



Ask Me Anything Questions

Below are common questions that are asked during AMA sessions. These can be used to help prepare the presenters and also “planted” among participants to get the conversation started.

Career / Leadership

- When is the right time to own a practice? How do I get a loan?
- How do I assess a career choice?
- Can you talk about your current role and what influenced your career path choices?
- What is a Dental Service Organization (DSO)?
- What has been your experience or what are your thoughts on working for a DSO?
- It seems like the “end goal” for many dentists career-wise is to own a practice. As someone who is not very into business, what are some alternative long-term goals dentists can end up in?
- If I’m not tied down to a specific area/location, would you recommend working in and/or purchasing an urban, suburban or rural practice?
- What sort of benefits/challenges have you experienced as a practice owner in a major city? What about a rural practice?
- What’s the most unexpected experience you’ve had as a practicing dentist or a practice owner?
- What about technology? Do I considering joining a practice that doesn’t have the latest and greatest?
- How do I find an attorney to review an employee contract? What should I look for in an employee contract? Can I negotiate?
- How can I find a mentor? What are the questions to ask a mentor?
- How do I deal with sticky situations? What are some sticky situations you experienced as a dentist?
- How can I be the leader when I’m the youngest on the team?
- Practice philosophy. What is it? How do you incorporate your philosophy/your belief system into your practice day-to-day? Do you have any examples of that you could share with us today?
- What’s it like working with family? Should I go into business with a family member?
- Theoretically, if your practice was for sale, would you sell it to a new grad?
- What is the appropriate time to begin job hunting? What advice can you give us in finding a job?
- What hourly rate is good for a starting salary? Any advice in negotiating?
- What goes into your decision-making behind what insurance you accept or do not accept?
- What is one thing you wish you would have done differently as a dental student to prepare for your life in practice?
- What is one mistake you made the first year out of dental school and what would you do differently?
- With the cost of dental school so high and debt burdens so significant, is it reasonable for today’s graduating dental students to purchase their own practice right out of dental school?
- Why would you want to make the decision to purchase your own office right out of school?
- What do you listen to (podcasts), read (books, FB groups, blogs) or watch (webinars, YouTube, Instagram videos) to prepare yourself for where you are in your practice life? What are the best resources to consume?
- What is your opinion of doing a GPR/AEGD the first year out of dental school?
- What are the risks or benefits of choosing to work in GP for several years prior to applying to a residency program?
- What about getting married and buying a home? How are new dentists supposed to do that stuff shortly after dental school? Is that unrealistic?
- What is the biggest stressor in your professional life right now?

- What brings you the most joy in dentistry? Do you have any tips for finding happiness as a practicing dentist?
- How would you go about finding local dental study clubs to help learn and discuss case studies?
- How did you find your practice and what resources did you use to learn about purchasing process?
- How and where are the best places to get CE?
- Was it worth doing a residency or just jumping into practicing if your goal is to own a practice someday?
- Where is the best place to learn practice management? Are consultants worthwhile?
- Will there be anyone to supervise you for first few weeks like how we have faculty at school?
- Did you all do GPR?
- What is organized dentistry?
- I would like to learn how a new dentist handles situations when there are procedures that he/she is not comfortable doing. Does the dentist get to pick and choose what to do or does the boss/practice they are in dictate that?

Finances

- If you're willing, I'd like each of you to share "your number." What is the ballpark amount of student debt you graduated with? And include, if you will, your dental school and year of graduation as well.
- After you graduated, and you had to start paying back this loan, how did you feel... in the scale between being "yep, I'm totally fine" to "completely freaked out" – where were you? Did you have a plan?
- So, we are all human here, we make mistakes. I would like one of you to share your financial experiences that did not go so well.
- How can you be the best dentist you can be while also carrying a large debt load?
- What strategies do you use to stay focused on paying down your debt while not becoming too obsessed with it and still enjoying life?
- Taxes? Help!
- How did you budget while you were in dental school?
- Do you have any tips for new grad financing to purchase a practice immediately after school?
- Many new dentists will have high student debt burdens. Do you have opinions or thoughts on refinancing (if/when to do it, who to consider doing it with, etc.)?
- Would you recommend refinancing loans? I'm worried that if I refinance, I might miss out on 0% interest or a \$10,000 refund, for example.
- How fast were you able to pay off loans? What was that experience like?

Wellness

- What is your wellness story?
- How do you prioritize your well-being?
- What advice would you give younger self?
- What are some signs that you may need professional help? Where do you go for that help?
- How do you support a colleague that is struggling?
- Wellness programs at the state or local level – what is available? Counseling services? Employee Assistance Programs?
- How can I best support my team and wellness in the office?
- What do you do if your workplace is not a good environment for your mental health?
- Favorite ergonomics hacks to stay healthy?