



Posted April 21, 2022

## **Summary of major actions taken by DANB's Board of Directors at the Winter 2022 Board Meeting**

By webinar  
Friday, February 4, 2022

DANB Directors in attendance:

Lois Bell, CDA, CPFDA, CRFDA, CDIPC, MADAA, Chair, Steven J. Holm, D.D.S., Vice-Chair; Connie J. Reed, CDA, EFDA, B.S., Secretary-Treasurer; Michael Conte, D.M.D., M.P.H.; Frank A. Maggio, D.D.S.; Meagan Morton, CDA; Kimberly S. Plate, CDA, CPFDA, CRFDA, BS; Esther Scherb, D.M.D., JD; Janee A Tamayo, CDA, CPFDA, MPA, TSgt Air Force

DANB's Chief Executive Officer Laura Skarnulis, serves as ex officio on DANB's Board of Directors.

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### **DANB Candidate and Certificant Services Updates**

DANB is transitioning most paper certificates and communications to electronic versions. We are targeting late 2022 – early 2023 for full electronic operations.

Changes to date:

- October 2021: All national fail exam results are digital.
- January 2022: New Certificant Welcome material is digital.

DANB plans to move the following communications from paper-based to electronic:

- All exam, certification, and recertification applications
- All exam results (national and state, pass and fail)
- Renewal certificates and wallet cards
- Certificates of knowledge-based competence

Starting July 1, 2022, an updated RHS exam outline will go into effect. The outline has been reorganized to streamline the content. While no new content has been added, some content, such as personal monitoring devices and conventional/film-based radiography, has been removed to reflect current practice.

Changes to the exam outlines for the ICE, GC and OA exams were also approved by the DANB Board. These changes will not affect the current domain weights. Non-substantive changes include streamlining some sections, removing redundancies and updating the language. Some substantive changes will be made to the GC and OA exam outlines by removing certain functions that are not being performed by dental assistants or are not essential to the role of a dental assistant. Exams, with these revised exam outlines will be published July of 2022

Additionally, DANB recently submitted its five-year application to maintain National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) accreditation for DANB's CDA and COA certifications. The application will be reviewed by NCCA in the upcoming months.

### **New Certifications in Collaboration with OSAP**

The Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention (OSAP) and DANB concluded the pre-testing of two new certification programs: Certified in Dental Infection Prevention and Control (CDIPC) and Dental Industry Specialist in Infection Prevention and Control (DISIPC). These certifications represent an individual's knowledge of infection control guidelines and standards and the skills to apply them in a variety of scenarios. Through the pre-test events, more than 125 oral healthcare professionals earned the CDIPC certification, and 36

professionals earned the DISIPC certification. The CDIPC certification officially launched the first week of April 2022, and the DISIPC certification will officially launch in July 2022.

[Recertification Requirements for the CDIPC and DISIPC](#) certifications were approved at this Winter 2022 Board meeting and can be found at [dentalinfectioncontrol.org](http://dentalinfectioncontrol.org).

Additionally, the OSAP-DALE Foundation Dental Infection Prevention and Control Certificate Program launched in 2020, and to date more than 1,100 oral health care professionals have earned the certificate. The OSAP-DALE Foundation Dental Infection Prevention and Control Certificate Program is a comprehensive educational program intended for everyone on the dental team including clinicians and industry specialists.

### **Entry Level Dental Assisting Framework Update**

DANB and the DALE Foundation have been piloting an entry level dental assisting framework designed to provide training and education opportunities for high school students. Students participate in the pilot programs as part of their high school curriculums, which also includes preceptorships or other hands-on experience. Through the program, students complete DALE Foundation online courses and practice tests and take DANB exams, with the opportunity to earn DANB's National Entry Level Dental Assistant (NELDA) certification. Students have the potential to graduate from these programs with dental assisting credentials and enter the workforce well-prepared as entry-level dental assistants.

A second high school is slated to begin a pilot in Michigan. The information gained from these pilots will impact the Entry Level Dental Assisting Program offerings in the future, which will be available on a broader scale in late 2022 or early 2023.

### **DALE Foundation Course Updates**

The DALE Foundation is preparing to introduce two new courses later this year: a course on instrument processing and sterilization, developed in collaboration with OSAP, and an introductory HIPAA course. Additionally, the DALE Foundation will develop new resources as part of the Entry Level Dental Assisting Framework, including toolkits, skills sheets and instructor guides.

### **Collaborations Update**

#### American Dental Assistants Association

DANB collaborates with the American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA) in several ways. DANB is a strong supporter of ADAA's Dental Assistants Recognition Week, spreading awareness and spotlighting dental assistants through our newsletter, blog and social media channels. Additionally, since 2013, we have offered the ADAA/DANB Scholarship. To date, we have awarded scholarships to 40 individuals to further their dental assisting career goals. There were three 2021 ADAA/DANB Scholarship recipients, who were awarded funds to go toward their dental assisting goals:

- Stacey Simon, CDA, COA, RDA, EFDA, FADAA, B.A.
- Jami Van Enkevort, CDA, FADAA
- Angelica Morales-Maez, CDA

The 2022 ADAA/DANB Scholarship will launch this fall. See the DANB website for more details.

### **Other Priorities and Initiatives**

#### Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council

DANB and the DALE Foundation are establishing a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Council to guide and develop DEI principles and initiatives for the organizations. The Council will include board members, staff, outside advisers and constituents. The Council will be established later this year and will begin its planning before the end of the year. Additionally, staff and board members will be completing DEI education and training as a starting point for our work in this area.

#### Branding and Digital Initiatives

We have several branding and digital communication initiatives underway, designed to enhance our stakeholders' experience and to evolve our organizations to meet the future needs of the profession. Earlier this year, we introduced digital badges for the certifications and certificates developed in collaboration with OSAP. Later this spring, we will offer digital badges for all DANB certifications and select certificates.

Additionally, DANB will unveil its new logo by the end of April 2022. The new logo is part of the first phase of enhancing and modernizing DANB's brand identity. Another aspect of the rebranding will be redesigning our websites, which will be introduced this summer. Our websites are a primary point of interface for exam candidates, certificants, learners, and other stakeholders. Our new digital presence will be an opportunity to build more engagement, offer new resources, and improve the user experience.

### Strategic Plan through FY23

DANB and the DALE Foundation reviewed the current integrated strategic plan and discussed the priorities for this fiscal year. Our five goals are focused on collaboration, credentialing/educating, infrastructure, value and stakeholders.

DANB and the DALE Foundation voted to change the fiscal year end of August 31st to a calendar year effective January 2023.

### **Leadership Update**

We are pleased to share that DANB's Board elected Ms. Robynn Rixse, of ADAA, and Dr. Barbara Mousel, of ADA to serve on DANB's Board of Directors, with their first terms beginning Sept. 1, 2022. We thank ADA for the strong participation of ADA members on the DANB and DALE Foundation Boards, including Dr. Steven Holm, Dr. Michael Conte, and Dr. Frank Maggio serving on DANB's Board of Directors and Dr. Joanne Dawley and Dr. Michael Conte serving on the DALE Foundation's Board of Trustees.

The DALE Foundation has selected finalists for open Leaders-in-Training positions and will select two Leaders-in-Training by May 31, 2022. These individuals will be considered for election as a Trustee to the Board with service beginning FY 23.

### **Strategic Focus for the Future**

DANB and The DALE Foundation are interested in convening key stakeholders in oral healthcare to discuss and collaborate on solutions to address the dental workforce issues. More details will be forthcoming in mid-April.

DANB and the DALE Foundation Boards will convene for a retreat in Chicago in May to further discuss strategic initiatives. The Boards' next regularly scheduled Annual meeting will be held in Chicago August 4-6, 2022.