Greetings ADI Colleagues in the USA.

The Holidays are upon us, and it is easy to feel the pressure and stress instead of enjoyment of the season. So, relax and give less priority to your gift list and the mall parking lot won’t make you so upset. I am spending it at the other home in Puerto Escondido, on the coast of Oaxaca in southern Mexico, enjoying the best weather of the year and staying warm. We will celebrate Navidad, New Year, and Three Kings Day (Jan 6, 12th Day of Christmas) Mexican style.

It seems we just finished our Annual ADI Convention in Atlanta, but plans are already in progress for the Honolulu Convention in October. It will be held on Wednesday, October 17, 2018, hotel and registration forthcoming after ADA gives us our Hotel assignment. This will be a USA Section function, as ADI will be meeting internationally this year, an every-other-year or two event. We look forward to a topnotch CE course again, and Fellows-elect are anxious for their induction as new Fellows of ADI. Ever since my induction in 2005 (Philadelphia), ADI has been a priority in my life and career. Much is planned around our ADI schedule, and I can only hope we can all plan around this ADI Convention, to be held in one of the most desirable places to go. I will be in Kona for the Annual Loma Linda University Alumni meeting. After Honolulu with the ADA and ADI, we will visit Kauai where good friend, and soon to be ADI Fellow, Paul Yoo, DDS lives. He moved to Kauai after his six years of mission service in Zambia, southern Africa, where his wife was the only ophthalmologist in the country doing corneal transplants. And that is how I plan around ADI for my other activities.

Let’s gear our thinking in that direction, as only by participation and nomination of new Fellows, is our organization vibrant and progressing. Thank you all for your dedication to ADI and what it is doing in the world and for dentistry. I wish for all of you a prosperous and successful New Year!

Ronald E. Fritz, DDS, MPH, FADI
Chair, USA Section, ADI

Vice President for Education, ADI
Message from the Editor

Having returned from the ADA Annual Session in Atlanta, I continue to be inspired by our hardworking, dedicated professional colleagues around the world. Among the best of these is the amazing Dr. Gerhard Seeberger, a dentist in Cagliari, Italy. He is an active presence at almost every dental meeting I have been to. He was sworn in this past fall as our new President. Our congratulations go to Dr. Seeberger!

I am honored to continue as editor of the USA section of the Informer for another year. We continually strive to make this newsletter a more effective tool of ADI’s efforts. Presently, it has been decided by our executive board to reduce our winter newsletter to a smaller, but very informative version. I hope you like it! And as always, we appreciate your input as we strive continually to make this a better newsletter.

As I said before, the Informer is YOUR newsletter! It is our way of showing the world what we of the ADI so proudly do. And, this newsletter through the internet is on adint.org’s website—both current and past issues. Please show them to as many of your friends and colleagues as possible and get them as excited as you are about ADI!

Furthermore, please keep sending articles of what you do as a FADI Fellow. I am thrilled to share your work with the rest of the world. We have so much work in our profession to help patients and not enough time to do it all!!

ADI is proud to sponsor and work with other groups to support and work with dental schools, missionary groups, and other worthwhile groups and projects.

Thank you for your continued support of this amazing organization.

Fraternally yours, George Zehak, D.D.S.
Meet the new Regent for the USA Section South West Regency.

I am very honored to have been selected to succeed Dr. Kakanar and be the new ADI Regent for the South West Regency of United States. I have most recently been the vice-regent for the South-west USA Regency. I feel that this is truly an exciting time for our organization. We are now in many countries. I feel fortunate to be serving at a time when our organization is standing on the verge of greatness. I intend to continue what Dr. Kakanar has so effectively been working on.

I invite you to take a few moments and send me an email to (djsninan@gmail.com) and introduce yourself and let me know what you like about the ADI, and if there is anything that you would like to see improved.

I look forward to serving the ADI.

As a way of introduction, the following is a brief summary of portions of Dr. Ninan's curriculum vitae.

Dr. Daniel Ninan earned the Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from Loma Linda University School of Dentistry in 2009. During dental school vacations, he spent a total of one month providing dental care to children in Nicaragua. After graduating, he provided mobile dentistry to patients in their homes, long-term skilled nursing facilities, hospitals and other extended care facilities throughout Orange, Riverside and Los Angeles counties. In 2010, he began working at SAC Health System in San Bernardino. SAC Health System is a multi-site Federally Qualified Health Center that has received NCQA’s Level 3 Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) designation, the highest designation possible. SAC Health System houses over 400 physicians from more than 28 medical specialties.

(continued on the next page)
He was awarded their Provider of the Quarter Award in 2012. He has also served on SAC Health System’s Quality Council, Mission Possible Committee, Privacy Board and FQHC Quality Measures Committee. In 2011, he received the appointment of Assistant Professor of Dental Education Services at Loma Linda University School of Dentistry. He is also active in organized dentistry and has served on several committees of local components of the American Dental Association.

Prior to dentistry, Dr. Ninan studied in other fields. In 1999, Dr. Ninan earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science with departmental honors from California State University in San Bernardino. Five years later, in 2004, he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology with university honors from California State University in San Bernardino. In 2003, while he was still studying, Dr. Ninan helped with neonatal research conducted at Loma Linda University Medical Center. In 2004 he co-authored the publication of that research in the Journal of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Neonatal Nursing.

When he was in high school, he began volunteering at a local hospital fixing computers. Within two weeks, he was offered a job. For the next sixteen years, he worked on computer systems at the Loma Linda Community Hospital and also the Loma Linda University Medical Center. His responsibilities included coordinating computer system installs, upgrades and management of multi-million-dollar mission critical clinical computer systems. He also worked as an independent computer consultant. He has consulted with several different hospitals and provided them with data and extraction services. He has also written a number of software programs.
Some examples include working with hospital consultants to write software to analyze hospital and physician group productivity, Time Share scheduling & reservation software, electronic medical claims processing, and physician scheduling software.

He has over 15 years volunteering with the San Bernardino County Sheriff Department’s Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and also Aviation Division’s Explorer Search & Rescue where he has served as the Commander. His current unit, the Medical Reserve Corps, provides medical support as needed to the Sheriff. They provide medical support in coordination with the American Red Cross for evacuees for Southern California Wildfires. They also work closely with the Department of Public Health to prepare and maintain readiness in the event of terrorist-related or naturally occurring public health emergencies. Members of the MRC have helped out in incidents such as the San Bernardino Terrorist shooting. Since that tragic event, the MRC has provided Active Shooter trainings for first responders and other MRC units.

Welcome aboard Dr. Ninan!
Luis J. Fujimoto, DMD, is a periodontist practicing in midtown Manhattan. He is the president for the American Association of Dental Boards Foundation (AADB Foundation). He is the president-elect for the American Association of Dental Boards (AADB). He is the vice-president of the New York County Dental Society (NYCDS). He is a Director at the American Dental Association Foundation (ADA Foundation). Dr. Fujimoto served two terms as chair of the New York State Board of Dentistry (NYSBD) for the New York State Department of Education (NYSED). He is the past chairman of the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE) for the American Dental Association (ADA) and the past chairman of the Board of Trustees of the American Association of Dental Boards Foundation.

Dr. Fujimoto is the Past President of the Osseointegration Foundation (OF), the Northeastern Society of Periodontists (NESP) and of the Eastern Dental Society (EDS). Dr. Fujimoto is a former Director of the Greater New York Dental Education Foundation, Inc. He served as delegate to the NYSDA House of Delegates (2015-2017) and as a delegate to the ADA House of Delegates (2015-2017 & 2001). He is the Recipient of multiple awards, among those the highest award bestowed by the American Dental Association-the Golden Apple Award and the Leadership Award from the New York State Dental Association (NYSDA). He holds several Fellowships from multiple organizations including the American College of Dentists (ACD), International College of Dentists (ICD), Academy of Dentistry International (ADI), Academy of Osseointegration (AO), New York Academy of Dentistry (NYAD) and the Pierre Fauchard Academy (PFA).

Welcome aboard Dr. Fujimoto!
One of the highlights of being a dental professional is being able to choose to give back to humanity of your talent. Looking back at my life and career, I can now see how giving to people who desperately need it and who would likely not be able to receive much needed treatment in any other way, how grateful they are and the gratitude they show. This has enriched my life and career beyond what I ever imagined. On every adventure, it has been an equalizing experience to have my priorities in life readjusted back to where they should be about what is most important in my life. We have such a short time on this earth!

Nestled between México and Guatemala with the Caribbean Sea on its east coast, there is the small Central American country of Belize, known as British Honduras. In 1973, it was renamed. While this northernmost country of Central America is the only officially English-speaking country, it has many overlapping citizens from adjacent Spanish speaking countries, and thus the result is that most here speak both English and Spanish. Additionally, other languages spoken are Creole (Kriol), Garifuna, and several Mayan languages (Mopán, Q’eqchi’, and Yucatec).

It is a country of incredible natural beauty, with mint green seas and emerald green forests, and more kinds of birds, butterflies, flowers, and trees than in the entire U.S. and Canada, combined. The Belize Barrier Reef is the largest in the western and northern hemisphere, only second to the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. It was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1996. Belize is part of the globally significant Mesoamerican Biological Corridor, which extends from México to Panamá. Though 60% of Belize is covered by forest, 20% is cultivated for agriculture and human settlements. It has 460,000 population, with 80,000 of the inhabitants living in Belize City. The capital city is Belmopan and it is the second largest city.
Belize has the lowest population density of the seven Central American countries. Belizeans are of multiracial descent, including Mestizo (53%), Creole (26%), Maya (11%), Garifuna (6%), East Indian (4%), Mennonites (3.6%), White (1.2%), and Asian (1%). Culturally, it is a beautiful mix of African, Hispanic, Mayan, Asian, European, and Caribbean. Something significant is that 70% of food is produced by the Mennonites (less than 4% of the population) on their organic farms, located in their isolated compounds. Half of the population is 18 or under, evidenced by kids having babies early in their teen years. The Belizean dollar is pegged to the U.S. dollar, at a rate of $2 Belize to $1 U.S.

Earlier in the year, I was made aware of the Belize Mission Project (www.belizemissionproject.com), and a friend asked if I wanted to help. Since I had tried to get to Belize for years, I immediately accepted. The group has two teams that each work one week during consecutive weeks in late October. They continue to expand services onto the mainland from their base in San Pedro on Ambergris Cay. The main clinic was held at “Lion’s Den,” provided by the San Pedro Lion’s Club. Here we had the luxury of four dental lab technicians who processed our complete and partial dentures on site, rendering many very happy patients. Other teams flew out early each day to Belize City, and from there with local ground transportation, they went to various locations to treat patients. Fluoride teams visited multiple schools to give Oral Hygiene instruction and apply fluoride varnish. Utilizing portable equipment, restorative teams set up in remote areas, including Ladyville, Corozal, and Dangriga and treated many patients.

Surrounding San Pedro are some poverty-stricken villages like San Mateo and San Pedrito. The “Rice & Beans” project was developed to assist the needy families with their huge hunger issues. During the work week, money donations were given by
the team members (the week alone, $1,700 was collected), and on that Thursday, food was purchased and bagged as portions for distribution. The team drove the meals out for distribution on Friday afternoon and found very receptive people. We called it a little love in action, indicating we cared and were interested in more than just oral health.

Beyond all of this, a special member of our team, Suzanne Stanish of Rochester, NY, planned way ahead for the trip, and she made 360 dresses for girls ahead of time to distribute to young girls in this very economically challenged part of Belize. The smiles were very bright, as love was shared again in the form of gifts of dresses handed out to these beautiful appreciative girls, one by one.

Once again, as with every dental mission I have undertaken, though we came to give to these beautiful people who have very little, we actually received back more reward than we gave. I have found over the 46 years of involvement in dental mission projects (starting as a senior at Loma Linda University), we always got back more in appreciation, gratitude, smiles and affection, than we ever gave. That is our reward for doing something extra! I frequently think about how this kind of service to others realigns priorities in a proper sequence: To be away from all the racial tension, politics, taking a knee, materialism, and busyness for a short time, gives one a new perspective about what is really important in life. As my dental classmate, David Brodeur, DDS, MPH, once told me years ago: “I believe we are on this earth to help each other.” I have never forgotten what he said, and it motivates me to do more.

Father Greg Boyle, founder of the gang-member intervention non-profit organization, Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, said: “Here is what we seek: A compassion that can stand in awe at what the poor have to carry, rather than stand in judgement at how they carry it.” When we can see with this kind of compassion through our own
eyes, the world becomes a much better place.

I extend my personal thanks to our wonderful group of talented givers, many of whom are repeat participants. You have provided for me a camaraderie of excellence, and a blessing beyond description.
It is my pleasure to update you on the activities of the ADI Foundation. Our annual Board meeting was held on October 19, 2017 in Atlanta, Georgia. The first item to be addressed was to approve the revised bylaws. Over the course of the last year a registered parliamentarian was hired to review and suggest changes to our current bylaws. Independently, I appointed Dr. Carol Wooden to review the bylaws and suggest from the Foundation’s perspective changes that would enhance the functionality of our Board. The concerns that Dr. Wooden highlighted were addressed in the parliamentarian’s review. The parliamentarian, who is an attorney, also made sure that the document fully complied with California corporate law (the state in which the Foundation is incorporated). “The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure” was included in the revision to be the current guide that will be used for our deliberations. The revised bylaws were approved unanimously.

Mr. Christian Brutzer, the Foundation Vice President and chairman of the Investment Committee informed the Board that our portfolio has performed very well this year. Carla Koren from Morgan Stanley oversees the Foundation’s account. Further, the endowment has grown significantly in the time since Ms. Koren began managing the account.

This year the Foundation has been very active in supporting grants and funding projects. Along with other grants, $2,000.00 was made available to the ICD/ADI joint CE volunteer speaker program. $4000.00 was allocated to help finance a seminar to be held at the ADA building on best practices in NGO’s. Two new fellow grants of $1,000.00 each were approved for Dr. Robert Meyer’s Christian Dental Society project and Dr. Emeria Mugonzibwa’s Oral Health Education Project for Pregnant Mother’s in Tanzania. Finally, three grants of $1,500 were approved. The projects are Dr. Byron Henry’s Cleft Lip and Palate Surgical Mission in Zimbabwe (Free to Smile Foundation), Dr. David Goldsmith’s Medical Sailing Mission in Vanuatu and Dr. Emeria Mugonzibwa’s Oral Health Education Project for Teachers in Tanzania.

I want to extend my thanks to all the Board members who unselfishly contribute their time to further the mission of the ADI Foundation.

Fraternally yours, Thomas L. Brink, D.D.S., F.A.D.I. ADI Foundation President
**Deadline for Event Registration is February 18, 2018**

ADI Sunday breakfast meeting 7am - 10am, after Midwinter Feb. 26, 2018

**Midwinter Meeting**

The Academy of Dentistry International

Breakfast Meeting


Dr. David Alexander is a Diplomate of the American Board of Dental Public Health and has developed an integrated approach to oral health and general health, and the relationships between oral diseases and other Non-Communicable Diseases such as diabetes, adverse pregnancy outcomes and cardio-vascular disease. He has developed a global view of health, its social determinants and inequalities through working in many settings in Asia, Europe and North America with previous experience as the chief executive of a Geneva-based NGO (FDI World Dental Federation) liaising with the United Nations, World Health Organisation and other global health advocacy organizations. He is currently an independent consultant in health communications and advocacy, translating science into actionable messaging. He was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Dentistry International in 2000 and currently serves as the VP of International Affairs, a voluntary service organization being the only global oral health advocacy group currently associated with the United Nations Department of Public Affairs.

This is an opportunity to hear an extremely interesting topic on the Global Burden of Oral Diseases and how it is affecting the human population! Bring a potential member... great winter break for Dentists!

**Court by Marriott Chicago Downtown Magnificent Mile**

165 E. Ontario, Chicago, IL 60611

Sunday, February 25, 2018

7:00 a.m. Registration; 7:30 a.m. breakfast & program

Breakfast Fee: $60.00 by February 18, 2018; $70.00 at the door

Please remit registration portion to:

Dr. Michael Unti
235 North Northwest Highway
Palatine, IL 60067 USA

Phone: (847) 359-7520
Fax: (847) 000-0000
drunti@earthlink.net

Please print each name as you wish it to appear on the badge

Name(s): ____________________________

Address: ____________________________

Telephone: ______________ Email: ______________

Number of tickets at $60 per person: ______________

Make check payable to ADI before February 18, 2018-Total $_____