

**University of Connecticut
School of Dental Medicine
Education Council Meeting
Monday, October 28, 2019**

Present: Drs. J Duncan, E Eisenberg, R Kalman, R Kazemi, S Lepowsky, B White and Ms. G Millington

Absent: Dr. L Puddington

Excused: Drs. D Redford-Badwal, T Taylor

Guest: Dr. R M MacNeil

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 PM.

Dr. MacNeil was invited to address the committee with an update on the status of Dental Licensure in Connecticut and on the national level.

The effort to modernize dental licensure in the State of Connecticut started about 20 years ago. In the interval since that time the CSDA* passed several resolutions (including one in 2014) that clinical examinations not include a live patient component due to various ethical issues associated with live patient exams that have been identified over the years.

In so far as organized dentistry is concerned, resolutions concerning elimination of the live patient exam were passed in recent years by the ADA; and in 2014, ADEA passed a resolution supporting elimination of the patient-based practical exam because it lacks validity and because it raises ethical concerns. These organizations supported replacing the extant exam with a suitable alternative.

The ADA, ASDA and ADEA have recently formed a coalition to modernize dental licensure with the goal of changing the way licensure is granted nationally and promoting portability of licensure across the states. There are "supporters" and "members" of the coalition. Among several dental specialty organizations and a number of other dental schools, our SDM is a member of the coalition. Ellen Eisenberg is serving as UConn's representative.

Dean MacNeil recounted the history of change in Connecticut. In 2006, Dean Peter Robinson and the SDM played a major role in initiating the slow moving process of change that ultimately was passed by the CT State Legislature: to accept either a PGY1* residency or the ADEX* examination (overseen by CDCA*) in order to acquire a dental license here in CT. As mentioned earlier, in 2014 the CSDA passed a resolution supporting elimination of the patient-based exam. This was accepted unanimously in 2015 by the UCH-SDM's Dental Senate. However, at that time, the Connecticut Dental Commission did not support the change. The SDM and CSDA then began efforts to change the Dental Statute through legislative action. The first bill was considered in 2018 but was not raised in the House. Then in 2019 a bill was passed in the State Legislature supporting elimination of the patient-based exam for licensure in Connecticut. (At present, the SDM continues to host the live patient exam.) This bill also changed recognition of out-of-state licensure as follows.

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What is currently required for an out of state dentist to attain licensure in Connecticut is: a) graduation from a CODA*-accredited dental school; b) proof of passing the National Board; and c) 1 year of practice of dentistry following graduation from an accredited dental school.

The new Connecticut Statute states that as of July 1, 2021, the exam for dental licensure in Connecticut is prohibited from including a live patient-based component. That raises the question: do we continue to host the exam using live patients here at the SDM clinics? Or, do we not offer that exam any longer. We are aware that some of our graduates will eventually wish to acquire dental licenses in other states that require a live patient-based exam. If we discontinue hosting the live patient exam here, will that eventually jeopardize their opportunity to acquire licensure outside Connecticut? *How will we prepare our graduates for acquiring either the CT dental license or other states' dental licenses? Will the UCH-SDM still offer a non-patient formatted Mock Board Examination?*

The Coalition to Modernize Dental Licensure had its inaugural meeting in Chicago on October 11, 2019. Its purpose is (1) to increase portability of licensure ultimately across all 50 states; and (2) to eliminate the patient-based exam across the nation, substituting acceptable alternatives (eg. portfolio; modified ADEX wherein the live patient component is replaced by a manikin; Dental Licensure OSCE, which has no live patient component but instead, a computer-based segment). For several years, Minnesota has been using the Canadian OSCE for its licensure requirement.

There was discussion concerning whether and how we can best prepare students for an alternative (non-live patient) examination starting in July 2021.

There also were concerns raised about continuing to host a live patient exam here at the SDM after July 1, 2021. It seems that continuing to host the live patient exam after we have established that its validity is at best questionable, that there are substantial ethical issues associated with it, and because the live patient exam will have been eliminated as a requirement for CT licensure, would be hypocritical.

There will need to be additional discussion amongst the Senate/Education Council, the Dean, and the Associate Deans for Academic and Clinical Affairs.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Eisenberg and Reza Kazemi
CoChairs, SDM Education Council

**CSDA – Connecticut State Dental Association*

**PGY1 – Post Graduate Year 1*

**ADEX - American Board of Dental Examiners, Inc.*

**CDCA - The Commission on Dental Competency Assessments*

**CODA - The Commission on Dental Accreditation (American Dental Association)*