



December 2014

Dear Academy Life Fellows, Active Fellows and Associate Fellows:

As 2014 draws to a close I send you my very best wishes for the imminent holiday season and for a 2015 filled with contentment and good health. It is a singular privilege to be the President of our Academy and I have enjoyed the past few months since Past-President Hans-Peter Weber placed our Academy's medallion around my neck in Bern. Since then, our Academy has been vibrant with activity and I continue to be amazed and inspired by the energy that our Academy Fellows put forth to push prosthodontics forward.

In lieu of an online newsletter, I thought I would provide this synopsis of some of the things that have been happening since Bern as well as some of the things to anticipate to between now and Austin. I look back on the decision to go online with our newsletter with mixed emotions. It is clearly the avant garde approach and certainly less costly than the nicely printed newsletters of the past - yet, I am not sure that the online version has been read as much as the printed/mailed versions. So for old time's sake, here is a hybrid communication that has no frills, in that it is printed at Kinko's on regular printer paper, and which is mailed so you have something to flip through and read at your leisure. Rest assured, this missive is also available on our web site.

So what has been happening? The answer is "lots of things".

1. **November EC meeting:** All of the EC was present in Chicago on November 22 for a very productive meeting. I was delighted that three Active Fellows were able to accept my invitation to all AP Fellows to attend the EC meeting. Fellow Lisa Lang, Fellow Kent Knoernschild and Fellow Clark Stanford graced the EC with their presence and I would like to thank them for being with us and sharing in the experience. This is the first time in my 9 years on the EC that any non-EC member has chosen to attend and I feel like it is an excellent marker of the EC's commitment to an open and transparent environment and one where we wish all Fellows to feel welcome to witness our Academy's governance.

The invitation will be extended again for EC meetings in Austin - I hope you will consider attending.

2. **GPT 9th edition:** Fellow Keith Ferro, the GPT committee and numerous Academy Fellows have shown great commitment to completing the 9th edition of the Glossary. The goal is to have the 9th edition ready for a preview in Austin.

S-T James Taylor, Fellow Keith Ferro and Fellow Roman Cibirka have represented our Academy in very fruitful and collaborative discussions with the Editorial Council of the Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry, specifically with Fellow Baldwin Marchack and Fellow Arun Sharma. The result is the Editorial Council's generous commitment to supporting the development of an App for the GPT to enhance its use and, by extension, its global relevance. I am grateful to Baldwin and Arun for their very positive approach and collegiality during all of our conversations. It has been a pleasure to work together.

3. **What does it cost to be an Academy Fellow?** Although our Academy provides many good things that enhance us, I realize there is a direct cost to being a Fellow. All of us have choices how we spend our discretionary resources and it behooves our Academy to ensure that it provides good value to its Fellows. To gather some relevant data on direct costs, I asked Fellow Jamie Kaukinen to prepare a comparison of the cost of being an Academy Fellow with membership or Fellowship in other professional organizations. Jamie has graciously agreed to present the outcome of his investigation to the Fellowship in Austin.

4. **Annual meeting in Austin** (April 28-May 2, 2015):

Scientific Program: The 2015 Program Chair, Vice-President Dave Brown has been working very hard to put together a unique program that has something for everyone. State of the art clinical therapy and the future of prosthodontic education are two of the meeting's themes. Dave has assembled a set of superb speakers that will make a lasting impression in how we treat patients and how we educate our students.

Our program is being designed to have a few presentations that are of general interest for our spouses and significant others to also attend. Whether money can buy happiness, a review of the latest in healthcare communication relative to privacy issues, and an update in esthetic dermatology are examples of these types of presentations.

Evidence-based dentistry workshop: Fellow Gary Goldstein will be leading an Evidence-Based Dentistry workshop for prosthodontic residency faculty. The program will provide faculty with "in the trenches" information on how to oversee and mentor graduate student research. This program will be open to all programs in North America and a needs assessment survey was conducted earlier this year which showed a sufficient level of interest from prosthodontic programs to hold the session. Each program is eligible to send one faculty representative to the workshop. Non-Fellows who come to our meeting in order to attend this workshop will be supported by Straumann in the form of a travel grant and the Academy will offer reduced guest registration rate.

Future of the Academy discussion: The first business meeting format is to be different this year. We will have Fellowship discussion as the first item and we will share financial statements for your full review before the second business meeting. However, we will defer all other business typically held at the first business meeting to the second business meeting so we can engage in a discussion of the future of our Academy.

Specifically, Life Fellow Jerry Graser and Fellow Jon Wiens will lead us through a review of the elements of our Academy's strategic plan in order for the Fellowship to debate the merits of the current plan, offer and vote on which elements of the plan should be our Academy's priority as we prepare for our second century, and finally to outline specific activities that will help us follow our strategic plan. It will be an important session and your voice will be very important to hear.

Other fun activities in Austin: The Presidential suite will be open for late evening drinks and munchies in Austin starting on the evening of Wednesday April 29 through the evening of Friday May 1. It gives me great pleasure to invite everyone and rekindle this Academy tradition.

Fellow Carlo Ercoli has already contacted you about the car racing experience on Sunday May 3. The response has been great and Carlo is manifesting all the attributes of an excited Italian every time I see him or communicate with him in this regard. Fellow Ben Wu is organizing a golf outing for April 28 (the day of the Welcome Dinner) and Fellow Tom McGarry and Associate Fellow Don Curtis are organizing a bike ride for the afternoon of Thursday April 30. I want to thank Carlo, Ben, Tom and Don for their extra effort to make our Austin experience even more special.

The importance of bringing a guest to Austin: Corporate sponsorship monies are less available than in past years and this trend is likely to continue as consolidation in the dental industry reduces the number of corporations to approach. Furthermore, companies are more carefully assessing their return on investment for the sponsorship monies they donate and the onus is on each organization to make a compelling case for sponsorship.

Given the many professional organizations approaching companies for sponsorship, we can position ourselves intelligently if we are pro-active rather than reactive. Clearly, we must prove to companies that we matter and that association with our Academy matters. However, if we are too financially dependent on corporate sponsorship for our meeting to take place, we are on an unsustainable path.

We are obligated to be pro-active in offsetting a tighter sponsorship market by being very active and inviting guests to our meeting. The guest registration fee of \$695 is in line with fees of other organizations. For a little perspective, a Gold level sponsor at our meeting is set at the \$10,000 level. So, 14 guests approximates one gold sponsor and would make a real difference to our financial stability.

Therefore, I ask each of you to take on the responsibility to bring at least one guest to Austin. Not only will it help us with guest registration fees it will also ensure that we meet our room block with ease. I know it may not be the most fun thing to do to encourage a guest to attend, but we need to do this for the health of our organization.

7. **Conference calls with the AP Fellowship:** I enjoyed two different conference calls with the AP Fellowship earlier this summer. Fellow Jim DeBoer, Ken Malament, Mijin Choi, Peter Stevenson-Moore, Larry Green, Geoff Thompson, Jeff Rubenstein and Steve Wagner attended one of the two calls. We discussed our Academy and brainstormed on what our Academy might do. It was fun to connect and important to do so, in my opinion. Please watch for an upcoming email with times for another round of calls in the new year.

8. **AP Mentoring Discussion Board:** As a result of brainstorming from one of the AP Fellowship conference calls, Associate Fellow Steve Wagner is leading a newly appointed task force on how to use a web-based discussion board to facilitate mentoring among and by Academy Fellows. I am grateful to Steve for leading this initiative and I am looking forward to his presentation in Austin where he will describe the program and present the results of the first pilot discussion board activities.

9. **Revised ByLaws are now posted on our web site:** Past President Ed Plekavich and Fellow Mijin Choi have revised and reformatted our ByLaws to reflect the changes voted on by the Fellowship in Bern. Not only are the ByLaws now up to date, they look great and are easy to read. Please visit our web site if you would like to take a gander at them.

10. **Centennial preparations:** The much appreciated work of an ad hoc committee led by Past Presidents Jon Wiens and Gary Goldstein resulted in an excellent list of possible activities and programs to celebrate our centennial in 2018. With the sunset of the ad hoc committee, now comes the work to carefully prepare for our centennial with a first step being prioritizing and choosing what activities to undertake and subsequent steps being making these choices turn into reality. We have three years to get ready and the time will fly by. Therefore, I am pleased that Fellow Carlo Ercoli has accepted an invitation to Chair an ad hoc Centennial Preparation task force that will collaborate closely with the EC and with the Fellowship. If Carlo reaches out to you for assistance, thank you in advance for answering his call.

11. **Meeting fee for Life Fellows:** Past President Plekavich conducted a survey of Life Fellows recently asking for input on the merits and benefits of a meeting fee for Life Fellows who attend our annual meeting. The overall sentiment expressed by the Life Fellows was that they would be willing to

pay a meeting fee if it would help to offset costs of their attendance. The EC deliberated and is very respectful of the fact that the Life Fellows have made, and continue to make, a substantial contribution to our Academy. We believe that although their generosity of spirit to support a meeting fee is another example of their selflessness, we do not want to have a meeting fee for Life Fellows. We did receive input that some Life Fellows really believe that they should contribute something and so we ask these Life Fellows to contemplate a donation to the Academy of Prosthodontics Foundation in lieu of a meeting fee. The Foundation supports our Academy in some of our key programs and contributing to the Foundation is a meaningful way to support our Academy.

12. **Future Leaders in Prosthodontics (FLiP) 2 workshop:** A successful FLiP2 workshop was held from October 25-27, 2014 at Mayo Clinic. The workshop was designed to build upon the introductory material presented at FLiP1. Twenty one participants, many of whom are Academy Associate Fellows or Fellows, were exposed to material on mental resilience, negotiation strategy, inclusivity/diversity, fund raising, vision/strategy and budgets. The post-workshop reflections of the participants indicates a high level of satisfaction. Neal Garrett and I, as co-directors of the FLiP workshops, are grateful to the Academy of Prosthodontics Foundation for partial support of the workshop as well as to Mayo Clinic's department of Dental Specialties and the William R. Laney Endowment for Prosthodontic Education who were also key co-sponsors of the workshop.

13. **Please use the AP GoToMeeting account for your professional business needs:** RES, at the request of the EC, set up an Academy GoToMeeting account for web/phone conference calls for the EC. I used the same account for the conference calls I had with the Fellowship this past summer. Keith Ferro and the GPT committee are also using this medium for some of their committee interactions. As we ponder how our Academy can provide value to our Fellowship, the EC would like to invite any Fellow to use this account for Academy business (committee calls, task force calls, discussion board activity, etc) as well for any professional business that you might have even if it is not Academy related.

Web site: <http://www.gotomeeting.com/online/>  
ID: [skoka66@gmail.com](mailto:skoka66@gmail.com)  
PW: Academy66

The process is really quite easy once you have done it a couple of times and there are good tutorials on the GoToMeeting web site to show you how it works. The EC is confident that Fellows will use the account for appropriately professional matters, hopes that this can be of service to you in your careers, and provide additional value to being a Fellow of our Academy.

Summary

In closing, thank you for your support and trust and I cannot wait to welcome you in Austin. I wish you all a wonderful Holiday season and send my very best wishes for the New Year.

Cheers,

