College Active in Denturism Fight

Denturism - no one wants to hear the word, but it must receive serious attention by the ACP and all of its members.

Last year, when the ACP saw the problem of denturism grow, the College created the Denturism Subcommittee of the Prosthodontic Care Committee, headed by Dr. Russell Williamson. This subcommittee has been working on a policy statement for the College and is putting together a package of information for use by states where denturism is progressing.

With the addition of Washington last November, denturism is now legal in seven states. In these states, through legislative and public decree, the denturist can now provide primary care for patients previously legally treated only by dentists. They are allowed to perform procedures that are of particular interest to the discipline and specialty of prosthodontics.

In discussing how to control the existing denturism problem, Dr. Williamson said, "We must insist that the denturist who violates the law is prosecuted to the full extent. We as prosthodontists are in the best position to provide information on illegal activities to the authorities. Denturists who practice illegally should be held accountable for their actions."

Dr. Williamson added, "Licensed denturists must be held accountable under the federal guidelines, laws, regulations, and the same standards of care as dentists. The licensed denturist must demonstrate compliance with CDC regulations pertaining to sterilization and disinfection control, "OSHA regulations, employee satisfaction, accurate federal and state estimated tax withholdings, truth in advertising claims, patient satisfaction by demonstrating their ability to successfully treat complex conditions, etc."

The seven states which presently have legalized denturism are:

1. Maine (1977). Denturists can legally treat patients requiring complete denture treatment under dentist supervision. They are regulated by the State Board of Dental Examiners.
2. Arizona (1978). Licensed denturists legally treat patients requiring complete denture and removable partial denture treatment under dentist supervision. They are regulated by the State Board of Dental Examiners.
3. Oregon (1978). Denturists legally independently treat patients requiring complete denture treatment. They are regulated by a state denturism board.
4. Colorado (1979). The statute was never passed, but a formal agreement was reached. Licensed denturists legally treat patients requiring complete and removable partial denture treatment under dentist supervision.

ACP Challenges Insurance Reimbursement

"Prosthodontists have long questioned the wisdom used by insurance companies to determine fees for prosthodontic services," said Dr. Kenneth L. Hilsen, ACP Prosthodontic Practice Division Director. "The insurance companies have never been educated as to the differences that can exist when doing prosthodontic treatment. They have been taught that a crown is a crown, and a denture is a denture, regardless of who performs the procedure. Therefore, how can they be expected to reimburse different fees to dentists with differing levels of training for what they perceive as the same procedure?"

The crux of the problem, according to Dr. Hilsen, is that the insurance industry and its reimbursement of prosthodontic procedures is based on just that - procedures. An insurance company reimburses for a denture, or a crown, not for the treatment of a disease state requiring prosthodontic treatment.

As an example to illustrate his point he said, "Most prosthodontists will agree that it is fairly easy to treat a patient for one single crown. This same treatment can become much more difficult if the patient suffers from a temporomandibular disorder or has a parafuncntional habit. This can become even more complicated if the patient has Parkinson's disease and cannot sit still for the procedure. These are the types of patients that are often referred to the prosthodontist. Insurance companies, however, will only reimburse for the single crown under the one existing code. They reimburse for the procedure, not the complexity of the treatment."
A
fter 25 years of prosperity, what is the future of the American College of Prosthodontists? It is, simply, what the membership wants it to be. We can be the leaders of our specialty or we can remain passive, non-interactive and isolate ourselves from other organizations and the profession. Our past indicates an organization with a desire to succeed and a willingness to work hard and dedicate our time to accomplish our goals. If we continue our past efforts and dedicate ourselves to the success of the College, our established goals will lead this organization beyond the expectations of our founders.

Many members ask me, "What can the College do for me?" or "What benefits will I receive from my dues?" Maybe the question should be, "What can I do to help the College?" Each time a member decides to help the College by promoting prosthodontics in their practice, whether it is in the private, military or academic arena, then that member is helping him or herself. That includes teaching and representing the College in the academic environment, developing new prosthodontic research, paying dues, or working on ACP committees, the House of Delegates, and within the sections.

As the College prospers, so will its members. Each and every program that the College develops and promotes helps each and every member. Sometimes it may not be a direct benefit, but we all benefit indirectly from a program. For example, as the Public and Professional Relations Committee develops a program to promote prosthodontists in the field of implant dentistry, it not only helps the private practitioner but also the military and academic programs. As the public demands more and more services from prosthodontists, all members will experience growth and prosperity gained from the program.

Our Annual Session is another prime example of our prosperity. This year’s meeting will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the College. It has grown from a small limited meeting to a multi-discipline meeting. Each meeting exceeds the past, with the 1994 Annual Session being our largest meeting ever — member, guest, and auxiliary attendance records were broken, and we had one of the highest rated scientific programs. As our membership continues to grow, so will the Annual Session and so will the need to provide our membership with a premiere prosthodontic meeting. With this growth comes one drawback and that is added cost. The Annual Session Division is working hard to control costs while providing a scientific program worthy of the College. These added costs must be assumed by the members who attend the meeting and gain from the knowledge attained from the meeting.

With the continued growth in number of members, our administrative office has grown to meet the increased needs of the membership. It was only logical that the College needed to expand into the new headquarters office in Chicago. This new prosperity will enable the administrative staff to meet all the needs of a growing organization. Membership needs and demands have doubled in the past year and will continue to increase over the next few years.

As the College prospers, so will its members.

Each new program places more demands on the administrative staff to initiate or monitor the program. In an attempt to control administrative costs, the Board of Directors looked at its own expenses and approved the limiting of Board meetings to two, with Officers meetings to occur at the headquarters office in conjunction with other required meetings.

The Officers Committee has already had the pleasure of holding its first Officers meeting in the new office this past February. We can all be proud of achieving this goal. If you are in the Chicago area drop by the central office and say hello.

One of the greatest benefits of being a member of the College is the privilege of being a member of a section. Each section is an extension of the College developing the prosperity of the specialty at a local level. Sections have developed from a group of members meeting to exchange ideas and socialize into the mainstay or life blood of the College. Many of the programs developed by the committees of the College directly impact on the sections and benefit all members within the section. As problems or needs occur at the local level, the headquarters office is now able to assist its members. The formation of the House of Delegates imparts the governance of the College to the sections. Their delegates determine the future and the prosperity of the College. This is an honor that all members should participate in and help the College by helping prosthodontics grow within your area.

The ACP Education Foundation originated in the former private practice meetings of the Annual Session as a mechanism to accumulate funds to educate the public about the specialty of prosthodontics and prosthodontists. Today, it has evolved into a Foundation which primarily advances prosthodontic research with the distribution of scholarships and support of the John Sharry Research Award Competition. In the future, it must mature into a Foundation that can fully support the College’s public education efforts while continuing to sponsor research scholarships and awards. The ACP Board of Directors is presently considering changes in the structure of the Foundation’s Board of Directors to include prominent people like presidents of dental companies, CEO’s of related companies, publishers, etc. The Officers of the Foundation would administer the Foundation and assure the support for college programs, meetings and research endeavors.

The future prosperity and growth of the College will be directly related to the Foundation’s ability to support new programs developed by the College.

Each day the College assumes many new responsibilities. Some may think that this is just politics, but in reality this is prosperity and the willingness to accept the responsibilities of the specialty. These responsibilities may include the need to attend meetings like the ADA, the AADS, the specialty group meeting, ADA conferences and Council meetings as representatives of the specialty, or to respond to health care reform, managed care programs, third party carriers, prosthodontic standards and competencies in education and the impact of denturism on prosthodontics. We have asked for this role, and now we must accept the responsibilities of this honor.

All of our members can be thankful for the visions of our founders and the many years of dedication and hard work that has made the College what it is today. We prosper today because they endured the many challenges and envisioned an organization that would truly represent the specialty of prosthodontics. Let us build on their past deeds and have the vision and fortitude to move the College into the next century and beyond.
ne of the most important functions that an association performs is communication with its members. The College is working hard to find new and innovative ways to disseminate timely information to the membership.

The Headquarters Office in Chicago now has a voice mail system that allows members to leave detailed messages for staff after regular business hours. This feature is particularly useful for members who are calling from different time zones before or after regular business hours. It should be noted that the College now maintains regular, consistent office hours when staff are available to answer your questions or provide information. These hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Central Time.

The College now has a dedicated telephone line for incoming faxes. The office receives a high volume of faxes on a number of topics. Members are using the fax to pay dues, order salable materials, and send correspondence. The fax number is (312) 573-1257.

We are also investigating using a “fax on demand” service that would enable members to select various documents that would be faxed on request.

The College now has an e-mail address through America Online. Our e-mail address is “ACPros@aol.com”.

The Public and Professional Relations Plan also calls for the College to put consumer information about prosthodontics on the Internet as a way of reaching that vast and growing audience. Thanks to a very good working relationship with the ADA, the College is receiving about three telephone calls per week from the general public concerning prosthodontics. When consumer calls are referred to the College, staff sends out a list of member prosthodontists located near the caller.

Later this year, the College will institute an 800 telephone number for the general public and publicize the College’s prosthodontist referral service.

The most recent publication of an ACP roster occurred in 1993. Now that the College has established a Headquarters Office in Chicago and greatly enhanced the management of the data base, the roster will be published yearly. A 1995 roster will be sent to all members this summer.

As indicated in the article on page one, the College is committed to fighting denturism. The ACP staff are in touch with key ADA staff regarding lobbying activities on the state level. By coordinating our activities with those of the ADA and state dental societies, the College can more effectively lobby representatives of state legislatures and educate the public about the problem of denturism.

Finally, the College will continue to use the Messenger as a vehicle for membership communication. The Officers Committee has directed staff to investigate the feasibility of publishing the Messenger six times per year instead of quarterly.

As the College’s membership continues to increase both at home and abroad, the ACP will search for new ways to engage in open dialog with the membership.

ACP Hosts Research Symposium

In a continuing effort to offer quality programs to educate the membership, the American College of Prosthodontists is offering a unique symposium for all prosthodontic faculty. ACP is sponsoring the first annual Prosthodontic Research Symposium which this year will focus on evidence-based dentistry. The symposium will be held June 16-20, 1995 at the Omni Hotel in Chicago, Illinois.

Ten leading prosthodontic educators studied the principles of evidence-based dentistry and critical appraisal of dental literature at a special teaching session at McMaster University in Ontario, Canada. At the ACP Prosthodontic Research Symposium, these educators will share these principles in an effort to move the prosthodontic community toward evidence-based practice.

The symposium is especially designed for directors of advanced specialty education programs in prosthodontics, program mentors, course directors, researchers at any stage of their research career and prosthodontists who wish to base their scientific presentations on valid evidence.

The subject material of the course requires instruction in a small group setting with two mentors for every ten participants, with guidance from an accomplished McMaster faculty member. Because of this, registration is limited to 50 participants.

The Symposium will be under the overall direction of Dr. George Browman, Chair of Clinical Epidemiology at McMaster University. The following outstanding prosthodontic teachers will serve as faculty for the course:

- Dr. James Anderson, University of Toronto
- Dr. Allan B. Carr, Ohio State University
- Dr. David A. Felton, University of North Carolina
- Dr. Gary R. Goldstein, New York University
- Dr. Rhonda Jacob, University of Texas
- Dr. Brian R. Lang, University of Michigan
- Dr. Patrick M. Lloyd, Marquette University
- Dr. Glen P. McGivney, State University of New York at Buffalo
- Dr. Jack D. Preston, University of Southern California
- Dr. George A. Zarb, University of Toronto

The generous support of fifteen organizations supporting this program has helped the Prosthodontic Research Symposium become a reality. The College is especially appreciative of a $15,000 contribution from Novopharma which has helped to hold down registration fees.

Although space is limited for this course, registration was still open at press time. So call now to reserve your place. Registration fees for the Prosthodontic Research Symposium are $475 for ACP members and $575 for non-members.

Anyone interested in receiving more information or wishing to register over the phone with a VISA or MasterCard may contact the ACP office at (312) 573-1260.
and are regulated by the State Board of Dental Examiners.

5. Idaho (1982). Denturists legally independently treat patients requiring complete denture treatment and are regulated by a state denturism board.

6. Montana (1984). Denturists legally independently treat patients requiring complete denture and removable partial denture treatment and are regulated by the State Board of Dental Examiners which includes one dentist.

7. Washington (1994). Denturists legally independently treat patients requiring complete denture and removable partial denture treatment and are regulated by a state denturism board.

Denturists aim to expand their presence by increasing their scope of services and working toward legalization of denturism in other states. In the future, erosion of this area of prosthodontic practice could make justification of specialty status more difficult. This would affect all prosthodontists regardless of their practice interests.

The National Denturist Association reported in Lab Management Today (January 1995) that legalization efforts are currently being coordinated in Texas, Utah, Mississippi, New Jersey, Oklahoma and Illinois. The American Dental Association reports that the Mississippi bill would license denturists, establish a board of dentistry, require dental insurance policies to cover denturists' services, permit denturists to construct full dentures and repair partials, and furnish dentures directly to the public. The Oklahoma Dental Association, according to the ACP, has reintroduced its rewrite of the state dental practice act. One of the proposed changes would legalize the practice of denturism with stiff educational requirements. A similar attempt failed last year when hygienists joined the denturists to defeat the measure claiming that it restricted their scope of authority.

In Oregon, Dr. Terry Grubb, president of the Washington State Dental Association said, "The public saw it (legalization of denturism) as a financial issue, not a health-care issue, and voted accordingly."

According to Dr. Williamson, the ACP must be active in stopping the spread of denturism. He said, "We must provide data demonstrating that denturists do not provide complete denture and removable partial denture treatment to the public at a reduced fee. We should compare dentist fees to those dentist fees who provide prosthodontics to financially disadvantaged patients. I predict that the data will show that the fees of denturism (when required to follow the same basic practice guidelines as dentists) will be very similar. My opinion is that denturism does not decrease the health care cost and that denturism is a duplication of services which increases the cost of health-care education. Once we gather this information it can be used to influence state legislators, voters and policy makers."

The specific duties of the Denturism Subcommittee for 1995 include the following charges:
1. To gather as much information as possible about denturism in those states where it can be practiced legally.
2. To collect data and information about legislation in the state of Washington legalizing denturism.
3. To gather as much information as possible about denturism in the state of Oregon. The fact that Oregon is planning to establish an American Denturist College is of great concern to the ACP.
4. To learn what means the state of Texas is using to defeat denturism.
5. To learn how the ACP can play an active role in challenging the legality of denturism legislation in the state of Texas.
6. To develop a Denturism Information Package for individual state board of dental examiners, ACP Sections, regional groups, and local dental societies.

The ADA has asked the College for assistance in gathering information about the effect of denturism. In cooperation with the ADA's Office of State Governmental Affairs, the College will provide information to the ADA Board of Trustees on this issue.

In addition, the College will identify key members in each state who can be called upon to assist state dental societies in grassroots lobbying efforts to stop denturism proposals before they become law.

ACP Challenges Insurance Reimbursement

continued from page 1

Dr. Hilsen believes that there must be a change to the reimbursement process for the treatment of existing disease states involving the specialty. "If there is a differentiation of the disease state of edentulism into several classifications such as Class I for a normal ridge and Class V for a severely resorbed ridge, there will be a need for different procedures to treat each type of problem." He continued, "If insurance companies are required to reimburse higher fees for specific disease states, then they will seek out those practitioners who can demonstrate their knowledge of the problem such as through specialization in prosthodontics."

Periodontists have divided their treatments into Class I through V for some time. They are reimbursed according to the class of disease, and it is assumed that if the dentist is treating a complex Class V periodontitis, he is a specialist in periodontics or can demonstrate such expertise. "Most general practice dentists shy away from this complex type of treatment for these reasons," said Hilsen.

In response to this involved issue the College, through the Prosthodontic Practice Division has created the Classification Committee chaired by Dr. Thomas J. McGarry, to delineate those disease states germane to prosthodontics and the many factors affecting them. Additionally, the ACP has created a Coding Committee, chaired by Dr. Marion J. Edge, to coordinate this classification with the ADA who is also interested in pursuing this new approach.

Dr. Hilsen concluded by stating, "I believe that outcome data will show that greater success of treatment occurs when specialists are directing the treatment of complicated disease states for which they are specially trained. It is the hope of the College and the Prosthodontic Practice Division that a change in recognition by the insurance industry to the treatment of disease states rather than by procedure will finally give prosthodontics the recognition and identity that it so much deserves."
Predoctoral Education Symposium Planned

The ACP is sponsoring a Predoctoral Prosthodontic Education Symposium to be held Thursday, October 19, 1995 in conjunction with the College's Annual Session in Washington D.C. The purpose of this symposium will be to give predoctoral prosthodontic dental educators an opportunity to discuss a number of issues currently affecting predoctoral dental education. The outcomes of this symposium will be formulated into a group of statements (competencies) which will address what the general dentist should be prepared to perform upon graduation and the prosthodontic procedures the general dentist should consider referring to a specialist.

According to Dr. Jerry Woolsey, Chairman of the ACP subcommittee responsible for the Symposium, “If we can collectively identify each of these topics, we can aid the future of prosthodontics at both undergraduate and graduate levels.”

Examples of areas of concern which have been suggested for discussion:

1. The shrinking curriculum time devoted to critical areas of prosthodontics. In some schools, the time spent on complete and partial removable denture prosthodontics has been reduced - reportedly, to reflect the changing demographics of the edentulous population. Should the modern general practitioner be competent in all aspects of complete and partial removable denture prosthodontics?

2. The importance of occlusion in the modern curriculum. Are all of the fundamentals of gnathology currently taught and/or should they be taught?

3. Do we teach the undergraduate dental students enough about articulator instrumentation?

4. What role should the undergraduate prosthodontic curriculum devote to TMD diagnosis and treatment?

5. Should dental implants be taught in the undergraduate curriculum? If so, what aspects: diagnosis only; restoration of single teeth, partial or complete edentulism? Should the undergraduate student be taught surgical implant placement? (The Education Committee of the American Academy of Periodontology had a similar symposium devoted to “The Role of Dental Implants in Predoctoral Periodontal Education”.)

The goals of such a conference are to invite prosthodontic educators from all over North America to meet and exchange wisdom. According to Woolsey, “Undergraduate prosthodontic curricula is a timely topic which needs to be addressed. We have the opportunity to impact the future of prosthodontics by enumerating the many strengths of the undergraduate curriculum and enhancing the weaknesses.”

Private Practice Workshop Plannned

A full day workshop packed full of ideas for those interested in the private practice of prosthodontics is planned for Wednesday, October 18, 1995 in conjunction with the Annual Session in Washington D.C. The day will include an overview seminar conducted by Roger P. Levin, DDS, MBA, a management and marketing consultant. He will analyze trends in specialty practice and focus on building the specialty practice through increased referrals.

Additionally, the workshop will discuss many other important issues facing private practitioners today including marketing and keys to practice growth. Dr. Carl Schuster’s theme of “Partners in Prosthodontics” will be addressed throughout the entire session. According to Dr. Thomas J. Balshi, workshop coordinator, “This should be an exciting and enriching day for any prosthodontist in private practice.”

Sections

In January, the Massachusetts Section of the American College of Prosthodontists conducted its Yankee Dental Event and Annual Meeting. The meeting was well received, thanks to guest speaker, Dr. Charles E. English, (left of center) who presented a lecture entitled, “Advanced Restorative Concepts in Implant Prosthodontics.” The great success of the meeting can once again be attributed to the organizational efforts of its officers: Dr. George Kay, Past-President (far left); Dr. Jeffrey R. Dornbush, Newsletter Editor (right of center) and Dr. Louis M. Brown, Treasurer. At the annual meeting new officers were elected: Dr. Berdj Kiladjian, President and Dr. Elliot Kronstein, Vice-President.

Call for Table Clinic Presentations

The American College of Prosthodontists Annual Session

October 19-22, 1995

Hyatt Regency Hotel Crystal City, Washington, D.C.

Table Clinics Session:
Friday, October 20, 1995
12:00-1:30 p.m.

Poster or Display Presentations of Research, Clinical and/or Laboratory Techniques

No Slide Projectors Allowed

Please Contact:

Dr. Nancy S. Arbree
Chair, Table Clinic Subcommittee 1995
Tufts University School of Dental Medicine
One Kneeland Street, Boston, MA 02111

Tel: (617) 636-0866
FAX: (617) 636-6583

Branemark Confirmed as Distinguished Lecturer

Dr. P.I. Branemark has confirmed that he will be in attendance as a featured speaker at the ’95 Annual Session. He will be acknowledged as the ACP Distinguished Lecturer for the meeting. He is scheduled to speak on Friday October 20, 1995 during the morning session.
ACPParticipatesin
ImplantSatelliteConference

C
ombining an educational program
with the latest in video technology,
ACP members recently had the oppor-
tunity to attend a conference on dental implants
without having to leave their hometown.

“Dental Implants: Management of the
Partially Edentulous Patient” was a two and
one half hour conference broadcast live to 100
sites on January 14, 1995. The program was
sponsored by the American Association of Oral
and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) in
conjunction with the ACP and was viewed by
over 1400 registrants.

By cooperating with AAOMS on this satel-
lite broadcast, ACP was able to offer reduced
rates to College members wishing to attend.
Additionally, advanced specialty education
programs in prosthodontics were given a
chance to raise money for their departments.
Programs could earn $25 for each private
practitioner or part-time faculty member they
signed up to attend the broadcast.

The broadcast included video presentations of
surgical technique for soft tissue grafting, guided
tissue regeneration, and onlay bone grafting
procedures. ACP member Harold J. Gulbransen,
DDS from San Diego, California served as
faculty for a forty-five minute panel discussion
which was also included in the conference.

“I encourage anyone who has the opportu-
nity to participate in something like this to go
for it. It is so different than anything you have
ever done,” Dr. Gulbransen says. “Not only
was it fun to be a part of, the technological side
was amazing. We were broadcasting live from
a studio and when I said, "show slide number
45," it quickly came up on the screen from a
completely different room in the building.”

Using toll-free phone numbers during the
panel discussion, registrants participated in a
live interactive question and answer session
with the faculty. According to Dr. Gulbransen,
at least a third of the questions were directed at
“the program was targeted to oral sur-
gons, but a lot of the questions asked about
prosthodontic issues. This teleconference was
an excellent way to interact with colleagues
from other specialties.”

Viewer evaluations and member feedback
were very positive regarding the program
content. But Dr. Gulbransen got another benefit
from participating. “I walked away with a
better appreciation for live television!”

ACP members may order a videotape set of
the teleconference for $75 plus $5 shipping and
handling by calling the ACP office at
(312) 573-1260. Nonmembers can order the
tape by calling AAOMS order fulfillment at
(800) 225-3775.

National Search for
New JOP Section Editor

A
pplications are being accepted for the
position of Techniques and Technology
Section Editor for the Journal of
Prosthodontics. This newly created position
requires the management and coordination of
the peer review of manuscripts reporting on
new techniques and technological advance-
ments affecting prosthodontics.

“Laboratory technology is a vital part of our
specialty” said Dr. Patrick M. Lloyd, Editor-in-
Chief, the Journal of Prosthodontics. “The JOP
needs a section devoted exclusively to report-
ing on practical and innovative applications in
dental technology.”

Applicants must be Diplomates of the
American Board of Prosthodontics. A back-
ground in dental laboratory or extensive experi-
ence in the laboratory phases of prosthodontics
is required. Editorial experience with other
dental/prosthodontic journals is desired.
All applicants should include:

- a letter detailing background in dental
  laboratory technology
- a curriculum vitae
- copies of publications in peer reviewed
  journals that evidence knowledge and expe-
  rience in dental laboratory technology

The Section Editor will receive an honorarium,
individualized correspondence materials, and
reimbursement for related expenses.
Deadline for applications is May 31, 1995.
Selection will be made by June 30th.
For questions, call the office of the Editor,
(414) 288-1413.

Please send application material to:
Patrick M. Lloyd, DDS, MS
Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Prosthodontics
160 Academic Support Facility
P.O. Box 1881
Marquette University
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1881

College Develops 1995
Public Relations Plan

In an effort to spread the word about
prosthodontists, the College and its Public
and Professional Relations Committee have
developed a 1995 plan devoted entirely to
public relations activities.

The activities are planned to reach not only
the general public, but to educate the dental
community about prosthodontics as well.

On the professional relations front, the
College has agreed to be one of the spon-
soring organizations of a video entitled
“The Healthcare Professional’s Guide to
Oral Cancer” being produced by the
National Oral Cancer Awareness Program.
The video is aimed at training various
healthcare professionals, both dental and
medical, in proper examination, biopsy,
diagnostic, treatment, rehabilitation and
referral techniques applicable to oral can-
cer. ACP will have the opportunity to
review the script for technical accuracy and
may also provide the videotape at a low
cost to the membership.

The ACP Implant Steering Committee is
working on a “video brochure” focused on
explaining the benefits of implant prosth-
odontics to potential patients which would
also reinforce that prosthodontists should
be the leader of a patient’s implant team.

The successful radio interview project,
highlighted in the last issue of the Messenger,
will be repeated again this year. An estimated
seven million people heard stories about
prosthodontists shortly after last year’s
Annual Session.

Creating a link for anyone interested in
learning more about prosthodontics or the
prosthodontists in their area, the College
will soon be publicizing an “800” telephone
numbers for consumer inquiries.

Some of the public relations projects
under consideration would include the ser-
VICES of Manning, Selvage & Lee
(MS & L) public relations firm in Chicago.
In addition to being the firm used by
AAOMS, it is recommended by industry
experts as well. A Tom Harris study of public
relations firms ranks MS&L in the top five
firms for overall quality, and they received a
grade of “A-” from Inside PR Magazine.

And, of course, the College office will
not only coordinate all of the projects named
above, but will produce other professional
public relations activities as well. “Press
releases, media kits, and phone calls to both
consumer and trade media - everything we
can do to publicize the specialty and help our
members will be done continuously through-
out the year,” says Joanne Constantine, ACP
Director of Communications.

So be on the lookout for the publicity of
your specialty. Upcoming issues of the
Messenger will report on the progress of all
of these activities.
Collegemembers have a new resource when making their travel plans. Arrangements have been made for First Corporate Travel, Inc. in Northbrook, Illinois to provide travel services for all College events. Members may use this agency for their personal travel plans as well.

First Corporate Travel offers a number of unique services. To start, a College members can fill out Personal Profile Cards outlining their airline seating preferences, hotel preferences, airline club membership numbers, special dietary needs and special service requirements. These profiles are then kept in the agency's computer reservation system and automatically entered during travel arrangements ensuring that as many of the members' needs are met.

Using the latest in travel software, First Corporate Travel offers ACP members a number of cost savings and preferred bookings including the following:

- Recheck/Rebook Program - To ensure the lowest airline fares, this computer program continues to review all airfares even after a reservation has been made. If a lower fare becomes available, the reservation is referred to an agency staff member for review.
- Pro-Active Search and Suggest (P.A.S.S) Program for both car rental and hotel reservations. When a reservation agent finds the best rate on the computer, the agent then follows up with a direct phone call to the individual car agency or hotel property to confirm and guarantee that that rate is the lowest being offered at that location.

- ABC Corporate Services - First Corporate Travel's membership in this program provides several benefits with hotel reservations. Over 15,000 hotels worldwide are affiliated with this program offering specially negotiated hotel rates, specially reserved blocks of rooms which may provide a room even if a hotel is "sold out," and fully automated booking providing a vendor-generated confirmation number.

- 800 Number for After-Hour Emergencies - Stranded travelers will not have to fend for themselves should they need to reach a travel agency representative outside of business hours. First Corporate Travel includes an "800" number on all itineraries in case of any travel emergencies.

In addition, First Corporate Travel provides travelers with five-part comprehensive itineraries for distribution to families and staff assistants and notifies members of all documentation needed for foreign travel.

To contact First Corporate Travel for your personal and professional travel plans, call them at (800) 634-3661.

ACP Welcomes Thirteen New Members

The College continues to grow. The following people were approved for membership at the February, 1995 meeting of the ACP Officers Committee:

- Dr. David M. Jacobwitz, Student
- Dr. Cornelius T. Lynch, Student
- Dr. Howard S. Jeon, Student
- Dr. Eliot M. Heisler, Student
- Dr. Ching-Mao Ling, Student
- Dr. Chotiros Kuphasuk, Student
- Dr. Daniel O. Ellert, Student
- Dr. Josef Ma Karlos Bringas, Student
- Dr. Joe Bastadjian, Student
- Dr. Terence C. Hilger, Member
- Dr. Constantine Papas, Member
- Dr. Leslie A. Lucas, Member

The American Board of Prosthodontics

The Part 1 and/or 2 examination was given in Chicago February 19-21, 1995. Seventy-three candidates participated in the examination. This number represents an increase over last year. Thirteen candidates were examined on Part 2. This is the first time in several years that the Board has given Part 2 in February. A candidate now has a choice of taking Part 2 in February or June. One candidate completed the certificate process and became a diplomate.

Before the beginning of the Part I exam on February 19, the American College of Prosthodontists hosted a breakfast for the candidates at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel.

The Part 2-5 examination will be given in Dallas, Texas at the Crest Court Hotel June 18-23, 1995.

The Board adopted a new guideline regarding the certification process. All future candidates must become board eligible by December 15 of the previous year if they intend to take the February examination. In addition the application to take the examination must be in the office of the Board's Executive Director six weeks prior to the initial date of the examination in both February and June.

All diplomates are urged to send a change of address to the ABP Executive Director, Dr. William Culpepper. The Board's computer print out of addresses is used in the mail ballot for the yearly election of a new Board member. A change of address to the College does not change an address to the Board.

Correspondence concerning the American Board of Prosthodontists should be directed to:

Dr. William D. Culpepper
Executive Director
American Board of Prosthodontics
P.O. Box 8437
Atlanta, GA 30306
(404) 876-2625
FAX (404) 872-8804

Volume 2 Issue 25 April 1995
If a dentist tests positive for HIV, does that individual have an ethical responsibility to make patients aware of the HIV status?

It is my belief that if a dentist tests positive for HIV, he does have an ethical obligation to communicate that information to his patient population. However, in doing so, he must also understand that there will likely be a significant impact on his practice. In spite of informing patients of the safety of barrier techniques, it is always an inherent fear that they may become victims of the virus through its transmission from the clinician.

As for the news item presented in the Point/Counterpoint section of the January 1995 Messenger which introduced the question for this issue, my response is this. Unfortunately, the settlement award of $850,000 by a Georgia court to the former patients of a dentist who died after contracting AIDS, will set a precedent for more and more litigation of that type. Will patients, once they learn of the HIV status of their dentist, decide to litigate on similar grounds? This, in addition to contracting the virus, will add additional stress to the practitioner’s life.

One other point that private practitioners should consider is disability coverage in the event they become HIV positive. The mere admission of a positive HIV status could possibly diminish a practice to the point where serious financial hardship could arise. Would this "disability" and its effect on a practice be covered by our current disability programs? When making an announcement, a prosthodontist may fully consider leaving the private practice sector for employment in another area.

Thomas J. Balshi, DDS
Fort Washington, PA

(Editors Note: only one response was received for this issue.)

Too Much Edjication is Bad

One of my long-time patients recently sat in my chair and mentioned that her daughter was studying to become a dental hygienist. "That's great," I told her, "Dental hygiene is a fine profession, and we need more hygienists." Then she began to complain about the educational prerequisites for the hygiene program. "I don't understand why she needs to study English, chemistry, dental hygienists to perform their duties and make the right decisions for their patients in a variety of treatment settings. But as I spoke I realized this was just another reminder that the public doesn't seem to be placing much value in education these days.

An article appearing in a recent issue of The American Scholar concluded that we are living in the most anti-intellectual time in our history - even as we usher in the age of the information superhighway. In the 1930's, French politician and writer Alexis de Tocqueville visited America and noted that even the backwoodsman of the day would not leave civilization without taking along at least a newspaper or two.

Times have changed. Ask a seasoned high school teacher if it's not harder today to get students motivated to learn. A member of a school board in another state recently proposed that the board ban the assignment of homework. He argued that students who had a quiet place in which to study would learn more, gaining an unfair advantage over others. Our society dislikes and distrusts the most educated among us. In a misguided quest for equality, it is willing to place far more resources in helping the slow or disinterested learner achieve the average than in helping the bright student rise above it.

In our own state, the anti-education sentiment reared its ugly head and split in our face on November 8, when voters approved the denturism ballot initiative. They said, in effect, that denturists could become licensed primary health care providers without having education in treating the human mouth. This event is not going unnoticed by dental hygienists who want to become primary providers without additional education. They already enjoy the support of some of our state legislators on this issue.

Some members of our own profession are getting on the no-education-needed-thanks bandwagon. They want to advertise themselves as specialists in things like cosmetic and implant dentistry in the absence of formal training programs leading to specialty recognition in these areas. The Federal Trade Commission wants to help dentists who call themselves specialists (but really aren't) by striking down state laws prohibiting such deceptive advertising.

A major problem facing our profession and society in general is that lawmakers, bureaucrats, the public and even some members of our own profession view education as a barrier, not as a means to serve people better.

It makes us wonder if dentistry eventually will be carved up and handed over, piece by piece, to newly assembled groups of primary care providers with shorter terms of education. That may happen if the public fails to equate quality of care with quality of education. We can and must continue to tout the benefits of our education to our patients. Dentistry has a proud history of high educational standards and stringent accreditation requirements for its training programs.

We just may have to be content, however, that we're about the only ones left who appreciate what education has done for us and our patients.

College Supports Regulation Reform

The American College of Prosthodontists joined other dental organizations in supporting H.R. 450, the "Regulatory Transition Act of 1995." In a letter initiated by the ADA, the College and the other co-sponsors of the letter state that despite the dental community's leadership in prevention and continuous improvement of the clinical environment, a series of intrusive and excessive regulations have been imposed upon the practice of dentistry which have resulted in a dramatic rise in the cost of providing oral health services.

The letter was sent to all members of the United States House of Representatives Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

The letter goes on to state that, "The Job Creation and Wage Enhancement Act of the 'Contract With America' represents a good beginning towards comprehensive reform of the regulatory process... The proposed temporary suspension of rule making would allow time for the enactment of legislative solutions to such problems as unfunded federal mandates, and for the development of proper risk assessment and cost/benefit analysis for new government rules."
The Parameters of Care Committee, headed by Dr. Thomas J. McGarry, is continuing to revise and edit the initial draft document presented to the Educators/Mentors conference at the 1994 Annual Session. Response from this initial pre-view was very positive overall. The evaluations, critiques and comments are being incorporated into the working Parameters of Care document.

Editing and legal review will be completed this spring along with each Parameters suggested reading list. The committee plans to present the working draft for review at the summer Board of Directors meeting.

Copies of the final document will be mailed to a random sample of College members, section presidents, officers and members of ACP Board of Directors for review at least 60 days prior to the 1995 House of Delegates meeting in Washington D.C. Any member of the ACP may request a copy by contacting the Headquarters Office later this summer. A separate mailing of the working draft will be sent to outside communities of interest.

This document along with future diagnostic codes for patient conditions involving prosthodontics and a definitive patient classification system will form the foundation for identifying and defining the specialty of prosthodontics well beyond the year 2000.

Dr. John W. Unger Named W. Tyler Haynes Professor

Dr. John W. Unger, Chairman of Prosthodontics at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry was recently named the W. Tyler Haynes Professor. Dr. Unger who has been at VCU since 1988 was selected for this honor to recognize his leadership within the school and his commitment to teaching excellence.

Dr. Kuebker Heads Prosthodontics in San Antonio

Dr. William A. Kuebker has been named Chair of the Department of Prosthodontics at The University of Texas Health Center at San Antonio. The appointment was effective December 15, 1994. He has been on the faculty since 1975 and has been Associate Dean for academic affairs in the dental school for the last five years. Dr. Kuebker is a past president of The American College of Prosthodontists.

Dr. Lang Receives Research Award

Dr. Brien R. Lang was awarded the Jerome M. and Dorothy Schweitzer Research Award at the fortieth annual session of the Greater New York Academy of Prosthodontics in December 1994. This award is presented yearly to an individual whose high standards of original research represent a major contribution to the advancement of prosthodontics. Dr. Lang, who is Professor and Chair of Prosthodontics at the University of Michigan is the 27th recipient of this award.

Dr. Cuevas Bestowed Achievers Award

Dr. Pablo J Cuevas III has been awarded the University of Connecticut Health Center Black and Hispanic Achievers Award. In addition to recognizing outstanding work contributions, the Award also seeks to encourage the recruitment and retention of black and Hispanic employees in under-represented leadership positions at the Health Center. Dr. Cuevas is Assistant Professor of Prosthodontics at the University of Connecticut Health Center. He is also Director of the Sections Division for the ACP.

Wallenborn Keeps Meetings On Track

With all of the recent attention given to the new ACP headquarters and the new College staff, ACP members may be wondering what happened to ACP's San Antonio connections. Well, there is still a presence there, and it is in the form of a satellite office staffed by Linda Wallenborn.

With the College's decision to create a headquarters office in Chicago, boxes of ACP records and materials were packed up and shipped from San Antonio to their new home in the Midwest. What remained in Texas was Linda, a longtime ACP staffer now in a redefined position.

With a new position as Director of Meetings and Conferences and a new office in San Antonio, Linda devotes her time to scheduling, coordinating, and managing all of the arrangements for the College's meetings with special emphasis on the Annual Session. "I am very excited about my new position with the College," Linda says.

"Since I started working with the College in May, 1980, I have seen the membership grow from 1000 members in 1980 to over 2500 in 1995," remarked Linda. There is no doubt Linda will continue to be busy as the College numbers increase and the Annual Sessions get larger. With fifteen years of service to the College, it is obvious she is dedicated to meeting the challenge.

Linda Wallenborn

Dr. John W. Unger

Dr. Brien R. Lang

Dr. Pablo J. Cuevas III

Dr. W. Tyler Haynes

Dr. John W. Unger

Wallenborn Keeps Meetings On Track
Laboratory Certification Board Invites Inquiries

For seventeen years, the National Board of Certification of Dental Laboratories has encouraged dentists and dental laboratory owners to recognize and support specific standards of professional acceptance in the delivery of dental laboratory services to the dental profession. Nearly 500 dental laboratories throughout the United States have already documented their compliance with those standards and have earned the title of Certified Dental Laboratory (CDL).

"That’s just a beginning," says Certification Program Director Sandra Stewart. "If more dentists and more laboratory owners understood the very simple, direct purposes and standards of laboratory certification, I can’t think why they would care to work without it.”

To promote greater understanding and participation, the CDL Board has installed an information hotline. Both dentists and laboratory owners are invited to call the toll-free number to obtain CDL information publications. The number is 800-684-5310, and requests may be placed 24 hours a day.

Dentists are encouraged to call for a copy of the CDL standards, and they may request a complimentary copy of the national directory of Certified Dental Laboratories.

Young Dentist Conference Planned

The Ninth National Conference on the Young Dentist will be held August 10-12, 1995, at the Hyatt Regency Alicante in Anaheim, California. The theme of the conference is “The Changing Face of Dentistry.”

The conference program includes outstanding continuing education opportunities directed toward the young practitioner, and keynote speaker John Alston will give participants insight into cultural diversity and how it effects new dentists.

For more information on this program, contact the ADA’s Committee on the New Dentist on the ADA WATS Line, 1-800-621-8099, extension 2779.

College Offers Promotional and Reference Materials

Do you need patient education brochures for your office? Are you looking for a computerized prosthodontic literature database? These items and more are offered for sale from the headquarters office of the College.

The College’s very successful patient education brochure, “What is a Prosthodontist?” has recently been reprinted and is now available at a reduced price. Members can receive a sample copy of the brochure by calling the ACP office.

Also available are the Study Guide for Certification, and Index to the Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry, and ACP logo items such as pinettes and tie tacks. College members can take advantage of discounted prices on all of the items available. To see the complete list of the items available, call the ACP office at (312) 573-1260 to request an order form.

NGS Elects Officers

The newly elected officers (two-year term) of the Northeastern Gnathological Society are as follows:

President
Dr. Jonathan Ferencz

President-Elect
Dr. R. Brian Ullmann

Vice-President
Dr. Kenneth Malament

Treasurer
Mr. Norbert Richter

Secretary
Dr. Daniel Budasoff

Associate Editor
Dr. Leonard Kobren

Mark Your Calendars for Future ACP Meetings

1995, October 19-22
Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Washington, D.C.

1996, October 3-6
Hyatt Regency Crown Center, Kansas City, Missouri

1997, November 6-8
Stouffer Resort, Orlando, Florida
Finalists for 1995 IADR Prosthodontic Research Competition

An outstanding number of applicants were submitted for the 1995 Arthur R. Frechette Research Award in Prosthodontics. The Award recognizes original research by new investigators. The award is sponsored by the Prosthodontic Research Group of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) and supported by the Whip Mix Corporation. The award carries a cash prize of $1,000.

Based on the originality, method, and scientific merit of their research, five finalists were selected by the judging committee for round two of the competition. The finalists are:

- Dr. Limor Avivi-Arber, University of Toronto, "Longitudinal Radiographic Evaluation of Crestal Bone Levels Around Branemark Single Implants and Adjacent Teeth";
- Dr. Mohammed F. Ayad, The Ohio State University, "Improvement of Marginal Seating and Retention of Extracoronal Restorations";
- Dr. Josephine F. Esquivel, University of Florida, "The Physical Properties of Low-Fusing Porcelains for Titanium";
- Dr. Fonda G. Robinson, Medical College of Georgia, "Porphyromonas gingivalis Endotoxin Affinity for Dental Ceramics"; and
- Dr. Russell R. Wang, Case Western Reserve University, "Oxidation Behavior of Surface Modified Titanium for Ti-Ceramic Restorations."

Nominations Sought for Ross Award

Nominations are sought for the Norton M. Ross Award For Excellence in Clinical Research. The award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions in clinical investigations that have advanced the diagnosis, treatment and/or prevention of craniofacial-oral-dental diseases.

The annual award is presented at a dinner for the ADA Board of Trustees preceding the ADA Annual Session. The awardee receives a $5,000 cash prize and a plaque.

Meetings and Conferences Calendar

**May 3-8, 1995**
American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, Orlando, FL
Contact: AACD
2711 Marshall Court
Madison, WI 53704

**May 19-24, 1995**
The Academy of Prosthodontics, Tucson, AZ
Contact: Dr. Edward Plekavich
4830 OVO Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20007

**June 16-20, 1995**
ACP Prosthodontic Research Symposium
Contact: ACP
211 E. Chicago Avenue, Suite 1000
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 573-1260

**July 20-23, 1995**
International College of Prosthodontists, San Diego, CA
Contact: Dr. Kenneth Malament
50 Stanford Street
Boston, MA 02114

**September 6-8, 1995**
European Prosthodontic Association, Cardiff, U.K.
Contact: Dr. W.M. Murphy
Department of Prosthetic Dentistry
Dental School and Hospital
Cardiff CF4 4XY, Wales, UK

**Annual Scientific Sessions of Dental Specialty Organizations**

- **May 5-10, 1995**
  Annual Session of the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Colorado Springs, CO.
  Contact: Leslie Davis, Executive Secretary AAOP, 44 Verdin Drive, New City NY 10956 (914) 639-1166

- **May 10-14, 1995**
  American Association of Endodontists Annual Session, Orlando, FL.
  Contact: Letty Catrambone, Program and Exhibits Coordinator AAE, 211 East Chicago Avenue, Suite 1501, Chicago, IL 60611 (312) 266-7255

- **May 12-17, 1995**
  95th Annual Session of the American Association of Orthodontists, San Francisco, CA.
  Contact: Hugh Whaley, 401 North Lindberg, St. Louis, MO 63141 (314) 993-1700

- **May 25-30, 1995**
  48th Annual Session of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, San Francisco, CA.
  Contact: Dr. John A. Bogert, Executive Director AAPD, Suite 1036 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611 (312) 337-2169

- **September 20-23, 1995**
The 81st Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Periodontology, New York, NY.
  Contact: Barbara Connell, 737 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60611 (312) 678-6200.

- **September 12-17, 1995**
  Contact: Louise Pochelski, Associate Director Meetings and Conferences AAOMS, 9700 West Bryn Mawr Avenue, Rosemont, IL 60018 (708) 678-6200.

- **October 4-6, 1995**
  American Association of Public Health Dentistry Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV.
  Contact: Helen Doherty, 10619 Jousting Lane, Richmond, VA 23235 (804) 272-8344

- **October 16-18, 1995**
  American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics Annual Meeting, Hyatt Regency Crystal City.
  Contact: Linda Wallenborn, 1777 NE Loop 410, Suite 600, San Antonio, TX 78217 (210) 841-5738
ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Oregon - Fixed Prosthodontics. The Oregon Health Sciences University, School of Dentistry, Department of Fixed Prosthodontics is seeking applicants for a full-time tenure track position at the assistant/associate professor level. Duties to begin immediately and include preclinical and clinical teaching and research. Preference will be given to those capable of developing or who have the potential to develop a significant research career while contributing to clinical instruction and who have advanced training in prosthodontics. Applicants must be eligible for licensure in Oregon. Intramural practice for up to one day per week expected. Salary and rank are commensurate with the candidate’s qualifications and experience. Applicants accepted until position filled. OHSU is an affirmative action, EEO employer. Send supporting documents to: Dr. John A. Sorenson, Chairman, Department of Fixed Prosthodontics, Oregon Health Sciences University, 611 S.W. Campus Dr., Portland, OR 97201-3097.

PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES

AVAILABLE

Work Smart Not Hard. A two chair Removable & Maxillofacial prosthodontic practice established ten years is now available that serves a population base of over 300,000 in the beautiful San Francisco Bay area with zero competition. Fixed pros capability would enhance this practice immediately. Excellent lease terms alone pay for this practice in less than two years. Call (510) 889-1584.

Retiring from prosthodontic practice in beautiful Colorado Springs, Colorado. Ideal opportunity for a prosthodontist to purchase a well established 15 year old practice in a modern and excellent central location. The practice covers all phases of prosthodontics, with special emphasis on dental implants & fixed restorations. Seller willing to stay during the transition period for 3 months to a year. Has 36 years of experience in all phases of prosthodontics, with 16 years of experience at the Mayo Clinic. Experienced staff. Office consists of 3 fully equipped operatories and laboratory. No HMO or PPO involvement. For interested parties, please fax resumes at (719) 591-2005, or call at (719) 576-4843 in the evenings.

PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES

WANTED

Recent Prosthodontic graduate seeking association with a view toward partnership or buy in. Several years of private practice experience in general dentistry prior to specializing and more recently experience in private practice limited to Prosthodontics. Training and experience in fixed, removable, and implant Prosthodontics. Especially interested in Washington D.C., Maryand, and Seattle, Washington areas. Please contact Box 1A, ACP, 211 E. Chicago Avenue, Suite 1000, Chicago, IL 60611.

WANTED

The Advanced Program in Prosthodontics at the Naval Dental School, Bethesda, MD is trying to build an inventory of fully adjustable articulators to loan graduates pursuing board certification. Retiring prosthodontists and others willing to donate their articulators and/or tracing instruments should contact the Chairman, Department of Prosthodontics, Naval Dental School at: Call (301) 295-4001 FAX (301) 295-5767

ADVERTISING POLICY

Issue Date Closing Date
July June 1
September August 1
January December 1
April March 1

Classified advertisements for the ACP Messenger should be sent to Joanne Constantine, ACP, 211 E. Chicago, Suite 1000, Chicago, IL 60611 or FAX (312) 573-1257.

Ads will be charged at a rate of $35 for the first 60 words and $1 for each additional word. The minimum charge is $35. Payment by check, VISA, or MasterCard must be received with the advertisement.

To ensure consistency in style, advertisements will be subject to editing. The ACP reserves the right to decline or withdraw advertisements at its discretion.

College Officers Meet in New Headquarters Office

With the move of the ACP headquarters completed in January, the Officers Committee of the College took the opportunity to hold their first meeting of 1995 in the new office in Chicago.

The five officers took a tour of the office, met the staff, and then got right to work. Staff members each presented progress reports along with their year long plans. Then each officer presented their own reports.

After the meeting, President Carl Schulter said, "We all left with the feeling that the headquarters office was in good hands and each staff member was very capable and aware of their roles within the administration of the College."

The Officers' trip culminated a week of visits from other members to the new headquarters.

Already in Chicago for meetings held in conjunction with the Chicago Midwinter Meeting, several members took the opportunity to see the new office for themselves and meet staff.