



INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF DENTISTS

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ICD World Headquarters: G3535 Beecher Road, Suite G, Flint, Michigan, USA 48532-2700

Phone: 810-820-3087 Fax: 810-265-7047 Web: www.icd.org Email: office@icd.org



**2016 ICD President Phillip
Dowell and his wife
Dr. Sheila Dowell**

President Dowell Reflects on Year of Internationalism

In coming to the end of my term of office as ICD International President, I would like to share with you my reflections on what has been a most wonderful year. Wonderful in the sense that I enjoy travelling, seeing new places and meeting new people, but wonderful, also, in the warmth and generosity of spirit that Sheila and I have received from all the people we've met during our visits.

The esprit de corps engendered within the College exemplifies the collegiality experienced by all those Fellows who embrace the College and attend its meetings. Indeed, I would urge you all to experience this for yourselves by visiting other Sections and discovering the joy and friendship that it brings.

The theme of my presidential year has been Internationalism, defined as the principle of cooperation among nations for the promotion of their common good. I believe this to be an imperative in applying this to the Sections of our College.

In travelling around the world, I have seen Sections that employ best practices in their organization, and of course, it is important to share these practices, which I have attempted to do! I have also, however, visited Sections who desperately need to

embrace changes to improve growth and development as well as retention of existing Fellows. One of the main issues is that Sections need to take a closer look at their structure. Are there enough districts run by active regents? Are the districts geographically spread to cover all parts of the Section? And are deputy regents appointed to be the drivers of new Fellow recruitment?

It is often said that we do not want to dilute the honor of Fellowship by recruiting too many new Fellows. Nevertheless, in my travels I have been honored to meet new Fellows of outstanding quality. In Alexandria I even inducted the Foreign Minister of Sudan, previously the Dean of the Dental School in Khartoum, and I would say that it is occasionally somewhat embarrassing to induct a new Fellow who should have been given this honor years previously.

This year, I have been fortunate to grant charters to two new Regions of Section XX, one in Cape Town, South Africa and the other in Alexandria, Egypt. It was a great pleasure to install the Dean of the Dental School at the University of the Western Cape, Prof. Yusuf Osman, as Regent, and Prof. Abdelhakim as the Regent for Egypt and Sudan. I am confident these new Regions will thrive in the future and achieve significant growth.

The meeting in Kuala Lumpur was historic in that there were well over 100 inductees, including the Minister of Health, and a large and vibrant lecture program and trade show.

It was also groundbreaking this year to go to the International Congress of Oral Implantology (ICOI) meeting in Miami, Florida with Drs. Hinterman and Sydney. We were there to receive a cheque for \$100,000 US with a further pledge of \$100,000 US towards our Global Visionary Fund (GVF), donated by ICOI on behalf of Dr. Carl Misch and known as the Misch Legacy Endowment. It is hoped to achieve a total of one million dollars and celebrate the work of Dr. Misch in bringing Implantology into the domain of general dental practice.

For me personally, my Atlantic Crossing Initiative, raising \$7,500 US for the GVF, was a highlight. There was extensive Facebook coverage with the ability to track our progress, and I sincerely hope that my concept of *Fellow Inspires Fellow* gains ground and is taken up by many other Fellows to help our Fund become sustainable.

On the educational front, the ICD continues to be involved on the international stage, most recently by sponsoring a speaker from the USA, Prof. Eve Cuny, who through the auspices of OSAP (Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention), delivered sessions on dental safety and antibiotic stewardship. This 2-day event was hosted by ICD Vietnam, had over 500 delegates and took place in Ho Chi Min City. Earlier in the year, the College helped organize educational events in both China and India.

From the humanitarian viewpoint, the College has been very active, not only with its own Fellows carrying out missions in underserved communities, but also by giving material grants through its Henry Schein Cares program with the GVF. As chair of the GVF, I receive many grant applications, only some of which become eligible since our Fund is not yet financially sustainable.

This year has seen our College reach out to other organizations for collaborative purposes. These include the Alliance for Oral Health Across Borders (AOHAB) and importantly Dr. Sydney's visit and discussions with FDI in Poland.

I have been fortunate to work with an engaged and hardworking executive, as well as devoted and diligent College Office staff.

I leave the presidency with high aspirations for a bright future and wish my successor, Dr. Rajesh Chandna, all the very best for his term of office.

Finally, on a poetic note from the poem "The Way To Be Happy" written in the 1800's by Anne and Jane Taylor:

*"How pleasant it is, at the end of the day,
No follies to have to repent;
But reflect on the past, and be able to say,
That my time has been properly spent."*

In fellowship,

Prof. Phillip Dowell
2016 College President