



International College of Prosthodontists Growing Its Global Presence



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The International College of Prosthodontists (ICP) was born as an idea in 1982, at a prosthodontic symposium chaired by Harold Prieskel. The first meeting of a steering committee took place in 1984, at which the name of the organization was determined. The word “college” was used to describe the common pursuit of the group, and “prosthodontists” to distinguish the members as specialists, at that time recognized as such in few countries compared with today. The first officers to serve on the board were Harold Prieskel as chair, the late Peter Schärer as treasurer, and Jack Preston as secretary. The inaugural meeting of the College took place in 1985 (30 years ago) in Seattle, Washington, in conjunction with the American College of Prosthodontists, with the three officers and George Zarb invited as the first ICP speaker. Since then, the College has held biennial meetings in different parts of the world, and its membership has grown to include prosthodontists from more than 70 countries. Its mission to “promote the specialty and discipline of Prosthodontics,” along with its vision of international cooperation and communication, continues to form the basis of its activities.

Those activities have mainly concentrated on the biennial conferences and the opportunities they have provided for scholarly input and debate and for the all-important networking among prosthodontists from all over the world. The programs have always been of high standard with speakers of the highest quality, and they continue to be the highlight of the international prosthodontics calendar. The organization continues to be overseen by a board of councillors and over the years has attracted the highest caliber of people dedicated to serving the organization. In order to increase the global reach of what really is the world body for the specialty, recent ICP Board decisions have divided the world into three regions, each further subdivided into Northern and Southern. Thus, we have the Americas, Europe and Africa, and Asia and the Pacific. The ICP will strive to bring its conferences to each of these six regions in turn. This year, South Korea will host the conference, and in 2017 it will be held in South America for the first time, in Santiago, Chile.

We will also for the first time strive to give expression to this regional globalization in terms of board membership

and will make every effort to provide an even spread of members from each of the three main regions in future elections: There is much interest in ICP Board membership and elections will also be held along these lines.

Although the conferences have been seen as the main focus of the ICP, there are new initiatives that we hope will appeal to those prosthodontists reading this who are not already members (all members receive the IJP as part of their membership dues). These initiatives are in the areas of education and research. For example, the ICP endorsed the independent IJP/Karlsruhe Workshop initiative for Young Prosthodontic Educators (YPE), which was introduced by George Zarb, the late Michael Heners, and Winfried Walther in 2004 and underwritten by generous grants from Nobel Biocare. The ICP also made financial contributions to these biennial workshops as a prelude to our current assistance of participants with travel and accommodation stipends, particularly those from developing countries. Funding has come mainly from our own assets but also from generous donations of our membership. We now plan to continue this support through a recently established ICP Education and Research Foundation, which the ICP has funded with an initial grant of \$50,000. Apart from the YPE participant support, these funds will be used to establish a small grants research fund for prosthodontic students to support new and existing research with top-up grant money as well as to offer mentoring and intellectual support from within the considerable membership resources that comprise the ICP.

As an organization, we are also cognizant of the need for support from industry, and we have enhanced the exposure of our major sponsors through more than just their sponsorship of our conferences. To further this aim, we are establishing joint ICP-Industry research fellowships. The first example of these will be with the Ivoclar Vivadent restorative materials research fellowship, a 1-year program. Details of these initiatives will be unveiled at the forthcoming conference in Seoul, South Korea, which promises to be the best attended in the history of the ICP.

We look forward to welcoming as many prosthodontists and IJP readers as possible in Seoul, September 17 to 20, 2015.