

# Silver fillings your health matters IAOMT (your kids mouth)



Location **Iowa**  
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In 1984, eleven dentists, a doctor and a lawyer were discussing a seminar they had just attended on the dangers of mercury from dental amalgam fillings. They agreed that the subject was alarming. They also agreed that the seminar, though long on fireworks, was short on science, and if there really was a problem with dental mercury, the evidence ought to be in the scientific literature.

So, like thirteen musketeers vowing "all for one and one for all," they set out to find the evidence, or failing that, to sponsor new research that would provide the answers they sought.

IAOMT-LogoThree decades later, the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology has grown to over 700 active members in North America, with affiliated chapters in fourteen other countries.

The years have been very fruitful, as the Academy and its members have chronicled and promoted the research that has proven beyond a reasonable doubt that dental amalgam is a source of significant mercury exposure, and a hazard to health.

It has taken the lead in educating dentists and allied professionals in the methods of safely dealing with amalgam fillings, and safely disposing the waste. It has also led the way in developing more biocompatible approaches in other areas of dentistry, including endodontics, periodontics, and disease prevention. All this while maintaining the motto, "Show me the science!"

A more biocompatible approach is the hallmark of "biological dentistry." In using that term, we are not attempting to stake out a new specialty for dentistry, but to describe an attitude that can apply to all facets of dental practice, and to health care in general: to always seek the safest, least toxic way to accomplish the mission of treatment, to do it while treading as softly as possible on the patient's biological.



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