide excellent dentistry to their communities no matter their
52 demographics.

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54 Dr. Patel asked the committee to send their ideas for the first article to Ms. Ryan by next week.
55 Dr. Miller and Rita Benjamin, UDM student, will compile and have a rough draft by our next
56 meeting. The committee will work collaboratively on the first article working in a shared
57 document and send the final draft to Dr Smiley, editor-in-chief, for consideration.

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59 **CDEI INTRO – HERE’S WHO WE ARE, COMMITTEE BIOS**

60 Dr. Patel mentioned in a previous meeting the idea of having the committee featured in the
61 Journal with photos and biographies from the committee members. Ms. Ryan shared that she
62 has reached out to the publications department and learned that committees are not normally
63 featured in the Journal so this would not be a possibility.

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65 **NEXT MEETING**

66 The committee next meeting will be Wednesday, December 15th @ 7:00 p.m.

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68 **ADJOURNMENT**

69 The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.