

# LAJOI ELAINE WIGGINS, DMD, MSD

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

**DENTAL PROFESSIONAL** with hands-on experience providing free treatment for low-income patients across North Carolina, including both pediatric and geriatric individuals. Performed a range of procedures under the supervision of faculty members, including restorations, extractions, patient education, oral health screenings, and limited exams.

**RESEARCHER** with proven success in clinical and laboratory environments, including dental procedures on teen and pediatric patients. Experienced in wet-lab and computational lab techniques as well as microarray slides and data interpretation via Imagene software. Interfaced with preceptors that correlated with problem-based learning via case studies.

**THOUGHTFUL LEADER** who represents new dentists and dental students to the American Dental A House of Delegates and assumed positions of increasing scope and accountability with the American Student Dental Association and now with the American Dental Association. Collaborated effectively with chapter delegates to achieve strategic objectives, organize district-wide events, and monitor issues related to changing legislation.

## EDUCATION

- **MS, Dentistry** (2020) – VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY
- **Doctor of Dental Medicine** (2017) – EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE
- **BS, Biology** (2011) – UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, CHARLOTTE

## LICENSES & CERTIFICATIONS

- Board Certification (2021) - AMERICAN BOARD OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY
- Certification in Pediatric Dentistry (2020) – VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY
- General Practice Residency Certificate (2018) – OKLAHOMA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER
- North Carolina Board of Dentistry License (2020 -Present)
- Virginia Board of Dentistry Residency Permit (2018- 2020)
- Oklahoma Board of Dentistry Residency Permit (2017-2018)
- Pediatric Advanced Life Support Certification (2018-Present)
- Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support Certification (2017-2019)

## CREDENTIALING & HOSPITAL PRIVILEGES

- Atrium Health University City – Charlotte, NC
- Atrium Health - Levine's Children's Hospital – Charlotte, NC
- Novant Health Presbyterian Hospital – Charlotte, NC
- Novant Health Hemby Children's - Charlotte, NC
- Valleygate Dental Surgery Center – Charlotte, NC

## CLINICAL & EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

**ASSOCIATE PEDIATRIC DENTIST – ALL KIDS PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY** 2020-Present

**DENTAL TREATMENT & SURGERY:** Provide comprehensive care to various patients including special-needs, very young, and behaviorally-challenged clients.

**PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY RESIDENT – VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY** 2018-2020

- **DENTAL TREATMENT & SURGERY:** Gain expertise in areas of pediatric medicine and oral medicine as well as the delivery of dental care and oral surgery for compromised children and adolescents.
- **PATIENT-CARE:** Train in use of pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic behavior management techniques.
- **PROCEDURAL TRAINING:** Learn preventive and corrective dental procedures relating to general and oral health and to growth and development of the stomatognathic system.
- **PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY:** Train in biomedical sciences related to the practice of contemporary pediatric dentistry, including biostatistics/epidemiology, pharmacology, microbiology, embryology, genetics, anatomy, oral and medical pathology.
- **PEDIATRIC PATIENT CARE:** Learn and master physical, psychological, and social development of children while studying oral and perioral lesions and anomalies as well as management of dental/medical emergencies.
- **TREATMENT PLANNING:** Coordinate diagnosis, case analysis, and clinical management of oral facial health problems. Provide treatment planning for primary and permanent dentition and periodontal, mucocutaneous, and associated hard tissues of the oral-maxillofacial region.
- **PATIENT EDUCATION:** Instruct and motivate pediatric patients and parents in achieving optimal oral health.

**GENERAL PRACTICE RESIDENT – OKLAHOMA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER**

2017-2018

- **PATIENT CARE:** Completed a one-year general practice residency, treating both children and adults at a 60/40 ratio; worked with various patient conditions, including special-needs, very young, and behaviorally-challenged clients. Gained invaluable experience in sedation dentistry, operating room dentistry, and behavior modification techniques.
- **COURSES & SEMINARS:** Attended learning opportunities related to Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Orthodontic Principle, Endodontic seminar, History and Physical course, Prosthodontic seminars, Medical Emergency seminars, Periodontal seminars, Journal Club, Treatment Plan seminars, and Grand Rounds and Oral pathology.
- **HANDS-ON PRACTICE:** Completed intensive clinical rotations in the following areas: Dental Anesthesiology, Medicine, Oral Surgery Rotation, and Veteran's Administration Dental Clinic.

**LEADERSHIP****MEMBER / ORGANIZATIONAL LEADER – AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION / NORTH CAROLINA DENTAL SOCIETY**

2020- Current

- **NEW DENTIST DELEGATE FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA DENTAL SOCIETY TO THE ADA HOUSE OF DELEGATES:** Representing the new dentists of n and advocated for the needs of fellow new dentists in order to discuss and develop strategies to reach and engage members of all backgrounds in the state of North Carolina.
- **NEW DENTIST COMMITTEE FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA DENTAL SOCIETY:** Represented and advocated for the needs of fellow new dentists in order to discuss and develop strategies to reach and engage members of all backgrounds in the state of North Carolina.
- **ADA SUCCESS SPEAKERS:** Providing expert level presentations in person or virtually to dental students across the country aim to provide dental students a competitive advantage for navigating life after dental school.

**MEMBER / ORGANIZATIONAL LEADER – AMERICAN STUDENT DENTAL ASSOCIATION**

2014-2016

- **ASDA DELEGATION TO THE ADA HOUSE OF DELEGATES:** Represented and advocated for the needs of fellow dental students; attended meetings via teleconference in order to review and discuss current legislation.
- **CHAIR, NATIONAL LEADER TASK FORCE:** Analyzed national leader application and appointment process to select the best qualified leader; produced a report for the board to review at their 2016 meeting.
- **DISTRICT 4 TRUSTEE:** Represented seven dental schools across Georgia, North / South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. Maintained communication with chapter delegates to ensure strategic goals were achieved and collaborated with the district cabinet to plan and organize district-wide events.
- **MEMBER, COUNCIL OF MEMBERSHIP:** Assessed and developed resources to meet the needs of chapters/members while driving membership initiatives to increase participation and enrollment.
- **ECU SODM STUDENT TRUSTEE:** Collaborated with delegates to provide leadership with the student perspective on resolutions to be presented at the ADA House of Delegates, serving as a non-voting member to the delegation.

- **STUDENT TRUSTEE, NORTH CAROLINA DENTAL SOCIETY:** Worked on improving membership retention and responsiveness to the student population; listened to issues impacting local dentist to make presentations to the school.
- **FOCUS COORDINATOR FOR LUNCH & LEARN EVENTS:** Provided strategies for chapters to improve the frequency and quality of Lunch and Learn events; created a database of local companies that support events as a resource for district chapters.
- **FIRST/SECOND DELEGATE:** Served as a chairperson of Executive Board and attended national district, and local conferences.

**EXTERNSHIP – CINCINNATI CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL**

2015

- Observed a wide-range of dental procedures performing on children and teen patients, including those with complex health conditions.

**PREDENTAL MENTOR – ECU SODM OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS**

2013

- Served as an on-campus mentor and provided guidance to a group of 40 pre-dental students.
- Worked directly with faculty and staff to strengthen future programs/offerings.

**PARTICIPANT – AETNA HEALTH PROFESSIONS PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE BASIC MEDICAL SCIENCE PROGRAM**

2012

- Engaged in clinical interactions with preceptors that correlated with problem-based learning via case studies.
- Prepared for the Dental Admission Test (DAT) and increase expertise in the dental profession.

**PARTICIPANT – SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM, BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES PROGRAM**

2011

- Developed a kinetic assay for *Rhizobium etli* pyruvate carboxylase using fast violet blue dye.
- Contributed to weekly journal clubs and laboratory group meetings for knowledge share.

**RESEARCH ASSISTANT – UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, CHARLOTTE**

2010-2011

- Assisted in completing wet-lab and computational lab techniques; printed microarray slides, prepared target, hybridized, scanned, and interpreted data with Image software.

**VOLUNTEER SERVICE****ELEVATION KIDZ MINISTRY – ELEVATION CHURCH (BALLANTYNE CAMPUS)**

2021

- Assist in providing interactive Christian education for children six weeks to 5<sup>th</sup> grade while supporting parents during the worship experience.

**CHARLOTTE POST FOUNDATION**

- Financial supporter of the foundation, a long-time supporter of the Charlotte community since 1996.
- Supporter of after school programs for elementary students in Title I schools, including tutoring services.

**DENTAL STUDENT VOLUNTEER – NC MISSIONS OF MERCY CLINIC**

2014-2017

- Provide free treatment for low-income / at-risk patients in North Carolina, including restorations, extractions, and other procedures while under the supervision of faculty members.

**DENTAL STUDENT VOLUNTEER – GIVES KIDS A SMILE / SMILES FOR A LIFETIME**

2014-2015

- Provided free comprehensive dental care to underserved children in North Carolina; educated children on how to maintain and improve oral health status.
- Completed free oral health screenings/exams at nursing homes, retirement communities, and senior centers.

**PUBLICATIONS**

- Wiggins, L. (2019) "What to expect during residency" Contour Magazine, Volume 3 - Number 4

- Wiggins, L. (2018) "A 'match' made in heaven: Selecting the right residency" *Mouthing Off: The Blog of the American Student Dental Association*
- Wiggins, L. (2016) "Letter from the Trustee" 2015-2016 Biannual District 4 ASDA Newsletter (8)
- Wiggins, L. (2015) "Are Scrubs the New Black?" *ASDA News*, 26(1)
- Wiggins, L. (2015) "How to stand out in an interview (in a good way)" *Mouthingoff, American Student Dental Association*
- Wiggins, L. (2014) "Non-dental ways to be a financially stable dentist." *ASDA News*, 44(9)

#### SELECT PRESENTATIONS

- ADA Success Speaker, Various Presentations (2020 – Current)
- Speaker, ADA New Dentist Committee Town Hall "Career Path Mentorship". Orlando, FL (2023)
- Invited Speaker, OU ASDA Career Advancement Leadership Conference. Oklahoma City, OK (2017)
- Facilitator. "Chapter Idea Exchange: Membership," ASDA Annual Session. Dallas, TX (2016)
- Facilitator. "District 4ASDA: Trustee Edition," District 4 Meeting. Charlotte, NC (2016)
- Invited Speaker "Understanding the Cause & Effect of Stress" District 3 / District 10 Meeting (2016)
- Guest Panelist "ASDA National Leader Panel" District 10 Meeting (2016)
- Keynote Speaker "Becoming an ASDA Expert" ECU ASDA Leadership Transition Event (2016)
- Keynote Speaker "What is ASDA?" ECU ASDA Week of Welcome (2015)
- Featured Speaker "Emerging dental Practice Models" National ASDA BOT Megatopic Discussion Series (2015)
- Facilitator "CSI: Dental Anatomy" ECU SoDM Preparing Tomorrow's Dentist Program (2015)

#### HONORS & RECOGNITIONS

- Frank H. Farrington Service and Leadership Award (2023) – SOUTHEASTERN SOCIETY OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY
- ASDA Award of Excellence (2017) – AMERICAN STUDENT DENTAL ASSOCIATION
- NCDS Student Leader in Organized Dentistry Award (2017) – North Carolina Dental Society
- APEX Scholar (2017) – American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry
- Dean of Students Distinguished Leader Award (2011) – University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- Outstanding Student of the Year (2009) - University of North Carolina at Charlotte Black Student Union
- Multicultural Academic Services Distinguished Scholar (2008) - University of North Carolina at Charlotte

#### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- College of Diplomats
- American Board of Pediatric Dentistry
- North Carolina Dental Society
- Academy General Dentistry
- National Dental Association
- American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
- Society of Collegiate Scholars
- American Dental Education Association
- American Dental Association