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# DAVID A. WRIGHT

D.D.S., P.C.

[www.waterfordclarkstondentist.com](http://www.waterfordclarkstondentist.com)

New patients  
welcome

## Summer dayz

Happy summer! Is there anything nicer than a Michigan summer? Is there anything more appreciated and applauded than a beautiful Michigan summer day? After the past couple of winters, I find myself even more drawn to summer. Perhaps we all have a little PTWD (Post Traumatic Winter Disorder). In any case, if you are like me you have family get-togethers, weddings, festivals, and other events throughout the summer. In April, Peggy, my wife of 28 years, estimated that our next open weekend was in September. After checking my calendar I told her not to worry. I was out of town that weekend, too, so it really wasn't free either. It should be a wild ride.



Our two oldest kids (Daniel and Natalie) are back from college, and our youngest, Julia, is researching colleges; she will be a Senior this coming year at Birmingham Seaholm High School. She will be on Varsity Maple Motion (the poms/dance team) and will continue her work with the school newspaper and school play. Daniel will be a Junior at Ohio State in design, and Natalie a Senior at Oakland University in elementary education. They are loving their respective colleges.

This newsletter has some interesting things for you. It has news of an impending retirement (no, not mine :-)), a copy of an article that ran in the American Dental Association News in May about yours truly, a couple of fun announcements, and two very cool before/after cases.

I am always amazed and grateful that you take the time to read these newsletters. If you would like, please email me ([drdave@waterfordclarkstondentist.com](mailto:drdave@waterfordclarkstondentist.com)) any ideas for stories in future newsletters; I would love to have some questions thrown at me! In any case, enjoy your reading, and treasure your summer!

*Yours in all things summer,*

**Dr. Dave**

**4152 Sashabaw Road  
Waterford, MI 48329**

**Summer 2015**

### DENTAL TEAM

**Office Manager:**  
Julie

**Front Desk:**  
Barb  
Kara

**Hygienists:**  
Mary Ashley  
Michele Susan  
Jennifer Elizabeth  
Nichole Heather

**Dental Assistants:**  
Kara Terri  
Heather Alaina  
Lisa

**Appointment and Emergency  
Phone: (248) 673-0505**

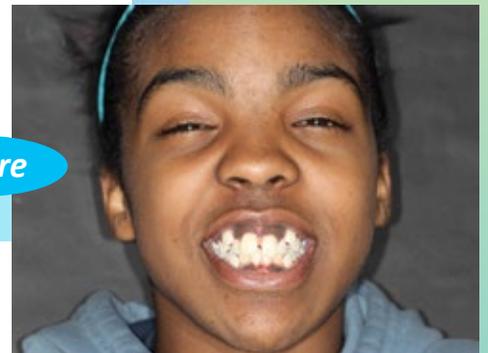
## Cosmetic case of the issue

In May I helped to teach a course at the Utah PCC course (see article on page 2) that centered around what the public thinks of as "cosmetic dentistry." I always tell the participants in these classes that I feel like every treatment we do has a cosmetic dentistry component. There is not a line where you stop doing "regular dentistry" and start doing "cosmetic dentistry." Having said that, some treatments are more dramatically "cosmetic" than others. I would like to share a couple of recent cases where the patients were very enthusiastic about their results.

Did you know that there is no specialty in dentistry called cosmetic dentistry? Dentists sometimes create advertising that makes it look like they are cosmetic specialists, but the Michigan Dental Association and the American Dental Association frown on these tactics and can take a dentist's license away for this misleading practice.

*(continued on the next page)*

**Before**



**After**



*Thank you for all your referrals. We appreciate them!*

## ADA 2015 course helps Michigan dentist save mother's life

BY JEAN WILLIAMS

*Waterford, Mich.* — Dr. David Wright never expected that the continuing education course he took at last year's ADA annual meeting would help save his mother's life. But that's exactly what happened.

In the course Anatomical Dissections of Occlusion and Implant-Related Structures, instructor Dr. Terry Tanaka pointed out severely blocked carotid arteries in a cadaver. Dr. Wright would later recognize similar blockages in his mother.

"Dr. Tanaka, a facial pain expert, discussed that while there are few symptoms of the internal carotid artery blockage until one has a stroke, the external carotid artery often has characteristic facial and neck pain associated with this condition," Dr. Wright said.

"My 81-year-old mother had been having similar symptoms for the past year and had been to many physicians to investigate this pain. No diagnosis had been made. No one suggested carotid blockage as a potential cause."

Unrelated to this issue, Dr. Wright had sent his mother to an imaging center for a cone beam radiograph to understand her options for dental implants. A couple of days after returning home from the ADA annual meeting in San Antonio, he received her cone beam and radiography report. Because of what he had just learned in his CE course, Dr. Wright recognized

his mother's potentially lethal problem.

"It noted a great deal of calcification of the carotids," he said. "During the next week my mother met with a vascular surgeon and, with further testing, it was determined that she had over 95 percent blockage on both sides and surgical intervention was immediately needed. The two endarterectomy procedures were performed in December, saving her life."

Helping him to recognize a potentially life-threatening problem with his mother definitely made the CE course pay off in an unexpected way for Dr. Wright, but he is doubly pleased that it also delivered professionally.

"The course is helping me each day as I examine my patients," he said. "I can better understand what I am palpating in the exam, and how it relates to function and pathology.

and implant-related structures course because of the caliber of the CE presenter.

"I had taken several temporomandibular joint disorder lecture courses from Dr. Tanaka and they were excellent," he said. "He remains one of my favorite dental educators."

Dr. Wright plans to attend ADA 2015 in November.

"I think that the ADA meeting has morphed into the best CE meeting," he said. "It always was the greatest overall dental show, but the CE offerings are fantastic now, too. I will always try to make the ADA annual meeting in the future."

Registration for ADA 2015 opens May 20. This year, the annual meeting will take place in Washington, D.C. from November 5-10. For a list of CE courses planned, visit ADA.org/meeting. Search for #ADADC on Twitter and Facebook for more on ADA 2015. ■

—williamsj@ada.org



Dr. Wright



"It was one of the best courses that I have taken in my 27-plus years as a dentist."

Dr. Wright earned his D.D.S. in 1987 from the University of Michigan, where he later earned an M.B.A. He signed on for the occlusion

Williams J. ADA 2015 course helps Michigan dentist save mother's life. ADA News 2015;146(9):15. Copyright © 2015 American Dental Association. Reprinted with permission. All rights reserved.

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## Cosmetic case of the issue

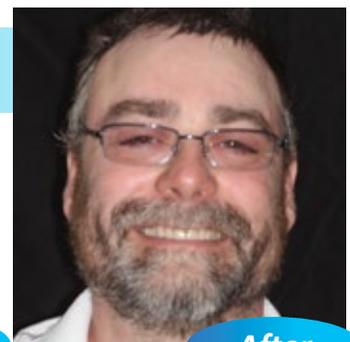
(continued from front)

We provide a wide array of options in cosmetic dentistry. From easy and inexpensive procedures like teeth whitening, to orthodontics (both conventional braces and Invisalign), to veneers and crowns, to implants and even gingival ("gum") plastic surgery, we can change smiles in dramatic ways. With all of these capabilities under one roof, we can carry out this treatment more easily and more economically than the

"old-fashioned" dentist who used to need help from two or three specialists to do this kind of treatment. Most of our "cosmetic dentistry" and "orthodontic" patients have been referred to us by other patients; I appreciate all of your referrals! **Please think of us if a family member or friend is looking for a dentist for cosmetic or orthodontic treatment!**



Before



After

# THE NEW OLD

I will turn 54 in October, so the concept of what “old” is has changed over the years.

I can remember thinking that many of my high school teachers were old and mature, but now I realize that many were just babes at the time.

Recently I taught a class at the PCC center in Utah. After the first day (a 12-hour day of dental education fun), four of us went up to Robert Redford’s Sundance Resort (about 15 minutes away from the teaching center) for a nightcap. I have been teaching with these men for many years, so we were soon excitedly talking about the details of what is new and exciting in our dental practices. Yep, I know how darn boring that sounds, but we were getting fired up. And then it hit me. I was the youngest guy there, by a lot. Jack is 76 and runs a busy practice in Worcester, Mass. Norman, a skiing companion of mine at times, is 68 and runs a dynamic Mechanicsville, Va., practice with his two sons. Jeff is 60 and busy as heck in the Indianapolis area. Not with us was Gordon Christensen, our “head honcho,” who at age 78 will lecture over 100 days this year on six continents and in innumerable countries. He is the embodiment of the Energizer Bunny. The other instructor for this course, Milad from Maine, was the only person younger than me.

These guys are great mentors to me. They believe in lifelong learning, and they refuse to retire or to willingly “get old.”

I always am amused at people’s perception of their age. While I have plenty of folks in their 50s, 60s, and 70s wanting orthodontics, I will sometime have someone in their 30s say, “If I wasn’t so old, I would do braces.” Some people at 40 see themselves as old and unworthy of literally ANY treatment. They even will say things like, “I don’t think I am going to live that much longer”...at 40. Wow!

A couple of years ago I was discussing some somewhat involved implant treatment with a wonderful man. He was in his 80s and, therefore, it was standard procedure to get a medical consult before I did his surgeries. He mentioned that



**Dr. Wright with fellow instructor Dr. Norman Marks hiking in Utah.**

he wanted to get going soon, but perhaps his two-week trip trekking in the Himalayas might get in the way. I chuckled and thought to myself, if he comes back from two weeks trekking at high altitude, I think I can consider him fit for my surgeries. He returned refreshed and enriched, and we performed successful implant surgery. His treatment was soon finished,

and he was very happy with his new implant-supported teeth. This was a man who was not old in his early 80s; why are so many people old at far younger ages?

The corollary to this is the person who says, “Well, you know, I’m on a fixed income.” Now, I try to always be nice because I understand what they are saying, but I want to ask them “Who ISN’T on a fixed income?” We all are on fixed incomes; however, those of us with parents AND children to watch over have plenty of ways to drain that fixed income. Many of my most complex, most dramatic cases came from humble retired folks who decided “it was their turn” after

years of taking care of parents and children. I think that these people did not define themselves as old; they did not let fear define them, either.

I hope that all of you, at whatever age you are, have mentors who show you how to age with energy. I am so very lucky to have friends who are decades ahead of me, exhibiting energy and passion unknown to many 30-year-olds. I hope that I can follow their leads for a long, long time. It seems like the New Old is not an age, but is more a combination of one’s choice along with good fortune. May God bless you and keep you passionate and energized!



**Son Daniel and I skiing at Big Sky, Montana, in March 2015.**

# We're not just beautiful on the inside...



We are proud to announce to you that the Township of Waterford awarded us with their **2015 Beautification Award**. Dr. Wright and Julie Corbin accepted the honor at the Township's annual awards day in May. This was a nice surprise; a letter from the Township announcing this award unexpectedly arrived one day in March. We take a lot of pride in the way we present ourselves to the world. It sure is nice that someone notices enough to offer some unsolicited praise!

## Dr. Wright nominated Top Doc (again)

Dr. Wright once again was nominated a Top Dentist/Top Doc for 2015. This award is generated by a vote of one's peers, and Dr. Wright has received this honor every year that the award has been in existence. Look for the July issue of *Hour* magazine for the official announcement!



### Office Hours

Monday	10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Wednesday	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Thursday	8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Friday	8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Saturday	8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**Appointment and Emergency Phone:** (248) 673-0505

**Website:** [www.waterfordclarkstondentist.com](http://www.waterfordclarkstondentist.com)

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## Julie Corbin rides into the sunset

For over 22 years, Julie Corbin has been our office manager, our coach, our mom, our therapist, and our friend. Her husband Keith retired earlier this year, and Julie has decided not to let him have ALL of the fun; she has decided to retire by the year's end. Dreams of travel, golf, and water and snow skiing will soon be her top priorities.

I am SO very excited that she is able to do this. She always said that she would retire when Keith retired, and it is really cool that she will be able to fulfill that goal. Fortunately Julie has always been very open with her plans, so we have been able to groom someone for her position. Kara Reid, longtime dental assistant and front desk person, will become our new office manager once Julie has "left the building." We actually will change the job some to leverage Kara's great clinical skills. Longtime front desk person Barb Ambrose will also take on some new responsibilities in this transition. Frankly, we can't replace Julie, we know that, but by everyone working together we can create a great new team.

We will miss having Mom Corbin around the place, but I simply cannot believe how fortunate I have been to have her leadership for over 22 years. She has been so unbelievably dependable, loyal, and hardworking that I have been truly blessed. I look forward to her photo texts from all of the beautiful places that she and Keith will visit in the coming years. Into the sunset you go, Mrs. Corbin. Thanks for everything!

**Dr. Dave**



**Barb Ambrose, Kara Reid,  
and Julie Corbin**