

# Down Syndrome Association OF NORTHEAST OHIO



## Medical News

September 2024

Please join the Clinical and Translational Science Collaborative of Northern Ohio at Case Western Reserve University and the Down Syndrome Association of Northern Ohio for the launch of their co-created, **Research Disabilities Inclusion: Down Syndrome Workshop**

- **Date:** Friday, September 20
- **Time:** 10AM-1PM
- **Location:** Case Western Reserve University Wolstein Research Building
- **Cost:** Complimentary
- [Register here](#) before Wednesday, September 18

Hear from national and local experts, including:

- Laura Cifra-Bean, MD, Medical Outreach Director, Down syndrome Association of Northeast Ohio
- Alberto Costa, MD, CWRU
- Bryn Gelaro, MA, Vice President, Research & Medical Care, Global Down Syndrome Foundation
- Hampus Hillerstrom, President & CEO, LuMind IDSC Foundation
- Katherine Koenig, MD, Cleveland Clinic
- Toni Mullee, Executive Director, Down Syndrome Association of Northeast Ohio
- Melissa Parisi, MD, PhD, Chief, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Branch, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Christopher's smile is one of the things I love best about him. He has been very lucky to have a great dental team throughout his life, including our family dentist, a periodontist, and an orthodontist. Not all people with disabilities have access to a great team and it can impact their overall health. To help with this, DSANEO is teaming up with Dr. Suparna Mahalaha and students from Case Western Reserve School of Dental Medicine to perform free oral health screenings for people with Down syndrome. Please share this information with any who may benefit.



Dental students Emily and Gabby joined us for the Buddy Walk

**Location:** DSANEO office, 6533 B Brecksville Rd., Independence  
**Date:** Thursday, October 17th  
**Time:** 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Space is limited. RSVP to [lcifra-bean@dsaneo.org](mailto:lcifra-bean@dsaneo.org)

[Download Dental Screening Flyer HERE](#)

**DSANEO Webinar on Dental Care for Children and Adults with Down Syndrome**



Presented by Dr. Suparna Mahalaha

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Scv1Ahl2iOI>

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## Dental Care

Mubayrik AB. The Dental Needs and Treatment of Patients with Down Syndrome. *Dent Clin North Am.* 2016 Jul;60(3):613-26. doi: 10.1016/j.cden.2016.02.003. PMID: 27264854.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0011853216300143?via%3Dihub>

*This article enumerates the many dental conditions associated with Down syndrome. It emphasizes the increased risk for severe periodontal disease, which can be lessened by supervised brushing and regular dental care. Many people with Ds are also at risk for tooth wear from bruxism and GERD.*

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American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. Management of dental patients with special health care needs. *The Reference Manual of Pediatric Dentistry.* Chicago, Ill.: American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry; 2023:337-44.

[bp\\_shcn.pdf \(aapd.org\)](#)

*This is a very good overview . Key recommendations include the establishment of a dental home by 12 months of age, flexibility in scheduling appointments and awareness of each patient’s medical history. It also discusses preventive strategies and touches on behavioral management.*

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Dhar V, Gosnell E, Jayaraman J, et al. Nonpharmacological behavior guidance for the pediatric dental patient. *Pediatr Dent* 2023;45(5):385-410.

[g\\_behaviorguidance.pdf \(aapd.org\)](#)

*Avoiding general anesthesia for dental procedures is important to people with disabilities and their families. This paper reviews the research on various behavioral strategies including waiting room design, preparatory materials, tell-show-do, positive reinforcement and praise, distraction, desensitization, and breathing techniques to help with dental anxiety.*

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Elise Sarvas, Jessica Webb, Mary Landrigan-Ossar, Larry Yin, SECTION ON ORAL HEALTH, COUNCIL ON CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, SECTION ON ANESTHESIOLOGY AND PAIN MEDICINE; Oral Health Care for Children and Youth With Developmental Disabilities: Clinical Report. *Pediatrics* August 2024; 154 (2): e2024067603. 10.1542/peds.2024-067603

[Oral Health Care for Children and Youth With Developmental Disabilities: Clinical Report | Pediatrics | American Academy of Pediatrics \(aap.org\)](#)

**“Recommendations for Primary Care and IDD Specialists to Promote Oral Health (Prevention, Early Detection, and Treatment) for CYDD in Primary and Specialty Care Settings Are as Follows:**

1. Assess dental and periodontal health for CYDD at least annually.
2. Use structured screening instruments such as the “oral health risk assessment tool” to consistently assess and identify risk factors.
3. Provide anticipatory guidance on oral hygiene, diet, habits, trauma prevention, and malocclusion, including tooth brushing; recommend use of fluoridated toothpaste; assess community water fluoridation; apply fluoride varnish as appropriate; determine sources of fermentable carbohydrates and aim to reduce consumption; and consider transition to adult dental care as part of the adolescent health care transition.

4. *Advocate for a dental home by 1 year of age, similar to a medical home, for every CYDD, and communicate the individual's intellectual and functional inabilities with their dental providers.*
5. *Encourage families to access preventive dental care.*”

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**DOWN SYNDROME  
ASSOCIATION OF NE  
OHIO**  
6533 Brecksville Rd.  
Independence, OH 44131  
216.447.8763  
[www.DSANEO.org](http://www.DSANEO.org)



The Down Syndrome Association of NE Ohio | 6533-B Brecksville Road | Independence, OH 44131 US

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