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# AP NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the Academy of Prosthodontics

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Volume 85, Number 1

Winter 2003

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## PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE: FOCUS ON THE FUTURE



*President Rogoff, at home by the fireside, displays a prized possession: his authentic handmade replica of the Paul Revere lantern.*

*The original is one of the two lanterns hung in the Old North Church to signal that the British were coming by sea. The replica was commissioned by the U.S. Congress as part of the Bicentennial Celebration.*

“...Hang a lantern aloft in the belfry arch  
Of the North Church tower as a signal light,—  
One if by land, and two if by sea;  
And I on the opposite shore will be,  
Ready to ride...”

*(Paul Revere's Ride, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 1860)*

And ready to ride we are! With the heartiest of New Year's greetings from Boston, I would like to extend best wishes to all the Academy family from Sue and myself and everyone

here in “The Hub”, and from all those Academy Fellows throughout our great country who have been hard at work preparing for our 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Program.

As I look forward to our programs and activities for the year 2003, I find that I can't help but reflect on the history, accomplishments, and individuals, all of which have contributed to the past success of our organization. Those who have come before us in this academy have often provided the stimulus for our further professional development and personal enrichment. This has certainly been true for me.

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# Perspectives from the Editor

by Steven Eckert

## Letter Day Troglodytes

I attended a local dental society meeting recently. Standing in my normal spot next to the ferns, enjoying a pre-dinner Merlot, I noticed Hank coming my way. Hank is one of those dentists that we all know. He has opinions on everything; even things that he knows nothing about, and he has never listened to a discussion of any topic that ever made him change his mind.

odyssey movies. As he approached I heard him say “Hey Yeckert, you shtill ushin’ thoshe old implanshts?”

I tried the best diversionary tactics I know and asked “Hank, how you been? Get any deer this year? How’s the family? Office still as busy as always?” Figuring that the best defense is a good offense it was worth a try but he was having none of it.

“Cut the crappola will ya? I need to know if you shtill ushin’ them old implanshts. You know, the onesh that keep looshenin’ every few weekshs.”

“You know Hank, we use two different types of implants. One is a one stage and the other is a two stage, they have different surface topography and different design characteristics and neither of them seems to have much of a problem with loosening.”

Totally unfazed by my comments, Hank persisted “Look Yeckert I know that them implanshts you ushe are nothin’ but junk, I’m wonderin’ why you shtill ushe them? I been to one a them meetingsh where shome guy shaid that there’sh a new implant that never failsh and never looshes bone. What you think a’ that?”

“Hank, I think I know the person that you are talking about and he is a friend of mine. We discuss stuff that we do and neither one of us is all that concerned that the other one uses something different. I can assure you that we are both getting fine results, in fact, I don’t

think that there is any evidence that there is a statistically significant difference between what he uses and what we are using. I think that...”

“Yeckert, this is the shame ole’ shtuff you been shpoutin’ for yearsh, what are you shome short o’ cave dweller? Why I got me shome o’ thoshe new implanshts and put ‘em in myshelf, they was eashy to ushe and every one of them ish workin’ real good.” Just about this time Hank turned and shouted, “Shweetie, you she the bottom a’ my

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Arthur Conan Doyle said you can twist facts to suit theories or you can develop a theory to suit the facts

It was fairly obvious that my normal tactic of hiding in the corner wasn’t working because Hank was storming my way. As he approached I could sense an ethanol cloud encompassing him like a force field in those space

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# Secretary-Treasurer Notes

By Jonathan Wiens

**G**reetings and Happy New Year! Plans are well under way for the Boston Meeting that is scheduled for May 1-5, 2003 (Thursday thru Monday). Local Arrangements Chairs Ted and Marguerite Riley, have organized exciting outings for all including touring historic Boston along the Freedom Trail, cruising the harbor and the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Library and Museum (no long bus rides have been guaranteed). A limited number of tickets will be available for the Boston Pops opening night (May 6, 2003) for those who wish to stay one additional day. Scientific Program Chair Cliff VanBlarcom has organized an exciting meeting. A preliminary meeting announcement will be mailed shortly that you may use to promote guest attendance. Detailed information regarding the meeting will be outlined in February. You may see the latest updates for planned events by visiting the Academy's website: [www.academyprosthodontics.org](http://www.academyprosthodontics.org)

It is that time of year when dues statements are mailed and by now everyone should have received their statement; payment is due by **February 1, 2003**. The dues include the subscription fee for the Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry. Prompt payment will greatly facilitate the Academy's ability to function smoothly. Please keep the green statement for your records and return the **white** copy.

Attempts have been made to maintain accurate membership records. However, in today's world change seems to one variable that remains

constant. You can help by also remembering to return your **blue** membership data form and noting any changes or corrections or confirming that the data we have on file is correct. The Recording Secretary is in the process of updating the black AP Roster and will explore making CD versions of the Roster. A professional photographer will be available in Boston to take photographs of the members and their spouses at the Installation Banquet.

The Executive Council met on November 17 in Chicago. The essence of the Executive Council's deliberation and committee reports follows. President Rogoff began the interim meeting by reviewing the committee appointments and outlining his goals for the Academy. The President spoke about the rich heritage and strengths of the Academy. Corporate liaison activities and commitments are way ahead of prior years. The local dental schools will be supporting the 2003 Program in Boston by encouraging attendance. He raised the importance of considering a new strategic plan for the Academy.

The Treasurer's Report outlined the cash flow, expenditures, and balances reflecting the Portland meeting as well as income and expenses for the upcoming Boston meeting. The Academy's net asset value has grown this past year, which has allowed a doubling of the reserve fund account. This increase is a direct result of careful planning by the Executive Council, control of expenditures and hotel negotiations by the Secretary-

Treasurer, support from the AP Foundation, as well as the remarkable efforts of our Corporate Liaison Committee, chaired by Dr. Ted Riley. Meeting expenses remain at twice the administrative expenditure required to operate the Academy. A detailed financial report will be presented at the next Annual Business Meeting.

The Bylaws Committee has made a number of recommendations for changes in the Bylaws. The Corporate Liaison Committee has been made a standing committee. The selection process for examiners of the American Board of Prosthodontics has changed. It is now part of a standing committee of the American College of

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## AP Foundation

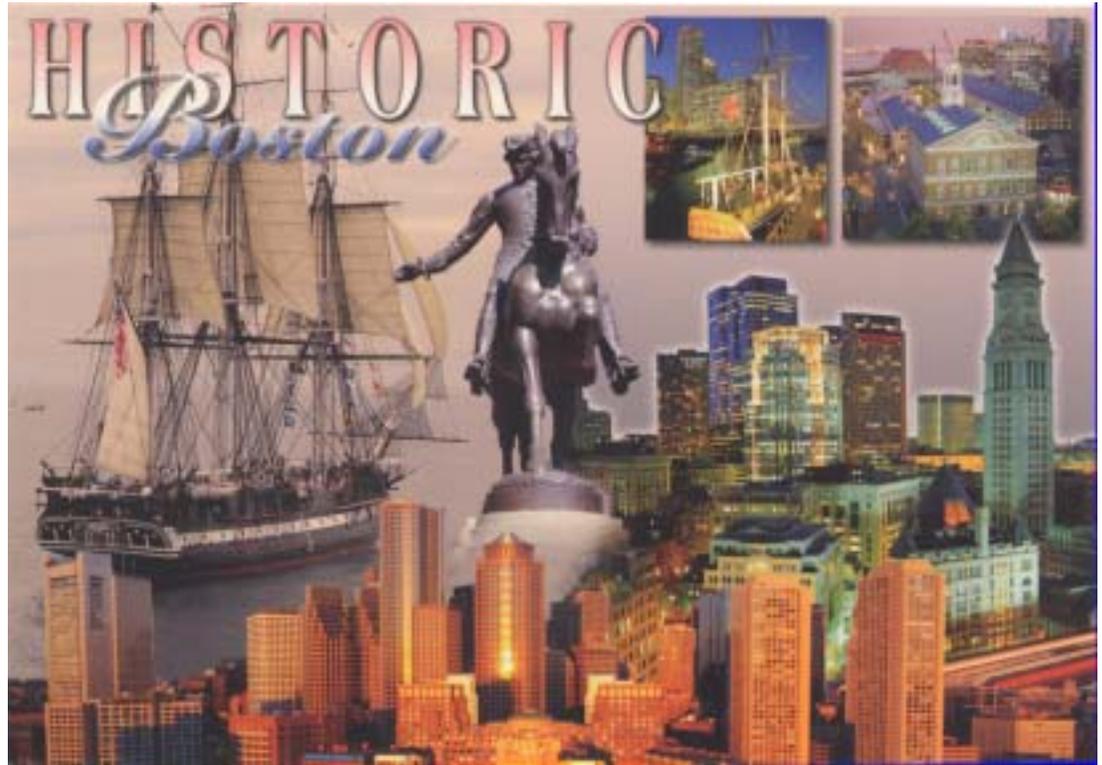
Contributions and  
Memorials should be made  
to the  
**Academy of  
Prosthodontics  
Foundation**  
and sent to:

Dr. John R. Agar  
Secretary/Treasurer  
AP Foundation  
4 Penwood Rd.  
Bloomfield, CT 06200

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Prosthodontists. The ACP Bylaws specify the make-up of this committee and the process of selecting the committee members. As a result, the Academy's Consultation for the American Board of Prosthodontics Committee no longer serves a role in the selection process. As a result, a motion was made to delete the Consultation with the American Board of Prosthodontics from the list of committee's in the Bylaws. These Bylaw changes will be brought to the membership in May 2003.

The Secretary-Treasurer has received four nominations for Associate Fellowship, two for Active Fellowship, one request for Life Fellowship and one request for Honorary Fellowship for 2003. A summary of the fellowship survey was presented for each of the candidates for associate and active fellowship. The process of evaluating the candidates was discussed. Concern was expressed, as the number of Academy members voting appears to be less than prior years.



After many years of being one of our best editors, Dr. Glen McGivney has retired. Dr. Carol Lefevbre was appointed the new Editor of the Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry. The AP has two positions on the Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry's Editorial Council, which will be filled by Drs. Jane Brewer and Sree Koka. Dr. Jane Brewer will also serve as our Organizational Editor. A motion was made to have the Academy participate in the Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry Website. The Council deliberated on placing the Bylaws, operations manual, and policies on the website as well as meeting registration and credit card payment. The Academy will continue to print two newsletters per year (fall and winter) while the spring Newsletter will be replaced by the meeting registration mailing and annual program.

The Outreach Committee Chair, Dr. Eric Rasmussen, will present a ten-year report at the May 2003 Annual Meeting. The committee completed

three clinics during the summer of 2002 at Juneau, AK; Browning, MT; and Montezuma Creek, UT.

The 2003 Annual Meeting will be May 1-5 at the Boston-Westin Copley Place Hotel. The Academy is responsible for a minimum of 600 room nights for the Boston meeting. It is important that Academy fellows and invited guests reside at the Westin to avoid any attrition penalties. Each member is strongly encouraged to bring at least one guest. It was resolved to direct discussers at the Annual Session to present only the discussion of the paper to the assembly. Any questions will come from the floor



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with the discussor moderating the process. A timer will be available for the speakers and the session chairs to encourage the speakers to stay on time. Discussion ensued regarding the number of activities scheduled during the Annual Meetings. Dr. VanBlarcom will communicate with the Spousal Committee in an attempt to eliminate any scheduling conflicts.



The days of the week for future Annual Meetings and scheduling of events were discussed at length. In accord with directives from previous Annual Business Meetings, the Place of Meeting Committee will attempt to schedule the meeting from Tuesday through Saturday. The meeting should conclude early enough on Saturday to allow departure from the meeting in time to make air travel arrangements.

The 2004 meeting site in Niagara Falls was reviewed. The Hilton Niagara Falls has been booked for Tuesday to Saturday, May 3-8. The minimum room block is 520 and the room rate is \$139.00 CDN. The 2005 meeting site in Scottsdale was reviewed with tentative dates of May 3-7. The Marriott Camelback was supported as the most cost effective and suitable site. The 2006 meeting site in San Francisco and a number of hotel options are being considered. Currently, the dates being quoted are for Tuesday through

Saturday, May 23-27 (Memorial Day falls on May 29). The 2007 meeting site in Charleston has been explored with May 15-19 set as tentative dates. Site visits will be undertaken in the near future to examine each facility.

Dr. Don Kramer has retired after many years safeguarding the AP Foundation's treasury. Dr. John Agar is the new Secretary-Treasurer of the AP Foundation. The

Secretary-Treasurer reported that Mrs. Kit Kratochvil and Mrs. Evelyn Rhoads recently passed away. The Academy Policies state that the Academy will make a donation to the Foundation upon the passing of a member or spouse. A motion was made to make a \$200



donation for any Fellow of the Academy and a \$100 donation to the AP Foundation for any spouse of a fellow of the Academy that passes away.

Lastly, the process to develop a new strategic plan for the Academy was outlined and will include every Academy member. A core group of approximately ten individuals would need to meet this winter to be trained in the process. The 2003 Annual Session would be used to gather the Core Committee a second time in preparation for the strategic planning process at the 2004 meeting.



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glash, time for another round, dontchya think?'

Luckily, as he turned I managed to dash to a safer part of the room but I did remember to never take my eyes off of Hank. I had to jockey around the place for the rest of the night to avoid him. As I was doing so I did give shome, sorry, I meant some, thought to Hank's comments. You see Hank may not be the brightest star in the sky but he does listen to what folks say and he responds to comments by making clinical changes in response to the statements.

From what I know, Hank had never placed or restored an implant in his life until he attended this "course". I figured the speaker at the course was an Academy pal and my response to Hank was a true one, we have had conversations about implants and we both respect the fact that each is achieving pretty good results with what we use. I know that my friend did not beat the pulpit with a condemnation of other designs but I also know that Hank has a way of taking home messages that have not been expressed. Neither my Academy colleague nor I think the other to be behind the times for the choices that we make and yet Hank attended this talk and got an impression that there is now a panacea for a problem that, prior to that time, Hank had never experienced.

It all comes down to how we look at evidence. You probably remember that Arthur Conan Doyle said you can twist facts to suit theories or you can develop a theory to suit the facts. Some believe

that any facts that disprove a theory are surely the result of spurious events and create statistical outliers. These are the same people who talk about lies, damn lies and statistics. They believe that no matter how many outliers are encountered one should never abandon an elegant theory. They continue to believe this even when the theory is proven to be incorrect. Frankly, this may be a common view among our dental colleagues and it is the view that we battle every day.

On the other hand evidence truly shows us that statistics can help in decision-making. I have experienced some complications among the many thousands of implants that I have restored and those complications make me assess the things that I do. Every day I ask myself questions such as: Am I being closed minded by not bringing other implants into the mix? Are there some fundamental problems that could be fixed with something new or are there some easy solutions for difficult problems that I handle through complex solutions?

This all boils down to one larger question, "am I a latter day troglodyte?" Hopefully the answer is "no" but the only way to prove this is by searching for evidence to allow me to reject the label as a regressive thinker and embrace the label of visionary. The little statistical understanding that I have tells me that I would need to do hundreds of restorations with a different design to show a clinically meaningful and statistically significant difference if such a difference exists. And, although some manufacturers would want you to

believe otherwise, the clinically effective solutions that I use are not so complex that anyone has yet to declare me a genius (funny how Susan was all too quick to endorse this statement).

Perhaps the real answer is in peaceful coexistence. There are lots of solutions out there and the reasons that we choose one or another are quite varied. Maybe the issues facing us are less proprietary than manufacturers would have us believe. We do what we do because the fundamental theory behind it is sound while what we use may be less critical. Do you think I should tell this to Hank?

**CALL FOR PAPERS**  
 86th Annual Meeting of the  
 Academy of Prosthodontics  
 2004 Scientific Program  
 Niagara Falls, Canada  
 April 4-8, 2004

The 2004 Scientific Program is now being organized. The following four-day theme is planned.

- I. How to be Creative
- II. The Implant-Crown Interface
- III. Evidence Based Dentistry: **Occlusion**
- IV. New Innovations

Please contact the 2004 Scientific Program Chair Jonathan P. Wiens at [jonatwiens@aol.com](mailto:jonatwiens@aol.com) with suggested speakers or topics of interest.

# Outreach

by Jim Chandler

## WHY OUTREACH? A TEN YEAR RETROSPECTIVE

It is important for all organizations to periodically evaluate the utilization of resources to determine the value of programs and the proper expenditure of available funds. For ten years the Academy of Prosthodontics has included in its mission outreach to Native American patients. At this point, the question could be asked, "Is this outreach program a worthwhile use of Academy personnel and funds?"

The Academy of Prosthodontics from its conception has included an interest in patient care as well as education. In 1993, an Academy team treated patients of the Chickasaw Nation at the Ada Oklahoma Indian Health Center. At that time there was a backlog of two thousand completely edentulous patients, some waiting up to three years for treatment. Since then, Academy teams have gone to Native American sites in Alaska, Montana, Arizona, South Dakota and Utah. The value of these projects is tremendous. There are 1.5 million Native Americans served by only 400 Indian Health Service dentists. To quote Dr. Roger Wayman, Chief of Dental Services in Browning, Montana, "Removable prosthodontic care for these people just does not happen." This group of patients has many obstacles to achieving good dental health. Many of the older Native Americans do not speak English. The Navaho Tribe has a high instance of diabetes and associated periodontal disease. Some of the patients live in such remote areas that they have no access to care due to lack of transportation. In Alaska, for instance, the Tlingit Indians live in fishing villages on islands off the coast, far from Juneau and have to travel by boat or ferry to town for care. Because of this, they generally do not receive routine prosthodontic care. But, with the accelerated treatment provided by outreach groups, they can come to town once, spending days needed for care



with relatives or friends and then leave with completed prosthodontic restorations.

Over the years, the Academy Outreach Program has become increasingly self-sufficient. Dental suppliers such as Brasseler, Patterson and Dentsply have provided tens of thousands of dollars worth of materials over the ten years. Native American organizations value the outreach assistance so much that they now routinely budget funds

to pay the living expenses of the teams. For instance, in 2001, the Southeast Alaska Health Regional Health Consortium paid the entire lodging and rental car expense for the group for the week. Volunteer dental laboratory technicians and prosthodontic graduate students provide dental laboratory services. The graduate students receive valuable experience working closely with experienced Academy members and also

experience the joy of providing valuable services to those who need it most. The only remaining significant expense is airfare for the participants. In many cases, outreach participants pay their own way for most or all of the journey. This expense could be reduced even further by donation of frequent flyer miles by Academy members to the Outreach Program.

In the ten years of the Outreach Program, Academy members have provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in prosthodontic care to this under served population. The Outreach Committee has worked over the years to reduce the amount of Academy funding while increasing the amount of outside contributions. The comments received over the years from members who have participated in the program are convincing that Academy Outreach Programs are a rewarding experience for the participants, the Academy and for patients. The opportunity for service, challenge, camaraderie and learning is an inviting combination that should be continued.

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With respect to these sentiments, I would like to announce that Minnie and Doug Atwood, together with Lee and Al Yurkstas, have accepted the Executive Council's invitation to serve as Honorary Local Arrangements Chairs for this coming year. As my personal experience with The Academy of Prosthodontics is fast approaching thirty years, and as each succeeding Academy year has always proven to be bigger, better, and more rewarding, I am certain that our May, 2003 gathering will continue our great traditions, and exceed everyone's expectations.

I am most pleased to report to you all that our Scientific Program Committee, under the able guidance of Cliff Van Blarcom, has put the finishing touches on an exceptionally exciting and meaningful program, one which will stimulate your professional thought processes and challenge you to expand your scientific knowledge. This outstanding program has all of its bells and whistles securely in place, well in time for us to use it as an effective enticement when inviting guests. I know that we will all be very proud of the program, and I therefore encourage every Fellow to make an extended effort in the coming weeks to actively promote our guest attendance. Let's get the message out!

This year's Local Arrangements Committee, chaired by Ted and Marguerite Riley, has prepared a menu of social events that I am sure you will never forget. For those of you who already know Boston well, the Rileys and their committee will be presenting you with an exciting array of events sure to include wonderful new experiences. For those of you who don't know Boston well, or who have not been here

recently, this will be an experience you will not want to miss – an experience filled with history, culture, science, and good cheer! And, to top everything off, as Chair of our Corporate Liaison Committee, Ted has already earned the respect and support of the longest list of corporate sponsors in the history of our organization!

With all this being said, I would like to change the focus of this Winter Newsletter President's Message towards our future. The Academy's history is well known to us all. Since 1918, our organization and its fellowship have provided unique and meaningful contributions, preeminent scientific programs, countless academic, educational, and clinical innovations, and generous public services which have helped to develop, support, and strengthen the art and science of the discipline and specialty of Prosthodontics. I am certainly not the first President of the Academy however, nor would I expect to be the last, to consider that which many of us know: it is once again time to consider change.

To maintain the preeminence for which the Academy of Prosthodontics is known, we must turn inward, and recognize that some of the roles that we have played in the past, and some of the efforts that we have pursued in the past, may in the future be more appropriately borne by others. We should recognize those endeavors that we today clearly do more effectively than others, and consider whether it is time to stop struggling with pursuits which no longer bear fruit. It is time to rededicate ourselves to our Academy with new efforts, which will serve to continue and expand our ability to lead the way in our field.

In order to begin the process of rededication, I have asked Charlie Goodacre, Chair of this year's Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Planning, to organize the process whereby every Life, Active, and Associate Fellow of this Academy will ultimately participate in creating a new strategic plan. In the coming months, every fellow of the Academy will become part of a dedicated team (subcommittee). Each team will be lead by one of the members of the core committee, the Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Planning. Each team leader will receive specific instruction in the methods and logistics of strategic planning. And in the end, the results of our efforts will reflect a consensus developed by every member of this academy who has fulfilled the Executive Council's request to accept the responsibility of participation.

The process will begin this winter. It will not be completed overnight. It is expected, however, that progress during the coming months will allow for a significant preliminary report, and an accompanying "spirited discussion" during our annual business meeting this coming May in Boston. From this activity should emerge our direction for the future, and a new appreciation for the virtues of strategic planning in Academy affairs.

I have often thought about what this Academy might look like at the time of its 100-year anniversary. That time is really not too far off. The year 2018 will be upon us before we know it. I personally plan on being around to participate, and I sincerely hope that we will all continue to contribute to the evolution that will make reaching the 100-year milestone a reality. As we proceed towards that goal, I thank you all for the privilege of serving as your current President.