



Kathleen A. Shanel-Hogan, DDS, MA, will present “Dental Professionals Against Violence” during CDA’s Spring Scientific Session in Anaheim, Calif. The presentation will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, April 16 in Huntington Rooms A/B/C at the Hilton. A repeat presentation is from 2:30 to 5 p.m.

A Health Issue That Affects Us All

Kathleen A. Shanel-Hogan, DDS, MA; Jon R. Roth, MROD, CAE; Marianne Balin, MPH

Family violence exists in every city, every neighborhood, and every community. It is often a silent cycle of physical, emotional, verbal, and financial abuse that leaves its victims feeling trapped and helpless. Because 65 percent of all physical child abuse and 75 percent of all physical domestic violence results in injuries to the head, neck, and/or mouth, the dental professional is often the first person to render treatment to abuse victims as well as being their first line of defense. Even when victims of violence avoid seeking medical attention, they will keep routine and emergency treatment dental appointments. Dentists, registered dental hygienists, and registered dental assistants are designated by law as mandated reporters in the State of California to report suspicions of abuse and neglect in patients. Dental professionals and allied personnel must report domestic violence physical assault cases in addition to suspected child abuse/neglect and elder abuse/neglect cases.

The April and May issues of the *Journal of the California Dental*

Association are dedicated to family violence prevention. The April issue is focused on child abuse/neglect and elder and dependent adult abuse/neglect. The May issue will focus on domestic and intimate partner violence. Articles address frequent questions the dental community asks such as:

“Why should dental professionals get involved?”



Author / Kathleen A. Shanel-Hogan, DDS, MA, is a consultant, educator, facilitator and family violence prevention advocate. She works with the California Dental Association Foundation as a consultant and a mandated reporter trainer in all forms of family violence (child abuse/neglect, domestic violence, elder abuse/neglect). She is author of the Dental Professionals Against Violence Program, and testified on behalf of dentistry at the California Assembly Select Committee On Domestic Violence Hearing “Domestic Violence As A Public Health Issue.” She participates on many California statewide committees on family violence prevention. Dr. Shanel-Hogan has experience in private practice and hospital dentistry with medically compromised patients.

Jon R. Roth, MROD, CAE, is executive director of the California Dental Association Foundation.

Marianne Balin, MPH, directs programming and philanthropy focused on the prevention of domestic violence for the Blue Shield of California Foundation.

The victims of abuse often speak to us in non-verbal language through signs and symptoms.

“What can we see in our dental examinations?”

“What is it like to make a mandated report?”

“How can I get reimbursed for care of victims of violence?”

“What happens once a mandated report is made?”

“What is the impact of domestic violence on children?”

In 2001, the California Dental Association Foundation (CDA Foundation) was established to promote the total health of Californians through oral health disease prevention, risk assessment and treatment initiatives. As the charitable arm of the CDA, the Foundation desires to expand health-care and other California mandated reporter groups' knowledge of abuse and neglect that involves clinical implications for the oral and maxillofacial structure. Through a strategic partnership with, and generous funding from Blue Shield of California Foundation and Dental benefit pro-viders the Dental Professionals Against Violence (DPAV) program was created. This program is the next generation of the PANDA and CDA Abuse Detection and Education Program present in California since 1994.

DPAV consists of both Train-the-Trainer and direct provider training programs designed to assist dental professionals and their teams in recognizing and responding to child abuse/ neglect, intimate partner violence, and elder abuse/neglect. The goals are to raise the dental community's awareness of family violence using the most current information regarding patient risk assessment, clinical signs and symptoms, and dental professional's legal obligation to identify and report elder,

Forms to report abuse/neglect

Copies of forms to report suspected child abuse/neglect and elder/dependent adult abuse/neglect are included in this issue. These can be used as a “working draft” of the report form to assist the mandated reporter in collecting the information in an organized manner. It becomes much simpler to transfer information from the “working draft” to the formal report.

The actual child abuse/neglect and elder/dependent adult abuse/neglect forms are in NCR format. Please contact the California Department of Justice Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information, P.O. Box 90317, Sacramento, Calif., 94203-4170 to obtain actual forms.

Elder Abuse Form

<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/pdf/SOC341.PDF>

Child Abuse Form

<http://www.caag.state.ca.us/childabuse/forms.htm>

Domestic Violence Form

http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/medtrng/domain/Suspect_Violent_Injury.pdf

child and intimate partner abuse. The program includes definitive action steps for dental professionals to use in their practices and communities. Two DPAV programs kick off this year (10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., with a repeat program 2:30 to 5 p.m.) at CDA's Spring Scientific Session in Anaheim on Friday, April 16.

DPAV also created an educational poster for the dental office to place in the back office to assist the team in recognizing and responding to abuse and neglect in their practices. This poster is included in this issue of the *Journal*. To obtain additional free copies and/or to learn more about what your organization can do to respond to family violence, call the CDA Foundation Dental Professionals Against Violence Coordinator at (916) 554-4921, ext. 8900.

Involvement of dental professionals in the community effort to foster

change in family violence can make an important difference by increasing the awareness of how to detect abuse, especially oral abuse, and to join the community effort. Community capacity to prevent abuse and neglect depends on the communication and collaboration of the entire community. Dentistry is prepared and willing to be collaborative partners with other healthcare providers, agencies, institutions, and policy makers in addressing domestic violence and family violence as a healthcare issue. The effect will be to positively impact children and their families. The victims of abuse often speak to us in non-verbal language through signs and symptoms. We have the opportunity to become their voice. We can make a difference. Now is the time. Family violence is not just a social issue; it is a health issue that affects us all.