Call for Big Ideas

Vision: The American College of Dentists (ACD) provides an opportunity for groundbreaking innovative ideas to be shared and supported. To that end, the ACD's Fellows Forum will be focused on providing a platform for these ideas.

The 2026 Fellows Forum will transform into **ACDLead: A Forum for Big Ideas.**

Fellows are invited to submit an idea to pitch at the ACDLead Forum to approximately 500 ACD Fellows and guests. Participants will receive encouragement and feedback from the audience to advance their big ideas and/or inspire others to replicate their ideas in their own communities.

Ideas that have already been tested or piloted to showcase feasibility and lessons learned will be given priority. All Big Ideas will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Contain a clear leadership lesson from which all can learn.
- Align with the ACD mission.
- Have the potential to be transformative in elevating the lives of others.
- Have the potential to inspire others to take up your idea.
- Be actionable, scalable, and cost-effective.
- Potential of the applicant to be an effective presenter at the ACDLead Fellows Forum.
- Potential of the applicant to bring their idea to reality and help others who want to replicate their idea.

<u>Prior</u> to the ACDLead Big Ideas Forum:

Submitted Big Ideas (see Submission Guidelines) will be reviewed and selected by a panel with experience in oral health care and entrepreneurship. Selected presenters will receive coaching from Dr. Sreenivas Koka and Mr. Mike Graham and will receive a travel stipend to offset the cost of attending the ACD 2026 annual meeting.

<u>During</u> the ACDLead Big Ideas Forum

An opening presentation will be made by Steve Milgazo, a former Navy SEAL Commander and combat veteran. Mr. Milgazo is now a resiliency coach for people in high demand roles who want optimal cognitive, physical, and spiritual balance so they can deliver the impact they want at work and the fulfillment they desire in their personal lives.

Presentations will begin immediately after, and each presenter and their idea will be scored by the audience using the following criteria:

- Contain a clear leadership impact for the betterment of oral health care.
- Align with the ACD mission.
- Have the potential to be transformative in elevating the lives of others.
- Have the potential to inspire others to take up the idea.
- Be actionable, scalable and cost-effective.
- Quality of the presentation.
- Likelihood of the Big Idea to become reality and help others who want to replicate their idea.

Each presentation must be no more than 12 minutes long and there will be up to 8 minutes for questions from a select panel of ACD Fellows. Questions may also come from the broader audience.

After all presentations are complete, the entire audience (approximately 500 ACD Fellows and guests) will give feedback on the presentations.

<u>After</u> the ACDLead Big Ideas Forum

All presenters will submit a short manuscript for publication in the *Journal of the American College of Dentists* (JACD). The Editor of the JACD will determine whether an abstract or a full manuscript is to be submitted. Submissions will need to be made within 30 days of the ACDLead Fellows Forum.

Submission Guidelines

Submissions should be presented as a1-1.5-page abstract attached to the ACDLead: Big Idea Forum Cover Sheet. The panel evaluating submissions may decide to conduct short phone or Zoom interviews with the applicants.

ACDLead: Big Ideas Forum 2026 Cover Sheet for Submissions

Name:

If not an ACD Fellow, what organization are you representing?

Although only one person may present, please list the names of any collaborators who worked with you.

Please check the following and explain any that remain unchecked at the bottom of this cover sheet.

The Big Idea described in this abstract:

___ Contains a clear leadership lesson from which all can learn.

___ Aligns with the ACD mission.

___ Has the potential to be transformative in elevating the lives of others.

___ Has the potential to inspire others to take up your idea.

___ Is actionable, scalable and cost-effective.

Is this an original project that has not been presented at any other venue or on any other platform?

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Signature