

# Newsletter



Academy of Dentistry International Australasian Section

AUGUST 2006



Europe

WORLD  
*understanding through*  
EDUCATION



# From the pen of the Regent *by Reg Hession*



In the previous issue of the Newsletter, I made reference to a study being undertaken by the Academy, relative to restructuring its European Section.

The Academy has a number of Sections throughout the world (our Australasian Section being one), with each through its Regent, having representation on the International Board of Regents. Due to the diversity of global populations (both dental and general), some Sections are large, whilst others are relatively small.

Following the opening of borders throughout Europe through the 1990s and with the break-up of large States into smaller ones (the USSR being an obvious example), democracy has brought about dramatic changes in these regions, including within dentistry and dental education. The International Board of Regents has recognised that the enormity of the difference between the old divided Europe and the present one requires the Academy to alter its structure, to reflect these changes.

It is difficult for us who have always lived within a democracy, to imagine that pre-1990, dental students in the Baltic States (USSR-dominated Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania), had 40% of their curriculum devoted to the study of Communism and yet I have anecdotal evidence from a young Lithuanian dentist to support this. Other anecdotal evidence through members of the Dental Industry, has indicated that dentists from countries behind the iron curtain (who all worked for the State previously as there was no private practice), found themselves unable to handle issues such as setting up a practice, hiring staff, purchasing materials, collecting fees and even establishing goodwill amongst patients, all of which we take for granted.

To have worked previously as dentists in factories, with not only a captive "clientele" but with everything else provided by the State (when available!), many problems were created for those whose mindsets were conditioned by years of State control. Yet it is these same people who have now brought themselves quickly, into the modern era of dental endeavour and who are able to take their rightful places amongst their peers in the western world.

Of particular significance, it is noted there are at present 143 Fellows of the Academy resident in Europe, which has a total population of over 874 million people. To compare these figures with our own Section, we have in the vicinity of 240 Fellows within a population approximating 25 million in Australia and New Zealand.

In consideration of the need for accommodating these and other changes within Europe, at the June 2006 Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Academy, it was resolved that the European Section be restructured from one into five separate Sections, namely **British Isles, Nordic, Northern Europe, Southern Europe and Eastern Europe.**

In consequence of this development, the new Sections will allow for a closer collaboration of our European colleagues through commonalities of history, culture, economic, education and language roots, whilst broadening the depth and strength of the Academy within Europe. Further, it will provide them through their Regents, with representation at the highest level within the Academy. To initiate this process, the President is now preparing to appoint "Acting Regents" for each of the new Sections.

In our own Region, our humanitarian work continues, with money being provided by the Section for a member of the staff of the Cambodian Dental School, to be brought to Adelaide to undertake a study programme in public health dentistry. The programme will be overseen by our Fellow John McIntyre AM, with particular emphasis on the use of the "fluoride probe".

In September, I shall be visiting Auckland accompanied by Roger Dennett (our Secretary/Registrar), to attend a combined Luncheon with our compatriot Honour Society, the International College of Dentists. The Luncheon will be held on Friday 8 September, within the programme of the New Zealand Dental Association Biennial Conference. Further information appears elsewhere in this Newsletter, however all Fellows and guests are welcome and I look forward to meeting with you on that occasion. There will also be a short Induction Ceremony for new Fellows resident in New Zealand.

With My Best Wishes to all,

*Reg Hession*

## In the lives of the fellows

*The Academy is proud to announce that Brent Stanley has been honoured with the award of Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit ONZM.*



### **Brent Stanley ONZM.**

Brent Stanley has served the NZDA over many years through committee work and in holding various high offices, culminating in the Presidency of the Association. He served for a number of years on the Dental Council of New Zealand, having retired recently as Chairman. Also, he has worked within a number of Committees of the FDI World Dental Federation. He was elected to the Council of the FDI World Dental Federation and re-elected for a second term, serving the maximum six years as Councillor. Brent is the current Treasurer of the FDI World Dental Federation.

His award for 'Services to Dentistry' is a reflection of his commitment to the profession at national and international levels.

**Palnam Qui Meruit Ferat**  
*He who is worthy shall bear the palm*



## Training visit to Australia by Senior Cambodian Dentist

An invitation has been sent to Dr Tepirou Cher, a senior staff member of the Ministry of Health, and a lecturer at the University Dental School in Cambodia, to visit Adelaide from 9th October for six weeks. The visit (sponsored by the Australasian Section of the Academy)

is to assist Dr Tepirou to undertake a study of the use of the Fluoride electrode donated previously to the Dental School in Cambodia by this Section of the Academy. It will also assist her to become more familiar with methods for the assessment of the prevalence of dental fluorosis in Cambodia. Professor John Spencer's group have kindly offered support in this latter area, as they have had extensive experience in fluorosis assessment in a number of countries. This will form part of an overall programme intended to assist the Ministry of Health in Cambodia, to determine an overarching plan for reducing the prevalence of dental caries in that country. It will also include exploring the potential role of fluoride in achieving this, whilst at the same time taking positive steps toward eliminating the causes of widespread fluorosis, which is prevalent in specific regions of the country.

Dental fluorosis is very prevalent in localised regions of Cambodia, where most people drink ground (well) water, which at times has moderately high concentrations of

fluoride present. With the low dietary protein intake by many Cambodians following the civil war, these two factors have combined to result in a high prevalence of this disfiguring problem. Despite the higher than normal fluoride intake in some regions, the prevalence of dental caries amongst children is also high in other regions of the country. Hence it is planned to establish a map of fluoride concentrations in ground water in all regions, to assess the fluoride content of common foods, monitor overall fluoride intake of children and to use this information in planning national oral health schemes which attempt to ensure safe and non-fluorosis inducing levels of fluoride intake, so as to provide maximum caries prevention across the whole country.

On recent visits to Vietnam (supported by the Academy and the GC Company), fluoride levels of 8ppm were found in well water in close proximity to the Cambodian border, again resulting in severe fluorosis. Also, in Hanoi, high concentrations of fluoride were found in a number of common, less expensive foods used by many Vietnamese three times a day to make the famous Vietnamese soup. Again this calls for a highly planned approach to Oral Health planning, which involves reducing fluoride intake in some regions and the possible use of natural food sources of fluoride in those where deficiencies exist and caries prevalence is high. This is a similar situation to that found in Cambodia.

## From our NZ Correspondent Mark Goodhew



Kia Ora! This is the first of what is hoped to be a regular update of the activities of New Zealand fellows. A feature is the active role fellows are taking in dental politics in New

Zealand. Mary Livingston is the new Chair of the Dental Council of New Zealand (DCNZ), taking over from Brent Stanley, who has stepped back after guiding DCNZ through a very busy restructuring period. New legislation controlling health professionals has seen DCNZ expand to encompass dentists, therapists, hygienists and technicians. Brent remains on the DCNZ, and the recently formed Dentist Board, as well as being the current FDI Treasurer.

David Marshall, who was DCNZ Chair immediately before Brent Stanley, has retired from dental practice, but continues a very active role in civic affairs in his home town Napier, including membership of the Hawkes Bay District Health Board.

Paul Scott has assumed the mantle of NZDA President,

following Steve Simmons' tenure. Steve is looking forward to reacquainting himself with courses of the golf rather than dental variety.

And lastly, Greg Seymour and Mary Cullinan have seen the light and emigrated to Dunedin, situated in the south-eastern corner of the South Island, Greg to his new role as Dean of the Otago University School of Dentistry. In doing so, they have swapped the sub-tropical lifestyle of Queensland for the pleasures of the "Riviera of the Antarctic".

Until next time,

## News from across the Tasman

*Mark Goodhew*

## Poet's Corner

Sound, sound the clarion, fill the fife!  
To all the sensual world proclaim,  
One crowded hour of glorious life  
Is worth an age without a name.

Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832)

## From the Editor Fleet Street

**"There is a tide in the affairs of men, which  
taken at the flood, leads on to fortune"**

*Julius Caesar Act IV Sc iii William Shakespeare (1564-1616)*

It is a good thing that the Academy is considering the creation of regional sections of dentistry within Europe on a national basis. These proposed changes provide an opportunity for individual nations, through their professional organizations to contribute to and be part of a world wide honour society in their own right. They are still able to retain their history, national pride and values and all the while enjoy their individual European status.

The timing it seems to me could not be better, with our own Regent of the Australasian Section playing a pivotal role in bringing about these historical changes which are vital to world understanding through education. This tidal flow of events will surely lead on to good fortune for all people of all nations.

*Fleet Street*

Editor

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It would be appreciated if letters, articles, photos etc are sent in high resolution, electronic format or TIFF (cmyk) where possible. We look forward to hearing from you.

Special thanks are due to Henry Schein Halas and Medfin for their generous sponsorship of this newsletter and Elizabeth McCray for her graphic design and ADA (QLD Branch) for its support.

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## Forthcoming Events

**For more details see ADI website  
[www.adint.org](http://www.adint.org)**

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The public only views name, city, state or country.

username "member"

password "adint"

**FEDERATION DENTAIRE INTERNATIONALE  
(WORLD DENTAL CONGRESS)**

September 22-25, 2006 - Shenzhen, China

October 24-27, 2007 - Dubai

**NEW ZEALAND DENTAL CONFERENCE**

September 6-9, 2006 - New Zealand

ADI Induction and combined ICD luncheon

See "mark this in your diary"

**AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION**

October 16-19, 2006 - Las Vegas, Nevada

**\*\*ADI USA SECTION CONVOCATION - all dates  
tentative**

October 15, 2006 - Las Vegas, Nevada

Contact Dr R Ramus, 3813 Gordon Creek Drive  
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September 26, 2007 - San Francisco, California

October 15, 2008 - San Antonio, Texas

September 30, 2009 - Honolulu, Hawaii

**32nd AUSTRALIAN DENTAL CONGRESS**

March 16-19, 2007 - Sydney NSW Australia

\*\* ADI (Australasian Section) Convocation and Cocktail  
Party - Friday March 16, 5pm.

**IDS**

March 20-24, 2007 - Cologne, Germany

## MARK THIS IN YOUR DIARY

An Induction Ceremony and Joint Luncheon with the International College of Dentists will take place at the time of the NZ Dental Association "Business of Smiles" Conference in Auckland on:

Friday September 8 12.30 - 2pm.

Venue - Rydges Hotel

Cost \$55 NZ for Fellows

\$45 NZ for Partners and Guests

Register using Conference Registration for [www.nzda.org.nz](http://www.nzda.org.nz) or directly with:

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