



Thomas J. Kepic, DDS, MSD **WSP Gumline Editor**

Celebrating Collaboration and Excellence at the 2025 **Annual Meeting** For more than seven decades, the Western Society of Periodontology (WSP) has stood as a unique organization — a community where periodontists, general dentists, and dental hygienists come together with one purpose: to advance knowledge and improve patient outcomes. Unlike many societies, WSP is built on the belief that we are strongest when we learn from one another. Specialists, educators, and clinicians from across disciplines share ideas openly, honestly, and collaboratively.

This year's Annual Meeting highlighted exactly that spirit. In partnership with the

Western Dental Hygiene Symposium and the Academy of Microscope Enhanced Dentistry, we created a program that celebrated excellence, encouraged innovation, and reinforced the principle that we are all equals in the pursuit of better care. The atmosphere was one of respect and camaraderie – colleagues sharing practical insights, educators offering inspiration,





and every participant contributing to a shared mission.

The success of this meeting reflects the heart of WSP: we are one community, united in advancing periodontics and dentistry.

Celebrating Excellence in Periodontology: 2025 WSP Award Winners

Lifetime Achievement Award — Susan Wingrove, BD, RDH

An internationally recognized innovator in implant care and instrumentation, Susan Wingrove has devoted her career to advancing clinical excellence and education for dental hygienists and periodontists alike. Her work has influenced thousands of practitioners worldwide, making her a true pioneer in periodontal and implant maintenance.



"This award is the highlight of my professional journey it represents the patients, colleagues, and students who shaped my career." — Susan Wingrov

President's Award — Dr. Larry Ambrose

This award recognizes outstanding service to WSP and the periodontal community. Dr. Ambrose has been a consistent leader, mentor, and advocate, lending his expertise to strengthen our society's mission and support the next generation of specialists.



"WSP has always been
a professional home
for me. To be
recognized by my
peers is deeply
meaningful."

— Dr. Larry Ambrose

Hygienist of the Year Award — Kathy Bassett, BSDH, RDH

A respected educator and author, Kathy Bassett has shaped the future of dental hygiene through her teaching and scholarship. Her commitment to clinical excellence and patient-centered education reflects the very best of our profession.



"Teaching is about igniting passion and confidence in others

— this award celebrates that mission."

— Kathy Bassett

Periodontology Educator of the Year Award — Dr. Kian Kar

Dr. Kar has distinguished himself as a dedicated teacher and role model for residents and students, ensuring that the next generation of periodontists receives the highest level of training and inspiration. His passion for education strengthens both our specialty and our society.



"Education is the bridge between science and practice — I am honored to help build it for our future colleagues." — Dr. Kian Kar

The WSP congratulates these award winners and thanks them for their lasting impact on our profession. Their achievements remind us of the power of commitment, mentorship, and innovation in advancing periodontal health and education.

Happy Autumn, Tom Kepic WSP Gumline Editor



nothing short of exceptional, an inspiring gathering filled with outstanding content, tpassionate discussion, and the spirit of collaboration that n

tpassionate discussion, and the spirit of collaboration that makes our community so unique. The awards presented were most deserving, honoring individuals whose commitment and contributions have elevated our profession.

Our outreach team sessions, supported by our veteran speakers, have been another source of success. These efforts not only strengthen our membership but also extend the reach and impact of our mission. Looking forward, we must continue to focus on recruiting and engaging younger periodontists. Their energy, curiosity, and innovation will be vital to sustaining the WSP's influence and advancing our specialty for years to come.

One of the most distinctive aspects of the WSP is the collaboration of three disciplines—Periodontics, Restorative Dentistry, and Dental Hygiene. This intersection is truly unique in dentistry and provides clinicians with an unparalleled educational experience. Hygiene, as the foundation of both Periodontics and restorative dentistry, remains central to our collective progress and success.

We also stand at a critical point in Oral-Systemic research, which continues to rapidly unfold. As Periodontists, I believe we are uniquely positioned to take a stronger leadership role. Our expertise places us in an extraordinary position to improve patient outcomes and contribute meaningfully to the growing body of knowledge that connects oral health to systemic health.

I am deeply grateful for each of our members, speakers, and sponsors - your dedication, scholarship, and contributions. Together, we have made this society remarkable, and I am excited about what lies ahead. Thank you for your commitment to the WSP and to the patients and communities we serve.

-Giles Horrocks, DDS, MS



Changes Coming to the WSP 2026 Annual Meeting and Western Dental Hygiene Symposium

Dear Members:

With the WSP 2025 in the bag, the WSP again surpasses the expectations of our attendees. Now we are planning for 2026 in Scottsdale, AZ. And there are some changes coming. Let me explain.

We are moving our meeting to a new timeline. Our meeting will now be in June. With the fall being packed with so many meetings we want to offer our members a bit of a respite from them. Thus, our plan is to go back to June after Covid sort of disrupted our past scheduling.

After speaking to many of our members, this will offer them a chance to not have two important Perio meetings happening within a month of each other, but more important bringing in our younger dentists to more cost-efficient hotels, while not sacrificing the quality that has become an expectation of WSP attendees.

The plan is to be in Scottsdale at the popular Talking Stick Resort June 12-14, 2026. Additionally, we are going to make this a bit more enjoyable with a Friday late afternoon pool party and a hands-on technology symposium on Saturday late afternoon. Our members and attendees have asked for more events they can enjoy at the resorts we are at, and we want to offer that to them.

If you are reading this and you did not attend our 2025 meeting, you really missed out on a special event. There was not one attendee who came to me who were not thoroughly impressed with the line-up of speakers and topics. And our speakers delivered. Dr. Satish Kumar is working hard with our Annual Session committee to finalize our list of speakers, which should be out by December 1st. From what I have seen it is right on par with expectations for the best Interdisciplinary Dental Meeting in the Profession.

Please stay tuned for more information on WSP 2026 and please SAVE THE DATE!

TEAM MEETINGS







Las Vegas, NV - Saturday, October 11, 2025 Portland, OR - Saturday, November 1, 2025

PERIODONTAL CARE FOR GPS, PERIODONTISTS, AND DENTAL HYGIENISTS

Seattle, WA - Saturday, November 8, 2025









Las Vegas

Saturday, October 11, 2025 | 7:30am - 3:30pm

6 CE Credits - See pricing online

Register



Kami Hoss, DDS

If Hygiene or Dental School Had a Do-Over: The Must-Know Oral Care Products Guide

As clinicians, we're constantly asked: "Which toothpaste is best?" "Is mouthwash good for you?" "Are natural products really better?" "Is fluoride safe, or should I be using something fluoride-free?" Yet most of us received little to no formal education on these critical daily-use products during our training. This course is your do-over. We'll dive deep into the evolving science behind oral care products, going far beyond the outdated fluoride vs. non-fluoride debate and busting common myths with real data. You'll explore the oral microbiome, the truth about trendy ingredients, and the latest advancements in toothbrush, toothpaste, and mouthwash technologies. From nanohydroxyapatite to pH balance, from prebiotics to pressure sensors, this course equips hygienists and dentists with the must-know knowledge to confidently answer patient questions and recommend safe, effective solutions for every age and stage.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

- Describe how oral care products used at home impact both oral and systemic health.
- Explain the role and importance of the oral microbiome, and how to protect it through evidence-based recommendations.
- Compare the benefits and mechanisms of fluoride and hydroxyapatite (micro and nano), and identify when each is appropriate.
- Recognize potentially harmful "natural" ingredients and decode misleading product claims.
- Evaluate a wide range of oral care product categories—including toothpaste, mouthwash, floss, sprays, and toothbrushes—for their role in caries prevention, gum health, and inflammation control.
- Understand the impact of salivary pH and how products can support a balanced oral environment.
- Explore the emerging roles of prebiotics, probiotics, and antibiotics in oral care formulations.
- Analyze how innovations in toothbrush bristle design—manual and powered—are reshaping home care for patients with different risk levels.
- Apply this updated knowledge to educate patients, improve compliance, and provide personalized oral care recommendations with confidence.



Nancy J. Miller, RDH, BA

POWER OFF BIOFILM

Staying current with clinical applications of power instruments has a new level of importance in this era of technology and the Oral Systemic Link research. Understanding how to get the most out of power scalers and air polishers leads to more time efficiency,

better treatment results, and better ergonomics for the hygienist.

- While air polishers have been around for 4 decades, their use was generally restricted to supragingival stain removal. Like ultrasonics with micro tips, their use with finer size powder particles has evolved into the next treatment modality for preventative and periodontal therapy. What do you need to know about this latest technological application? How can you incorporate it into your clinical routine? How can they be used around implants? We now have Perio Classifications for Implants and how can we use Power Air Streaming in practice?
- While micro ultrasonics are now considered standard of care in periodontal therapy, what else are you using them for? What technological advances have there been since you were in school or your last CE Course? Is there really a difference between piezoelectric technology and magnetostrictive units? Are there any new inserts on the market? Is there any superior way to adapt ultrasonic instruments to the type of patient in your chair?

LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

- Biofilms role in inflammatory disease.
- Air polishing subgingivally using glycine perio powders
- Implant maintenance and peri-mucositis treatment following AAP codes
- Contrasts in piezoelectric/magnetostrictive technologies
- Latest information on generators and inserts.
- Patient case studies on power instrument protocols
- Ergonomics and Aerosol control hints



Tiffany Wuebben, RDH

Hygiene Mastery: Soaring to Success with the Power of Hygiene

Dental providers are often unsure how to leverage the hygiene department and grow the business. There's never been a better time to revolutionize this approach! Tiffany Wuebben, RDH shares systematic methods that combat today's dental practice challenges, support patient health, and significantly improve career satisfaction and the financial success of the practice. In this course, we will engage in a collaborative approach to developing the mission/vision and patient care protocols for the hygienedriven practice. We'll also discuss a method to revolutionize your hygiene schedule with a 100% reappointment rate. Next, we'll explore the steps to increase capacity through patient advocacy, recall, reactivation, reviews and better patient-practice relationships. We will also help you to recognize adjunct procedures that boost patient care and identify empowering practice strategies that transform the hygienist into a true "Hygienepreneur." Finally, we'll highlight the proactive steps that professionals can take to build a thriving "hygiene practice within a practice" and develop the knowledge and skills to build a strong hygiene department leading to better clinical outcomes, greater case acceptance, all while maximizing the practice potential.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

- Determine the strategies to build a thriving "hygiene practice within a practice"
- Realize how the hygiene department serves as the "secret sauce" for a successful practice by leveraging skills of effective communication and improving the connection with your patients.

- Interpret the impact of knowing your numbers to drive exceptional patient care, building a strong foundation for your practice.
- Discover the "super" provider in you and how you can offer a hygiene-mix of services that optimizes better patient outcomes and increases practice revenue



VENUE

Hampton Inn Tropicana

4975 Dean Martin Dr. Las Vegas, NV 89118

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Portland, OR

Saturday, November 1, 2025 | 7:30am - 3:30pm

6 CE Credits - See pricing online

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Lynn Atkinson, RDH

Comprehensive Care and Planning for the Dental Hygienist

The dental hygienist is a key collaborator in comprehensive diagnosis and treatment planning alongside the dentist. But how can hygienists efficiently gather clinical data, educate patients, and deliver treatment recommendations that lead to better outcomes? This course explores the integration of technology, diagnostic tools, and communication strategies to elevate the patient experience and enhance practice value. Topics include Guided Biofilm Therapy, laser-assisted care, and voiceactivated charting—all designed to streamline workflows while delivering high-quality, patient-centered care.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Outline the components of an ideal comprehensive care appointment
- Effectively communicate clinical findings and educate patients to encourage

treatment acceptance

 Select and apply technologies and protocols that enhance diagnostic efficiency and therapeutic outcomes



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VENUE

Embassy Suites Portland Downtown

319 SW Pine St. Portland, OR 97204



Seattle, WA

Saturday, November 8, 2025 | 7:30am - 3:30pm

6 CE Credits - See pricing online

Register





Susan Wingrove, BS, RDH Gerrarda O'Beirne, BDS, MSD

Mastering the Arch! Full Arch Implant Maintenance and Home-Care

Healing therapies are now available for clinicians to offer to their patients. Explore your role in biofilm-focused care for oral and overall health. Introducing evolving therapies including Photobiomodulation (PBM) – Red Light Therapy to heal soft tissue, reduce inflammation, and relieve both acute and chronic pain. This program includes the latest biofilm research and protocols for the management of periodontal and peri-implant disease to maximize healing results for patients.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Gain an overview of the latest research and the role of biofilm-focused care in healing.
- Understand Photobiomodulation (PBM) and how to integrate in-office and offer to patients for at-home care.
- Be able to offer updated periodontal and peri-implant disease therapy protocols including PBM and new home-care recommendations.
- Explore evolving healing therapies for the management of periodontitis and periimplantitis with or without surgical intervention.



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Dr. Michael Setter

Minimally Invasive Endoscopic Therapy: Reinventing Periodontal Hygiene in the New Age

The challenges of modern periodontal treatment are changing. Patient experiences and referral relationships of paramount importance. How can one create an efficient surgical schedule and maximize a hygiene practice at the same time? Incorporating minimally invasive endoscopic therapy into your practice will empower your hygiene team to deliver optimal care, outstanding results, and allow the doctor to focus solely on the surgical aspect of care. In our discussion, we will review the advantages of endoscopeassisted therapy, which elevates your team in the dental community. In addition, you will learn how to unlock the potential of your hygiene team to be able to create a clean surgical field for minimally invasive surgical treatment. Your team can have happier patients, a productive schedule, and the ability to deliver the most advanced periodontal care.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

- How can minimally invasive endoscopic therapy benefit your patients and referrals?
- How can incorporating this technology maximize practice efficiency and production?
- Why would your referred patients and employed hygienists go anywhere else.



VENUE

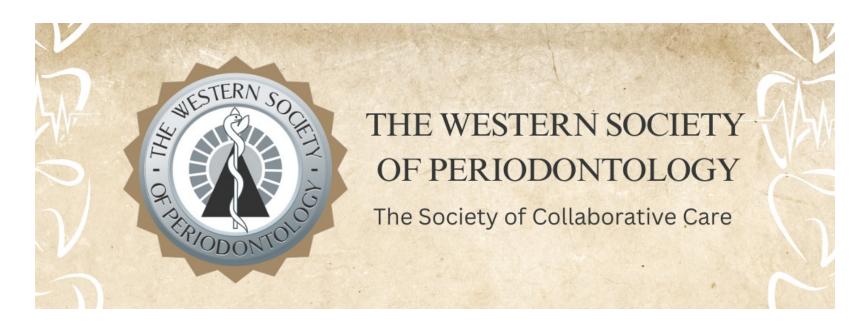
THE ALEXIS ROYAL SONESTA HOTEL SEATTLE

1007 First Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

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Membership in WSP: A Lifelong Source of Growth, Collaboration, and Belonging

By Thomas Kepic, DDS, MSD

When I purchased my practice in 1978, one of the best decisions I made was joining the Western Society of Periodontology (WSP). More than four decades later, I can say with certainty that WSP has been a constant source of professional enrichment, collaboration, and support.

The strength of the WSP lies in its founding principle: collaboration. Our society brings together periodontists, restorative dentists, hygienists, and other colleagues who share a common goal, advancing the specialty while improving patient outcomes. This collaborative spirit has shaped my own growth, and it continues to define the member experience today.

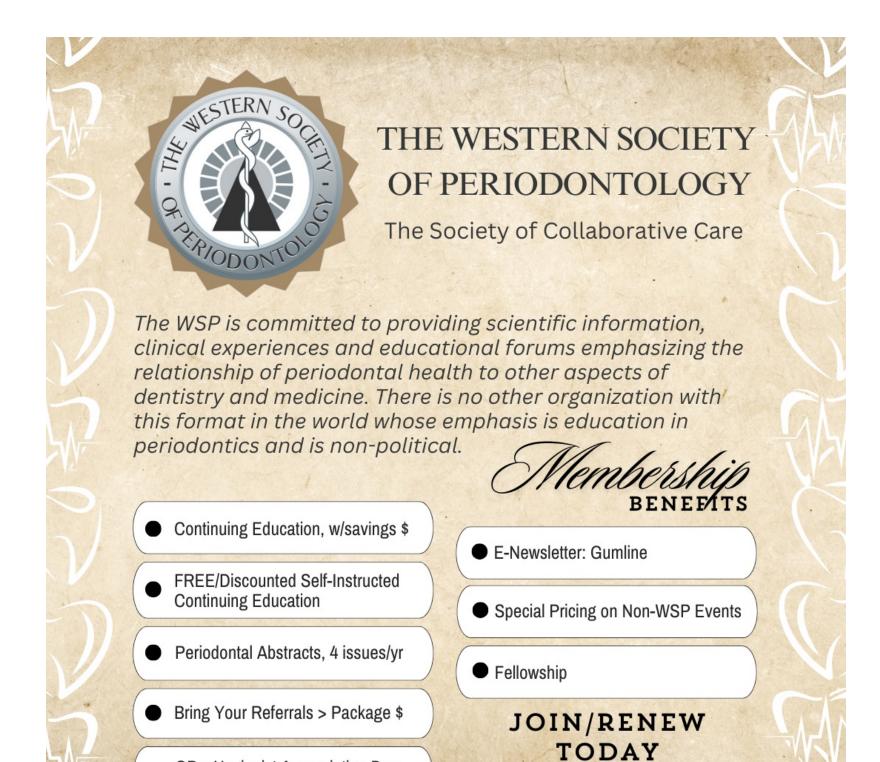
Membership offers much more than access to a journal or a conference. It provides an ecosystem of continuous learning and shared discovery. Some of the most valuable lessons I've learned did not come from textbooks or formal training, but from conversations with colleagues in the WSP study clubs, during conference discussions, or even in informal exchanges. These peer-to-peer interactions sharpen our skills, broaden our perspectives, and reinforce the professional humility required for lifelong learning.

The WSP also offers a supportive network that bridges generations. Early-career professionals find mentors eager to share insights, while seasoned practitioners have opportunities to give back, ensuring that our specialty continues to thrive. These relationships foster not only professional advancement but also a sense of camaraderie and belonging, qualities that can be hard to find in private practice settings.

Most importantly, the collective expertise within the WSP fuels innovation. By exchanging ideas, debating techniques, and exploring new research together, we elevate the standard of care across the specialty. This is how the WSP has remained relevant for more than seventy years, and why its flagship journal, Periodontal Abstracts, continues to be a respected resource.

As we look ahead, the landscape of periodontology will continue to evolve. But with the WSP, we are never navigating change alone. We are part of a vibrant, collaborative community committed to growth, knowledge sharing, and excellence in patient care.

To my colleagues: I encourage you to renew your membership and remain engaged in this extraordinary society. And to those considering joining us for the first time: I invite you to experience the professional fulfillment and personal connection that the WSP membership provides. Together, we not only strengthen our practices, we strengthen the future of our profession.



Not a Member? We've got you covered >>>

Become a Member

www.wsperio.org

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Connect with WSP on Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn. Stay in touch with colleagues, make new contacts, share your knowledge with others or learn from them. Engage in the conversations.







