

FDA Trustee Application

Name Elías Morón

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Please upload a photo of yourself. A professional headshot is preferred.



Please list your qualifications for this position. (Leadership roles, experience, etc.)

Leadership Roles:

Member of the Board of Trustees, Hispanic Dental Association (HDA).

Member of the Board of Directors, Diverse Dental Society (DDS).

Treasurer, Hispanic Dental Association Florida Professional Chapter.

Co-Chair, Bylaws Committee, Hispanic Dental Association (HDA).

Committee Member, National Judiciary and Ethics Affairs Committee (JEAC), Hispanic Dental Association (HDA).

Committee Member, Nominating Committee, Hispanic Dental Association (HDA).

Committee Member, Council on Legislation, The American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD).

Committee Member, International Task Forces Logistic Team, International College of Dentists (ICD). Section XX, Region 50.

Committee Member, Humanism and Diversity Committee, Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine.

Committee Member, Interdisciplinary Team COVID-19, Latin American Association of Pediatric Dentistry (ALOP).

Professional Experience:

Extensive clinical, research, and administrative experience in various dental and healthcare settings, including residency programs, private practice, academic institutions, and community health organizations.

Research Consultant at the Hispanic Dental Association (HDA).

Assistant Professor at Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine.

Courtesy Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Florida College of Dentistry.

Resident in the Dental Public Health Postdoctoral Residency Program at New York University Langone Hospitals.

Rehab Coordinator at Citrus Health Network, Inc.

Education:

Master of Science in Health Law (Magna Cum Laude), Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law.

Master of Public Health (MPH), Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS), Universidad Metropolitana, Barranquilla, Colombia.

Advanced and postdoctoral training in Principles and Practices of Clinical Research, Dental Public Health, and Health Services Management.

Research and Publications:

Author of peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, white papers, and abstracts on various topics related to oral health, public health, and healthcare disparities.

Co-editor of the Journal Hispanic Dental Association.

Reviewer for scientific journals and grant applications.

Presenter at national and international conferences, symposiums, workshops, and webinars.

Community Engagement and Service:

Volunteer dentist at health fairs and community outreach events.

Mentorship and supervision of dental students in providing oral health services to underserved populations.

Active involvement in organizations and initiatives focused on improving oral health access and outcomes for diverse communities.

Professional Memberships:

Membership in numerous professional organizations related to dentistry, public health, dental education, and diversity in healthcare.

Grants and Funding:

Involvement in securing and managing research grants related to oral health promotion, workforce development, and healthcare access for vulnerable populations.

Please list any boards, committees or other groups you currently or previously have served on (dental or non-dental) along with years of service.

Hispanic Dental Association (HDA):

Board of Trustees: 2024 - Present

Board of Directors: 2023 - Present

Treasurer, Hispanic Dental Association Florida Professional Chapter: 2022 - Present

Committee Member, National Judiciary and Ethics Affairs Committee (JEAC): 2024 - Present

Co-Chair, Bylaws Committee: 2024 - Present

Committee Member, Nominating Committee: 2024 - Present

Committee Member, National Research Committee: 2021 - Present

Committee Member, Research Committee (New York Professional Chapter): 2018 - 2021

Committee of Programs and Academic Affairs – Senior Advisor: 2017 - 2019

Diverse Dental Society (DDS):

Board of Directors: 2023 - Present

Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine:

Committee Member, Humanism and Diversity Committee: 2022 - Present

Latin American Association of Pediatric Dentistry (ALOP):

Committee Member, Interdisciplinary Team COVID-19: 2020 - Present

International College of Dentists (ICD):

Committee Member, International Task Forces Logistic Team: 2017 - Present

American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD):

Committee Member, Council on Legislation: 2018 - 2019

American Dental Education Association (ADEA):
Committee Member, Council of Advanced Education Programs (COAEP): 2021 - 2022

Have you participated in continuing education or training programs in leadership? If yes, please share your experience.

ADEA Leadership Institute:

One year-long leadership development program offered by the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) in Washington, District of Columbia.

Acquired advanced skills in strategic leadership, team building, conflict resolution, and organizational management.

Engaged in interactive workshops, seminars, and mentoring sessions led by experienced leaders in the dental profession.

Developed a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing dental education and healthcare delivery systems.

Community Leadership Fellowship:

One year-long fellowship program organized by the Hispanic Dental Association (HDA) in New Rochelle, New York.

Explored topics related to community engagement, advocacy, cultural competence, and health equity.

Collaborated with diverse community leaders and stakeholders to address oral health disparities and promote wellness initiatives.

Applied leadership skills to develop and implement projects aimed at improving access to dental care and raising awareness of oral health issues among underserved populations.

Institute for Diversity in Leadership:

One year leadership development program offered by the American Dental Association (ADA) in Chicago, Illinois.

Received training in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) practices and policies within the dental profession.

Explored strategies for fostering diversity and cultural competence in dental education, practice, and research.

Engaged in discussions and case studies highlighting the importance of addressing systemic barriers to equitable oral healthcare delivery.

Do you think there is value in the tripartite membership structure (ADA/FDA/Component)? Why or why not?

The tripartite membership structure, comprising the American Dental Association (ADA), Florida Dental Association (FDA), and local component dental societies, offers numerous advantages. It provides unified representation, access to resources, networking opportunities, and fosters community engagement. However, challenges such as complexity, representation issues, and adaptability exist. Despite these challenges, the structure's benefits often outweigh the drawbacks, empowering dentists and advancing the profession's goals. As a trustee candidate, leveraging this structure to promote professional excellence and advance oral health initiatives is crucial.

The mission of the FDA is to "Help Members Succeed". Do you feel that the association is fully utilizing its resources to fulfill this mission? If yes, share why. If no, what additional actions would you propose?

The Florida Dental Association (FDA) plays a pivotal role in supporting its members' success. While the association likely utilizes many resources effectively, there may still be areas for improvement to fully fulfill its mission.

One proposed action is enhancing member support programs, such as mentorship initiatives, continuing education opportunities tailored to members' needs, and career development resources. Additionally, strengthening communication channels to ensure members have easy access to information, updates, and support services can further enhance their success.

Furthermore, the FDA could explore expanding its advocacy efforts to address emerging challenges in the

dental profession, such as insurance reimbursement issues, regulatory changes, and access to care barriers. By actively engaging in legislative advocacy and promoting policies that benefit members, the association can better support their success.

Ultimately, continuous evaluation and feedback mechanisms involving members can help the FDA identify areas where it can further optimize its resources and efforts to fulfill its mission of helping members succeed.

What are the biggest challenges you see for the FDA as an organization in the coming years and what are ways you suggest the FDA can meet those challenges?

The Florida Dental Association (FDA) faces challenges including evolving healthcare landscapes, access to care disparities, professional well-being concerns, and technological integration. To address these, the FDA can focus on advocacy, policy initiatives, continuing education, collaboration, member support, and engagement. These strategies aim to promote oral health equity, support dentists' adaptation to changes, and strengthen the FDA's role as a resource and advocate for Florida dentists.