

2026 Rural and Health Center National GME Conference

Continuing Dental Education (CDE) Sessions

The Ins and Outs of Dental Program Operations

Monday, August 31 • 1:30 PM–4:30 PM / 3.0 CDE Credits

Session Description

Successfully leading a dental residency program in a community-based setting requires strong leadership, collaborative partnerships, and a thorough understanding of accreditation and operational requirements. Presenters will share lessons learned, best practices, and practical strategies for enhancing program quality, supporting residents and faculty, and addressing evolving challenges. Participants will leave with actionable insights to strengthen new and existing dental residency programs and promote long-term success and sustainability.

Learning Objectives

- Identify leadership strategies and best practices for directing a dental residency program in a community-based setting.
- Describe approaches to building collaborative partnerships that support program quality and resident and faculty success.
- Apply lessons learned to address common accreditation and operational challenges in dental residency programs.
- Develop actionable strategies to strengthen program sustainability and long-term success.

Medical Dental Integration: Curriculum, Patient Care, and Practice

Tuesday, September 1 • 11:00 AM–12:00 PM / 1.0 CDE Credits

Session Description

This session will outline the scope and impact of poor oral health outcomes, review curricular resources for program development, and present case examples of integrating oral health into clinical workflows and residency training.

Learning Objectives

- Recognize the scope and clinical significance of oral health disparities in rural and underserved populations.
- Identify Smiles for Life curricular resources to support faculty development and oral health program development.

- Apply case-based strategies for integrating oral health into clinical workflows.

CODA Site Visits: What to Expect and How to Prepare

Tuesday, September 1 • 1:30 PM–2:30 PM | 1.0 CDE Credits

Session Description

Drawing on recent site-visit experiences, presenters will discuss practical approaches to preparation, communication with CODA, and managing the site-visit process.

Learning Objectives

- Identify key strategies to prepare for a CODA site visit.
- Outline the logistics and flow of the site-visit day.
- Describe next steps and follow-up actions after a site visit.

Navigating CODA Processes and Resources

Tuesday, September 1 • 3:00 PM–4:00 PM | 1.0 CDE Credits

Session Description

Understanding the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) processes and available resources is essential for successfully developing and maintaining dental education programs.

Learning Objectives

- Identify the key CODA accreditation requirements and processes.
- Describe the resources CODA provides.
- Apply practical strategies for navigating CODA processes.

Medical and Dental GME Finance 101

Tuesday, September 1 • 4:15 PM–5:15 PM | 1.0 CDE Credits

Session Description

This session will explore the financial foundations of operating medical and dental graduate education programs.

Learning Objectives

- Identify key financial concepts relevant to operating medical and dental GME programs.
- Describe funding considerations and budgeting strategies.

- Discuss financial factors that influence program sustainability.
- Apply GME financial management insights to support informed decision-making.

Recruiting with Purpose: Strategies to Attract and Retain Dental Faculty and Residents

Wednesday, September 2 • 11:00 AM–12:00 PM | 1.0 CDE Credits

Session Description

This session explores practical strategies to attract mission-aligned faculty, residents, and students to dental training programs in community-based settings.

Learning Objectives

- Identify characteristics and motivations of mission-aligned faculty, residents, and students.
- Apply recruitment strategies that highlight professional fulfillment and community impact.
- Develop targeted messaging and outreach approaches.