

1 **Resolution Number:** 207-2021

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3 **Title:** Culture of Safety in Dentistry policy

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5 **Reference Committee Assignment:** Membership and Education

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7 **Sponsor(s):** Joell Chen, Council on Professional Issues Chair, Roseman

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9 **Financial Impact:** None

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11 **Board of Trustees Comments:** None

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13 **Reference Committee Comments:** Based on testimony, the Reference Committee  
14 recommends a referral to the Board of Trustees.

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16 **Background:** There is currently no statement on how ASDA can help promote a culture of  
17 safety among dental students and schools. Students go out into practice and, for the most part,  
18 continue to work based on habits forged during school. If ASDA promotes conversation with  
19 students about safety culture early on, individuals will be more comfortable sharing patient  
20 incidents and near misses in the future. We can learn from each other's inevitable human error  
21 in practice in order to better protect patients, ourselves and dental teams. The ADA is also  
22 actively developing materials to create a culture of safety in dentistry while designing systems  
23 for open communication regarding adverse events and ways to reduce patient harm. According  
24 to a 2014 article in the Journal of Dental Education, *Open Wide: Looking into the Safety of*  
25 *Dental School Clinics*, " There exist areas for improvement in the dental patient safety culture  
26 within dental school clinics...and dental school clinics have the opportunity to learn from  
27 successful approaches in the medical clinic setting. " ASDA works alongside the ADA to support  
28 professionals in different stages of organized dentistry. Therefore, be it

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## RESOLUTION

31

32 **Resolved,** that the ASDA Board of Trustees investigate the feasibility of developing a policy  
33 encouraging dental schools and local/state legislatures to adopt culture of safety guidelines,  
34 and report back at the next ASDA House of Delegates Meeting in 2022.

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36 **Action:** The Chair moves 207-2021 with the recommendation to refer to the Board of Trustees  
37 and to be placed on the Consent Calendar.