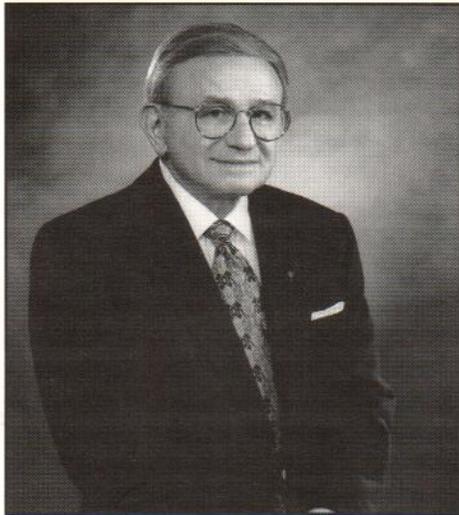


# AP Newsletter

A publication of the Academy of Prosthodontics

Volume 6, Number 3

Fall 1996



## NYU College of Dentistry to Name The Dr. Louis Blatterfein Department of Prosthodontics

New York City – September 1, 1996

The New York University College of Dentistry has received a \$500,000 gift from Dr. Louis Blatterfein, an internationally-acclaimed prosthodontist, teacher, and Professor Emeritus at New York University College of Dentistry. In honor of Dr. Blatterfein, the College will name the **Dr. Louis Blatterfein Department of Prosthodontics**.

"This most generous and farsighted gift exemplifies so well the life of Dr. Louis Blatterfein," said Dr. Edward G. Kaufman, Dean of the NYU College of Dentistry. "It also exemplifies Dr. Blatterfein's strong desire to help patients and to support students and faculty. Dr. Blatterfein stands as one of the world's leading prosthodontists and one who has played a major role in advancing the specialty."

*"NYU made it possible for me to be successful as a dentist. It is my great pleasure to be able now to return the gift of my profession and life's work in a meaningful way," said Dr. Blatterfein.*

**Dr. Blatterfein, continued on page 7**

## The 78th Annual Meeting of the Academy of Prosthodontics Newport Beach, California

### The 1996 Scientific Session

by Shane White

After the Saturday morning ceremonies, Jack Preston lead a special session on **Informatics**. Paul Rhodes described his vision of the computerized patient record which will be diagnostically driven, not treatment based. John Khademi treated us to a spectacular display of clinical sound and video sequences straight from his laptop PC. Bernard Yoo showed how he integrates the technologies of conventional and digital photography, computer imaging and stimulation as well as conventional methods into multimedia patient presentations.

Jack Preston closed the session by explaining that prosthodontic practice is really concerned with information and bytes, not with gadgets. The practice of the future will be linked electronically to a wide group of referring dentists and other specialists who often work together. This will prevent unnecessary duplication and provide each treating dentist with information from every other dentist treating the same patient. Virtual consultation will be commonplace. Quality assurances and outcome assessment will be enhanced. Diagnostic scheduling, treatment, billing, consultation, video, radiographic and outcome information will be seamlessly interconnected. Skeptics who believe that this will never work should remember that conventional systems also have their failures.

For example, Bernard Yoo's presentation was delayed because his slides were inadvertently dumped on the floor, but this could have been prevented with a CD or computer based presentation. Well recovered, Bernard! After a buffet lunch we returned for a short afternoon session. Bernard Smith noted the extremely high prevalence of advanced tooth wear, and Peter Johnson explored possible differences in tooth position and the perception of esthetics among diverse ethnic groups.

Chuck McNeill opened Sunday's session with a comprehensive, balanced and powerful evidence based review of **temporomandibular disorders** and their management. The topicality of this lecture was heightened by the recent NIH consensus conference. Gordon Douglass introduced basic molecular biology concepts and speculated on the relevance to future prosthodontic practice.

see **The 1996 Scientific Session,**  
continued on page 4

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# Perspectives from the Editor

## When Casual Relationships Become Causal

Recently, I received a Washington Post newspaper clipping from Academy Fellow Noel Wilkie. The article was entitled "Patient Databases Don't Show Which Treatment Works Best, Study Finds." The underlying importance of this article becomes more apparent after the Academy meeting in Newport Beach, California. The thrust of the scientific session propelled the Academy upon a course of "critical appraisal". As you may remember, a timely misplacement (either intentional or by random chance) of the letter 's' in the word "causal" in one of the essayists' query slides brought to light a current problem in dentistry. Specifically, the coordination of a treatment with a diagnosis that seemed to be more of a *casual* relationship rather than a *causal* one.

Excerpts of the Washington Post article will be highlighted or quoted in this column as it portends the future direction of health care delivery. Significant interest will be directed to "outcome studies" as desires for improving care and "cutting costs" are based upon research. "One approach of effectiveness research has been the analysis of large administrative databases kept by Medicare and other health insurers." This database research is being funded by the federal government's Agency for Health Care Policy and Research and is charged with identifying effective medical care and developing clinical guidelines. The article also reports that treatment varies widely across the United States and that database studies may not lead to proper care or cost reduction.

Congress's Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) researchers are using this data to compare same-illness patients, treatment modalities, and how outcomes differed, or valid "medical effectiveness research". A compelling concern? [I repeatedly hear the words of Academy Fellow Jack Preston, "He who owns the data ..."] However, the OTA acknowledges that "No clear, wholly credible finding about the direct effectiveness of one medical practice over another has been derived directly from this research method thus far."

The limitations of large database analyses are evident as the results can be conflicting and contradictory with outcomes from other research models, such as randomized clinical trials (RTC). OTA research lead to the conclusion that treatment *locations* may play a more significant role in outcome rather than specific treatment *modalities*.

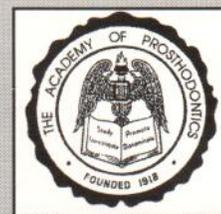
Could this lead to regional treatment centers for specific diseases — obligatory federally mandated providers .... the ultimate Preferred Provider Organization or outsourcing?

OTA analysts have urged the government to create a network of health care providers to participate in clinical trials. The OTA analysts recognize that RTC's are a preferred method of research as the elimination of selection bias is more likely to identify true causal outcomes as a result of different treatment. Additionally, the investigation by "meta-analysis" was cited in which pooled data from various research studies may gain answers about treatment's effectiveness that may not be evident from a singular independent study.

Okay, now you are wondering if you really want to finish reading this column. Those who recognize this opportunity will embrace this concept for what it can result in on behalf of patients, prosthodontics and the Academy. Those who promote prosthodontics as an art may believe that we are not subject to the same degree of scrutiny as our medical colleagues. It is likely that OTA will be most concerned with life threatening issues.

see *Causal vs. Casual* on page 8

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# Secretary-Treasurer Notes

by Ed Plekavich

It is with great sadness that I must report to you the passing of Milt Brown and Lum Martone. We will miss them very much. Without Lum who's going to tell me I'm crazy. Milt was one of my examiners when I took the Boards. He was a prince of a man. His warm handshake and smiling greeting always made you feel good.

By all accounts the meeting in Newport Beach was a great success. Dave and Laraine and their committee were the perfect hosts. They welcomed us all to their town, their home and their hearts. Dave's great attention to detail was very evident and much appreciated. All the hours of work paid off by everything running smoothly.

The day after our meeting the hotel was hosting a benefit fashion show. The limousines and Rolls Royce's were lined up out front. There was a steady stream of exquisitely dressed models strolling through the lobby. Not that I paid attention, but it was difficult to write the checks for the hotel with my head turning like a turkey.

Committees did a marvelous job last year and are already hard at work thanks to a prompt start by President Graser. The Council has phased out two committees: Oral Health and Dental Practice and Current Issues. (Now I can't ever be put back on Oral Health.) Jack Preston is developing a home page for the Academy for all of you hopelessly lost in computer geekdom.

President Graser has appointed Ad Hoc Committees for commercial exhibits and guest invitations. These should give us information for some changes next year.

Sixty paying guests would allow the meeting to break even based on the past two years figures.

George Zarb reports that a very exciting program is complete for Halifax. He has brought together an international group of speakers who will peak our interests. Vern Shaffner and Jack Gerrow have plans well under way for a strong social program. As we heard in May, Halifax has a lot of beauty and culture to offer, so we should all be thinking of guests now.

To date nominations have been received for Rainer Bergmann, Roman Cibirka, Sreevivas Koka, Kenneth May, Eleni Roumanas and Steve Sadowsky. Nominations must be submitted by November 1 to be considered in Halifax.

A visit was made to Myrtle Beach just as hurricane Eduoard was passing by. Convention hotels are scarce, but there are golf courses everywhere — hundreds of them. The summer was wet and the greens were beautiful.



New Life Fellows (l-r): Niles Guichet, Noel Wilkie and Charles Ellinger.



New Active Fellows (l-r): Ross Tallents, Shane White, Baldwin Marchack, Donald Kramer, Robert Gillis and Harold Litvak.



Newly inducted Associate Fellows (l-r): Steven Eckert, Hans-Peter Weber, Rhonda Jacob and Larry Breeding. Not pictured is Donna Dixon.

# Oklahoma Outreach Program

by Steve Parel

Sal, Lance and I found the Ada Holiday Inn basically unchanged. Friendly folks, good (and reasonable) breakfasts with the local highway patrol, and a highly successful feral cat breeding program once again this year. They arrived early enough on Sunday to get in some recreation, but the week was mostly work, both treating patients and finding a good place to eat dinner.

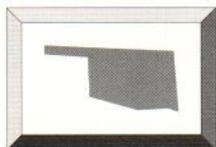
Another fifteen patients were given complete dentures on ridges ranging from those you could park a car on to those you couldn't find. Just about every denture technique was in evidence, which, to me, is one of the real values of this experience. Aside from the reward of treating genuinely grateful patients, I learned a lot from watching a couple of experts like Sal and Lance at work.

Actually, there were four of us this year. Sal brought his son Scott, who worked as a volunteer in the hospital to fulfill parts of his National Honor Society public service requirement. Once they found out how bright and capable Scott was, they put him to work in the hospital's most complex department, the records room, where his contribution was sincerely appreciated.

The hospital dental staff was as efficient and even more accommodating than last year. Our host prosthodontist, Lyn Page, made sure each patient had preliminary impressions and custom trays made before we arrived which made the logistics of our treatment sequence even easier. This, together with the longer days of early August left us an opportunity to get in a few holes after work on several occasions. Glen and Ron will be pleased to know I returned with all my clubs, and no incriminating photographs that I know of.

The hospital held a very nice reception instead of a POWWOW this year, where we were thanked and formally greeted by the Governor of the Chickasaw Nation, Mr. Bill Anoutubby. These are wonderful people, both patients and staff, and gratitude was heartfelt. Each of us was presented with an Authentic Dream Catcher, which I proudly display in my office.

For those who might be interested in being part of one of these programs, I can recommend it as an extremely worthwhile use of your real or spare time. It requires hard work, but allows for play and leaves you with the feeling of having done something good, even if you didn't use a face-bow. You might want to talk with Lance about driving to the airport with me. However, we got to talking about guns and looking for coyotes so intensely that we almost became part of the landscape. He was probably looking forward to taking off in a thunderstorm after that drive.



AP Officers and Executive Council (seated l-r): George Zarb, incoming President Gerald Graser, James Lord, (standing l-r): Ed Plekavich, George Murrell, Richard Grisius, President Ron Desjardins, Howard Landesman and Gary Rogoff.

## The 1996 Scientific Session

*continued from page 1*

Ken Malament presented his unequaled clinical performance data on **all ceramic restorations**. He was careful to note statistical limitations of his data, but two very clear trends emerged. Restoration survival was enhanced by resinous cements, but was decreased in posterior locations, especially past the first bicuspid.

Dan Nathanson reviewed current parameters on the restoration of endodontically treated teeth. Other **fixed prosthodontic** presentations included Carlo Marinello's review of his most elegant resin-bonded FPD clinical techniques and his outstanding clinical outcomes, and Ricardo Schwedhelm's investigation of die stone strength. The table clinic/buffet lunch format was a very successful and comfortable way to enjoy the outside clinics.

Howard Landesman moderated the Monday session **Managed Care – Heaven, Hell, or just Purgatory?** Howard Bailit described the impact of managed care. James Garrison gave us a provider's perspective. Bob Stein encouraged us to learn from the recent experiences of the medical profession. The dental profession is in a much better position to control its destiny than the medical profession, but we must be proactive. Our costs have been much better contained. Most people can afford dental care, and dental care needs are fairly predictable. Dentistry has a much lower and more appropriate specialist to general practitioner ratio.

However, we have been warned not to increase our dental school enrollment over 1993 levels. Likewise, specialty programs should not overproduce now. Are prosthodontists being over produced? More data is needed on prosthodontic outcomes if we are to have any leverage with providers.

**Implant Dentistry** was highlighted in the final Tuesday session. Issues included vertical Hader bars, Rainer Bergmann; case studied on tooth intrusion, Cheryl Sheets; fit evaluation, Kenneth May; and patient response, Roman Cibirka.

*see adjacent page 5*

# Mission and Goals

by Ron Desjardins

On October 18-19, 1995, the Executive Council, along with other representative members of the Academy, met in Crystal City, Virginia, to conduct a Workshop relative to missions and goals of the Academy for the near future. The Workshop identified seven specific objectives. All of those objectives have been or are being addressed by committees of the Academy with input from the Executive Council.

1. **Mentor Associates and Active Fellows.** This charge was made to the Fellowship Committee last year and excellent progress has been made in developing a framework for this activity. This year's Fellowship Committee should complete this development and, upon Council approval, it will be implemented.
2. **Provide programs in scientific communication.** As always the scientific program in Newport Beach was an excellent one. Next year's meeting, under the direction of Program Chair George Zarb, will approach the scientific program in a different format to address this specific objective. A single topic will be presented and discussed in depth for three days of the meeting. This approach will address this objective and give the Academy Fellows an opportunity to evaluate this format for future meetings.
3. **Modification of the structure and content of the annual program.** This specific objective is also being addressed with the 1997 Program as mentioned for the objective above. In addition more corporate support and visibility is being considered for that meeting as a means to offset increasing costs.
4. **Development of continuing education programs.** As you know there is considerable competition in the continuing education marketplace. The Annual Scientific program is certainly an excellent contribution to the continuing education arena. In addition the Academy is researching the possibility of assuming responsibility for the successful University of Michigan Comprehensive Review in Prosthodontics Course upon the retirement of Brien Lang.
5. **Presentation of health care delivery systems information to the membership.** This objective was so ably addressed by Howard Landesman at the Newport Beach meeting where he organized and moderated the session on "Managed Care – Heaven, Hell or just Purgatory".
6. **Maintain and add to the current outreach program.** The Outreach Program has provided excellent service to the Native American community and wonderful humanitarian exposure for the Academy. Plans are underway to expand this program to other communities of need. However, costs of this program and the need to secure a firm financial base for the Foundation may limit some of these programs in the near future. This year the Foundation was only able to support three Native American projects. Those with suggestions for additional funding should contact George Smutko or Don Kramer.
7. **Maintain and expand the Glossary of Prosthodontic Terms.** Cliff Van Blarcom and his committee continue to actively pursue the seventh issue of the Glossary scheduled to be ready in 1999.



Steve Parel pays off golf debt to Guest Tom Reddy. Apparently Steve found another tree-trap which required several penalty strokes.

Aaron Fenton leads the way in the Macerana dance.  
Photos by Gerald Barrack

These presentations complemented other implant essays on peri-implant bone loss mechanisms, Sreenivas Koka; implant retained obturators, Eleni Roumanas; prosthesis design, Steve Sadowsky and on practice experience, Brian Kucey.

The 1996 scientific sessions focused on some of the most pressing issues in prosthodontics: informatics, managed care, and implant prosthodontics. A trend towards presentation of high quality clinical data has emerged, but more prospective controlled clinical trials are needed. We can control our destiny, but only with data and hard work.



# Life and Associate Fellows Meet

by Ken Adisman

The Life Fellows hosted a luncheon for the Associate Fellows on May 6, 1996 in Newport Beach, California. The event was emceed by Life Fellow I. Kenneth Adisman. The meeting was further embellished by the colorful heritage and humorous stories presented by other Life Fellows who were also present. All Life and Associate Fellows introduced themselves stating where they resided and what activities they were currently involved in. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity to meet. In fact, it was difficult to tell which group of fellows were having the most fun as a good time was had by all. Ken Adisman addressed several items during the meeting which included: the purpose of the meeting, the history, contributions and fellowship of the Academy. A summary of his address follows.

The purpose of the Life-Associate Fellows meeting was to:

- acquaint members of each group with one another
- to assist Associate Fellows in the conduct of Academy affairs
- to involve Associate Fellows in the business of the Academy
- to inform Associate Fellows of the history of the Academy
- to encourage Life Fellows to seek out and befriend Associate Fellows

The history of the Academy of Prosthodontics was presented noting that the organization was formed on August 9, 1918 as the National Society of Denture Prosthetists in Chicago at the Congress Hotel as a study club. The first President was Dr. William Giffen. The first official meeting was held in 1919 in New Orleans one week preceding the National Dental Association Meeting. The first action of the society was to concentrate on the study of complete dentures, causing many members only interested in removable partial dentures to resign immediately. The Society divided itself into Committees to research various phases of complete denture treatment to establish fundamental principles of practice (Geometry, Impression, Technic Classification, Nomenclature, etc.)



Life Fellows, Ken Rudd and Ken Adisman, share thoughts and experiences with the Associate Fellows.

The Geometry Committee, for the study of mandibular movements, was the most active, controversial and stormy as spherical, conical and functional methods of recording mandibular movements collided in debates which became personalized and vituperative in nature. The last two-week meeting was held in 1923. The motto of the Society from the 1928 program was: "Progress" — linked with simplification as it applied to the complexities of complete denture fabrication in that period. In 1940, the name of the Society was changed to the Academy of Denture Prosthetics. In 1991, the name was changed to the Academy of Prosthodontics.

The Academy of Prosthodontics continues to be the premier prosthodontic society in the world — not for its number of Fellows, not for its abundant treasury, nor for its political power and influence. This Academy is held in high esteem because of the quality and character of its fellowship and the leadership it has consistently demonstrated throughout its existence. The contributions to the science and advancement of prosthodontics by this Academy is a significant factor in the respect the public has expressed for the profession of dentistry.

The mantle of fellowship in the Academy of Prosthodontics is personal and professional achievement — the honor of which should not be taken lightly. It is and will always be a serious and continuous commitment. This Academy has been accused of being an exclusive prosthodontic social club. This is not a fair statement as the nature and purposes of this organization is dependent on relatively small numbers of individuals work-

ing closely and intensively on the committees to which they are appointed. Nevertheless, the number of Active Fellows has been increased gradually over recent years from 50 to 75.

Although attendance at all sessions is no longer taken, Fellows as a matter of honor are obligated to attend all sessions and to accept and fulfill all assignments given to them. As observed, this Academy has a high proportion of Life Fellows (40-50%) who continue to attend annual Academy meetings and participate in committee activities. Some notable contributions to the advancement of prosthodontics in recent times are the Glossary of Prosthodontic Terms, a product of the Nomenclature Committee; Principles, Concepts and Practices of Prosthodontics; Workshops on various phases of clinical prosthodontics procedures; and the American Board of Prosthodontics.

Fellowship in the Academy of Prosthodontics is a shining beacon in the cloudy amorphous world of professional activity. The friendships and experiences you will encounter in the future years of Academy fellowship will be personal treasures which you will cherish for the remainder of your lives. The information provided in the course of the annual scientific meetings are important resources for your continued growth and leadership in the practice of your profession.

On behalf of the Life Fellows present here today, we congratulate you Associate Fellows; we wish you well and stand ready at all times to assist you in anyway we can. God-speed to all of us. ❖

# Fellowship News

**Dorsey and Mary Moore** just completed a 17 day trip to the Far East. Dr. Moore presented a series of lectures, as a Visiting Professor, at three dental schools in China: Beijing, Wuhan and Chengdu. Maxillofacial prosthetics and implant prosthodontics were the main topics.

The Moore's continued on to Taiwan to lecture and provide clinical demonstrations in facial prostheses at University of Kaoshiung and University of Taipei. It was a very rewarding trip and all schools were very appreciative. Additionally, Dorsey and Mary Moore recently served as Local Arrangement Chairs for the American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics and American College of Prosthodontists meeting in Kansas City, MO.

**Gordon E. King** presented the inaugural lecture for the Wilma and Earl Sheppard Memorial Dental/Otolaryngology Lecture Series. This presentation occurred on April 10, 1996 at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis, MO. Dr. King addressed the ENT and Head & Neck Surgeons and presented concepts of maxillofacial prosthetics and closed with a presentation on removable prosthodontic care with the dentists.

**Frank Spear** received the Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry Achievement Award for advancing the science and art of cosmetic dentistry in the U.S.

At the recent American Prosthodontic Society meeting, President **George Smutko** passed the gavel to incoming President **Charles C. Swoope**. **Douglas C. Wendt** was elected President-Elect.

At the recent American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics meeting in Kansas City, Missouri **Carl J. Andres** was elevated to President, **Salvatore J. Esposito** was elevated to President-Elect and **Jonathan P. Wiens** was elevated to Vice-President-Elect.

**AP Annual Meeting  
Sheraton Halifax  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
May 30 - June 3, 1997**

## **Dr. Blatterfein, continued from page 1**

Dr. Blatterfein's most recent gift of \$500,000 is the culmination of a lifetime of service and philanthropy to his alma mater. In 1985, Dr. Blatterfein's gift of \$250,000 created the Dr. Louis Blatterfein Center for Preclinical Sciences at the NYU College of Dentistry.

Dr. Blatterfein graduated from the NYU College of dentistry in 1933 and was in private practice until 1988. He has a legendary reputation as a perfectionist and tireless practitioner. A full scholarship student throughout his years in dental school, he received awards upon graduation for highest scholarship and highest proficiency in prosthodontics. He had a 43 year teaching career. In 1971, he rose to the rank of Professor of Removable Prosthodontics. Upon his retirement in 1978, Dr. Blatterfein was accorded the title of Professor Emeritus in recognition of his distinguished contributions to the dental education program at New York University.

Dr. Blatterfein has been a Diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontics since its inception in 1948 and a Fellow of the American College of Prosthodontists since its inception in 1970. Dr. Blatterfein served as Section Editor of the Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry from 1975 to 1992. He is a Charter Fellow and Past President of the Greater New York Academy of Prosthodontics, a Fellow of the Academy of Prosthodontics, and a Fellow of the American College of Dentists. Dr. Blatterfein has lectured and presented postgraduate courses in prosthodontics throughout the United States and abroad. His publications in the dental literature are considered classics.

*Source: Joan M. Dim, NYU Press Office and Elyse Bloom, NYU Dental Center.*

## AP FOUNDATION

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# One-on-One with Tom Curtis

by Donna Dixon

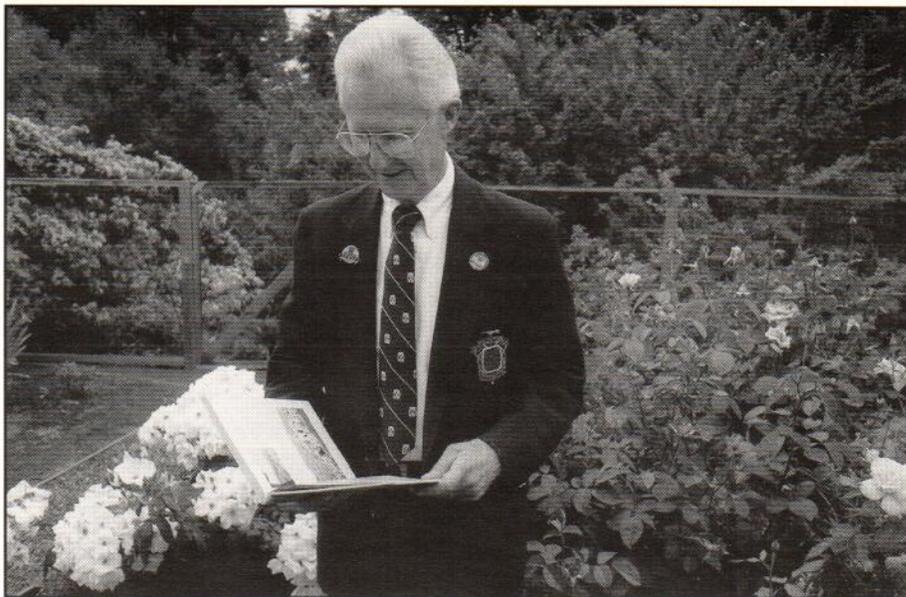
In World War II, Dr. Tom Curtis was known as an "invisible man in white". He was a member of the United States Army's Mountain Division. Allow me to tell the story of these brave men.

In 1937, Charles Dole founded the National Ski Patrol System. Three years later he watched Finnish ski troops valiantly battle Soviet soldiers. Following this, Dole requested that President Roosevelt begin a mountain division of the Army. After Roosevelt agreed to this proposal, Dole recruited United States athletes, who were experienced skiers, to initially form this unit. Dr. Tom Curtis became a soldier in this division when he was nineteen years old.

He and the other soldiers in the 10th Mountain Division trained at Camp Hale. Their "ski equipment" consisted of hickory skis, bamboo poles, and leather boots secured into bear-trap bindings. By the end of 1944 this unit was comprised of 14,000 men, many of them nonskiers. These soldiers were then sent to the mountains of Italy to join others in an attack against German forces. While there, the division fought hard and victoriously. After five months of fierce fighting, 992 of these men were killed and over 4,000 were wounded. Lt. Bob Dole was one of the wounded members of the division. He and Dr. Curtis were part of the same rifle company.



Don Canedy and Tom Curtis on Marmalada Glacier above Cortina, Italy.



Tom Curtis shares his memories of WWII at his home in Orinda, California.  
Photo by: David Lowe/Sun

Originally, when the division was sent overseas, there were twelve men in Dr. Curtis' squad. During the war, four of these were killed, seven were wounded; and, when the war ended, Dr. Curtis and one other man were the only original members still with the squad. During the four months the division was engaged in battle, these brave men (a company of 196 men) were awarded 206 Purple Hearts.

After the war, a few of the 10th Division veterans returned to the Rockies and founded ski resorts. Approximately 2,000 others worked as instructors, patrolmen, and managers in ski areas. Four veterans were involved in publishing and/or editing *Skiing Magazine*.

This past spring, many of the 10th Division veterans were honored at a reunion in Keystone, Colorado. While they were there, yet another ski run was dedicated to their unit. Speaking of these veterans, John Frew (President of Colorado Ski Country, USA) said: "There are very few examples ... where a military division has had such an impact upon the culture, economy, and spirit of a region." We honor Dr. Curtis' military achievements, but we also honor his achievements since then.

Dr. Curtis reentered UC-Berkeley after his discharge in 1946, and then attended Dental School at UC-San Francisco. Dr. Tom Curtis joined his father in private practice and later went on to specialize in prosthodontics. Dr. Curtis has made significant contributions to organized dentistry and to the

dental literature, including texts on maxillo-facial prosthetics. Currently, he is dividing his time between private practice with his son, Dr. Donald Curtis, and teaching at UCSF. We are glad that he chose dentistry as a career rather than skiing!

Source: Roberta D. Dodson, *Contra Costa Sun*, May 29, 1996.

### Casual vs. Causal, continued from page 2

Regardless, there is the opportunity for our Academy and its fellows to apply the concepts of critical appraisal to further the "science" of prosthodontics, while surely improving the "art" of prosthodontics. We speak of talented-artists and learned-scientists, but it seems to me that when the science is right, usually the art is right as well. During the Newport Beach meeting Dr. Gordon Douglass presented two slides for visual comparison. One slide was a picture of the large round stained glass window in the Washington Cathedral while the other slide was an axial view of a DNA molecule. Both were beautiful, geometrically perfect and uncannily similar. Obviously, the glass-cutter went on to become a molecular biologist or a prosthodontist.

In closing, our educational programs are scientific. Implementation of critical appraisal concepts will place the Academy on the right course of discovery. We have the possibility to "... control our destiny" and become the scientist as well.

Jonathan P. Wiens

Source: *Washington Post*, Section A8, Oct 25, 1994