

# Notice to DENTISTS

## Alberta Dental Association and College Hearing Tribunal Decision Summary March 16, 2021

In Accordance with Bylaw 19.7 of the Alberta Dental Association and College

---

**On March 16, 2021, a Hearing Tribunal of the Alberta Dental Association and College found Dr. Jian Ping “Helen” Cao guilty of unprofessional conduct and she was sanctioned. A Hearing Tribunal is an independent group of decision makers comprised of a member of the public appointed by the Government of Alberta, and three dentists registered in Alberta.**

Dr. Cao admitted that on or about July 2019, she made false, incomplete or misleading statements in her application to the ADA&C for registration as a general dentist. In particular, she falsely claimed that she was engaged in the practice of dentistry on a continuous and regular basis between 1999 and 2019. Dr. Cao also failed to disclose that she was previously registered in Alberta as a dental assistant and dental hygienist, and that while she was registered as a dental hygienist, she was investigated by the College of Registered Dental Hygienists of Alberta (CRDHA) due to allegations of unprofessional conduct. She further failed to disclose that on or about September 19, 2017, she agreed with CRDHA that she engaged in unprofessional conduct, as a result of which she agreed her membership with the CRDHA would be cancelled and she therefore returned her practice permit to the CRDHA.

### ORDERS OF HEARING TRIBUNAL

The Hearing Tribunal accepted Dr. Cao’s admission of unprofessional conduct. The Hearing Tribunal agreed the admissions were proven and constituted unprofessional conduct under the *Health Professions Act*.

The Hearing Tribunal accepted the Joint Submission on Penalty and issued the following orders:

1. Subject to paragraph 3 below, Dr. Cao will be suspended until September 17, 2022.
2. Dr. Cao must meet the following conditions as of September 17, 2022 or her practice permit and registration will be cancelled:
  - a. She must successfully complete the PROBE Ethics and Boundaries Program at her own cost and which shall not count towards her continuing competence requirements; and
  - b. She must meet the continuing competence requirements for a regulated member of the ADA&C in accordance with the *Health Professions Act*, the Dentists Profession Regulation, and the Bylaws of the ADA&C.
3. If at any time prior to September 17, 2022, Dr. Cao’s practice permit and registration are cancelled under section 43 of the *Health Professions Act*, and are not reinstated under section 43(3), Dr. Cao will not be eligible to apply for reinstatement as a registered member of the ADA&C until September 17, 2022, at which time she must:
  - a. Satisfy all requirements for reinstatement in effect at the time that she applies for reinstatement, as if her registration and practice permit had been cancelled; and
  - b. Successfully complete the PROBE Ethics and Boundaries Program at her own cost.

4. Upon the conclusion of Dr. Cao's suspension or reinstatement as described above, Dr. Cao must undergo two practice reviews with respect to her record keeping, as follows:
  - a. The first practice review shall take place no later than six (6) months after reinstatement;
  - b. The second practice review shall take place between six (6) and twelve (12) months after reinstatement;
  - c. The practice reviews shall be conducted by a regulated member approved in advance by the Complaints Director (the "Reviewer");
  - d. For each practice review, Dr. Cao will provide the Reviewer access to her records including, but not limited to, patient financial records and patient charts, and shall arrange for the Reviewer to make photocopies of records as the Reviewer considers necessary;
  - e. After each practice review, the Reviewer shall provide feedback and, if applicable, recommendations to Dr. Cao with respect to her record-keeping and will provide a written summary of such feedback and recommendations to the Complaints Director, a copy of which will be provided to Dr. Cao;
  - f. If any concerns arise as a result of the practice reviews that may constitute unprofessional conduct, as defined in the *Health Professions Act*, such concerns may be treated as a complaint under the *Health Professions Act*; and
  - g. Dr. Cao will contribute to the costs of the practice reviews to a maximum of \$1,200.00.
5. Dr. Cao will pay a fine in the amount of \$5,000.00 within six (6) months of the date of the Hearing Tribunal's decision.
6. Dr. Cao will pay seventy-five percent (75%) of the reasonable costs of the investigation and hearing, being the amount of \$24,896.93, within six (6) months of service of the Statement of Costs.



**Dr. Shawn Higashi**

BSc., DDS, FRCQ(C)  
Registered Specialist in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery  
NORTHLAND ORAL & MAXILLOFACIAL  
SURGERY CENTRE

Wisdom Teeth Removal • Implants  
Bone Grafting • General Anesthesia

403.286.5000 • [www.northlandoralsurgery.com](http://www.northlandoralsurgery.com)

Northland Professional Centre, 4600 Crowchild Trail NW #204, Calgary AB T3A 2L6

# Pacific Dental Conference

**March 10-12, 2022** Join us in  
Vancouver, BC



**Pacific Dental Conference**



CANADIAN  
DENTAL  
ASSOCIATION

in conjunction with the Canadian Dental Association

Registration opens November 15th, 2021 at...

**pdconf.com**