

IFEA President's Report - 2004

By Prof. Paul Abbott

As this is my first report as President, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members and my fellow Executive and Regent Officers for their confidence in me and for electing me to this position as your President. It is indeed a tremendous honour and I hope I can serve the Federation to your expectations throughout my term of office.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks on behalf of all members to Dr Adam Stabholz for all of his efforts during his term of office as President from June 2001 until September 2004. Our appreciation and thanks were expressed to Adam at the Annual General Meeting in Brisbane in September 2004 when he stepped down as President, and I also presented him with a gift in the form of a wall plaque at the Gala Dinner. There is no doubt that anyone serving in the role of President of an organisation sacrifices a lot of time and energy in order to promote the aims and to ensure the smooth running of the organisation. In the case of IFEA, all Officers are "in it for the long haul" as each term of office is three years, and once elected as Secretary there is automatic advancement through the ranks of President-elect, President and then Immediate Past President. For this reason, we are all committed for at least 12 years of service. During this time, we form strong friendships and bonds with each other which make the job very enjoyable. Adam has been a contributor for over 9 years now and we look forward to his continued service as Immediate Past President until 2007.

Although I mentioned above that the usual period of service is 12 years, this has not always been the case as the By-Laws have been revised several times and roles have been re-defined. There is one person who deserves a special mention because of this. Dr Fred Weinstein served two periods as Secretary/Treasurer from 1989-92 and 1992-95 when these two positions were combined (subsequently they were separated into two positions). Fred then served as President-elect in 1995-98, President from 1998-2001 and Immediate Past President from 2001-04. This makes a total of 16 years of service!! I doubt that anybody else will ever serve for such a long time. The early years of Fred's service were very formative years for IFEA and there is no doubt that Fred played a very large role in the development and growth of IFEA, and the shaping of its future as well as its methods of operation. It seems strange for me to be communicating with other members of the Executive and the Board of Regent Directors but not to have Fred's name on the list. Fred, we all thank you sincerely for all you have done and we wish you well in your "retirement" from the IFEA Executive and Board. We also miss you!

The major event for IFEA over the last 12 months was the World Congress in Brisbane, Australia in September 2004 – and what a great Congress it was! Dr Ralph Reid and his committee did a fantastic job of arranging this Congress which had an innovative Scientific Program and a wonderful array of social activities. The venue was ideal and the organisation was superb. The Congress was attended by over 460 people with about half of these being international visitors to Australia. The Pre-Congress meeting in Port Douglas was also a great success and out thanks go

to the Australian Society of Endodontology and the Canadian Academy of Endodontists who arranged this meeting. The Australian Society of Endodontology was a co-organiser of the main World Congress also so many thanks to their Officers for all their help and support. Although the financial figures have not yet been quite finalised, the Congress has produced a profit which will be distributed between IFEA (75%) and the ASE (25%) as per the usual arrangements for a World Congress. These funds are vitally important to IFEA as they provide the backbone money for the day-to-day operations of the Federation and it means we can keep the Annual Dues for membership to a minimum. Thank you to Ralph and all the other people involved in running this Congress.

The IFEA Bureau of Speakers was launched at the AGM in September 2004. This project was commenced by Adam Stabholz and then arranged by Dr Tony Hoskinson during his time as Secretary/Editor of IFEA. Tony has produced a very nice booklet which has been distributed to all member countries of IFEA. The purpose of the Bureau is to provide a list of people who are willing to travel to other countries and present lectures on an honorary basis (but with expenses covered). Members are encouraged to use the Bureau to identify potential speakers so we can all share our knowledge and enthusiasm for endodontics on an international scale.

The next IFEA World Congress will be held in Vancouver, Canada in August 2007. The tireless Dr Fred Weinstein is the General Chair for this meeting and he has a wonderful team of enthusiastic colleagues already working towards making this a big event. This will be the 7th World Congress and I am sure it will follow in the footsteps of our previous congresses with a wide range of scientific presentations and great social events - and all this will be combined with the friendship and hospitality that all Canadians are renowned for, and with the beautiful backdrop of the Vancouver scenery and nearby mountains. I urge you all to mark the dates in your diaries and to start planning your visit now! We are already well into 2005, so August 2007 is not that far away and it will be here before we know it! Contact your travel agent now and make a booking!

IFEA is involved in many other activities each year and we continue to look for new projects. We have again been involved in the teaching program in Fiji and the Annual Research Grants. A new project this year will be a visit to Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea in order to establish an undergraduate endodontic teaching program at the new dental school there. Please let me know if there are other projects that you think IFEA can help with, as we all wish to further our aims as outlined in the By-Laws.

The Executive Officers for 2004-07 were appointed in September 2004 at the AGM in Brisbane. Dr Tony Hoskinson is now the President-Elect after having served the last three years as Secretary/Editor. I would like to thank Tony for all his efforts in his previous role – he is incredibly efficient and organised. The Secretary/Editor role is the most difficult position within the Federation and Tony has been a wonderful servant to us. Dr Joe Maggio has been our Treasurer since 1995 and he has now become the new Secretary/Treasurer. Congratulations, Joe and many thanks for all your hard work as Treasurer. Joe has managed our finances and he has been instrumental in enabling us to stay in a healthy financial position. A new Treasurer

has been appointed, and I am grateful to Dr Jean-Yves Cochet from France for agreeing to take on this role. Welcome aboard the Executive!

It has only been a short time since I took over as President but it has been long enough for me to know how hard our team works. I wish to thank all of my fellow Executive Officers, the Regent Directors, the Country Representatives, the Chairs of our various committees and all members of these committees for all their efforts in helping to keep IFEA alive and functioning. The staff at the AAE office have also been very helpful to Joe and Tony throughout the year and so we thank them sincerely for all their work.

I hope to see you all at our Fellowship Reception during the Dallas AAE meeting in April, as well as at the Annual general meeting in Dallas (details of these meetings can be found elsewhere in the Newsletter). Until then, thank you for your support of IFEA.

With my very best wishes,

Paul Abbott