

## REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

April 20, 2012

Dr. Sam Dorn, Chair

As directed by the Board of Directors and by the General Assembly, we have continued with our project to identify and train a faculty member of a dental school in an emerging country to return and start a Department of Endodontics.

The first recipient of this project started an endodontic department in Fiji under the direction of Dr. Paul Abbott. The BOD and AGM directed this current project to be from central Africa. After identifying Dr. Mbachan Collins Okwen from the University of Benin, arrangements were made for him to take a one year course at the University of Texas at Houston in the USA.

Dr. Okwen just returned from a trip back to Nigeria to make final arrangements for starting the Department of Endodontics at the University of Benin in Nigeria. During the visit Dr. Okwen met with the Dean of the School of Dentistry University of Benin, the Chief Medical Director University of Benin Teaching Hospital and the Head of Department of Conservative Dentistry. Dr. Okwen also presented a lecture on non-surgical endodontics and regenerative endodontics. All the officials at the University of Benin were in full support of the project. The necessary documentation required to complete the application packet is being prepared. So far a curriculum has been designed by Dr. Okwen and approved by the Department of Conservative Dentistry for pre-doctoral endodontics, the University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH) has provided about eleven hundred square feet of space for the future department, some relevant equipment such as a surgical microscope has been purchased for donation to the future department and finally, the University of Benin has purchased two brand new dental chairs to be used by the future department.

Dr. Okwen intends to return to Nigeria in July to train the faculty, residents and final year students on doing proper, non-surgical endodontics. With the submission of the completed application to the University of Benin Teaching Hospital the new Department of Endodontics and Regenerative Dentistry has a proposed launching date of August 1 2012.