

AP NEWSLETTER

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Spring 2012

The Medallion of 2012

by Dr. Steve Eckert

Last year the President of the Academy of Prosthodontics, Dave Eggleston, took the AP medallion on an extended vacation. He climbed Mount Kilimanjaro with the medallion giving it a bird's eye view of Africa. This year, perhaps owing to my less exciting lifestyle, the medallion has stayed home. Actually it has experienced a restful year in the safe in my basement. After someone gave me an estimate of the amount of gold in the medallion I certainly have protected it, not letting it see the light of day.

During this year however I have maintained a different companion. This is one that I first met in middle school. The year was 1967 and I was readying myself for another academic year. My mother was committed to tidying me up so she bought me a brand new comb. But this was not just any comb; it was the king of combs, a "Goody." Holding this comb in your hands it was easy to see how it would transform a head of unruly locks into an artistic hair sculpture.

Looking back to the late 1960's it was almost inevitable that the initial infatuation with the comb would lose its charm. Indeed love of the comb gradually transitioned to disregard and almost disdain for the comb. The "Goody" stayed in my pocket throughout the day but it never found itself in the dark recesses of a bedroom drawer. I continued to carry the comb on the off chance that a hair emergency would dictate its use. Looking back it seems that the utilization of the comb diminished as the need for the comb increased. The style of the day dictated that this instrument of personal grooming not meet its intended target as hair, in the late '60's and early '70's, was meant to

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Steve Eckert with "Goody"

Editorial

by Brian Fitzpatrick

On Leadership and Strategic Direction



The Academy of Prosthodontics was founded in 1918. Throughout its illustrious history the term leadership is used repetitively to describe a core feature of this organization. By virtue of the criteria and process of induction of new fellows, the organization is comprised of prosthodontic leaders in their respective home environments brought together in the family that is the Academy of Prosthodontics by common bonds and a unified cause. Choosing leaders from such a cohort to provide leadership within such an organization would be considered by most to be an easy task yet few within the organization actually assume key leadership roles and ascend to executive positions. However, each Fel-

low is expected to demonstrate their innate leadership qualities by serving on the various committees that are the workhorse of the AP. Leadership in this operational sense is relatively easy and a logical extension of “what AP Fellows do” as prosthodontic leaders in their institutions as teachers, researchers and in clinical practices.

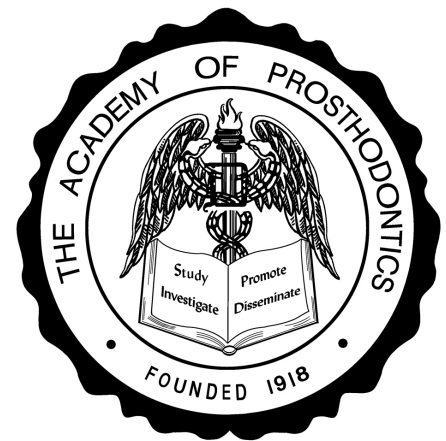
But what about the leadership role of the Academy of Prosthodontics? How do leaders and Fellows of the AP lead the organization in its mission of leadership? Can an organization show leadership?

From inception and a numerically small membership, the Academy of Prosthodontics has achieved a considerable amount for the specialty of prosthodontics and for the organization. It has punched well above its weight. As Secretary-Treasurer Koka has pointed out in this newsletter, we are now playing in a much more competitive game, competing against a considerable number of national and international prosthodontic organizations each purporting to represent various groups of prosthodontists and vari-

ous aspects of prosthodontics. So what is our “point of difference”? How does the AP differentiate itself from each of these organizations? How does it compete for members and meet the needs of its constituent members? How does it sustain itself as a leadership organization for another 100

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AP Newsletter Editor
Brian Fitzpatrick
 12th Floor, King George Tower
 79 Adelaide Street
 Brisbane, Queensland
 Australia
brianfitz@bohndental.com.au



Secretary-Treasurer
Sreenivas Koka
 200 First Street SW
 Rochester, MN 55905
 USA
 507-284-8410
koka.sreenivas@mayo.edu

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years?

These are real and challenging issues that the Executive Council lead by President Eckert has attempted to address. All healthy and mature organizations and businesses have a strategic plan that is revised regularly and clearly defines a purpose for being and a direction from which goals can be established. Goals are dreams with time frames attached! It has been stated that a business or organization without a strategic plan is like a ship without a compass or destination. The ship is happily cruising around in the open ocean without concern and no need to consult the compass. As President Eckert has stated in this Newsletter, cosy leadership without directional purpose can be like this ship; keeping it moving, avoiding catastrophes or harmful objects, ensuring the journey is fun and people are generally comfortable is the entire focus of the leadership.

The feeling of optimism and clarity that has characterised the Academy through the years requires constant renewal and the tool by which this is achieved is a Strategic Plan. The last review of the AP Strategic Plan was in 1996.

We as an organization were a young, confident and competitive Academy from my reading of history and from listening to the voices of our fading former leaders. Whether it was in teaching, in research or in the art and science of clinical prosthodontic practice, we believed that we could take on the best in the world and beat them.... and through inspired leadership and academic endeavour, we often did! There was a clearly stated direction with goals and objectives.

There was a job to do and we went about it with a real unity of purpose. We wanted to grow and much was achieved in the past 94 years. Through our Academy's history, some of the periods of change and structural development were driven by crisis. The Academy's core direction always seemed to prevail. When one peruses the list of illustrious past Presidents of the Academy of Prosthodontics, it is easy to form the view that each strategic development was probably driven by strong leadership with a strong clarity of purpose.

The truth is we remain that same organization and I feel confident that when awakened, the fellowship is waiting

for the call, to establish the vision for the future and obtain consensus for a strategic plan that is going to help us get there. With the maturation of years of achievement and with progressive systemization it could be argued that we are structurally in a better position today to deal with the challenges of change than at any time in the history of the Academy. We need a vision for the future of the Academy and in the true spirit and tradition of this Academy; the leaders in the form of our Executive Council have created a Strategic Plan for discussion by the Academy Fellows. This is our Academy's moment and all Fellows need to own this plan. To achieve this buy-in and ownership, each Fellow needs to read the Strategic Plan and come to Jackson Hole prepared to debate, challenge and even argue if need be, to ensure the future health and survival of this organization. Without such a plan and without commitment by all Academy Fellows to a new strategic plan, we remain a ship full of passengers enjoying the cruise unconcerned with the destination or even when the ship will eventually dock.

Presidential Comments

by Steven Eckert



Strategic Direction

Being elected president of a professional society is an incredible honor. When it occurs, even if a person has prepared for it by going through the ranks of the governing board and then the officer positions, it remains a humbling position.

The reason for this is that the president of an organization like the Academy of Prosthodontics has only a few major responsibilities. Although the by-laws might make this statement in a more eloquent way, the primary responsibility for the president is to avoid catastrophes that would compromise the future

of the organization. You may consider this to be a relatively simple task but, from time to time, events unfold that could jeopardize the viability of an organization. Usually these are financial concerns but there can also be issues related to organizational activities that can create major division among key opinion leaders. Hopefully our plans prevent either of these events from occurring. Relative to financial concerns we assume that business liability insurance will protect us from “Acts of God” that could bankrupt our organization. This would include issues related to weather, geologic events or global conflicts. Indeed general financial protection is likely to insulate the organization from catastrophic failure in one year but insurance would not rebuild the nest egg that organizations typically establish for use when catastrophe occurs.

The more likely reason for viability issues relates to philosophical schisms. We all have an ownership stake in the Academy and we all interpret this ownership in slightly different ways. Some of the Academy members address every issue faced by the Academy and offer suggestions to the

leadership regarding solutions. Others work through the committee structure to ensure that the organization runs smoothly as it is the committees that perform most of the tasks of the organization. A few, and fortunately this number is very small in this organization, simply put their trust in the leadership and hope that smooth sailing is the rigor of the day.

As I now look at the final few weeks of my Academy of Prosthodontics presidential experience I hope that the primary effort of this year, revision of the strategic plan, will

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AP Foundation

Contributions and
memorials should be
made to the

*Academy of
Prosthodontics
Foundation*

and sent to:

Jim Chandler DDS
1640 Nicholasville Road
Lexington, KY 40503

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be looked upon as an effort that looks towards the future without forgetting our past. Hopefully the elements of the strategic plan were conceived in such a way as to prevent philosophical schisms that could threaten this organization.

As always the Academy will discuss this plan to ensure that membership is in agreement with it. Ultimately this is not the plan of the Executive Council but is instead the plan of the organization and there must be strong consensus that this is indeed the direction that we travel.

In the meantime the Academy, through the work of HP Weber and his committee, has developed another incredible scientific program. If I try to describe this program through a summary I will only do a disservice to it. For this reason I suggest that you look at the program brochure as this will certainly whet your appetite. I do have one other suggestion, which is to avoid highlighting the list of speakers that you want to see because doing so will simply put a solid coating of yellow over the entire program. Instead my recommendation is to attend and enjoy this exciting scientific program in its entirety.

Through the efforts of our secretary-treasurer, Sree Koka, and our administrative partners, RES, we look forward to the upcoming meeting in beautiful Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Following one of the mildest winters of the last 25 years, our meeting could be held in spring-like weather. The primary advantage of good weather is that it would simplify travel. The city itself is so fundamentally beautiful that it shines in bright sun or in snowfall. So even if the weather regresses to the mean we will still experience the natural beauty at a level that is hard to imagine.

I want to call special attention to the social outing as it promises to be a North American Safari in which small groups will have the opportunity to travel to see wildlife of the Northwest. The tour company assures us that this is a great time of year to see newborn moose, elk and bear. Fortunately we will be seeing them in vehicles that allow us to pull away if the mothers feel threatened.

Giving a few final thoughts to this year I want to thank the members of the Academy for trusting me to be its president. I also want to thank the officers

and members of the Executive Council and all the committee chairs and committee members whose participation make this the premier organization in prosthodontics. Lastly I want to thank the spouses, partners and guests who join in our annual festivities.

Strategic Plan

The Executive Council has made the recommendation that the mission of the Academy be redefined. The new mission statement is "to provide key knowledge and leadership in Prosthodontics." Obviously this "new mission" pays homage to our history while recognizing the needs in the discipline/specialty that must continuously be addressed.

My assumption is that members of this Academy were drawn to the Academy because they perceived it as an organization that has always provided key knowledge and leadership to the specialty, this was an effort before the specialty existed. The 5 initiatives that establish this strategic plan (recognition is the ethical standard bearer of the specialty, creation of an advisory board to dental industry, mentoring of emerging prosthodontic leaders, maintenance of the Glossary of Prosthodon-

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tic Terms and presenters of a premier meeting in the field of Prosthodontics) were identified by the EC. Many other initiatives were discussed but these activities were considered critical in response to recent advancements in dental care.

It is anticipated that the members will be thoroughly familiar with the strategic plan. Preparation will afford the Academy an opportunity to respond to the submitted plan with insightful comments and revisions before it is adopted. Although the plan has been submitted previously, it is included here for handy reference.

Mission: To provide key knowledge and leadership in prosthodontics

Strategic Initiatives:

- The Academy of Prosthodontics will be recognized as the ethical standard bearer for the specialty (Be the moral compass of prosthodontics)
- Provide an advisory board to the prosthetic dental industry
- Be the mentors to emerging prosthodontics leaders
- Maintain and expand the Glossary of Prosthodontic Terms
- Present a premier prosthodontics meeting

Goals:

- The Academy of Prosthodontics will be recognized as the ethical standard bearer for the specialty (Be the moral compass of prosthodontics)
 - o Dedication to ethics in research, documentation of outcomes and treatment of patients
 - o Establish moral and ethical goals in the evolving prosthodontic practice
 - o Communication of ethical concerns
 - o Documentation of anticipated outcomes to assist in treatment planning based upon these outcomes
- Provide an advisory board to the prosthetic dental industry
 - o Offer industry access to selected academy members in brainstorming sessions conducted during the annual session
- Be the mentors to emerging prosthodontics leaders
 - o Be the organization in prosthodontics that develops through mentoring the next generation of leaders of the specialty
- Maintain and expand the Glossary of Prosthodontic Terms
 - o Remain the organization that finalizes the ongoing editions of the GPT
- Present a premier prosthodontics meeting
 - o Promote the art and science of prosthodontics to the profession and the public

AP Mission & Strategic Plan:

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- o Disseminate knowledge concerning prosthodontics throughout the profession
- o Encourage study and investigation of the various phases of prosthodontics and related subjects

Objectives and timelines:

- Academy of Prosthodontics will be recognized as the ethical standard bearer for the specialty (Be the moral compass of prosthodontics)
- o Provide the Academy with the accepted definitions of terms that provide the basis for medical/dental ethics (GPT)
- o Identification to the prosthodontic community of ethical issues in research, clinical documentation and patient care (annual session)
- o Discuss issues of disclosure and conflict of interest specifically as this relates to the dental industry
- ☐ Timeline: May 2012 will provide guidelines to speakers to include discussion of anticipated outcomes when clinical presentations are given
- ☐ Timeline: June 2012 possible inclusion of definitions for terms autonomy, non-maleficence and beneficence
- Provide an advisory board to the prosthetic dental industry
- o Offer industrial supporters access to selected academy members in brainstorming session(s) conducted during the annual meeting
- ☐ Timeline: Conceptual introduction May 2012 and ongoing
- Be the mentors to emerging prosthodontics leaders
- o Maintain ongoing leadership development programs such as the Associate Fellow breakfast and the Associate and Life Fellow luncheon
- ☐ Ongoing
- o Create opportunities for direct communication with current and past leaders of the Academy
- ☐ Program initiated but not yet operational, anticipate timeline of Summer 2012
- Maintain and expand the Glossary of Prosthodontic Terms
- o Leadership in the creation and editing of current and future versions of the GPT
- ☐ Next edition due Summer 2012
- Present a premier prosthodontics meeting
- o Provide a scientific session that meets or exceeds standards for prosthodontics meetings that will include issues related to ethics, evidence based dentistry and modern prosthodontics practices
- ☐ May 2012 and ongoing

Secretary-Treasurer Notes

by Sreenivas Koka



Taskmaster Fitzpatrick, making use of his tremendous power as Editor of the AP Newsletter, has summoned me by email to submit another offering of Secretary-Treasurer Notes. I admit I thought my last submission was my last submission; clearly I was mistaken. The annual meeting is upon us and by the time you read this, anything I say will have little effect on your decision to attend or not attend. The information about the hotel and the locale and the Yellowstone tour that I proffered in the last AP Newsletter will not be assisted in any way by reiteration. So what on earth should I include in this, my last submission, of Secretary-Treasurer Notes for the AP Newsletter? Read on, my curious colleague.

President Eckert has issued a bold directive to every Life, Active and Associate Fellow of our Academy. His call to strategic planning arms is a provocative challenge to us to reflect on what the Academy offers and what it should offer in our near future. The questions of “Why did any of us choose to belong to the Academy?”, “Why do any of us continue to belong to the Academy?” and “Why would anyone else want to become a Fellow of the Academy?” all rely on the answer to a different question: “What is the point of the Academy?”

Previous Secretary-Treasurers have told me that this position brings with it a need to know and understand the Academy like no other position. Now that my three years are almost over, I appreciate what Drs Eckert, Campbell, Wiens, Plekavich, Rogoff, Graser, Bolender and Laney were trying to tell me. I had to live these three years to appreciate it, and I am honored to have had the privilege. However, understanding the Academy is a double-edged sword. I admire our Academy and its Fellows beyond words. Yet, forgive me for being so auda-

cious, but our Academy also disappoints me.

There are a large number of dental or prosthodontic or implant organizations in North America to which a person with prosthodontic interests belong. I can rattle off the names (or acronyms) of nine organizations without much hard thought (AP, ACP, APC, GNYAP, PCSP, AAFP, APS, AO, AAMP and AAID). Nationally and internationally, many of us also belong to the ADA, CDA, ICP or ISMR and there are plenty of others. The point is that our Academy is far from being the only show in town – we have lots of competition and the competition is national and global.

The competition manifests in who wants to attend our meeting as a guest, who wants to sponsor our meetings (corporations), who wants to belong to our Academy as a Fellow (and pay annual dues), who among our Fellows want or are able to attend any part of our meeting (let alone all of the meeting), and who among our Fellows wants to be an Officer and ascend to the Presidency. Again, there are prob-

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ably more and better questions yet. Nevertheless, you understand what I am saying, right? So many organizations, so little disposable energy.

I admit to having mixed emotions when I realized that the Academy spent more money than it brought it in our Dec 1, 2010 to Nov. 30, 2011 fiscal year. There are some reasons why we did not balance our books last year, some of which are understandable such as a tightening of sponsorship belts by dental corporations, and the transition to a new administrative partner that led to increased administrative costs while we employed both Lea Alexander and RES to provide for a better transition at last year's annual meeting. Then there are some reasons that rest solely at my feet in terms of the discretion of a Secretary-Treasurer. I opted to provide a per diem for non-Fellow speakers at last year's meeting to offset the costs not otherwise covered by the Academy. I also gave permission for our keynote speaker to fly business class from England instead of the traditional economy airfare. In addition, under the premise of a happy meeting occurs when the spouses are happy, I opted for

higher quality breakfast food in the spouse's hospitality room. The net effect is a net loss of operating the Academy of approximately \$65,000. The mixed emotions are due to me asking myself what we could have done with that \$65,000; and the answer is "I don't know because we don't do much". What is the opportunity cost of the \$65,000?

Some organizations would undoubtedly panic at such a loss in one fiscal year. We are fortunate that the excellent groundwork laid over many previous years has our coffers in good condition, relatively speaking. This is not to say that losing \$65,000 is a good thing or a thing to be taken lightly. The EC has worked hard with RES to change the way we conduct our meetings to diminish the risk of such a loss again in the near future. However, the numbers highlight our dependence on corporate sponsorship as a key ingredient in our financial health.

I suspect many of us feel queasy at the thought of being beholden to corporate sponsorship in this way. Yet, we have become accustomed to the fact that this is the way it

is. That sense of being accustomed, however, should not translate into a sense of overconfidence. We like to have "a nice meeting" which is a euphemism for a classy and expensive experience at the meeting. We like our champagne tastes and better still if they are enjoyed on "a beer budget".

What would happen to us as an Academy if corporate sponsorship dried up further? Larry Brecht spends inordinate energy and time to raise monies for us. In my opinion, there is no one who carries more of the weight of the Academy on his or her shoulders than the Corporate Liaison committee chair does when one considers the fallout of not garnering corporate sponsorship for us to enjoy "a beer budget". I assure you that we cannot thank Larry enough just as we must thank Roy Yanase and Ken Malament who held the role prior.

I asked the EC this question a few months back and felt pangs of betrayal as I hit the "Send" button for the email. I asked the EC "Who would notice if the AP went away, if it disappeared as an organiza-

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tion?" A harsh question, I grant you, intended to spur a thoughtful and self-critical appraisal of what the Academy brings to prosthodontics that is either irreplaceable or would be deeply missed.

We have accumulated significant financial resources during the good times. So what good do we do with the money? Our standard *raison d'être* are scholarship and Fellowship. Are these two goals necessary and sufficient to sustain us in the decades ahead? I love the Academy deeply and I would like to believe that it is my love for the Academy that makes me ask these questions. So I ask you the same questions? As you travel to Jackson Hole to participate in our Strategic Planning dialogue, what are your answers? If you peel back all the layers of confusion and contamination, and are left with your core emotional response, what do we do that is either irreplaceable or would be deeply missed?

1. We have "a nice meeting". But lots of organizations have meetings; is ours sufficiently different to be a calling card? The Student Research program certainly supports a lofty cause – but almost every organization has such a program – albeit worthwhile, certainly not a differentiator. So what do we do that is different?

2. We are the accepted definer of definitions with the Glossary of Prosthodontic Terms and we make an incredible contribution with our Outreach program. Of these two, the latter can be imitated by groups of like-minded dedicated individuals or organizations and the former, because we own the copyright, cannot. The GPT, then, is truly a unique Academy entity.

So what would happen, then, if we stopped having annual meetings? We can organize Outreach and the Glossary with a few committed Fellows and would not need Executive Councils, interim meetings, mandatory attendance, corporate sponsors, administrative partners, and so forth. Just think of all of the committees that would no longer exist? Would our outcomes be sufficient? Would our organization be efficient by focusing on what we do that is unique and worthy and cutting back or eliminating the rest? Or are there other things that we should be doing that are unique and noble? How do we value our Fellowship? Just how scholarly is our scholarship anymore?

You may accuse me of using these questions to incite you to come to Jackson Hole with nostrils flaring defiantly at how I can possibly challenge the *raison d'être* of the Academy. I would reply that I am guilty as charged – but I am also crying out to see some passion from all of you; to come prepared to go beyond talking the walk and say what you will do to make the Academy move forward to a future built on grit and drive, rather than a future that rests on the laurels of the past. How do we protect and perpetuate this amazing Academy and properly respect the giants of prosthodontics on whose shoulders we stand as Fellows? We owe it to them to be honest and self-critical with a commitment to serving the Academy.

The Medallion of 2012

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grow free and demonstrate a reflection of the rebellious spirit of the day.

While the comb slept in my pocket it would occasionally be awakened to observe critical moments of my life. I won't bore you with the stories as I'm sure you can imagine memories, usually embellished, of romance, academic achievement, personal and professional success. There was also personal heartbreak as I lost my father during dental school. The comb and I remember one of my last conversations with my father when he encouraged me to continue my education and seek specialty training.

Immediately after graduation I failed to do what my dad had suggested. A general dental residency was followed by a general practice. During this time I came to realize that prosthodontics was the specialty that interested me most. The comb actually entered into this interest. The reason is that Burt, my dog, took the comb off the dresser and chewed one end creating an unrecognizable mass of nylon. Rather than simply discarding the comb, remember it is a Goody, I chose to remove a few mangled teeth and reconstruct what remained. Today I think of the modified comb as having a shortened arch.

A year or two after Burt's efforts to eliminate the comb I decided to apply to the prosthodontic program at the Mayo Clinic. I would like to say that a nicely combed head of hair had an influence on my confidence while interviewing with Drs. Desjardins, Laney and Van Roekel but confidence during that interview was lacking. Survival was probably my goal; in all likelihood, this was my first encounter with the difference between success and survival.

Nonetheless things did work out and I found myself in the program. Moreover I was asked to stay on as a permanent member of the consulting staff. Indeed my life changed with this affiliation.

Speaking of life changing events, near the end of my residency I met my bride-to-be Susan. One of our first trips together was to the Academy of Prosthodontics meeting in the Bahamas. The first time I presented to the Academy was in Palm Springs with a poster presentation. We were on our way home from our honeymoon in the Caymans and I fretted over the poster presentation that I was about to give. The morning of the presentation I remember pulling out the comb only to find that my scalp was peeling as the sun in the islands must have burned through my thinning hair. So, the comb was the first to witness the little balls of skin that were falling from my head as I readied myself for the most important presentation of my career at that time. Somehow, with Susan's support, I survived.

Well, despite this scalp incident, I was eventually invited to become an associate fellow of the Academy. I volunteered for committee

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Academy of Prosthodontics - 2011 Medallion



The Medallion of 2012

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activities, Newsletter editor and was the first webmaster of the AP website. Although the comb was seeing progressively less use, I was finding more and more opportunities for contribution to the AP.

Now that the comb is in virtual retirement, for lack of need rather than lack of desire, as I find myself nearing the end of my presidential year. Reading this commentary you might question the wisdom of electing me to this office but I do hope that this year has provided some accomplishments. We now have a new mission and a plan to accomplish this mission. We will meet in a beautiful location with a tremendous scientific program and social events that we will all remember. Membership is at an all time high and I sense a real enthusiasm from the members about the future of this historic academy.

The comb and I want to thank you for this incredible opportunity to be your president. Likewise thanks go to the Executive Council for leadership of this organization is a group effort. Given the makeup of the EC I can state without reservation that the future of the Academy is bright even if the EC must lead without the benefit of the Goody comb.

AP Mission & Strategic Plan continued:

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Following were notes from discussion at EC Strategic planning session:

1. **Dedication to ethics in research, documentation of outcomes and treatment of patients (Ethics)**
 - a. Identification of ethical issues
 - i. Research
 - ii. Documentation
 - iii. Patient care
 - b. Communication of ethical concerns
 - c. Description of anticipated outcomes
 - d. Relation with industry
 - e. Goal: The Academy of Prosthodontics will be recognized as the ethical standard bearer for the specialty
 - i. Goals
 1. Include in program
 2. Conflict of interest vs disclosure

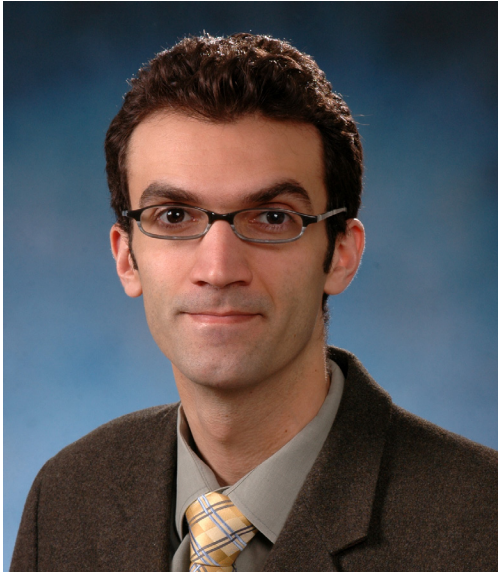
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AP Mission & Strategic Plan continued:

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3. Create a web presence on ethics
 4. Internally live to its own standards
 - f. **Begin process by: May 2012 by including speaker**
-
2. **Advisory board to the dental industry**
 - a. Offer industry access to selected academy members in brainstorming sessions conducted during the annual session
 - b. **Implementation by May 2012**
-
3. **Mentoring of emerging prosthodontic leaders**
 - a. Leadership development
 - i. Associate breakfast Ongoing
 - ii. Associate and life fellow luncheon Ongoing
 - iii. Direct communication with current and past leaders of the academy
 - iv. Identification/correction of deficiencies
 - b. **Program available now**
-
4. **Maintain and expand the Glossary of Prosthodontic Terms**
 - a. Revision of glossary every 5-10 years
 - b. **Dissemination of glossary to the profession**
 - c. **Publication anticipated Summer 2012**
-
5. **Present a premier prosthodontic meeting**
 - a. promote the art and science of prosthodontics to the profession and the public
 - b. disseminate knowledge concerning prosthodontics throughout the profession
 - c. encourage study and investigation of the various phases of prosthodontics and related subjects
 - d. **Ongoing**

‘One-on-One’ featuring Radi Masri **with Carl Driscoll**



I was born in a small city 30 minutes north of Jerusalem in the West Bank and grew up in Amman, the capital of Jordan. Although I visit frequently, I do miss the clean air and nature there, but what I miss the most, is the Middle Eastern food. My decision to become a prosthodontist was probably one of the easiest decisions that I have ever had to make. It was the topic that I liked the most during my pre-doctoral training and as I specialized, I realized more and more that I chose the right specialty. In addition to liking prosthodontics during my pre-doctoral training, I was fortunate to work with prosthodontists that set a good example and encouraged me immensely to become a specialist. Specializing in prosthodontics is a decision I will never regret.

I am fortunate to be in an institution where prosthodontics thrives and therefore, I was influenced by many great prosthodontists. However, Dr. Carl Driscoll is the one that influenced me the most and my clinical practice and treatment philosophy is driven by his teachings.

I am the oldest of three. I have a sister and a brother. Currently I am engaged and planning to get married in April of 2012.

I wish I could say playing golf, but it is a sport I could not master. I like to play sports like soccer and basketball and enjoy watching college basketball. I have season tickets to Maryland Men's basketball. I also enjoy gardening and landscaping in the spring and summer.

‘One-on-One’ featuring Robert Taft **with Carl Driscoll**



As many of you know I am very much a family man and most that has transpired and continues is geared toward my family. I met Camille in high school and we married while I was in dental school at Emory University. We have 3 sons, Tim & Chris (twins) and Geoff. My GPR residency occurred during my first year in the Navy, which also coincided with the birth of our twins. Our next duty station was in San Miguel, Philippines where Geoffrey was born. Subsequent duty stations included: Brunswick, ME; Bethesda, MD; San Antonio, TX and San Diego, CA. It was while we were in San Diego that our sons became involved in swimming which propelled us into spending many nights and weekends cheering for them. As a result of their swim meet successes, we were afforded many travel opportunities which

absorbed much of our free time! With our sons each independent productive citizens, we adopted

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“One-On-One”- Robert Taft

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Bailey our miniature labradoodle. He now occupies all of our free time when we are not traveling as a result of my participation in organized dentistry. Most recently, we were in Italy at the ISMR making new friends and exploring a different country. As for non-dental activities, some of you may know that I am a car aficionado especially those of a German persuasion. So as much as I will enjoy the vendors at the meeting I am looking forward to what Audi will be showing us as well.

I was born in New York City and we lived there for my first 8 years before we were relocated. As my father was a prominent electrical engineer for General Electric we frequently bounced up and down the east coast. I am quite proud to say that my father was responsible for much of the development of Cape Canaveral (now Cape Kennedy) in Florida.

I attended the State University of New York at Buffalo for undergraduate studies with a dual major in Biology and Psychology. After graduation, I worked as a teacher at a special education school in Connecticut (Grove School) during which time I also received my Masters in Special Education from Yale University. Afterwards, I became a Pharmaceutical Representative for Parke Davis (Warner Lambert) while saving money to attend Dental School. After 2 years and enough funds, I was accepted to Emory University Dental School where I did a Cancer fellowship at the VA. It was here that I had my first exposure to a Maxillofacial Prosthodontist and the patients they treat. It was this experience of being able to impact the Quality of Life for these patients that motivated me to pursue further training. While at Emory, I joined the Navy and after graduation completed a GPR at Portsmouth Hospital. The Navy has been a great opportunity. It not only provided my Prosthodontic training at the Naval Postgraduate Dental School (Bethesda, MD) but also Maxillofacial Prosthetics training with the Air Force at Wilford Hall (San Antonio, TX). This has also given me the opportunity to treat the very people who offer their lives on a daily basis in the defense of our country.

As a Maxillofacial Prosthodontist in the Navy, most of my tours have been hospital based either at San Diego or Bethesda. I was the Maxillofacial Prosthodontic Program Director and Specialty Leader to the Surgeon General for both Maxillofacial Prosthetics and Implant Dentistry for over 7 years. During this journey, my extreme interest in education was rekindled and I was later asked to take on some leadership roles

in Navy Medicine, which eventually led to my current position as Dean, Naval Postgraduate Dental School (NPDS). This position has lead to many organizational changes and alignments to meet the changing military requirements. Current challenges include developing two new centers of excellence within the school in Oral Pathology and 3D Modeling/Imaging. Both of these centers will have a major impact on our Maxillofacial Prosthetics officer and technician training programs. The future for the school is both exciting and cutting edge which has become both my work and my hobby.

Recently I was promoted to Deputy Chief, Naval Dental Corps, which places me in charge of over 1100 dentists representing all specialties of Dentistry. The work continues to be very challenging, further extending many of the initiatives already started at NPDS, with a more corporate multi-service platform. Who better to be in charge than a Prosthodontist?

Jackson Hole, Wyoming



94th Academy of Prosthodontics Annual Meeting

Four Seasons Resort, Jackson Hole, Wyoming

Room Rates: Single or Double Rooms \$245 plus tax

1-800-295-5281

Wednesday May 16 to Sunday May 20, 2012



Featured Speakers in Jackson Hole



Frauke Müller

Dr Müller is professor and chair for gerodontology and removable prosthodontics at the University of Geneva, Switzerland. Dr Müller served on the board of the European College of Gerodontology, Geriatric Oral Research Group of the IADR and the Swiss Society for Reconstructive Dentistry. She is President of the Swiss Society for Dentistry for handicapped and elderly persons (SGZBB). She is Associate Editor of Gerodontology. Her research activity is mainly related to gerodontology, oral function as well as complete and implant-supported overdentures. **Title: Prosthodontics in Multimorbid Patients**



Jean-François Roulet

Dr Roulet is Professor and Chair of the department of Restorative Dental Sciences at the University of Florida, Gainesville. Prof. Roulet has supervised more than 150 Theses, published more than 180 research papers and many reviews, book chapters and books. His main subjects of interest include amalgam substitute, composites and ceramic inlays. Prof. Roulet is a member of multiple national and international professional associations and is Editor of The Journal of Adhesive Dentistry, Oral Health & Preventive Dentistry, and Prophylaxe Impuls.

Title: Minimally Invasive Esthetic Dentistry



Martha Somerman

Dr Somerman has been director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) since August 2011. Dr. Somerman was dean of the University of Washington School of Dentistry, from 2002 to 2010. Dr. Somerman was on the faculty of the University of Michigan School of Dentistry from 1991 to 2002 where she served as a professor and chair of periodontics/prevention and geriatrics while simultaneously holding an appointment as professor of pharmacology at the School of Medicine.

Title: NIDCR – Maintaining the Cutting Edge Control

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Featured Speakers in Jackson Hole: continued

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Kenneth Kornman

Dr. Kornman is the Chief Scientific Officer of Interleukin Genetics, a molecular diagnostics company focused on developing genetic tests to guide disease prevention and treatment. Dr. Kornman is actively involved in functional genomics research and gene-environment interactions relative to common diseases of aging. He has published more than 125 manuscripts and authored three textbooks on treatment of periodontal disease. Dr. Kornman is Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Periodontology, founding Co-Editor of Clinical Advances in Periodontics.

Title: Inflammation, Your Health, and the Health of Your Patients.



Susanne Scherrer

Dr Scherrer has 28 years of private practice experience in Geneva as a general practitioner as well as part-time teaching and researcher commitment at the Department of Prosthodontics-Biomaterials (Univ. Geneva). Her general research interests include all-ceramic materials, fracture mechanics and fractographic failure analysis.

Title: Zirconia in Prosthodontics: Options and Quality



Mike Girard

Mike is CEO and President of Diadem Digital Solutions. With nearly 40 years of experience in the dental field and with 20 years in the dental laboratory industry working with the Shaw Group of Laboratories, Mike transitioned to the dental manufacturer world and completed tenure of 8 years with Nobel Biocare. Among his accomplishments at Nobel, Mike and his team successfully built a North American start up CAD/CAM division with sales of nearly 50 million dollars by the fifth year in business. In 2001 Mike was appointed Vice President of Marketing for North America and also developed global corporate strategy for Nobel.

Title: Winds of Change

Social Program Schedule



Wednesday, May 16

6:00-10:00 **Welcome Reception and Louis Blatterfein Dinner**

Thursday, May 17

7:00-8:00 **Get Acquainted Breakfast**

10:00-3:00 **Spouses/Guests Outing: Jackson Tour**

1:00-5:00 **First Business Meeting and Luncheon (*AP Fellows Only*)**

Friday, May 18

5:00-9:00 **Group Social Outing: Wildlife Expedition (*and Dinner*)**

Saturday, May 19

10:00-12:30 **Spouses/Guest Outing: Culinary Demonstration**

1:15-3:00 **Executive Council Meeting/Luncheon**

6:00-7:00 **President's Reception**

7:00-10:00 **Installation Banquet (hors d'oeuvres, dinner, awards and dancing)**

Social Program Schedule

Sunday, May 20

12:30-3:30

Second Business Meeting and Luncheon (*AP Fellows Only*)

Sunday, May 20 – Wednesday, May 23

Yellowstone National Park Post-Conference Tour

A private two day tour of USA's first National Park. Day one you will visit the Mammoth Hot Springs, the Upper and Lower Falls at the Grand Canyon and the Fountain Paint Pots. Day two will include a tour of the Old Faithful Geyser Basin and the Midway Geiser Basin which contains the Grand Prismatic Spring (the world's largest hot spring).

Sunday May 20th Depart Four Seasons Hotel 4:00pm and arrive at the Old Faithful Inn 7:00pm

Wednesday May 23rd Depart Old Faithful Inn at 7:00am and arrive JAC Airport at 10:00am

