Dear Fellow Sydney

The motto of the International College of Dentists is “Recognizing Service and the Opportunity to Serve.” We should modify that to also read, “Recognizing Leadership and Giving the Opportunity to Serve”. Why do I say that?

I remember vividly many years ago when a young man from Georgia was inducted, and he was so proud that he immediately called his grandmother who broke down in
tears on the honor her grandson had been given. This young man was a leader in the Georgia Dental Association, yet we let him “get away” from being a leader in the International College of Dentists. He later became the mayor of a very progressive Georgia town.

A problem we have is finding enough areas of involvement for Fellows who are anxious to get involved and make their Fellowship more meaningful. We must give them this opportunity as soon as possible after their induction before the glow of the moment wears off. They often ask, “what can I do”, and we need to have an answer for them. I challenge our leadership throughout the world to find areas for Fellows to get involved, and I challenge all Fellows to look for areas where they can contribute to the mission and objectives of the International College of Dentists.

A good place to start is Project 55. This project was developed by former President Dr. Charles Siroky, who recently passed away. He cataloged the five best projects that were done over the last five years from Sections all over the world.

I urge every Section to look at this summary, and perhaps this will be a guide to what you can do in your Section. There are many areas out there in addition to our many humanitarian projects, such as participating in Peace Corps exams, student and faculty awards, white coat ceremonies, continuing education, mentoring and the list goes on and on. We are all a part of what is going on around the world, and each Section is proud of what they are accomplishing, It will be a compliment to them to share their ideas with others.

Another source of ideas can be found by reading The Globe from cover to cover as there is a wealth of ideas and information there.

Let’s all do what we can to give every Fellow the opportunity to serve, thereby giving true meaning to our motto, “Recognizing Service and the Opportunity to Serve.”

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President
International College of Dentists