

# Mission dentist nominated for Texas Dentist of the Year Award

SPECIAL TO THE MONITOR

Gary M. Schwarz, DDS, MSD of Mission, has been nominated by the Rio Grande Valley Academy of General Dentistry for the Texas Academy of General Dentistry's (Texas AGD) Texas Dentist of the Year™ Award. This award is considered the most prestigious honor a Texas dentist can earn.



Schwarz

Schwarz is one of 14 dentists nominated for this year's award. He and the other nominees will be honored at the Virtual Texas Academy Awards on Thursday, Sept. 17. Each nominee will be recognized and will receive an engraved plaque. The Texas Academy Awards will conclude with the announcement of the 2020 Texas Dentist of the Year.

"The Texas AGD Dentist of the Year is a pillar of achievement in one's career based on solid moral values and exceptional clinical skills," said Bryan Moore, DDS, Texas AGD president. "It fosters inspiration and is a strong reminder for all of us to continue to advance while giving back to our great profession."

Schwarz received his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the Texas A&M Health Science Center Baylor College of Dentistry in 1978. Early in

his career, Schwarz had the opportunity to meet and study with Dr. P.I. Brannemark. This opportunity allowed him to open an implant center and it gave him a start with mentoring dentists by providing a platform for regular and frequent CE programs for them as well as working on cases together.

From the time he first started his practice, Schwarz's mission has always been to take good care of anyone who came through the door. He lives off the wise words his mentor, Dr. D. Lamar Byrd, would tell him. Byrd believed that oral surgery was an essential service to the community and with that came added responsibility.

"To this day, I believe it was sage advice and have always conducted my practice with this core ethic in mind," Schwarz said.

The Texas Academy of General Dentistry's mission is to help general dentists succeed. It is the only association that exclusively represents the needs and interests of general dentists who are the primary care providers for patients of all ages and are responsible for the diagnosis, treatment, management and overall coordination of services related to patients' oral health needs.

For more information about the Texas Academy of General Dentistry, visit [www.TAGD.org](http://www.TAGD.org).

# Sullivan, Uriegas nominated for Texas New Dentist of the Year Award

SPECIAL TO THE MONITOR

Michael Sullivan, DDS, FAGD of Harlingen, and Melissa Uriegas, DDS of McAllen have been nominated by the Rio Grande Valley District Dental Society for the Texas Academy of General Dentistry's (Texas AGD) Texas New Dentist of the Year Award. This award is considered the most prestigious honor a Texas new dentist can earn.

Sullivan and Uriegas are two of 12 dentists nominated for this year's award. He and the other nominees will be honored at the Virtual Texas Academy Awards on Thursday, Sept. 17.

"The New Dentist of the Year award points to a bright future in our profession. It signifies the desire to better one's self immediately after formal training," said Bryan Moore, DDS, Texas AGD president. "The New Dentist of the Year nominees are a special group that exudes the passion for continuing to excel throughout their careers regardless of tenure."

Sullivan received his doctor of dental surgery degree from

the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston in 2014. To improve the quality care for his patients, Sullivan recently became part of the 7% of general dentists

in Texas who have distinguished themselves professionally by pursuing the AGD Fellowship Award and earned his Fellowship designation in July 2020.

Before becoming a well-established dentist, Sullivan served as US Army 7210th MSU Platoon Leader and earned the Army Combat Medical Badge for providing medical care while under fire as well as the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal for his work in Honduran orphanages.

"I really enjoy my time in the Army. I have gotten the opportunity to work throughout North America, Central America, the Caribbean, Middle East,



Sullivan

Africa, and Asia," Sullivan said. "Since dental school graduation, I have volunteered for five mobilizations and have served as a Platoon Leader and Dental Clinic OIC. I am very excited to have finally completed my requirements to be eligible to serve in Antarctica."

Uriegas received her doctor of dental surgery degree from the University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston in 2013. Soon after graduation, she created and coordinated a year-round program designed to motivate, educate, and prepare students for higher education and continuing studies in professional programs related to dentistry called "Exploration into Dentistry" which works in conjunction with University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Pre-Dental Program. Since 2015, over 10 students have gone through this program and are now in dental school.



Uriegas

## HERO

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whole idea of COVID-19

superheroes during this time."

The production was based on about 1,700 surveys distributed

Sara feeling discouraged by the sights of empty parks, and people staying distant from each other. Sara wants to fight the

vine and her mother

facial coverings are powerful ways to combat COVID-19.

"Children should know that they have the power, and that they

translated into 125 languages, and the short film was made without text or dialogue so that any child can interpret the story.

do as friends is protect each other, even if that means staying away from each other for a while."

The film can be watched through <https://>