2012 a Year of New Growth… New Initiatives

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Secretary General

The past year was pivotal for the International College of Dentists. It was a very busy year, full of new initiatives and growth. We experienced exceptional growth in International Section XX, with new Fellows and new leadership in several ICD Regions. The past year called for extensive travel on my part and ended with the total reorganization and relocation of the Council Office to the State of Michigan, where I reside. We are now well-positioned for continued success.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

In 2012, historic new beginnings occurred for the ICD both in Africa and Viet Nam, when I presided over inaugural Initiation Ceremonies and the granting of ICD Charters in those Regions. Now one year later, that initial enthusiasm for ICD continues for 2013 with both Regions planning to welcome another class of new Fellows into the College. Councilor Gbemisola Agbelusi has organized an Initiation Ceremony in 2013 for 25 new Fellows, at which I expect to preside in Lagos, Nigeria. Meanwhile, on April 7th in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, newly appointed ICD Councilor Kim Chuan How (Malaysia) and the officers of ICD Viet Nam welcomed 34 new Fellows into the ICD worldwide community of dentists. With now more than 100 Fellows in Viet Nam, the new growth being sustained in the Regions is a promising sign of good things to come.
COUNCIL OFFICE TRANSITION

The planning and relocating of the Office of the International Council, ICD’s governing body, from Rockville, Maryland, to Flint, Michigan, USA, is now complete. Conducting College business as usual, without interruption, was the first priority during the hectic past year. Accomplishing the task without major financial impact to the College was also accomplished. The new Council Office opened on schedule December 1st in Flint, Michigan. The positions of Secretary General and Executive Assistant are now reunited under one roof, and administrative effectiveness has greatly increased.

CHELSEA L. WHITE: EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

The daily operations of the new Office of the International Council in Flint, Michigan, USA, will be the responsibility of Chelsea L. White, whose title will be Executive Assistant to the Secretary General. Ms. White’s educational background and work experience is in communications. She achieved an outstanding academic record, graduating from Central Michigan University in Journalism and Media Design, and has additional experience in Information Technology. She has made an immediate impact on ICD communications assisting Director of Communications Dov Sydney, and is off to a great start learning the association management skills needed to deal with the business of the ICD worldwide. Chelsea has recently been appointed Administrator of the new ICD worldwide Data Base Management System and will assist ICD Sections with the integration of their records.

CONNECTING THE COLLEGE ELECTRONICALLY

For many years the ICD College At Large has sought to improve communications with all ICD Fellows around the world. A goal of connecting all Fellows by means of a unified Database Management System (DBMS) was set by the International Council in 2012, during its annual meeting in San Francisco. The ICD has adopted the QuickBase DBMS (Intuit Corp.) and once development is
complete and tested, it data from one ICD Section at a time will be imported. Imagine the complexity of bringing together the demographically diverse global membership of ICD Fellows into a single association management system. Differences in languages, customs, and currencies can be overcome using modern database technology. The new ICD system will produce accurate and updated membership records for improved communications and record keeping. It will allow online payment of dues by Fellows. There will be a worldwide directory of ICD Fellows. Presently it is being used by the Council Office for the administration of membership records of Section XX: Regions.

ICD WORLDWIDE CHARITABLE FUND
During the 2012 Annual Meeting in San Francisco, the International Council agreed to develop a charitable fund (United States Government IRS 501 C 3 tax sheltered organization). Its purpose is to collect monies that will be used for humanitarian dental care programs and initiatives in dental education in a manner that would provide tax advantages to the donors. The International Council wants to do more to support the projects of the Sections and Regions around the world. Seeking donations from the public and the profession worldwide can be part of the solution. This fund has been named The ICD Global Visionary Fund. Documents of incorporation have been filed. This will be a closely held fund directed by members of the International Council. We hope ICD Fellows around the world will notice it in our communications. We hope that dentists and non-dentists around the world will become a “member” of the ICD Global Visionary Fund by making a donation. We need Fellows to refer to us sources of potential donations from the public and corporate sectors who might like to support the ICD’s humanitarian mission.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS: Expands Our Reach
This is a new ICD staff position and has quickly expanded the communications from the International Council. This position, and the management of its duties, is something required of all successful organizations today. We are delighted that ICD Editor Dov Sydney will take on this additional responsibility of providing up-to-date communication leadership and products. Excellence in this area is critical to the future success of the ICD, and we are fortunate to have found the right person. Dr. Sydney has developed several new communications tools to get the ICD’s messages out, one of which is the technologically-advanced online newsletter, The College Today, which you are now reading.
ICD CONTINUING DENTAL EDUCATION

Today, circumstances throughout the world indicate that there is a need for the International Council to play an active role in Continuing Dental Education (CDE). ICD Regions have expressed the need for our assistance in educational programming. Initiation (Induction) Ceremonies are often conducted with a CDE program as a part of the overall event. In response, the International Council decided during its recent meeting in San Francisco to establish an Office of Continuing Dental Education Programs, for the purpose of planning and delivering educational programs of both a nonprofit and for profit nature. Already in April 2013, we have supported the educational programing of ICD Viet Nam by providing speakers at their Dental School’s Faculty Workshop and at their CDE Seminar for dentists. In other initiatives, we are seeking collaborations with other groups regarding joint programs. Further, we are researching the suitability of seeking “Recognized Provider” status within the CDE credit verification system of the USA, the ADA/CERP Program.

A Sense of Team

Those of us on the Executive Committee and in the Council Office have now concluded two hectic years of change, as the International Council continues to find its way forward through the establishment of an independently administered Council Office. Each person brought unique talents, which has resulted in a well-balanced team. I could write volumes commending each individual who has been involved, but will summarize by saying that these were remarkable and rewarding times because each of us contributed a necessary ingredient and shared a great sense of team.