

Media Resource Document

The International College of Dentists

www.icd.org

Who are we?

The International College of Dentists (ICD) is a world-wide honorary dental organization established in 1927 with over 11,000 active members (designated as *Fellows*). Fellowship in the College is by invitation only and is granted in recognition of an individual dentist's "outstanding professional achievement, meritorious service and dedication to the continued progress of dentistry for the benefit of humankind",

Prior to being recognized as a *Fellow* of the ICD, the candidate's qualifications and achievements are evaluated by a series of credential committees in order to insure that he or she is deserving of this honour and will live up to the ICD motto of "Recognizing Service and the Opportunity to Serve". Once inducted, a Fellow **in good standing** is authorized to use the post-nominals "FICD" after his or her name.

What do we do?

A summary of ICD Core Objectives:

To build fraternity – by encouraging professional friendship and collegiality among member dentists worldwide, and by inviting into fellowship other dentists who demonstrate excellence in their profession.

To advance the art and science of dentistry - by sharing the outcome of ground-breaking research: by discussing and/or demonstrating new techniques at professional meetings; by providing lecturers to dental schools and other Sections; and by supporting teacher and student exchange programmes. For instance, the ICD is exploring online dental education in cooperation with King's College, London, which has recently established the International Virtual Dental School (IVIDENT).

To promote and facilitate humanitarian projects throughout the world - ICD fellows have come to the aid to victims in areas of natural disasters, from hurricane Katrina in New Orleans to the Nargis cyclone in Myanmar. Likewise, they have offered desperately

needed dental care in South America and Eastern Europe, as well as set up free dental clinics in Nepal and Portugal. One can view a full listing of ICD humanitarian endeavours at www.icd.org.

History of the ICD

Tokyo 1920:

The idea for the International College of Dentists was conceived in Tokyo in 1920, at a farewell party for Dr. Louis Ottofy, a Hungarian dentist living and educated in the USA. When he was returning to the United States after practising dentistry in the Philippines and Japan for 23 years, a Japanese colleague, Dr. Tsurukichi Okumura, urged Dr. Ottofy to form an international organization of outstanding dentists to create and maintain professional collegiality and friendships, to monitor and evaluate the progress of dentistry internationally and to disseminate such information to dental colleagues all countries of the world.

Philadelphia 1926:

Six years later in Philadelphia, USA, a group of dentists met again to discuss the concept of the ICD. Then on New Year's Eve, 1927, the College was established with Drs. Ottofy and Okumura as the Co-Founders.

The first Board of Governors came from Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Cuba, England, France, Germany, Japan, India, Italy, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Uruguay and the USA. Originally, 250 dentists from 162 countries accepted the Fellowship oath. Each Fellow was given the task of nominating other dentists for membership based on the following instructions:

"Please nominate the ablest, most progressive, best educated, ethical practitioner in your country, regardless of his place of domicile, nationality, race, color or religion."

Today: Fourteen autonomous Sections and an International Section have been established around the globe representing over 11,000 Fellows in one hundred countries. (See footnote).ⁱ

Communications

Most autonomous Sections publish their own annual publications and several also maintain websites.

The ICD publishes an annual journal, *The Globe*, and a quarterly newsletter,

The College Today, that are distributed to all Fellows of the College worldwide and are available at <http://www.icd.org>

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SECTIONS OF THE COLLEGE (2009)

Section I:	United States of America (1934)
Section II:	Canada (1948)
Section III:	Mexico (1950)
Section IV:	South America (1981)
Section V:	Europe, Israel (1955)
Section VI:	India, Sri Lanka (1964)
Section VII:	Japan (1958)
Section VIII:	Australasian, New Zealand, Fiji Islands (1964)
Section IX:	Philippine Islands (1966)
Section X:	Middle East - Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen (1967)
Section XI:	Korea (1985)
Section XII:	Chinese Taipei (1994)
Section XIII:	China (2009)
Section XIV:	Myanmar (2009)
Section XX:	International Section - Thirteen Regions

This International **Section** of the College has no special geographical boundaries and provides a Section for Fellows living outside an official autonomous Section.

Tag Press Release

As a convenience to reporters to briefly introduce the ICD

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