

# #16

**COMPLETE**

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**Q1** **Harvard**

Select your chapter.

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**Q2** **District 1**

Select your district

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**Q3**

Your Name

Asli Pisano

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**Q4**

Chapter Position

Vice President

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**Q5**

Your Email

aslipisano@hsdm.harvard.edu

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**Q6**

Describe one member engagement and value event or chapter member benefit program aimed at increasing member engagement and value. (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

This year, our ASDA chapter played a pivotal role with a new week-long event, "Intro to ASDA," which was essentially the orientation week for HSDM's first-year class. We initiated the week with a presentation that provided an overview of ASDA and the wider realm of organized dentistry. This included ASDA's lobbying efforts and the numerous membership benefits, particularly life and disability insurance, and emphasized that HSDM students are automatically ASDA members through school enrollment. We outlined our planned programming for the year, highlighting anticipated events such as apple picking, the winter formal, and opportunities for leadership positions. Our chapter, functioning as the equivalent of a student government at our school, is uniquely positioned to offer financial support to various student organizations, with all class councils relying on ASDA for reimbursements for their events. A notable feature was the distribution of school-embroidered scrubs and Patagonia apparel, following a summer vote by the D1 class on scrub color. We also had an informative lunch & learn session with ADA Membership Plans, providing valuable insights into how ASDA-provided disability insurance functions during schooling and its benefits in dental practice. The week ended with our annual ASDA boat cruise on the Charles River, a unique event that our chapter holds to foster community among all four classes of predoctoral students. This year's Intro to ASDA event demonstrated our chapter's dedication to fostering a supportive, informative, and inclusive environment for new dental students.

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**Q7**

Describe one chapter community service event that creates connections with our communities. (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

Our commitment to community service reached new heights with the success of the new Give Veterans A Smile (GVAS) event. Following the ADA GVAS Summit that illuminated the pressing oral health challenges faced by our veterans, Harvard ASDA began organizing GVAS by collaborating with dental hygiene students from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and predoctoral students across the nation. Our GVAS efforts not only provided essential dental care to a record number of veterans but also guided them in navigating available private and public insurance options, VA eligibility, where applicable, and other avenues to maintain optimal oral health. With patients from New Hampshire and beyond, we were able to find a new dental home and establish continuity of care for many veterans. This initiative underscores our commitment to delivering dental care and aspiration to tackle the unmet needs of vulnerable populations. GVAS also served as a platform to conduct needs assessments to highlight barriers to access for veterans and employ pre- and post-surveys to evaluate educational benefits for dental students. Some of these projects have already been published and presented at conferences, like the 2023 National Oral Health Conference (Honorable Mention). Lastly, despite the limitations on predoctoral students' ability to provide clinical care, our community involvement committee selected and mentored a group of eight highly talented predoctoral fellows. Their roles involved conducting background research, devising outreach strategies, and exploring grant and sponsorship opportunities, all of which were pivotal in ensuring the resounding success of GVAS.

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**Q8**

Describe one chapter advocacy event that educates and involves members in ASDA's advocacy and legislative priorities. (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

Our ASDA chapter focused its advocacy efforts on enhancing oral health care for veterans. We conducted extensive IRB-approved research on the barriers veterans face in accessing dental care, which culminated in our chapter receiving the prestigious Harvard Medical School Dean's Award. This research included surveys from patients on their dental needs, surveys from students on the educational benefits from working with veterans, and chart reviews to follow up on continuity of care. A significant aspect of our advocacy involved educating and mobilizing a national team of Pre-dental fellows. These fellows were specifically trained about veterans' oral health issues, enhancing their understanding and engagement in this critical area. Adam Yang, one of our chapter leaders, has been at the forefront of these efforts, serving as the National Chair of the Council on Advocacy and also as a member of the ADA Give Veterans a Smile committee. His leadership has been instrumental in advancing our advocacy goals at both the local and national levels. To further these efforts, we organized a dinner event featuring a presentation by a Boston VA program director. This event shed light on limited VA dental eligibility and the unique challenges faced by veterans. We also presented on trauma-informed care, equipping our students with practical techniques for treating our veteran population with sensitivity and understanding. Furthermore, we emphasized that all dental students can enroll in a community care network upon practicing, signaling to veterans that we are available as their dental care providers.

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**Q9**

Describe one chapter wellness event that educates members and involves members in ASDA's Five Dimensions of Wellness. (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

Our commitment to health and wellness shone brightly during ASDA's Wellness Month, where our annual Steps Challenge took center stage in September. This inclusive event engaged pre-docs, residents, faculty, staff, and fellows in a display of healthy competition while promoting wellness. The D2 class claimed victory with over 6 million collective steps, and one individual exceeded 600,000 steps, underscoring our community's dedication to physical health. Adding an exciting incentive to get more steps, we offered free Barry's Bootcamp fitness classes, enhancing the wellness experience with diverse workout opportunities that allowed for members from all four class years to interact. Our members gave us great feedback after these classes, especially after getting the chance to mingle with fellow classmates. Collaborating with HSDM's Running Club, we provided funding for snacks and running gels, fostering connections between pre-docs and residents at our school. We encouraged many of our members to continue to promote their physical wellbeing beyond the month of September, and we registered six students to run the Cambridge Half Marathon at the end of the month. Our Wellness Month initiative of the Steps Challenge showcased our commitment to a well-rounded and supportive approach to health, encapsulating the spirit of physical and community well-being in our tight-knit dental school community.

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**Q10**

Describe one chapter communication (such as an enewsletter, the chapter website, or chapter social media campaign) that keeps members informed about ASDA. (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

Our chapter's initiative to expand the use of Google Groups within our school has yielded remarkable outcomes, particularly in enhancing communication and collaboration among students, faculty, and researchers. The impact has been profound, notably among our first-year students who are immersed in medical school full time and have gained access to valuable shadowing opportunities. The daily utilization of Google Groups by residents and post-docs has streamlined requests for assistants in surgical procedures. Many of our research faculty also use Groups to seek support for research projects. Through this initiative, we have established a mentorship pipeline, connecting members with upperclassmen and forging stronger bonds within and between classes. Beyond its role in coordinating clinical and research activities, Google Groups played a pivotal role in obtaining contributions for Contour magazine. After sending out a blast for Contour submissions, we received articles that brought to light initiatives such as the HSDM Sustainability Green Team project, birdwatching as a form of wellness, and the use of bacteriophages as a potential alternative to antibiotics in dentistry. Additionally, one of our members was the first to discuss ChatGPT usage in dental practices and education in Contour, which then led to a follow-up article in JADA. The role of our chapter president as a contributing editor for Contour magazine further amplified our voice on a national scale. These contributions not only highlighted the innovative spirit of our chapter but also positioned us as thought leaders in the wider dental community.

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**Q11**

Describe one chapter event that develops professional and leadership skills of chapter members. (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

This year marked a significant leap forward for our ASDA chapter in the realm of professional development, highlighted by the creation of our innovative "Career Catalyst Series." This initiative led to the establishment of a dedicated professional development committee, showcasing our commitment to fostering well-rounded dental professionals. Central to this success was the collaboration with the alumni office and alumni council, as well as our dynamic specialty study clubs. Our "Career Catalyst Series" consisted of a sequence of workshops, alumni panels, and networking activities. These events offered students insights into diverse dental specialties and the facets of dental practice ownership. The series not only broadened our members' perspectives but also served as a robust resource, connecting them with professionals who came from similar paths. In collaboration with the alumni office, our chapter initiated plans for an impactful mentorship program. This endeavor aims to bridge the gap between current students and distinguished alumni, fostering meaningful connections and providing invaluable guidance. ASDA student leaders actively contributed insights for the program's dedicated website, ensuring a seamless and user-friendly experience for participants. As a testament to our commitment to practical skill enhancement, our chapter organized a hands-on suturing workshop. This experience, led by one of our periodontics residents, equipped our members with essential clinical skills, enhancing their dexterity and proficiency in surgical techniques. This workshop not only stood out as a highlight for many participants but also exemplified our dedication to cultivating well-prepared, competent dental professionals.

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**Q12**

Submit your chapter's YouTube video link.

<https://youtu.be/HVDyfFfYvgk?feature=shared>

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**Q13**

Submit your chapter's Google Drive or DropBox video link.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XTyoDBkvDlaHjjWIhRzsB\\_oL4fD1T75w/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XTyoDBkvDlaHjjWIhRzsB_oL4fD1T75w/view?usp=sharing)

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