

April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

To the members of the North Carolina Dental Society:

I am writing to be considered for the position of delegate at large on the NC-ADA Delegation. I believe I would be a great candidate for this position due to my extensive volunteer experience, my effective communication and leadership skills, as well as my strong desire to become more actively involved in organized dentistry.

I graduated from the Medical University of South Carolina College of Dental Medicine in 2019. Throughout my four years in dental school, I served as the volunteer coordinator for my class, during which I organized events and recruited classmates for our class philanthropic activities. We volunteered with many organizations including Habitat for Humanity, Fields to Families, Fresh Future Farms, American Red Cross, and Charleston STEM Fest, to name a few. We also volunteered to provide dental care for underserved communities with the North Charleston Free Dental Clinic, South Carolina Dental Access Days and North Carolina Missions of Mercy. Upon graduation, I received the distinction of Most Outstanding Individual Volunteer for the College of Dental Medicine which is awarded yearly to the student who has recorded the most volunteer hours.

My involvement in these various outreach programs reinforced the importance of giving back to my community as an integral part of my development as a dentist. It ultimately led me to work at a Federally Qualified Health Center in Beaufort, SC for several years. During my time at Beaufort Jasper Hampton Comprehensive Health Services, I was able to develop not only my clinical skills, but I was also able to develop my skills of empathy, leadership, cultural sensitivity and conflict resolution. I have also been actively involved in volunteering at the night dental clinic for migrant agricultural workers which runs about three times a year during the growing seasons. During these night clinics, we have been able to provide preventive, minor restorative and oral surgery procedures for the farmworkers and their families. By working directly with underserved populations, I have been able to understand their specific obstacles to routine healthcare and worked with various other providers to help patients breakdown their barriers to care. My experience as a dentist has shown me that by working together to bring health care and education to those who need it most, we can push for healthier patients and a healthier society.

I recently transitioned to private practice to expand my clinical skills and am currently practicing in Hampstead, NC. As a newcomer to North Carolina, I hope to provide a unique and objective perspective to the North Carolina Dental Society. I seek to become more involved in organized dentistry and would love to be able to contribute to the work that shapes national policies and procedures that impact both dentists and patients alike.

I am confident that my unique blend of experiences, excellent communication skills and my enthusiasm make me an excellent candidate for this position. It would be an honor to represent the NC Dental Society to the ADA House of Delegates and I look forward to having the privilege to serve as Delegate at Large.

Sincerely,

Stephanie R. Arredondo, DMD