

#10

COMPLETE

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Q1

Select your chapter.

**University of California, San Francisco School of
Dentistry, San Francisco, CA**

Q2

Select your district

District 12

Q3

Your Name

Kimia Tavassoli

Q4

Chapter Position

Vice President

Q5

Your Email

kimia.tavassoli@ucsf.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. *This excludes the submission of multiple events that are part of a single week-long or month-long challenge e.g., the discussion of various events during a chapter's Fever Week. (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

Voices for Votes: ASDA Action & Voter Check-In Day was a defining member engagement initiative for the UCSF ASDA Chapter because it transformed civic participation from an abstract concept into an accessible and actionable experience. Designed to meet students where they were, the event invited student-dentists to verify their voter registration status, register or update information, and directly connect with ASDA Action resources that support ongoing advocacy. The strength of this event was its hands-on structure. Rather than relying on passive messaging, students actively engaged with tools that demonstrated how individual participation shapes policies that affect dentistry, student debt, access to care, and patient outcomes. This approach fostered meaningful dialogue among attendees about the role of dentists as advocates, not only in organized dentistry but also within their local communities. With approximately 30 attendees, the event achieved a strong turnout for a targeted engagement initiative, resulting in a measurable increase in awareness and participation in ASDA Action at UCSF. More importantly, it helped cultivate a culture of civic responsibility within the chapter. Students left with a clearer understanding that advocacy begins with informed participation and that their voices matter long before graduation. By empowering members to take concrete steps toward civic involvement, Voices for Votes strengthened chapter engagement and reinforced ASDA's mission to develop informed, active leaders in dentistry. The event continues to influence how UCSF ASDA integrates advocacy into its broader engagement strategy.

Q7

Describe one chapter community service event that creates connections with our communities. *This excludes the submission of multiple events that are part of a single week-long or month-long challenge (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

UCSF ASDA's partnership with St. Anthony's Dining Room represents a sustained and meaningful commitment to community service rooted in dignity, consistency, and impact. Located in San Francisco's Tenderloin District, St. Anthony's serves over 1,000 guests daily and addresses food insecurity in one of the city's most vulnerable populations. Through this event, UCSF ASDA members contributed directly to that mission. Each volunteer shift is capped at 12 participants, and every opportunity filled to capacity, reflecting strong and consistent member commitment. Volunteers assisted with plating meals, helping guests with mobility needs, guiding families to seating, and welcoming every individual with respect. At St. Anthony's, each person served is considered a guest, a philosophy that deeply resonated with our members and shaped how we approached service. Over two visits this year alone, UCSF ASDA volunteers helped serve approximately 2,600 meals. Building on prior years, the chapter expanded its involvement from an annual service event to four times per year, establishing a reliable partnership rather than a one-time contribution. This consistency allowed members to form relationships with fellow volunteers and returning guests, reinforcing empathy and social responsibility beyond the clinical setting. The impact of this event extended inward as well. It strengthened chapter cohesion, reminded members of the broader role healthcare providers play in addressing social determinants of health, and reinforced ASDA's commitment to service. St. Anthony's Dining Room has become a cornerstone of UCSF ASDA's community engagement efforts and a model for sustained, values-driven service.

Q8

Describe one chapter advocacy event that educates and involves members in ASDA's advocacy and legislative priorities. *This excludes the submission of multiple events that are part of a single week-long or month-long challenge (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

The ASDA x CDA: Intro to Advocacy in Organized Dentistry event served as a cornerstone advocacy initiative for the UCSF ASDA Chapter, equipping students with foundational knowledge about how organized dentistry shapes the future of the profession. Designed primarily for first- and second-year students, the event introduced advocacy early in dental training, emphasizing its relevance to patient care, professional autonomy, and legislative decision-making. In collaboration with the California Dental Association, CDA lobbyists shared firsthand experiences advocating on behalf of dentists and patients at the state level. Their insights demystified the legislative process and helped students understand how policy decisions directly affect clinical practice, access to care, and the sustainability of dentistry as a profession. The interactive format encouraged questions and discussion, allowing students to connect national and state-level advocacy to their future careers. With approximately 50 attendees, the event demonstrated strong and consistent engagement, maintaining similar turnout for the past two years. This sustained interest highlights the event's value and its effectiveness in fostering long-term advocacy awareness within the chapter. Students left with a clearer understanding of how they can participate in organized dentistry, whether through ASDA Action, state dental associations, or future leadership roles. Beyond attendance metrics, the event strengthened UCSF ASDA's relationship with the CDA and reinforced advocacy as a core pillar of the chapter's identity. By normalizing early involvement in advocacy, this event continues to shape a generation of student-dentists who recognize their responsibility to advocate for both their profession and their patients.

Q9

Describe one chapter wellness event that educates members and involves members in ASDA's Five Dimensions of Wellness. *This excludes the submission of multiple events that are part of a single week-long or month-long challenge (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

UCSF x UoP Connect for a Cause exemplified a holistic approach to health and wellness by integrating physical activity, mental well-being, philanthropy, and inter-school connection into a single event. Designed as a collaborative fundraiser benefiting the Oral Cancer Foundation, the event brought together dental students from UCSF and the University of the Pacific for a morning walk and run through San Francisco's Marina Green and Crissy Field. Beginning with a casual gathering over bagels and coffee, participants had the opportunity to step away from academic and clinical demands while engaging in movement and meaningful conversation. Students walked or ran together, explored the neighborhood, and built connections in an environment that emphasized balance and community. The outdoor setting and relaxed structure supported both physical wellness and stress relief, reinforcing the importance of self-care in dental education. With approximately 40 attendees from both institutions, the event achieved strong participation and raised \$290 for the Oral Cancer Foundation. Beyond fundraising, the collaboration fostered new relationships across campuses and laid the groundwork for future joint events, including subsequent inter-school activities. These connections expanded students' professional networks while strengthening camaraderie within the broader dental community. The success of Connect for a Cause underscored UCSF ASDA's commitment to promoting wellness in inclusive, engaging, and impactful ways. By aligning physical activity with service and collaboration, the event demonstrated how health and wellness initiatives can strengthen chapter culture while advancing ASDA's mission.

Q10

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

The Community Dentistry with Dr. Desmond Ng event was a flagship professional development initiative that provided UCSF ASDA members with practical insight into career pathways centered on service, leadership, and community impact. Dr. Ng, a recent dental graduate and UCSF clinical faculty member, shared his experiences working in Indian Health Services, federally qualified health centers, and as a travel dentist. The session addressed topics of high relevance to students, including loan repayment options, the realities of community-based practice, and the professional rewards and challenges of serving underserved populations. By presenting a candid and relatable career trajectory, Dr. Ng helped students envision meaningful post-graduation opportunities that align clinical practice with social responsibility. With approximately 60 attendees, the event achieved exceptional turnout and engagement. Students asked thoughtful questions throughout the discussion and continued conversations with Dr. Ng afterward, seeking guidance and connections to organizations involved in community dentistry. Several attendees followed up directly, demonstrating the event's influence beyond the single session. This event strengthened UCSF ASDA's role as a bridge between education and professional life. It empowered students to explore leadership through service and reinforced the value of advocacy and access to care within dentistry. The success of the event also established momentum for future programming, with Dr. Ng expressing enthusiasm to return. Overall, the event had a lasting impact on how members view professional development and leadership within the dental profession.

Q11

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.)

The ASDA Olympics was a standout member communications initiative that successfully energized the UCSF ASDA Chapter, strengthening connections, visibility, and retention, particularly among upperclassmen. Designed as a dental-themed competition, the event combined creativity, teamwork, and lighthearted competition to reengage members in a fun and memorable way. Participants were divided into teams of four and competed in five dental-related challenges, including PPE donning, tooth identification, periodontal probing, and a dental-themed Pictionary game. Teams adopted playful, country-inspired names, which added personality and humor to the event. The structure encouraged collaboration across classes and created a lively atmosphere that kept participants engaged throughout. With 30 attendees, many of whom were D3 and D4 students, ASDA Olympics directly addressed a historical drop in upperclassman involvement. The event's success was reflected in tangible outcomes, with nearly 90 percent of attendees renewing their ASDA membership and a significant increase in D3 and D4 retention compared to previous years. Overall chapter membership increased by approximately 40 percent, underscoring the broader impact of improved communication and engagement strategies. Beyond numbers, ASDA Olympics strengthened the chapter's internal culture. Members felt seen, included, and excited to remain involved. By communicating ASDA's value through experience rather than messaging alone, the event reinforced a sense of belonging and demonstrated how creative programming can sustain long-term engagement within a student organization.

Q12

Upload the communication piece your chapter described in the communications category as a PDF or link below.

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PaoxSZ0HWbs6fGLS_nPbvQVRXXeqb6jdEt4agepuFCCNj1wBDUtd2tT56YGsx5TpXgtiPals_wZM1z8cWyX-wNpt_yttEFiM47N5puljzHe9Fog_drl2-W_UWWondXjlih7wr48Dk2hd9-z7wrA7RevbwEIHegt-hfG2Mo_DgHjrPPjF0hdsHumH3Hd7MXhozq77ckdby1laGM41SvqGSFr6pGwXV.pdf (1MB)

Q13

Add your communication piece link below.

A small part of our Spring 2025 ASDA Newsletter was attached above, to help showcase our ASDA membership week which included ASDA Olympics.

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Q14

Submit your chapter's YouTube video link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1q4mj1duZo>

Q15

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

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rZuBiQhf2wHBD7b9cxvFsYbOc13r7kMp/view?usp=sharing>
