The following is the survey of three groups of practitioners on potential challenges facing the dental profession. The following topics have been identified as significant challenges facing the dental profession in the U.S. in 2011.

Please assign each one of the items a priority score related to how important they are in your opinion. Please score six first priorities, six 2s, six 3s and six 4s.

Highest Priority for Action = 1  Medium Priority for Action = 2  Low Priority for Action = 3  Not an Important Priority = 4

Place your score directly after the number of each of the items below:

1. Third-party payer dictation of treatment plans and setting fees
2. Increasing proliferation of proprietary (not conventional universities) dental schools
3. Continuing growth of foreign educated dentists being re-educated in U.S. dental schools
4. Increasing proliferation of proprietary dental hygiene schools
5. High dental school tuition (40K to 80K per year)
6. High dental hygiene tuition
7. Overproduction of dentists and dental hygienists
8. Growth and influence of “corporate dentistry.” Companies that hire dentists.
9. Observed minimal clinical preparation of new dental graduates
10. Need for more help from the profession for new dentists to start practicing
11. Dental company sponsorship of dental continuing education
12. Dental company sponsorship and funding of dental magazines
13. Lack of dental assistant utilization programs in dental schools
14. Lack of dental laboratory and hygiene educational programs located in dental schools
15. Need for stimulation by profession leadership for programs supporting access to care
16. Mid-level dental practitioners
17. Young dentist lack of interest in attending continuing education courses
18. Inadequate quantity of dental educators
19. Lack of dental student/dental and laboratory student interaction in dental school
20. Lack of dental laboratory knowledge and laboratory experiences for dental students
21. Offshore dental laboratory proliferation and questionable observation of products
22. Lack of ADA accredited laboratory schools
23. Need for more dental research on clinically important subjects

Other: ________________________________