



International Federation of Endodontic Associations

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Seventh Endodontic World Congress, August 22-27, 2007, Vancouver BC, Canada
Eighth Endodontic World Congress, October 1-4, 2010, Athens, Greece

President's Report - 2006

The past year has again really flown by and it hardly seems 12 months since I wrote my last report and we were all meeting in Dallas for the 2005 Annual General Meeting! Since then, the IFEA Executive has been busy and a number of significant changes have occurred within the Federation. These changes are all part of IFEA's evolution and we believe they will allow a more streamlined administration of Federation activities. Arrangements are also proceeding well for the next IFEA World Endodontic Congress in Vancouver in 2007.

The most significant development has been the development of the IFEA website. This has been a topic for discussion for some years and initial investigations were undertaken by Dr Tony Hoskinson when he was Secretary of IFEA. Our current Secretary, Dr Joe Maggio then took over the task and has worked tirelessly to see it through to fruition. The website went "live" in late 2005 and I encourage representatives of all member societies to go to the website and explore its contents – make www.IFEAendo.org one of your favourite sites now! New material will be added as it is supplied to Dr Maggio and it is essential that all member societies contribute so the website becomes a source of news, information, reports, forthcoming events, etc. A huge "thank you" and "congratulations" must go to both Tony and Joe for all their work in getting the website operational. Please support it now and spread the word amongst your own society members with encouragement for them to visit it. We are also extremely grateful to Sybron Endo for their support with the establishment of the website.

The second major change in IFEA's operations came into effect as of January 1st 2006. This is the first day that IFEA began independently operating its own office and financial affairs. Prior to January 1st, IFEA had contracted many of its administrative functions to the AAE office staff. This had been a mutually satisfactory arrangement for nearly 20 years since IFEA's inception in 1986. However, over the last few years, the IFEA Executive had felt that this contractual arrangement was no longer required and that the IFEA Executive could handle all administrative matters whilst also saving some valuable funds by not having to pay the AAE for their services. Many of the administrative matters have become much simpler over the last few years with the advent of electronic communication between the IFEA office and member society representatives. Our costs and time commitments have been reduced by using newer communication modes and this will be assisted even further following the introduction of the IFEA website. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the AAE and all their staff members who have helped us over the last 20 years for their very valuable contributions to IFEA's activities.

Along with the other members of the IFEA Executive, I have been participating in discussions with representatives from the European Society of Endodontics (ESE), the Asian Pacific Endodontic Confederation (APEC), the American Association of Endodontists (AAE), the Canadian Academy of Endodontists and the Asociacion Mexicana de Endodoncia (AME). The first meeting was held after the Dallas AAE Annual Session in April 2005 and a second meeting was held during the ESE Congress in Ireland in September 2005. The purpose of these meetings has been to explore the future directions of endodontics on a global scale. Suggestions have been made to try and unify the various major endodontic groups from around the world with some objectives being to:

- advance the standard of endodontics
- conduct a regular "global forum" or scientific conference
- address the worldwide shortage of endodontists willing to work as full-time academics in our dental schools, and
- resolve the critical lack of funds available for research.

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A further meeting will be held during this AAE meeting in Honolulu and I will be seeking the opinions of representatives from our member societies as the IFEA Executive fear a potential conflict occurring between these proposals and the activities of IFEA. The Executive see that IFEA is a worldwide/international organisation with 28 member countries – hence we represent over 17,000 endodontists and dentists from all parts of the world. One of the proposals being discussed is that yet another international organisation be formed to address the objectives mentioned above. Such a new organisation could be seen as a direct competitor to IFEA as many of the objectives will be similar and the membership will come from the same pool of country societies as IFEA's membership. Another alternative is to alter the IFEA By-Laws to incorporate greater representation from the various regions of the world and to address the objectives mentioned above. The latter is our preferred approach at this stage although we have also been trying to outline the difficulties that we foresee in trying to address these issues. IFEA has now had over twenty years of experience in trying to unite national endodontic societies and we believe that our experiences will be invaluable in the further discussions. We will keep you informed of any developments.

I am looking forward to welcoming you all to the 7th Endodontic World Congress in Vancouver, Canada next year. The dates for the Congress are 22nd – 27th August 2007. The Organising Committee, under the chairmanship of Dr Fred Weinstein has been working hard to ensure that this congress will be a great success as well as a most enjoyable time for all participants. Venues have been booked, hotel rooms reserved and the Keynote Speakers have been arranged. The Scientific Committee is being jointly chaired by Dr's Cal Torneck and Marshall Peikoff. They are now working on securing all the Country Representative Speakers, and they will soon be calling for submissions for Free Papers, Research Presentations and Posters. August 2007 is only 18 months away so it is imperative that you start planning your trip to Vancouver soon. Vancouver and its surrounds, plus all of Canada, offers many wonderful touring and holiday destinations. This will be the perfect opportunity for you and your families to visit this great country. Please mark the dates in your diaries now and start planning! Our thanks to all of our Canadian colleagues who are members of the various committees for this Congress – we know it will be a great meeting!

Finally, I wish to record my sincere thanks to all members of the IFEA Executive with whom I work closely on all matters. We have a great and very cohesive team with Tony Hoskinson as President-Elect, Joe Maggio as Secretary, Jean-Yves Cochet as Treasurer and Adam Stabholz as Immediate Past President. The real workhorse of IFEA Executives in the past has been the Secretary and this year has been no exception – I would like to single out Joe Maggio for a special mention and a special thank you from all the other members of Executive for all the great work he does for IFEA. Joe, without you, IFEA would not be in such a strong and organised position. I would also like to thank the Regent Directors who are always there when we need to seek advice and ideas from a broader perspective. Thank you also to the Country Representatives from each of our member societies – your role is extremely important as you are the link back to our members. Please continue to communicate with both us and your own national society/association.

One of IFEA's objectives, as listed in our By-Laws, is to "*cultivate and foster international professional endodontic relationships*". I believe we do achieve this as a Federation but it is probably more noticeable on an individual basis. The annual meetings and our Congresses bring people together so friendships can be made and maintained. I have certainly made many, many friends by being involved with IFEA over the last 14 years. I have appreciated the opportunities to meet many new friends and to travel to many new places. Since becoming President, I have travelled to Fiji, Iran, the USA, Colombia, Papua New Guinea, South Africa, United Arab Emirates and Pakistan. These visits have provided opportunities to talk to member countries about IFEA activities and to promote IFEA to those countries that are not yet members. Hopefully, we will soon see some new countries joining the IFEA family!

In conclusion, the past year has been busy but enjoyable. Thank you to all our members for their continuing support and a special thank you to the individuals who keep IFEA functioning so well. I look forward to seeing you all next year in Vancouver!

My very best wishes to you all,

Paul

Prof. Paul V. Abbott
President, IFEA