

# THE POINT

The Official Newsletter for The Association of Professional Piercers

## APP Member Listing

There have been many new additions and changes since the last time members were welcomed in the POINT. Therefore we have decided to print a listing of ALL current members.

We would like to congratulate each and every new member for making the effort to comply with all of the stringent requirements for joining. Further we would like to congratulate all of the previous members for doing what it takes to continue to uphold the standards.

You are all at the top of your field and should feel proud of yourselves! Thank you for being members and helping to make the APP the organization that it is today.

Having this current listing in print, this will make it easier for you to refer clients to APP members in other areas when needed or requested. Please support your fellow members and refer inquiring potential clients to others in the APP. Also, if you know of piercers who you would believe would be good candidates to join, encourage them to so do. There is strength in numbers and the larger and more powerful the organization becomes, all of us will benefit.

Congratulations to all of you!

## Brain Abscess From Piercing

There was a recent report throughout the media in newspapers, magazines, on the radio and online, of a woman with an infected tongue piercing (which she removed after a few days) who got a brain abscess. Below was the report from one news web site:

“An MRI brain imaging scan revealed an abscess in the patient’s brain, and she subsequently underwent surgery to drain the abscess. Upon examination of the drained fluid, the researchers found that it was contaminated with *Streptococcus viridans* and other normal mouth bacteria typically found in plaque.

The patient consequently received 6 weeks of antibiotic therapy and fully recovered.

continued on pg. 14...

## Annual Conference & Exposition May 6-9, 2002 Tropicana Hotel and Casino

This year had many ups and downs for our industry and nation as a whole. This year, probably more than any other, the Conference and EXPO will bring new life, ideas, and products to our industry. We are expecting many new vendors in the EXPO. Nowhere can you see more products geared for the piercing industry. The year 2002 will bring us to the Tropicana Hotel and Casino, where the APP held its first Open Meeting 7 years ago. The APP has grown in stature, professionalism, and size over the last several years, and this conference is a result of that progress.

The Vendor Expo was a huge success for the second year in a row. It was so successful, we have had manufacturers calling us to reserve booths 6 months in advance. We have contracted a place that will allow us to double the size of the Expo. The space this year can handle well over 100 booths. With the number of returning vendor from last year, we expect these to sell out. This Expo is the only one of its kind, and is very well attended by shop owners and piercers alike. The Expo is being expanded to 4 days, allowing the conference attendees to go to all the classes they wish,

and spend as much time as they want in the Exposition Hall.

If you have never attended before, we welcome you to join us at the Banquet Dinner and Open Meeting. This year at the Opening Meeting, you will be introduced to the new board and say farwell to the old board. This will be a great time to thank the old board for 3 full years of service, and see what the new board has planned. The raffle prizes and the President’s Award will also be handed out.

This year, the APP wants to have the most comprehensive program ever. The Conference is a must for every piercing studio, tattoo studio that does piercing, health officials, and health inspectors. This year we will be offering 25 classes and round table discussions -- more than any other year. Because we are having so many meetings with important information, it is advisable that you send at least two people so you can get the most out of the conference.

You can register on-line at Las Vegas Registration’s website at [www.lvrsi.com](http://www.lvrsi.com)

To book your room call 1-800-634-4000, and make sure to use the room code SAPP02. See you there.

## CONTENTS

APP Member Listing	4	Product Review	11
Sharon Upton	8	The President’s Corner	12
Al D Schlorship	9	Imposters Web Page	13
Classifieds	9	Cork Testing	14

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## T-shirts and Bowling shirts



**T-shirts will be on sale at the conference or can be purchased from the website ([www.safepiercing.org](http://www.safepiercing.org))  
Cost is \$15.00 plus \$3.00 S/H. Slightly higher cost for size XL**

**Bowling shirts are \$24.95 each and are available in the two styles shown.**

**Contact Pat McCarthy 614-297-4743 if you are interested in purchasing shirts.**

## The Point

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### APP Board Members

President	Patrick McCarthy
Vice President	Steve Joyner
Secretary	Bethra Szumski
Treasurer	Scott Brewer
Outreach Coordinator	Elayne Angel
International Liaison	April Williams-Warner

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Design / Layout - Lilia Judd

If you wish to advertise and would like a specification sheet please contact:

Beast

(504)524-6147 FAX (504)529-2366

email: [beastworks@earthlink.net](mailto:beastworks@earthlink.net)

## ATTENTION Manufacturers and Businesses

The Point is a quarterly newsletter. It is the only newsletter dedicated to the piercing industry. We print 2000 copies of each issue, have a direct mailing list of over 750, which consist mainly of piercing, tattoo studios and health departments. The newsletters are also distributed to potential members or anyone who is interested. With the new 3-hole-punch format, it will continue to be a viable resource and should be part of your advertising budget. The POINT can also be viewed as PDF files on our website, increasing the visibility of your company. Nowhere else can you hit the specialized piercing market.

### Advertising Specifications

Type	Inches w X h	Diagram	1 issue	6 issues
inside front cover	7.25" X 9.75"		\$400.00	\$350.00
inside back cover	7.25" X 9.75"		\$400.00	\$350.00
full page	7.25" X 9.75"		\$350.00	\$325.00
half page horizontal	7.25" X 4.75"		\$200.00	\$180.00
quarter page	3.25" X 4.75"		\$90.00	\$80.00
double quarter column vertical	2.25" X 4.75"		\$50.00	\$45.00
classified	2.25" X 15 lines max.		FREE	Pre-paid

**Contact Pat McCarthy at (614) 297-9925 to place your advertisement in The Point.**

The Point is created on a Mac using QuarkXpress, Photoshop, and InDesign. Acceptable formats for ads are black and white or grayscale files created by or for these programs or a pdf. If you are sending a digital file please include or embed the fonts, as well as the images in tiff, pict, psd, gif or jpg formats. E-mail them as attachments to [beastworks@earthlink.net](mailto:beastworks@earthlink.net) or mail them on cd or zip disk to: Beast-1128 Decatur St. New Orleans, LA 70116. Include a stamped self-addressed envelope for return of your media. If you do not have a digital file, I am able to scan camera ready artwork and photos, but some loss of resolution may occur, so send a crisp, 600 dpi (85 lpi) version or better.

# APP Member Listing - Professional Business Members

AZ	Glendale	Jerry	Frederick	Body Creations	5008 W Northern St. Ste. 7	602-934-9964
AZ	Glendale	Debbie	Fredrick	Body Creations	5008 W Northern St. Ste. 7	602-934-9964
AZ	Mesa	Drew	Evalds	Urban Art	340 W. University Dr. #33	480 844 7429
AZ	Mesa	Sandee	Mendelson	Urban Art	340 W. University Dr. #33	480 844 7429
AZ	Phoenix	Glen	Bevel	Halo	10 West Camelback Way	602 230 0044
AZ	Phoenix	Kelsey	Yamashita	Halo	10 West Camelback Way	602 230 0044
AZ	Tucson	Shane	Ocell	Halo	2807 E. Speedway Blv.	520 795 8500
AZ	Tucson	David	Shaw	Halo	2807 E. Speedway Blv.	520 795 8500
CA	Concord	Darrin	Walters	Blue Star	1950 Concord Ave. Ste.202	925 685 4221
CA	Cotati	Kelley	Singleton	The Hole Thing	8573 Gravenstein Hwy.	707 793 9991
CA	Joshua Tree	Brenda	Reyes	Ink Cup	61877 29 Palms Hwy.	760 366 2870
CA	Joshua Tree	Rick	Reyes	Ink Cup	61877 29 Palms Hwy.	760 366 2870
CA	Los Angeles	Michael	Kraemer	13 BC	7661 Melrose Ave., Suite 1	213 782-9069
CA	Salinas	Lisa	Avila	Studio 13	115 John St.	831-758-1313
CA	San Francisco	Paul	King	Cold Steel America	2377 Market St.	415 621 7233
CA	San Francisco	Mic	Rawls	Cold Steel America	1783 Haight St.	415 933 7233
CA	San Francisco	Tamara	Sherman	Cold Steel America	1783 Haight St.	415 933 7233
CA	San Francisco	Carrie	Sorrels	Cold Steel America	1783 Haight St.	415-933-7233
CA	San Francisco	April	Williams-Warner	Cold Steel America	2377 Market St.	415 621 7233
CO	Denver	Alicia	Cardenas	Twisted Sol	1405 Ogden St.	303 832 1311
CO	Denver	Airick	Heater	Twisted Sol	1405 Ogden St.	303 832 1311
CO	Denver	James	Maldonado	Twisted Sol	1405 Ogden St.	303 832 1311
CO	Longmont	John	Petersen	The Chameleon Inc.	700 Ken Pratt Blvd.	303 774 1755
FL	Fort Myers	Robert	Poyner	Needful Things inc.	2265 Main St.	941 332 4727
FL	Naples	Gigi	Garcia	Body Branding	1650 Airport Rd. S- Unit B	941-732-8868
FL	Naples		Jimbo	Body Branding	1650 Airport Rd. S- Unit B	941-732-8868
FL	Pensacola	Michael	Kimberl	Psychedelic Shack	6707 Plantation Rd. A-2	850 479 9007
FL	Pensacola	Burton	Richie	The Phycadelic Shack	6707 Plantation Rd. A-2	850 479 9007
FL	St. Petersburg	Bill	Levy	Balls of Steel	3000 34Th. St. #33	727-866-6300
FL	Tallahassee	Bink	Williams	Body Piercing by Bink	739 N. Monroe St.	850 681 0060
GA	Athens	Randy	Smyre	Virtue & Vice	208 W. Washington	706 208 9588
GA	Atlanta	Brian	Bennett	Psycho Tattoo-2	6214 Roswell Rd.	404-255-8282
GA	Atlanta	Jessica	Flood	Virtue & Vice	2271 Cheshire Bridge Rd.	404 315 6925
GA	Atlanta	April	Johnson	Virtue & Vice	2271 Cheshire Bridge Rd.	404-315-6900
GA	Atlanta	Brian	Skellie	Piercing Experience	1654 Mclendon Ave.	404 378 9100
GA	Atlanta	Bethra	Szumski	Virtue & Vice	2271 Cheshire Bridge Rd.	404-315-6925
GA	Macon	Dan	Hendrick	Beyond Taboo	3457 Pio Nono Ave. #106	912-785-8080
GA	Marietta	Chris	Hect	Psycho Tattoo	1289 Roswell Rd.	770 977 TATS
GA	Savanna	Joel	Burgess	Planet 3	218 West Brought St.	912-236-7772
HI	Honolulu	Gus	Diamond	Paragon	1667 Kapiolani Blvd.	808 949 2800
IL	Aurora	Nathan	Bauer	Ronin Tattoo & Piercing	1161 B Farnsworth	630 585 7011
IN	Fort Wayne	Trent	Gould	Grade A Tatt.& Piercing	5719 St. Joe Rd.	219 485 8258
KS	Wichita	Shane	Gross	Holier Than Thou	1111 E. Douglas	316 266 4100
KY	Lexington	Christina	Taylor	Heavenly Steel	159 C. East Reynolds Rd.	859 272 8989
LA	New Orleans	Elayne	Angel	Rings of Desire	1128 Decatur St.	504 524 6147
LA	New Orleans	Bryan	Civello	Rings of Desire	1128 Decatur St.	504 524 6147
LA	New Orleans	Pat	Roig	Rings of Desire	1128 Decatur St,	504 524 6147
LA	Shreveport	John	Ward	Dr Jack	2210 Line Ave. Suite 202	800-849-2404
MA	Worcester	Marc J.	Williams	Piercing Emporium	400 Shrewsbury St.	508-754-0564
MI	Ann Arbor	Charlie	Sanford	Name Brand Tattoo	621 Church St.	734 623 0553
MI	E. Lansing	Ed	Nehrig	Splash of Color	515 E. Grand River suite F	517 333 0990
MI	E. Lansing	Kevin	Tarbell	Splash of Color	515 E. Grand River suite F	517-333-0990
MI	Taylor	Gary	Johnson	Johnson Tattoo	25119 Ecorse Rd.	313 292 5296
MI	Travers City	Melanie	Villanueva	Damage	140 E. Front St. #11	231 946 9494
MN	Minneapolis	Scott	Bock	Saint Sabrinias	2751 Hennepin Ave. S	612.874.7360
MN	Minneapolis	Jesika	Bornsen	Saint Sabrinias	2751 Hennepin Ave. S	612 874 7360
MN	Minneapolis	Michael	Mulcahy	Saint Sabrinias	2751 Hennepin Ave. S	612 874 7360
NC	Winston-Salem	Byron	Weeks	Earths Edge	1800 Silas Creek Pkwy.	336 727 1663
NJ	Hawthorne	Adam	Block	Pleasurable Piercings	417 Lafayette Ave.	(973) 238-0305
NJ	Hawthorne	Jamie	Jarmoszko	Pleasurable Piercings	417 Lafayette Ave.	973 238 8055
NJ	Hawthorne	Bill	Krebs	Pleasurable Piercings	417 Lafayette Ave.	973 238 0305
NM	Albuquerque	Noah	Babcock	Evolution	4517 Central NE	505-255-4567

# APP Member Listing - Professional Business Members

NM	Albuquerque	Sharon	Evans	Evolution at Star Tattoo	10200 Corrales NW ste. E4	505-899-2336
NM	Albuquerque	Luciano	Moralez	Evolution at Star Tattoo	10200 Corrales NW ste. E4	505-899-2336
NM	Albuquerque	Crystal	Sims	Evolution	4517 Central NE	505-255-4567
NM	Albuquerque	Shawn	Taylor	Evolution	4517 Central NE	505-255-4567
NM	Santa Fe	Middleton	Jeff	Aware	1430 Cerrillos Rd.	505 986 0013
NM	Santa Fe	Swinney	Kitten	Aware	1430 Cerrillos Rd.	505 986 0013
NV	Reno	Tom	Okie	Piercing USA	1155 W. 4th St. #105	775 329 2969
NV	Reno	Akiko	Okie	Piercing USA	1155 W. 4th St. #105	775 329 2969
NY	Troy	Jeff	Roberts	Gates	2304 15th St.	518 422 0018
OH	Cincinnati	Victoria	Lore	ACME	2703 Vine St.	513.559.1664
OH	Cincinnati	Melanie	Sweeney	Skincraft	2701 Vine St.	513-281-5798
OH	Cincinnati	Dawn	Wiest	Skincraft	2701 Vine St.	513-281-5798
OH	Cincinnati	Jeffrey	Wiest	Skincraft	2701 Vine St.	513-281-5798
OH	Cincinnati	J Cannon	Miller	ACME	2703 Vine St.	513-559-1664
OH	Cleveland	Bill	Bailey	Body Work Productions	2710 Detroit Avenue	216-623-0744
OH	Cleveland	Molly	Szeykwcz	Body Work Productions	2710 Detroit Avenue	216-623-0744
OH	Cleveland	David	Vidra	Body Work Productions	2710 Detroit Ave.	216 623 0744
OH	Columbus	Dave	Kelso	Piercology	872 N. High St.	614 297-4743
OH	Columbus	Tiffany	May	Piercology	872 N. High St.	614 297 4743
OH	Columbus	Pat	McCarthy	Piercology	872 N. High St.	614 297 4743
OH	Massillion	Clifton	Boggs	Hammers	3840 Lincoln Way	330-478-1070
OK	Oklahoma City	Brooks	Emery	23rd Street	411 NW 23rd St.	405-524-6824
OK	Oklahoma City	Jason	King	23rd St Body Piercing	411 NW 23rd St.	405-524-6824
OK	Oklahoma City	Henry	Rubin	23rd Street	411 NW 23rd St.	405-524-6824
OK	Tulsa	Nicole	Baez	Piercing by Nicole inc.	2727 E. 15th St.	918 712-1122
OR	Portland	Tracy	Faraca	The Black Hole	2946 NE Gilsan	503 231 0712
OR	Portland	Desta	Spence	Adorn Body Art	9217 SW Bvtn-Hills HWY	503 292 7060
PA	Kingston	Juliee	Chamberlain	Stormi Skin Steel F/X	226 Wyoming Ave.,	717 288-2595
PA	Kingston	Keith	Chamberlain	Stormi Skin Steel F/X	226 Wyoming Ave.	717 288 2595
PA	NewCumberland	Wesley	Moore	Checkedered Past	316 Fourth St. 2nd Floor	717 774 7180
PA	Philadelphia	Megg	Mass	Infinite	626 South Fourth St,	215 923 7335
PA	Philadelphia	James	Weber	Infinite	626 South Fourth St,	215 923 7335
PA	Pittsburgh	Chris	Clark	Hot Rod	115 Oakland Ave. 2ND Fl.	412 687 4320
PA	Pittsburgh	Tim	Girone	Hot Rod	115 Oakland Ave. 2ND Fl.	412 687 4320
PA	Pittsburgh	Mica	Hall	Hot Rod	115 Oakland Ave. 2ND Fl.	412 687 4320
PA	Pittsburgh	Nick	Willcock	Hot Rod	115 Oakland Ave. 2ND Fl.	412 687 4320
SC	Columbia	Kevin	Brewer	Body Rites	2009 Greene St., Suite 112	803 7992877
SC	Columbia	Scott	Brewer	Body Rites	2009 Greene St., Suite 112	803 799 2877
SC	N. Charleston	Joan	Graf	factor 5	5527 Rivers Ave.	843 747 0540
SC	Summerville	Holly	Gamblin	Body Piercing by Holly	1224 Bacons Bridge Rd.	843 871 6646
TX	Amarillo	Denny	Antel	Tattoo Gallery	2416 Hobbs St.	806 355 7879
TX	Austin	Chris	Kane	Body Rites Austin	500 B E 6th ST	512 472 4804
TX	Austin	Miles	Lefler	Crimson Dragon	2928 Guadalupe Rd. # 103	512-482-8288
TX	Austin	John	Reynolds	Forbidden Fruit	513 E. 6th St.	512 476 4596
TX	Corpus Christi	Larrisa	McSwain	Forever Art	6341 SPID	512 992 DRAW
TX	Corpus Christi	Benjamin	Jacoel	Forever Art	6341 SPID	888-992-DRAW
TX	Dallas	Allen	Falkner	Obscurities	4000-b Cedar Springs	214 559 3706
TX	Dallas	Stace	Maples	Skin & Bones	2811 Main St.	214 741 4653
TX	Dallas	Pat	Tidwell	Obscurities	4000-b Cedar Springs	214-559-3706
TX	Harker Height	Cassandra	Looker	Piercings by KC	109 Cox Dr.	254 680 2929
TX	Houston	Byriah	Dailey	Taurian	1505 Westheimer Rd.	713 526 2769
TX	Houston	Tim	Gooding	Sacred Heart	327 Westheimer #3	713 523 0985
TX	Houston	Steve	Joyner	Taurian	1505 Westheimer Rd.	713 526 2769
TX	Houston	Tim	Young	Sacred Heart	327 Westheimer #3	713 523 0985
TX	San Antonio	Margaret	Ficello	Minx	1621 N. Main # 2	210 225 2639
TX	San Antonio	Richard	Hamilton	Dandyland	1821 B Bandera Rd	210 432 5747
TX	San Antonio	Keith	Hertell	Backbone	4741 Fredericksburg Rd.	210 349-6637
TX	San Antonio	Daniel	Upton	Dandyland	1821 B Bandera Rd	210 432 5747
TX	San Antonio	Benje	Upton	Dandyland	1821 B Bandera Rd	210 432 5747
TX	San Marcos	Meredith	McMahon	Steel Angel	718 E. Hopkins St.	512 396 8288
UT	Odgen	Richard	Oram	Déjà Vu	1230 Newgate Mall	801-399-1376
UT	Salt Lake City	Curt	Warren	Koi	1301 South 900 East #7	801 463-7070

## APP Member Listing - Professional Business Members

VA	Blacksburg	John	Rowan	Rendezvous	1805 South Main St.	540-951-7442
WA	Bellingham	Jason	Armstrong	Old School Tattoo	209 E. Holly	360 715 8261
WA	Bellingham	Megan	Bussart	Camden Cameleon	1213 Harris Ave.	360-676-7330
WA	Lynnwood	Richard	Otten	Eclipse Ink	15315 Highway 99, #7,	425-742-8467
WA	Seattle	Melissa	Bell	Slave to the Needle	508 65th St.	206 789 2618
WA	Seattle	Chuck	Heller	Lucky Devil	1720 12th Ave.	206 323 1637
WA	Seattle	Gregory	Laroux	Pink Zone	211 Broadway Ave. East	206-371-5418
WA	Seattle	Rion	Wickersham	Slave to the Needle	508 65th St.	206 789 2618
WA	Shoreline	Rick	Rollins	Top	19918 Aurora Ave. N.	206-533-TOPS

## Professional Business Members-International

Australia	Newton, NSW	Duncan Van Luyt	Polymorph	82 Enmore Rd.	4533253926
Denmark	Copenhagen V.	Jack Rubin	Gorlubb	15 Gasvaerksvej	45 3391 9132
Denmark	Copenhagen	Simon Donde	City Piercing	61 Norre Farimaysgade	32-5575-29
Denmark	Copenhagen	John Atkins		Krimsvej 29b	0045-97412362
Denmark	Holstebro	Per Broadbaek	Kold Stal Denmark	Skole Gad 40	012-43-867931
England	Bognor Regis West Sussex	Gary Hornsey	Body Custom	2 Goodwood Plc, West St.	0117-9300-611
England	Bristol BS	Pete Rose	Pierced Up	#3 Perry Rd.	011-331-4700-7360
France	Paris	Dominique Minchelli	Rue Keller	23 Rue Keller	011-649-520-6754
New Zealand	Newmarket, Aukland	Jane Johnson	Body Piercing Specialists	Level 1, 292 Broadway	011-649-520-6754
New Zealand	Newmarket, Aukland	Shane Johnson	Body Piercing Specialists	P.O. Box 9621	47 3552-1615
Norway	Skien	Truls Kittelsen	Skien Piercing	P.B. 335	01 706 869 907
Norway	Stavanger	Helge Husebo	Solid	24 Steinkaret	(+47) 518 91818
Norway	Stavanger	Oystian Westre	Solid	24 Steinkaret	65-735-3710
Singapore	Far East Plaza	Bahadur Mann	Primitive Art	14 Scotts Road # 04-10	461 331 0682
Sweden	Abisko Centrum	Bjorn Bengtsson	Federal	582 31 Linkoping	031-147968
Sweden	Göteborg	Joakim Eriksson	Barbarella	Fjärde Långgatan 6	031-147968
Sweden	Göteborg	Mans Jalevik	Barbarella	Fjärde Långgatan 6	01 706 869 907
Sweden	Stockholm	Marcus Lgungdhahl	East Street Piercing Studio	79 Ostgotagatan	032-341-1545
Switzerland	Bienne	Sabine Saugy	Sabine's Body Piercing	Rue du Moulin 33	020 7267 7970
United Kingdom	Camden Town London	Grant Dempsey	Cold Steel	238 Camden High St.	020 7267 7970
United Kingdom	Camden Town London	Erskine Gizzi	Cold Steel	238 Camden High St.	020 7267 7970
United Kingdom	Camden Town London	Julie Howick	Cold Steel	238 Camden High St.	01392 494545
United Kingdom	Camden Town London	Jesse Singleton	Cold Steel	17 Fore Street Centre	014-82-218881
United Kingdom	Fore Street Exeter	Nik Mooney	Exeter Body Piercing	24 Anlaby Rd.	
United Kingdom	Kingston-Upon-Hull East Yorkshire	Martyn Edwards	Pandemic		

## Associate Members

MN	Minneapolis	Leslie	Bock	Saint Sabrinas	2751 Hennepin Ave. S.	612-874-7360
WA	Bellingham	Martin	Gonzalez	Old School Tattoo	209 E. Holly	360 715 8261
WA	Bellingham	Melissa	Wisener	Old School Tattoo	209 E. Holly	360 715 8261
AZ	Mesa	Liz	O'Connell	Urban Art	340 W. University Dr. #33	480 844 7429
OH	Cleveland	Sarah	Fish	Body Work Productions	2710 Detroit Ave.	216-623-0744

## Patron Members

		Member Name			
HI	Honolulu	Norman Goldstein, M.D.	Norman Goldstein M.D. Inc.		
TX	Plano	Valerie Henderson, REHS	City of Plano Health Department		www.planotx.org

## APP Member Listing-Professional Members at Large

Member Name			
Tammy Bradley			
Kent Fazekas			fazekas2000@hotmail.com
Luis Garcia			
Rivka Gross	Eugene, OR	541-684-9999	rivka@piercingshop.com
Derek Lowe			piercr@earthlink.net
Geneva Ludlow	513 E. 6th St. Austin, TX 78701	512-476-4596	genevaspot@aol.com
Sky Renfro	Po Box 390288 Anza, CA 92539	909-763-9728	info@propiercing.com
Sarah Wooten			

## Corporate Associate Members

Barry Blanchard	Anatometal Inc.	Santa Cruz, CA	1888 anatometal	www.anatometal.com
Susan Preston	Professional Program Insurance Brokerage	1701 Novato Blvd. #101 Novato, CA 94947	415 898-4242	www.tattoo-ins.com
Sky Renfro	Professional Piercing Information Systems	P.O. Box 390288 Anza, CA 92539	909 763-9728	info@propiercing.com
David Vidra	Health Educators Inc.	2710 Detroit Ave. Cleveland, OH 44113	216 623-0815	www.hlthedu.com
Josh Warner	Good Art Company	1420 4th St. Santa Monica, CA 90401	1 800 good-art	www.goodart.com

## Explanation of Membership Types

### Professional Business Member

Works full time as a piercer, and has more than one year of professional experience.

Works full or part time at one or more studio locations, and has more than three years professional experience.

### Associate Member

Has less than one year of professional experience, or is a non-piercer working in a piercing establishment.

### Corporate

Is an entity or individual working in a field or providing a service which is associated with the application of body piercing.

Examples of Corporate Associate Members are jewelry manufacturers, medical suppliers, insurers, educators, etc.

### Patron

Is someone not actively involved in th body piercing industry, but supports the APP and its goals.

## Passing of APP Member, Sharon Upton

by Benje Upton

Sharon Maeline Upton, August 1, 1942 - October 1, 2001 was 59 years old when she died. Mother's death was caused by a rapid growing brain tumor that robbed her of the ability to communicate or use her limbs over the course of one year. Dad, Daniel and I provided the home care for her during this time. We cared for her in rotation schedules so that one of us would always be with her. She died in her sleep around 5:00 a.m. on October 1, 2001.

She was a housewife until my brother Daniel and I became teens and then she went to work for a major insurance company, USAA. After leaving USAA she tried a couple of different jobs but did not like any of them. Around this time Daniel had been teaching himself how to Tattoo and Pierce and had a small room in the back of an "underground" clothing store. Mother would spend time down there helping Daniel with receptionist and clerk duties. She enjoyed working with the young people and began to develop an interest in the industry.

The store where Daniel had his room set up in closed, so Daniel and Mom decided to open a studio dedicated to Tattoos and Body Piercing. She opened Dandyland in 1996 with two employees, and the ball started rolling. It didn't take long to notice that these self-taught artists were probably not the cleanest, safest, best educated people to work with, and she began seeking out ways to improve things. Mother did a lot of research which led her to the APP, APT and other less recognized groups. She began to educate herself in both industries and began to use that information to educate the employees. She made the decision that Dandyland would become one of this city's most professional and safest shops. Under her direction Dandyland began the transition from hack shop to professional studio.



By 1998 Dandyland had become a 10-employee studio that was winning awards from local reader's surveys and receiving positive coverage on local television. Realizing this monster was growing faster than expected she recruited me from a corporate job with which I was unhappy. Together we continued to further our education and knowledge of both industries and continued to pass this information along to the other employees. Mom and I started to reach out to the local community intent upon spreading safety awareness and education about the industry. Mother was always generous with her employees. She would pay for them to go to the conventions for further education, made sure they had Dental plans, Medical Insurance, Quarterly and Christmas bonuses and a very good pay scale.

She did all this for us out of the kindness of her heart and gave so much of herself that in the end mother was the lowest paid employee at Dandyland, with most

artists making two to three times her salary.

She had big dreams for this company and it hurts me that she will not be here physically to share the fulfillment of those dreams. Mother was a great and noble woman, full of dignity and love for others. I can not find the words to describe the amount of respect and admiration she had for the APP (especially the current active board).

Thanks to all of the members who have expressed their condolences.

Editor's Note:

The APP wishes to express our condolences to the family and friends of Sharon Upton. Her contributions to the industry are valued and she will be missed.

# AI D. Scholarship

The APP is currently accepting applications for the AI D Scholarship.

This is funding available to 6-8 individuals per year for assistance to attend the annual APP Conference, for those in financial need.

The hotel room, conference registration, and banquet dinner are included in the Scholarship. Winners are expected to share hotel accommodations with other recipients. They must also be available to work approximately 40 hours during the Conference at such duties as security, runner, assistant to Board Members, and staffing the APP booth.

Applicants for the AI D. Scholarship must provide a letter explaining their piercing related history and experience, and/or their interest in the piercing profession and details as to why they believe they are a deserving candidate.

Please send in submissions by April 25, 2002.

E-mail to:  
secretary@safepiercing.org  
or  
Mail to: Association of Professional Piercers  
PMB 286  
5456 Peachtree Industrial Blvd.  
Chamblee, GA 30341

## How to Contact the APP

**Requests for general information and spore tests should be sent to:**

APP  
PMB 286  
5456 Peachtree Industrial Blvd.  
Chamblee, GA 30341  
(888) 888-1APP

**To contact the following members of the board:**

**Office of the President**  
Pat McCarthy c/o Piercology  
872 N. High St.  
Columbus, OH 43215

**Office of the Secretary**  
Bethra Szumski c/o Virtue and Vice  
2271 Cheshire Bridge Rd.  
Atlanta, GA 30324

or visit **The APP Website at:**  
[www.safepiercing.org](http://www.safepiercing.org)

## Classifieds

### Position Available!

Manager/Bookkeeper

Desired attributes: high motivation, trustworthiness, flexibility, ability to deal with complex problems, some managerial and bookkeeping experience and/or business classes, ability to work in a casual small business environment, an affinity for natural and ethnic body jewelry, ability to drive, basic experience with small tools, a strange love for paperwork, and familiarity with Mac computers and associated programs such as: Word, QuickBooks, Photoshop, Quark or PageMaker, scanning, emailing, and website maintenance.

Please call or send your resume with references!  
I'm willing to wait a long time to find the right person.

Please contact:  
Erica Skadsen  
ORGANIC  
P.O. Box 17656  
Portland, OR 92717-0656  
(503) 240-0260  
erica@organicjewelry.com  
www.organicjewelry.com

### Piercer Wanted!

Established Tattoo Studio seeks Piercer. We have a large clientele with no one to pierce them. We are looking for a professional piercer with at least two years experience. Must be knowledgeable on air and bloodborne pathogens, with CPR Certification. Those with alcohol or drug problems need not apply.

Our Studio has a clean, relaxed atmosphere where "Art Not Attitude" is practiced.

Opportunities for income not offered at most shops is available.

Please contact either Kevin or Shawn at:

Tattoo Zoo in Cary, North Carolina  
(919) 469-0770 OR (919) 264-4582

### Piercer Wanted!

Slave to the Needle Tattoo & Body Piercing is looking for an advanced/senior piercer to manage the piercing side of our business.

We have a large selection of jewelry, two fully equipped piercing rooms, and a well-established clientele. Looking for a down to earth individual who is looking to make a new permanent home. Want to have someone up and running before the summer craze hits. We are a VERY busy shop and have won Best Tattoo & Piercing Studio in the Seattle Weekly 2 years running. Must have good experience and references. Please contact by phone, mail or e-mail.

slavetotheneedle.com  
508 NW 65th St. Seattle, WA  
(206) 789-2618 Ask for Melissa

*An abridged version of this article was originally published in the Skin Game, a joint venture of Professional Program Insurance. (415) 898-4242, www.tattoo-ins.com and Face & Body Professionals, Inc. at (415) 898-4212, www.face-body.com*

The most commonly utilized method of procedural infection control in the body modification industries is medical aseptic technique. Components of this method include the use of sterile implements, barrier protection, and cross-contamination awareness. However, the subject of appropriate skin preparation is rarely discussed or addressed. Arguably the lynchpin of performing such a procedure, concerns have been raised regarding inappropriate preparation practices including misuse of products, inappropriate contact times, and reliance on anecdotal or inaccurate information.

The purpose of pre-procedure skin prep is to significantly reduce the number of microorganisms present on the client's skin for the duration of the procedure, thereby minimizing or reducing the risk of infection.

The natural microbial flora of the skin consists of resident and transient microorganisms. Resident microorganisms persist and multiply on the skin. These organisms are bound to persist and return with time. Most resident microorganisms are found in superficial skin layers, but about 10%-20% inhabit deep epidermal layers. Transient microorganisms are contaminants that can survive for only a limited period of time.

Choosing the most appropriate product should be a decision based on product effectiveness, duration of activity, sound test data, ease of use, safety level, and cost-efficiency. Four of the most popular and commonly used antiseptic/antimicrobial agents are Betadine (10% povidone-iodine), 70-90% isopropyl alcohol, Technicare (3% chloroxylenol/PCMX) and, less frequently, Hibiclens (2-4% chlorhexidine gluconate).

Betadine, or any similar generic brand, is generally the product of choice in many surgical settings. Its popularity can be attributed primarily to its effectiveness as an antimicrobial agent, but also quite possibly to the length of time that it has spent as the "preferred product" and its strong brand power in the market. It has a broad range of activity, and remains active while in contact with the skin, with some studies indicating a decline in activity at three hours. Betadine is not effective unless applied properly. It does require a sufficient contact time before it is considered to be effective. The optimal scrub

time has been indicated to be from 2-5 minutes, reaching a point of lather, then allowed to dry completely before the procedure begins, and this can take up to five minutes. The remaining brown residue is advisably removed after the procedure takes place, but not beforehand, as this will inactivate its residual effects. This product is inactivated by blood, and other organic materials, and must never be used on clients with an allergy to iodine or shellfish.

Technicare is a new and promising product. Developed and patented by CareTech Labs, this product is gaining popularity in both the piercing community, and in many progressive surgical centers as the prep of choice. Technicare is a broad-spectrum microbicide, with optimal results reached after just thirty seconds of contact time. Technicare is non-staining, and does not need to be rinsed, either before or after a procedure. Excess residue can be removed by blotting the area dry with gauze. The use of isopropyl alcohol immediately inactivates Technicare. Its residual effects can last for as long as six to eight hours following application, and as long as twenty-four hours if occlusively covered. This product has no contraindications, and can be used safely on all areas of the body, including mucous membranes. Several piercers have reported using this product as a lubricant with great success, and tattooists report that Technicare is an excellent means of transferring stencils.

Hibiclens/CHG is also used widely in hospital settings. It is reportedly more effective than povidone-iodine, and can remain active for at least six hours after application. It requires a six to eight minute scrub time. CHG, however, is extremely toxic to the eyes, ears, and mucous membranes. The use of such products is not indicated, or practical, for the modification industry.

Isopropyl alcohol is an excellent and inexpensive antimicrobial agent, with a scrub time of approximately one minute. This product, though has no residual activity and can be irritating to both the skin and the eyes. Remember that one of the criteria in choosing an appropriate skin prep is duration of activity.

Tincture of Green Soap is an alcohol-containing product that is often used by tattooists not only as a prep, but to clean the excess pigments off the skin during the tattoo process. Little or no data exists to suggest that Green Soap should be considered an adequate prep for invasive procedures. The prep should begin at the central point, with the product being applied in concentric

circles outward. Once the surface of the gauze or wipe reaches the outer edge of the area, it must not be used in the center again. The area cleaned should be large enough to accommodate the procedure. It is important to note that this prep area must cover not only the vicinity of the procedure (the piercing site), but also any skin surface that will be or might be touched during any part of the procedure. This includes any surface that must be touched during clamping in the case of piercing, or any area that will be touched in order to stretch or manipulate the skin during a tattoo. Placing gloved hands outside of the "clean" zone on a client's skin and then returning to the procedure site and/or handling sterile instruments is an often-overlooked example of cross-contamination.

Any ear cartilage piercing requires the cleaning of not just the immediate piercing site, but also the general surrounding areas, folds and crevices. Recent studies focusing on incidence of infection in ear piercings indicate that high numbers of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Staphylococcus aureus* occur and thrive on, and around, the ear. Infections resulting from piercing ear cartilage are often quite serious in nature, and generally do not include the same early symptoms exhibited by soft tissue or mucous membrane piercing.

Practitioners are advised to seek information from product manufacturers for any and all test data relating to their choice of prep product, including indications of what substances can affect the integrity of the scrub or cause adverse combination reactions-including materials such as A&D ointment, water-based lubricants, alcohol, witch-hazel, or in the case of cosmetic tattooists, topical anesthetics.

Technicare is positioning itself as the next generation of antimicrobial product for use as both hand scrub and preoperative skin preparation. Its combination of 30-second efficiency, non-toxicity, multi-uses, and residual effects are impressive. It is also indicated for use as a preventative on wounds, which makes it attractive as a post-procedure "clean-up"

Wm Bailey  
Health Educators, Inc.  
2710 Detroit Avenue Lower Level  
Cleveland, Ohio 44113  
216.623.0815  
www.hlthedu.com  
www.healtheducators.org  
bailey@hlthedu.com

bibliography/references available upon request

## Mederma for Scar Reduction

In the POINT #19, I reviewed ScarEase. Mederma is another scar reduction product. It is a greaseless, pleasant-smelling topical gel formulated with CEPALIN™ (a proprietary botanical extract), that helps scars appear softer and smoother, offers convenience, ease of use, affordability (about \$0.25 per day), and a money-back satisfaction guarantee.

A Mederma 50 gram tube lasts approximately 3 months on an 8 to 10 inch scar, and there is a new 20 gram tube that lasts approximately 3 months on a scar up to 3 inches in length. Mederma is available over the counter at most retail pharmacies. For more information call 1-800-334-0514 ext. 332.

**Ingredients:** Water (purified), PEG-4, onion (allium cepa) extract, xanthan gum, allantoin, fragrance, methylparaben, sorbic acid.

Consumer Info Line: (888) MERZUSA  
They have provided answers to the most frequently asked questions below:

### What is healthy skin?

Skin is the largest organ of the human body. Making up about 15% of total body weight, skin is the first line of defense against germs, prevents water loss, protects internal organs, and repels damaging radiation from the sun. Healthy skin consists of three layers: the outside protective layer (epidermis); a thicker middle layer full of support structures, blood vessels, nerves, and sweat glands (dermis); and an inner layer that contains larger blood vessels and supporting fibers (subcutaneous).

### What happens when healthy skin is injured?

When an injury occurs, at least one of the skin layers is involved. In a simple wound, the healing process begins with bleeding into the wound and clot formation. The body receives a signal for repair, and the area becomes swollen and sore. As repair continues, small tissue fibers form, eventually becoming solid tissue that may result in a scar.

### What is a scar?

A scar is a mark that remains after a wound heals. Ideally, a scar is smooth and flat, blending in with surrounding skin. Some scars become highly visible and unattractive due to factors such as your age, scar location and size, nutrition, genetics, or infection.

### What is the difference between a hypertrophic scar and a keloid scar?

Both types of scars are raised. Hypertrophic scars are elevated above the surface of the skin, but confined within wound boundaries. Keloid scars are similar to hypertrophic scars, except that they extend beyond the boundaries of the original wound into surrounding skin areas.

### What are other causes of scars?

Not all scars are caused by wounds, burns, surgeries, and accidents. Skin diseases caused by bacteria, fungus, or viruses can also result in scarring. Acne is a good example of a skin disease that leaves scars. Stretch marks are an example of scars caused by weight change or growth.

### Are some people more prone to developing scars?

Scarring is a part of the natural healing process. Based on personal history or medical conditions, some people are more likely to develop problem scars. Two reasons for problem scarring are improper cleaning of the wound and further injury to the wound site. Other things such as location of the scar, poor nutrition, skin coloration, and age are also contributing factors.

I tried Mederma on a small ear cartilage bump I'd had for several years, and found it to be easy to use, pleasant smelling, and surprisingly effective. I preferred the rub-in usage of Mederma to the smear-on-and-leave-there application of sticky Scar-ease, which I had also tested. I have several clients who had a lot of scar tissue from repeated, prior navel piercings, and have received positive feedback and seen good results from this product on such problem areas.

If you or your clients try this product and you have some input or feedback please contact us to let us know.

Options for scars			
Injections	Invasive procedure	Monthly injections	\$75 to \$100 per injection up to \$900 total
Silicone Gel Filled Sheets	Noninvasive	6-9 months, weekly replacement	\$400-\$800 total
Occlusive Silicone Sheets	Noninvasive	Daily 2- 9 mos.	\$40-\$269 total

The most common questions asked of me as APP President, whether during an interview or otherwise, have been, "Why have an APP?" and "Why have standards?" When I sat down to write for this issue, I couldn't think of a better set of questions to address.

Over the past three years as President, I have been asked these questions many, many times. A prime example that I would like to share took place last week.

I received a phone call from a district attorney wanting to know the correct skin prep and piercing procedure for a horizontal hood piercing. She also wanted to know if we had any training videos or manuals available. I told her that the APP was not so much focused on training in the art of piercing as on the health and safety issues associated with piercing, and in protecting the rights of those being pierced.

She then proceeded to tell me the most horrific story I've heard yet about the violation of an individual's rights during a piercing.

A young woman went into a piercing studio for a horizontal hood piercing. After all the paperwork was complete, she was taken back to the piercing room. She was told to strip down except for her bra. The piercer then cleaned her navel, groin, genitals, and even her buttocks, and then proceeded to mark her hood. At this point, he told the girl that he needed to increase the blood flow to the area, so he manually stimulated her clitoris, and inserted a finger into her vagina. This continued on for over 30 minutes. Once he finished the piercing, the girl left the shop stunned and horrified. After a few days, she confessed the ordeal to one of her friends. Realizing she had been violated, the girl went to see the attorney. It was at this point that the attorney contacted me.

The attorney asked me how one learns to pierce, and whether or not there are any manuals that describe complete instructions, including where to clean and what to massage. I told her there were not, and explained the correct way to perform a horizontal hood piercing. The attorney explained to me that unless there is a standardized method the girl, unfortunately, has little chance of winning her case in court.

I wish I could go into more detail with this story and so many others, and how they diminish and damage the professionalism of piercing. If we as professional piercers are not ready to stand up for ourselves, embrace minimal standards, and establish correct procedures for ourselves, we will continue to have piercers like the one described above. Such piercers make a mockery of our profession. It is for this reason that we require standards and need an organization like the APP: to speak for us, and support us as a collective, responsible group of professionals.

You can be assured that if the APP were not here looking out for our profession, the restrictions we would have to deal with would be far worse than those we have now.

I urge you to become more involved in the APP. We are fighting for the reputation and even the continuation of the piercing profession; for your profession. We need to strengthen the organization to gain the power to put piercers out of business who hurt, harm, humiliate, and/or degrade their customers.

## APP Hires First Employee

For the first time in history, the Association of Professional Piercers has an employee. We have grown to the extent that a Board of volunteers can no longer handle all of the work involved in running the APP.

Our employee is Susan Benton, a single mother of a 3-year-old boy, Torin. She is 27 years of age and has been in the piercing and tattoo industry for approximately 7 years. She resides in Dallas, Texas.

She met APP Vice President, Steven Joyner in 1995 and has worked with him throughout the years at various studios from California, to Oklahoma and several in Texas. She was a secretary for his first business called "Whole New World" with his partner, Chris Johnson. This is what started her interest in the field of piercing. She performed management, secretarial, and receptionist work.

Allen Faulkner from "Obscurities Body Piercing" in Dallas, Texas hired Susan as a receptionist in early 1997. She worked her way up by absorbing all the knowledge she could from him and the Association of Professional Piercers. She worked at Obscurities for almost four years. She feels grateful for all the knowledge and experience that she gained there. There came a time when she felt she wasn't learning anything new. Being a shop manager, she wasn't getting to attend the annual Association of Professional Piercers conferences. So in December of 2001 she quit, in order to obtain the position as Office Secretary for the Association of Professional Piercers.

She intends to promote the Association's mission of providing vital information to piercers, health care professionals, and the general public. She plans on working to expand the number of people contacted through outreach correspondence. She is at the APP office to assist you.

Susan will be answering the toll free APP phone line, handling mailings of THE POINT and Conference invitations, records of spore tests, the APP data base, sales and distribution of APP products such as the APP Procedure Manual and t-shirts, and more.

Please don't hesitate to contact Susan at the Association of Professional Piercers office at (888) 888-1APP.

She hopes to see you all at this year's Annual conference in Las Vegas, Nevada May 6th through the 9th.

# Impostor Web Page Up and Running

The APP now has an Impostors Page on our web site. This is where names and other pertinent information will be posted of those who have falsely advertised that they are APP members.

Unfortunately, there are times when non-member studios and/or individual piercers will claim membership to the APP. This is very frustrating for members who have spent time, energy, and money qualifying for membership and upholding APP standards. When brought to our attention these 'Impostors' are sent a letter via certified mail. They are given ample time in which to apply for membership (and become accepted) or desist in illegitimate claims of membership. If no attempt is made to rectify the situation these people or studios are listed on the APP web site Impostors Page.

These are individuals and studios who have advertised via phone book, print media, on their business cards and via other methods that they are members of the APP. If you are aware of any individuals or studios who are misusing the APP name in this fashion, please bring it to the attention of the Board so that we may take appropriate action.

Below is a copy of the letter that will be sent to those falsely declaring membership:

It has been brought to the attention of the APP Board of Directors that you/your company have been using the APP name and/or logo without permission. This usage is wrongful, illegal, and misrepresents your membership in our organization to the general public. The membership of the APP has worked extremely hard, giving countless hours to become members in good standing. Members have met every guideline for membership as outlined in the registration form enclosed in this letter.

We as a board would like to invite

you to join our organization and legitimize your usage of our name and/or logo. The APP is a California non-profit organization with members throughout the world and is dedicated to sharing information regarding body piercing health and safety. Should you become a member in good standing you will have access to the newest, most comprehensive information available to body piercers today. Please feel free to send an application packet to our secretary for an expedited return. Keep in mind that the application packet must be complete.

In the interim, the APP requires that you cease and desist all use of the APP name and/or logo until your application has been received, processed, and you have been notified of your membership approval.

We are providing you fourteen (14) days from the date of this letter to contact our organization with your response and intended actions. If we have not heard from you, within said time period we will be forced to take action to preserve our rights, which include, but are not limited to the following actions:

1. Your State Attorney General and/or other law enforcement authorities or governmental entities will be notified about our grievance.
2. A press release will be sent to all newspapers in your area stating that you are, in fact, not a member of our organization.
3. Your company's name and address will be listed on the APP website ([www.safepiercing.org](http://www.safepiercing.org)) under the "Impostors" section.
4. After 60 days, if you have still not complied with our request we will be forced to take legal action.

We sincerely hope that your use of our name and/or logo is simply a mistake and look forward to the opportunity to evaluate your establishment for membership. The APP would welcome your registration packet and if approved we will welcome you to the largest network of piercing professionals in the world. We look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Respectfully,

Patrick McCarthy  
President, APP

cc: Michael M. Hernandez, Esq.

## Cork Testing Produces Good Results

Dave Vidra, President of Body Work Productions, Inc. and Health Educators Inc. has done some interesting research. He had a Board Certified Medical Technologist for the American College of Clinical Pathologists test corks of the sort used in piercing for purposes of culturing, and verifying sterilization.

There had been some controversy in the field regarding the effectiveness of sterilization of that particular organic porous material.

The corks were placed on blood agar plates which have nutrients in the agar to "grow" various microorganisms; staphylococcus, streptococcus, gram negative organisms, and almost all other aerobic bacteria. The corks were cut apart and pieces of the cork placed on the agar and incubated for about 10 days.

The sterile corks grew nothing. The non sterile corks showed a small growth of gram positive cocci. It was identified as staphylococcus, not aureus. It is a typical organism seen on all surfaces and is not considered to be contagious, except in immunocompromised individuals and if entered into the blood stream.

Perhaps this will help to assuage the concerns of some of members who expressed fears that the corks hold spores or other pathogens, even after sterilization.

We strongly encourage members who participate in any such research to contact us with results so that we may share it with the piercing community. Thanks Dave, for supporting the research and letting us know the outcome!

## POINT Becomes Free for the Asking

The APP has decided to make the POINT available to all interested parties at no cost. There will no longer be any subscription fees to pay. Just contact the APP via email, post, or phone at the locations provided below to join the list and receive your free copies. Members are automatically on the list.

We believe that this will be optimal for outreach and is the best way of upholding our mission of disseminating information to piercers, piercees, the medical communities and the general public.

Association of Professional Piercers  
PMB 286  
5456 Peachtree Industrial Blvd.  
Chamblee, GA 30341

call: (888) 888-1APP

## Brain Abscess cont. from page 1

In light of both the onset of symptoms following the removal of the tongue jewelry and the types of bacteria identified in the drained fluid, the brain abscess most likely resulted from the tongue piercing."

My question about this to a piercing-friendly medical doctor was, "How does an infection go from localized in the tongue, to cause an abscess in another anatomical structure such as the brain?"

Her response was as follows:

"The face and mouth is very vascular and the oral mucosa is very thin. The viridans can travel via the venous drainage/arterial supply to the rest of the head and structures. One other thing to remember is that bacteria and viruses can spread via many channels, including the lymphatics. For example, if you think about gonorrhea, although it has a sexual route of contamination, it can cause splinter hemorrhages of the finger tips, and that is via bacteremia (bacteria in the bloodstream)."

Obviously, over the past 10 years or so, there have been many thousands, if not hundreds of thousands (or more) of piercings performed in which no complications have occurred. We all know that under usual circumstances when a piercing is hygienically performed according to accepted practice; proper size and style of inert, high quality jewel-

ry is inserted; and appropriate aftercare guidelines are observed, that piercings routinely heal without incident.

There is a remote possibility that a localized infection in one part of the body can spread to another area, resulting in a more serious complication. Statistically speaking though, this is clearly not a significant risk, particularly when the piercee is in good overall health and proper care is followed.

Individuals who have weakened immune systems, or those having a history of a fairly common heart condition called Mitral Valve Prolapse (MVP) are often advised to take a prophylaxis of oral antibiotics prior to any procedures including teeth cleaning. These are individuals at higher risk for infection to spread. If a client notifies you of such a condition, it is wise to suggest they consult with their physician about a possible course of antibiotics.

The best defense we have as professionals against such problems is prevention, by following accepted procedures. Then, on those rare occasions when problems do occur, we are less subject to attack if we have habitually followed sanctioned sterilization techniques with proper documentation, used high quality jewelry, and instructed the client both in writing and verbally about the industry standard aftercare guidelines.

This type of consistency is imperative, both in individual practice and for the

industry as a whole. The field has grown to the extent that we are no longer on the fringes of society. As such, we must present a unified and professional demeanor, which includes standardized practices, particularly for safety and hygiene issues.

If you have not already adopted the APP Suggested Aftercare Guidelines, this would be a good time to remind you that it is a wise idea for several reasons:

- °The care instructions do work very well for the vast majority of piercees.
- °It reduces client confusion and increases compliance when everyone suggests following the same regimen.
- °When you comply with the industry standard you are less likely to be held liable for your practices in the event of complications.
- °For your convenience pre-printed copies of the care brochures are available in bulk from the APP with space to add your studio information.

They can be viewed on the web site at [www.safepiercing.org](http://www.safepiercing.org)

With every action in life there is some risk. You can be hit by a bus crossing the street, or get food poisoning at your favorite restaurant. And it is possible to contract a serious infection from a piercing. But as risks go, when the proper procedures are followed, the risks are very low indeed.

# Body Jewelry:

It's not hard science,  
it's just good art.



At Good Art, we pride ourselves on the same high standards that have been driving force of the company since its inception: Superior quality and outstanding selection, priced reasonably and delivered on time. More than a decade later, we continue in the relentless pursuit of manufacturing perfection in every piece, every time. Because while you can always find cheaper, you'll never find better. Quality. Service. Selection. Good Art. Fine Body Jewelry Since 1990.

**good art** body jewelry



Wholesale, Retail, Mail Order, 1420 4th Street | Santa Monica CA 90401 | 800 GOOD ART | International 310 395 4063 | Fax 310 393 5818 | [www.goodart.com](http://www.goodart.com)

**Association of Professional Piercers**

**The Point**

APP

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