

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Keynote Speaker: Joshua Nehring, DDS

Bio: Dr. Joshua W. Nehring is a periodontist, endurance athlete, and advocate for service-based healing. He graduated with honors from Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry in 2011 and completed his periodontal residency at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. He has practiced periodontics for more than a decade and is the owner of Dakota Regional Periodontics in Rapid City. Outside of dentistry, Joshua is deeply committed to helping individuals and communities transform grief into a gift. After experiencing profound personal loss, including the death of his daughter Lilli, he co-founded the nonprofit organizations Lilli Foundation and SRVIVRS, which focus on service as the formative ingredient to meaningful life. He invites people to honor loved ones, serve others, and build stronger communities. His message is simple. It is lived. It is powerful: see good, do good, share good.

Time & CE: 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM | CE: 1 hr. Practice Management

Course Title: SRVIVRS Black Pearl Project: Pearls from the Pavement

Course Description: Attendees will join me in rediscovering "Pearls from the Pavement" as I traversed the United States in a continuous route from Rapid City to each capitol building of the lower 48 states and back to Rapid City. This journey was fueled by 272 days of Moving In Memory; Honoring the loved ones of many people I met along the way. They will reflect on the infinite value of meaningful relationships and ultimately decide upon beginning or continuing a life focused on meaningful daily service.

Clinician: Karen Daw, MBA, CECM, CDIPC

Bio: Karen Daw, "The OSHA Lady," is an award-winning national speaker, consultant and former Clinic Health and Safety Director for The Ohio State University College of Dentistry. Affectionately known in the industry for her engaging, edu-training style, Karen helps dental and medical teams transform compliance from a checklist into a culture of safety. She has been featured on 20/20, The Discovery Channel, and The Doctors for her outside-the-box thinking and expertise, and is a trusted resource to practices, hospitals, and organizations nationwide. Through her company, The OSHA Lady, she partner with healthcare teams to deliver customized OSHA, infection control, and workplace safety training that is practical, memorable, and inspection-ready.

Time & CE: 9:15 AM – 12:15 PM & 1:15 PM 4:15 PM | CE: 3 hrs. Academic or Clinical

Course Title: Talk Dirty to Me: Tackling OSHA & Infection Control Swiftly

Course Description: Let's Talk Dirty - the blood, the spit, and the splatter that make OSHA and infection control non-negotiable. In this high-energy, laugh-while-you-learn session, two time speaking award winner Karen Daw, The OSHA Lady, helps your team fulfill the annual OSHA requirement and earn infection control CE in one fast-paced program. We'll cut the noise and get to the clean version, what inspectors really care about, how to avoid citations, and the smart IC moves that save time and money. Consider this your compliance era, with practical takeaways you can speak now and use tomorrow, so your practice stays fearless when the inspectors says, "It's me!" (Continued on pg. 2)

Learning Objectives:

1. Review the required elements of OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens Standard and map them to your procedures so your team won't be telling you now we've got bad blood.
2. Recognize the most common OSHA violations in dentistry and describe steps to prevent them so you'll be ready for, "It's me, Hi, I'm the Inspector!"
3. Apply best practices to reduce risk and improve efficiency because karma is good infection control.

Clinician: Katrina Klein, RDH, CEAS, CPT

Bio: Katrina Klein is a Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH) and Certified Personal Trainer (CPT) who is dedicated to helping dental professionals stay pain-free during their career. With her extensive knowledge of biomechanics and ergonomic strategies, Katrina has implemented daily practices that prevent injury and promote posture enhancement for dental professionals. Her career in dentistry began in 1997, and she has been a RDH since 2007. She is aware of the difficulties associated with working at a desk as well as being in the mouth. As a CPT, Katrina has also competed in fitness competitions for many years. In addition to practicing full-time, she works out five or more days per week without experiencing any pain. Katrina speaks at conventions, association meetings, study clubs, and dental offices at least one to two times per month. She focuses on biomechanics and how to apply them to daily routines to prevent injury. She performs ergonomic assessments chairside and offers personal training virtually to clients for posture enhancement focused fitness to help eliminate pain. Preparing the body for a difficult workload can make the difference between practicing in pain and not. Let Katrina help you become pain-free and stay pain-free for the longevity of your career. Katrina practices what she preaches and can relate to the struggles of dental professionals. As a Certified Ergonomic Assessment Specialist, international speaker and published author, Katrina has a unique lens that helps her evaluate the ergonomic struggles for dental professionals with practical solutions that have helped many dental professionals get pain relief from the commonly experienced body pain felt during practice.

Time & CE: 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM | CE: 2.5 hrs. Practice Management

Course Title: Ergonomics in Dentistry: Protecting Your Money Maker

Course Description: Working in dentistry doesn't have to hurt! Stop the aches and pains commonly associated with dentistry and protect your physical health using ergonomic equipment, practical ergonomic strategies, and understanding the important role that posture-enhancing exercises play in reducing workplace pain. Experience this highly interactive program by practicing chairside stretches to make a mind-muscle connection for the daily release of chronically tight muscles.

Learning Objectives:

1. Learn risk factors for work-related pain for the dental clinician
2. Learn practical solutions for a correct workspace
3. Learn how to practice comfortably to reduce fatigue and promote safety
4. Learn posture-enhancing strengthening exercises for injury prevention
5. Learn and practice workday stretches that can be done chairside

Clinician: Ankur Gupta, DDS

Bio: Dr. Gupta graduated from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry in 2004. In 2005, after completing a one-year General Practice Residency in Cleveland, Ohio, he and his partner Dr. Nisha Gupta started North Ridgeville Family Dentistry. In addition to founding North Ridgeville Family Dentistry, Dr. Gupta is a member of the American Dental Association, Greater Cleveland Dental Society, Ohio Dental Association, ADA Success Speaker Corp, and an active board member and speaker for Catapult Education's Speaker Bureau. He happily shares the failures and successes with dental and community groups throughout the country, always ending his presentations with practical, implementable and step-by-step ways to be better.

Time & CE: 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM | CE: 2.5 hrs. Practice Management

Course Title: Why Is It Some Patients Can Afford a New TV, but Can't Afford a Root Canal?

Course Description: Dental case acceptance and refusal often cannot be rationally explained. Our profession has taught us that the ability to smile and properly function is tremendously valuable, yet we often find patients seemingly incapable of understanding such value. Instead of negatively judging these patients, it is important that we understand what is actually going on inside our patient's heads at the time when complex dental recommendations are made.

By understanding our patients, we will become more more successful at getting them to understand us and realize the value of what we have to offer.

Learning Objectives:

1. Develop a patient-centered, emotion-based clinical exam, shedding the coldness and objectivity taught in dental school
2. Understand the major psychological barriers preventing patients from moving forward with treatment, and learn the best ways to uncover and empathize with those
3. Discover the value in starting the new patient interview during the initial phone call
4. Return to the office the next day with several actionable tools that will get your patients to say "yes" to complex full mouth treatment

Clinician: Mary Wolf, MS, LPC, -MH, BCC

Bio: Mary Wolf is the president of Veritee Partners LLC, a counseling, coaching and consulting firm dedicated to helping dentists, physicians, executives, and organizations thrive both professionally and personally. Her work is grounded in simple beliefs. When wellbeing is prioritized, people lead better, teams function better, and businesses perform better. Mary partners closely with the South Dakota Dental Association to develop and lead the Be Well Program, a statewide initiative focused on dentist and team member mental health and wellbeing. For more than five years, she has supported dentists and team members through coaching, counseling, education, and resource development. Mary advocates to normalize conversations about stress, burnout, and sustainability while building a culture of care across the profession. Previously, Mary served as Program Director for the award-winning Avera Medical Group LIGHT Program, where she designed and led comprehensive wellbeing strategies for physicians and advanced practice providers. (Continued on pg. 4)

Her background also includes leadership roles across multiple behavioral health programs at Avera, including Employee Assistance Programs (EAP), addiction recovery, outpatient mental health, and day hospital services. Mary holds a Master's Degree in Counseling and Human Resource Development and is a Licensed Professional Counselor–Mental Health. She is also a Board-Certified Coach with certifications in executive, life, and spiritual coaching, blending clinical insight with practical, action-oriented strategies for real-world leadership and wellbeing. Mary serves on the board of the National Council for Dentist Health Programs and is a sought-after speaker on dentist wellbeing, having presented at the ADA Health and Wellbeing Summit and the Federation for State Physician Health Programs.

Time & CE: 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM | **CE:** 1.5 hrs. Practice Management

Course Title: Wellness in Motion: How Emotional Intelligence Strengthens Dental Teams

Course Description: “Emotional Intelligence allows us to respond instead of react”. This engaging session brings Emotional Intelligence (EQ) to life for today’s dental teams.

Grounded in real-world experience from counseling and coaching dentists and team members through the Be Well Program, the training shows how EQ skills directly support wellbeing, teamwork, and patient care. Participants will learn the core components of EQ, build greater self-awareness, and gain practical tools to improve communication and manage stress in a fast-paced clinic environment. When dental teams strengthen their emotional intelligence and wellbeing, they create a more connected workplace and better experiences for patients.

Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the Emotional Intelligence (EQ) components
2. Learn how EQ is essential for wellbeing, teamwork, and patient care
3. Increase self-awareness for better EQ and communication skills

Clinician: [Katrina Klein, RDH, CEAS, CPT](#) (see pg. 2 for bio)

Time & CE: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM | **CE:** 2 hrs. Practice Management

Course Title: Dental Longevity: Making It Work

Course Description: Maintaining a fulfilling career in dentistry goes well beyond a paycheck. Stop being a slave to the stressful demands of practicing hygiene hour to hour and get back to enjoying a quality career that meets our needs in and out of the operatory. Use a variety of techniques to establish a home-self-work balance, reduce physical pain, and enjoy a rewarding career.

Learning Objectives:

1. Learn the hierarchy of wellness needs to develop and maintain longevity in a dental practice
2. Learn how to conduct intentional wellness in the business of dentistry
3. Be able to identify the signs of burnout early
4. Learn methods to incorporate a prevention mindset for whole-body wellness

Clinician: Ankur Gupta, DDS (see pg. 3 for bio)

Time & CE: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM | CE: 3 hrs. Academic or Clinical

Course Title: What's More Important: Preventing a Root Canal or Preventing a Stroke?

Course Description: Perhaps the most popular topic in the world of dental CE is that of sleep apnea. We have all been told about how insidious and deadly this highly undiagnosed disease can be, but sadly, most of our CE centers around dental treatment, often based on expensive oral devices and an ethically questionable shift in our roles as healthcare practitioners. In this highly entertaining and pragmatic course, Dr. Gupta presents a realistic vision of our roles in preventing this disease, especially in susceptible children, while still staying in our lanes as dentists.

Learning Objectives:

1. Learn what to look for and what to ask for during every new patient and recall exam
2. When sleep disordered breathing is suspected, learn the next steps in achieving an official diagnosis if necessary and actionable plan of treatment
3. Learn how to communicate with local MD's without creating awkwardness
4. Discover exactly what the next steps should be after establishing sleep disordered breathing, without limiting your treatment options to an expensive oral device.

Clinician: John Vaselaney, DDS

Bio: Dr. John Vaselaney is the Director of Risk Management for the Professional Protector Plan® for Dentists, where he oversees the program's risk management activities and serves as a resource to insured dentists, dental organizations, underwriters and claim specialists. He has presented over 300 dental risk management programs nationally and internationally to dentists, dental students, and dental staff on a variety of risk management topics, and is the primary author of the program's dental risk management resources. Dr. Vaselaney has held the position of chief dental officer at a community health center and a mid-sized dental support organization, where his activities focused on quality of care, risk management, and compliance. He has also served as vice chairman and director of quality assurance for a hospital dental department, administrative faculty of a dental general practice residency program, and as a consultant for a national firm providing professional consulting services to the dental benefit insurance industry.

Time & CE: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM | CE: 3 hrs. Practice Management

Course Title: Professional Protector Plan® for Dentists Risk Management Seminar

Course Description: Dentists and dental teams strive to safely provide quality care that results in good treatment outcomes and satisfied patients. However, things don't always go as planned. This course will help dentists and their staffs to identify risks in dentistry and take steps that reduce the likelihood of a dissatisfied patient, a dental board complaint, or even a malpractice claim. You will be provided with practical tips and techniques to help you better manage patients and their care, and reduce the chance of an undesired outcome. (Continued on pg. 6)

Learning Objectives:

1. Communicate more effectively with patients, staff, and colleagues
2. Create documentation that supports your care and reduces risks
3. Use the informed consent process to educate patients and improve their understanding
4. Identify and manage the risks associated with patient assessment and clinical care
5. Recognize and respond appropriately to adverse events and untoward outcomes