



# Choose Your Own Adventure!

## Tips for Setting Yourself up for Success by Charting Your Path Forward

You have many options as you travel along on your career journey. Thinking about Academia, Hospital Dentistry, or joining a Dental Service Organization (DSO)? What is the right fit for you? When you are deciding which type of dentistry to practice, your decision should be made based on what you think is best for you and your family. We share a few tips on various career paths, so that you can weigh the pros and cons of each one, and choose a career path that is the perfect fit for your interests and goals.

### BELOW ARE THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE YOU MAKE YOUR NEXT CAREER MOVE:

- ▶ **There are choices besides private practice.** Depending on your lifestyle and entrepreneurial spirit, you might prefer to remain an associate dentist. You may also want to consider a career in a **Dental Service Organization (DSO)**. A group practice or dental service organization connects a team of dental providers under one roof. Working in a **Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)** has many benefits, such as paid vacation, sick time, and holidays, as well as regular work hours and student loan repayment.
- ▶ **Academia has its advantages and disadvantages—just like any career path.** The advantages include a secure salary and benefits, the opportunity to influence the next generation of dentists and the opportunity to conduct research. Starting in a career in **hospital dentistry**, or offering your expertise a few days a week to care for patients in a prison are also rewarding career paths.
- ▶ **You can pick a blended practice option—you do not have to choose just one.** There is no reason you cannot work a few days in one office and provide your services to a hospital and/or a prison. There are many dentists who work a few days a week in two different states and in different practice modalities.
- ▶ **Your first job won't be your last job.** Explore multiple practice modalities. At the end of the day, this decision is very personal, and everyone's path is different. Each career path offers a chance to excel, and your career is what you make of it.
- ▶ **Use your professional network.** Don't forget to contact colleagues and mentors in various dental careers to get their opinions. You may also want to consider making time to shadow them to see what they do each day.



Setting Yourself Up for Success

**NYSDA**

**No. 2**

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### QUICK LINK RESOURCES



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#### **DR. ROBERT MARGOLIN**

Dr Robert Margolin is a graduate of the University of Maryland School of Dentistry and completed his GPR at Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx. Dr Margolin was in private practice in the Bronx for 18 years. He is currently GPR program director at Jacobi Medical Center. Prior to that, he was program director at St Barnabas Hospital for 15 years. Dr. Margolin is past president of the Bronx County Dental Society and past editor and president of the New York State Academy of General Dentistry. He also held various positions in organized dentistry at the state and national level, including NYSDA Board of Trustees and ADA CAAP Council. Dr Margolin is a fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry, the American College of Dentists, the International College of Dentists and the Pierre Fauchard Academy.

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#### **DR. JERICA COOK**

Dr. Jerica Cook was raised in Montgomery, Alabama. She attended the University of Alabama at Birmingham for undergrad and continued her education at Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry. She completed a two-year general practice residency program at BronxCare Health System, where she went on to become an attending and serve as the associate director of the residency program. She is currently an associate at Concerned Dental Care in the Bronx. She is president elect of the Bronx County Dental Society, chair of the NYSDA New Dentist Committee, president of the New York Chapter of the National Dental Association, and serves on the NYSDA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Taskforce.

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