REPORT ON THE IFEA SIXTH WORLD ENDODONTIC CONGRESS.

Held in Brisbane, Australia, September 8 – 11, 2004.

A most successful World Congress was held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre in September, 2004.

An Australian delegation won the right to host this Convention at the IFEA Fourth World Endodontic Congress held in Jerusalem during 1998. Following an exhaustive tendering and interviewing process, Intermedia Convention and Event Management (which later became Event Planners Australia) were appointed Professional Congress Organizers. The first Committee meeting was held with Intermedia during February, 2001. I would like to thank Intermedia and its staff, especially Mrs. Lyn Greenfield, for their professionalism and assistance in planning for and running the Congress.

As Congress Chairman, I am indebted to my hard working Committee without whom the Congress would not have been possible. Initially this committee consisted of Prof. Paul Abbott (Scientific Program Chairman) and Treasurer Dr. Mark Wotzke. Later it was expanded to include Dr’s. Phillippe Zimet, John McNamara and Ralph Kelsey. I would like to thank each of them for their tireless efforts which helped ensure the smooth running of the Congress. A special thank you must also go to our wives (especially my wife Chris) for their unstinting support throughout the seemingly endless number of meetings.

Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre was chosen as our Congress venue because of its size and adaptability which allowed us to locate the scientific and social functions as well as the trade exhibition all under the one roof. Its close proximity to the city centre was an added bonus. BCEC also had a well proven track record for hosting successful dental congresses including a recent Australian Dental Association
Congress. Eight accommodation venues, including Rydges South Bank Hotel, were chosen, based on proximity to the venue, with features and price range catering for the different requirements of delegates.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME.

The four day scientific program was a mixture of plenary and concurrent sessions based on the Congress theme of “Bridging Technology and Biology”. Again the work put into this aspect of the Congress by Prof. Paul Abbott must be acknowledged. Hands-on sponsor workshops were held during this program.

The Congress commenced with an official welcome by (then) President-elect Prof. Paul Abbott. Prof. Adam Stabholz, President of the International Federation of Endodontic Associations also welcomed delegates to the Sixth World Congress as did members of the official party. The flags of the member countries of IFEA were presented during a video presentation made possible by the Congress’ major sponsor, Dentsply. An indigenous dance troupe welcomed delegates with a traditional welcome and smoking ceremony.

The Scientific program was built around the seven keynote speakers (alphabetically):

- Prof. Paul Abbott (Australia)
- Prof. Gunnar Bergenholtz (Sweden)
- Dr. Stephen Buchanan (USA)
- Prof. Kenneth Hargreaves (USA)
- Prof. Markus Haapasalo (Norway)
- Prof. Harold Messer (Australia)
- Prof. Hideaki Suda (Japan)

It was a deliberate decision to have all keynote speakers present unopposed. As well, twenty three country representative speakers presented at the Congress. The quality of all presenters was exceptional. Special mention should be made of the first keynote presentation by Prof. Gunnar Bergenholtz. He has presented in Australia several times before, but this is most likely the last time we will be
privileged to hear Gunnar in Australia. He shared with us his view of how endodontics has progressed in the last forty years and pondered on where it might go in the future. The number of concurrent sessions varied daily, with a mix of plenary and six concurrent sessions running on the Wednesday, plenary and five concurrent sessions running on the Thursday and Friday and plenary sessions only on the final Saturday.

Added to this, we enjoyed a further thirty two oral presenters and fifty four poster presenters, the latter having been selected from the one hundred and two abstracts received in response to the call for abstracts. Oral abstract presentations were divided into free papers and oral research papers. Free paper presenters were allocated thirty minutes while oral research presenters were allocated fifteen minutes within which to present. Poster viewing periods were divided into two groups i.e. Wednesday/Thursday and Friday/Saturday. There was no formal poster session period. All sessions were well attended and both presenters and audience seemed well satisfied with the facilities. The audio-visual equipment worked well and most sessions ran to time.

ASSOCIATED MEETINGS

The Fourth Trans-Pacific Endodontic Conference (sponsored by the Australian Society of Endodontology and the Canadian Association of Endodontists) was held from September 4-5, 2004 at the Sheraton Mirage, Port Douglas, Queensland, as the IFEA Pre-Congress. This was attended by 131 delegates and was a resounding success.

The IFEA Board of Directors' meeting was held in Brisbane, just prior to the commencement of the Congress.

The Annual General Meeting of IFEA was held at the conclusion of the Congress on September 11.

A small teachers’ meeting was conducted during the Congress.

SPONSORSHIP
Sponsorship packages were developed for gold, silver, sponsor and supporter level sponsors. Congress sponsors were as follows:

Gold sponsor – Dentsply Tulsa Dental/Dentsply Maillefer
Silver sponsor – Sybron Endo
Sponsor – Gunz Dental
Supporter – Dental Medical Technologies.

The Congress thanks all our sponsors for their commitment to IFEA and endodontics. Without their generosity, the Congress simply would not have been possible.

TRADE EXHIBITION

A trade exhibition, which ran from 1100 hours Wednesday September 8 to 1430 hours Saturday September 11, was held in Great Halls 3 & 4 of the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. All morning teas/afternoon teas and lunches were held in the trade area.

The trade exhibition comprised forty seven 3m x 3m booths (37 exhibitors), including five complementary sponsor booths and one Brisbane Marketing booth. A free “happy hour” was held in the trade area on the Thursday evening which was greatly appreciated by the exhibitors.

A list of exhibitors is available on request.

SOCIAL PROGRAM

The Congress social program included the “Welcome Reception” at Friday’s Riverside, sponsored by Dentsply Tulsa Dental and Dentsply Maillefer, held on the opening evening, the Happy Hour in the trade exhibition (morning and afternoon teas and daily lunches were included in the fulltime registration). The Congress dinner, sponsored by Sybron Endo, was an optional activity at the additional cost of $A95.00 per person and was held on the Friday evening.
Additionally, the Asian Pacific Endodontic Confederation Council held a separate invitation-only cocktail function at Rydges South Bank on the Thursday evening.

The welcome reception, held at Friday's Riverside, was a “finger food” affair and was enjoyed by over 450 delegates.

The Congress dinner was indeed a gala affair. The evening opened with pre-dinner drinks followed by participants moving to the Plaza Ballroom of the BCEC. Carol Lloyd of “Railroad Gin” fame provided the initial entertainment ably supported by her dance band “After Hours”, who then proceeded to keep all willing dancers happily on the dance floor. The evening also included a performance by a local aboriginal dance troupe, Nunukul Yuggera, with the character of all dances ably explained by their leader. However, it was their didgere doo player who stole the show with a stunning solo performance. The dinner was attended by over two hundred delegates.

**SUMMARY**

I very happily felt that the Congress was an outstanding success. All presentations were of exceptional quality. The social functions were well attended and delegates seemed to enjoy what the “Sunshine State” had to offer. All feedback has been extremely positive. The Conference had a “nice feel” to it and the committee felt well pleased with the outcome. As well, it would seem that the Conference has achieved a reasonable profit.

I would urge all IFEA members to seriously consider attending the Seventh Congress in Vancouver, Canada in 2007 and we wish Dr. Fred Weinstein and his committee all the best for this meeting.

Ralph J. Reid.
Chairman, Organizing Committee,
IFEA Sixth World Endodontic Congress.
On behalf of the Officers, Board of Regents, the entire membership of IFEA wishes to thank the Australian Endodontic Society, Dr. Ralph Reid, and the organizing committee for an outstanding World Endodontic Congress.