

## FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Whether it's the previous year ending or anticipating the year ahead, this time of year seems to bring about a natural urge to reflect. A new year provides a time for some self-reflection, which is equally beneficial for leaders to do personally as well as with their teams.

In a 2020 article in the Harvard Business Review (HBR), the authors asked leaders across the country, "What is your leadership origin story?" Their results provided insight into how leaders tell their stories and started a series of articles about the importance of self-evaluation and reflection on how individuals become leaders. How would you respond if someone asked you when you first felt like a leader? The authors from HBR interviewed nearly 100 top leaders and reported that the topics of the responses converged around one of four themes, which were labeled as 'being, engaging, performing, and accepting'. The examples below provide more insight into these labels and the leaders:

Being – 'I have always thought of myself as a leader.'

Engaging – Leadership originated when they were compelled to address an urgent need.

Performing – Leadership emerged from the achievement of a particular position.

Accepting – Didn't think of themselves as leaders until they realized others were following them.

Why does this 'origin story' matter and how does it affect your leadership? While this topic is trendy and leads to interesting discussions about how you may be limiting your leadership potential based on your own story, I believe there are two important, often overlooked, reasons for reviewing your leadership story. Firstly, the act of self-reflection is important in that it helps you identify your strengths, your weaknesses, and areas for improvement. You may recognize patterns from your past experiences and adapt your leadership style. The HBR authors hypothesize that rigidly using one theme may limit your ability to experiment with different styles. It may constrain who you see as leaders, limit who you seek as role models, and determine who you tap to take on leadership roles.

Secondly, reflecting on your leadership journey can benefit your team or organization in several ways:

a. Improved communication - understanding your own style and how you are perceived by others;

b. Enhanced decision-making – motivating your team to work towards a common vision;

c. Increased adaptability – looking at your leadership style through a different lens or theme;



**Mr. Robert Cattoi**

d. Stronger relationships – inspiring confidence and trust among your team; and,

e. Higher performance – helping the team achieve personal and organizational goals.

To move forward as a leader and mentor to your team, you must understand what has shaped you. The benefits of creating this leadership story include moving from reactive leadership (defaulting to what we've always done) to thoughtful and intentional leadership. If you anchor your decision-making in knowing your core beliefs and understanding your goals, you can be more disciplined even during times of crisis. By getting to know your own story, and experimenting with different ways of telling it, you can become more adaptive and a more effective leader. As a mentor or employer, you should help others develop their leadership lens, and help them elevate their own performance.

Sincerely,

—MR. ROBERT CATTOI,  
*Executive Director of the  
Pierre Fauchard Academy*

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## From the Desk of the INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT



**Dr. Pankaj Patel**

Since taking over as the International President of the Pierre Fauchard Academy, I have been working with a truly dedicated Executive Committee and Board of Trustees. In addition, Robert Cattoi, our Executive Director, is doing an amazing job at the headquarters, making my job a lot easier. During my year as your International President, I will be focusing and doing all that can be done to expand our international presence and reach. This includes fostering collaboration and mutual support among dental professionals and organizations world-wide, as well as encouraging members to actively engage in community service projects that provide dental care and education to underserved populations.

At this time, I have been invited to attend Pierre Fauchard Academy ceremonies in Kathmandu, Nepal and to preside over the PFA-Nepal Convocation. I will also be the Guest of Honor at the 10th World Dental Science and Oral Health Conference in Bangkok, Thailand. Dr. Myrna Bañez, our PFA Trustee for Asia, will also be present at the conference, together with Dr. Armyl Bañez (Past President of the Pierre Fauchard

Academy). In addition, our Section Chair for Kenya, Dr. Roochi Patel-Sahni, will give a lecture on 'The Oral Microbiome and its role in Systemic Disease and Sleep Medicine.' After the meeting, I will then proceed to the IDEX Conference in Cairo, Egypt, where a PFA convocation will be hosted by Prof. Ahmed AbdelHakim (Section Chair). Our International President-elect, Dr. Cheryl Billingsley, and Dr. Ghabi Kaspo, our International Vice President, will attend the convocation with me. After that, it will then be time to hold the mid-year Pierre Fauchard Academy Board meeting in Rockville.

I urge Section Chairs to identify potential candidates for PFA Fellowship. We have outstanding dental colleagues who are worthy of Fellowship but have not yet been invited to join our Academy. The growth of our Academy is paramount and will remain at the forefront of my endeavors as your current PFA International President.

Sincerely,

—DR. PANKAJ PATEL,  
*International President of the  
Pierre Fauchard Academy, 2023-2024*

## From the Desk of the PRESIDENT-ELECT



**Dr. Cheryl Billingsley**

Welcome to 2024! As we look back, 2023 was remarkable in so many ways. We had an unprecedented number of new Fellows inducted along with

an impressive gala and induction ceremony in Orlando, Florida, USA.

We look forward to our Graduation/Gala in New Orleans on October 19th, 2024, which will prove to be spectacular.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this as it is the highlight of the year for the Pierre Fauchard Academy. The focus of our Annual Meeting is always the graduation ceremony of our new Fellows, and we welcome the new Fellows from around the world.

The Pierre Fauchard Academy continues to grow worldwide, with induction ceremonies held locally for new Fellows. Examples include Australia, Canada,

Hong Kong, India, Myanmar, The Philippines, Poland, and numerous Sections in the United States such as Arizona, California, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Virginia and Washington State. As you can see, we are truly an international organization. Our world is so interconnected, and we pride our Academy for bringing us all together in a multitude of ways.

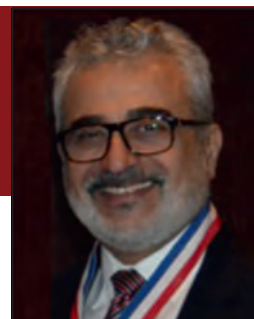
We look back on 2023 with a thank you to our volunteer leaders throughout

the world who worked so hard to make this an outstanding year, particularly our Trustees and Section Chairs. Thank you for your dedication and unwavering support for the Pierre Fauchard Academy.

Bless you all,

—DR. CHERYL BILLINGSLEY,  
*International President-elect of the  
Pierre Fauchard Academy*

## From the Desk of the VICE PRESIDENT



**Dr. Ghabi Kaspo**

### *The Key to Reciprocal Communication in the Pierre Fauchard Academy*

**I**n the intricate tapestry of the Pierre Fauchard Academy, each thread plays a vital role – whether it be a regular Fellow, Section Chair, Regional Trustee, member of the Board of Trustees or an individual who is part of the Executive Committee. The Academy's success lies in strengthening the reciprocal communication among these diverse yet interconnected individuals.

The need for a multidimensional communication strategy is more pronounced than ever. For general Fellows, who represent the heart of the Academy, it's essential to feel heard and represented. This can be achieved through regular, structured feedback sessions where their insights and experiences can be shared directly with our leadership team. Digital platforms can be utilized for these interactions, ensuring convenience

and broader participation than we can achieve with only in-person meetings.

Section Chairs are the liaisons between Fellows and the Academy's leadership, which requires a two-way communication channel that is both efficient and effective. Regular virtual round-table discussions can be an ideal platform for Section Chairs to voice collective concerns and suggestions, bringing grassroots insights to us that we can consider in strategic planning. In addition, our Trustees must constantly be in dialogue with the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee. This communication must transcend mere updates and delve into collaborative decision-making. Structured quarterly meetings, supplemented by an efficient digital correspondence system, can help to ensure that Trustees are integral to the Academy's decision-making process.

The role of the Board of Trustees in shaping the Academy's future cannot be overstated. Their communication with the Executive Committee, including the

Executive Director, is paramount. This relationship should be founded on mutual respect, transparency, and a shared vision. Regular strategy sessions and informal interactions can foster a deeper understanding and alignment of goals. Lastly, the Executive Committee must maintain an open and on-going dialogue with all levels of the Pierre Fauchard Academy to help ensure that the leadership is accessible and responsive. This dialogue can be achieved through both formal and informal communication channels. Implementing these communication strategies will transform the Pierre Fauchard Academy into a more cohesive, dynamic, and responsive organization, where every member, irrespective of their role, contributes to and benefits from the collective wisdom of the Academy.

Sincerely,

—DR. GHABI KASPO,  
*International Vice President of the  
Pierre Fauchard Academy*

## LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION: REMARKABLE DENTISTS LEAD

We live in an ever-changing world in which we experience many external influences that affect our decision-making process both personally and in the workplace. We all also know that change is often inherently uncomfortable, and if clarity is lacking even more so. Clarity leads to confidence which leads to courage to take the next step and move forward, making us better able to adapt and lead. By providing clarity in your office, the amount and quality of information provided is streamlined and improved, and all team members can concentrate on the task

at hand without missing information. That's all the more important in a world where cognitive capacity is already partly taken up from other sources such as social media, television and newscasts. Clarity gives people confidence without the ambiguity that leads to stress and mistakes.

As part of the benefits of being a Fellow, we will present a leadership article quarterly, with content that is based on an evidence-based framework of leadership and global research led by Deb Calvert, a leadership speaker and consultant. Continue your leadership

training by logging onto our website at [www.fauchard.org](http://www.fauchard.org), where all Fellows have access to several hours of continuing education at no charge. We have also just released 'Leadership during Turbulent Times' which is Part 2 of a ten-part series of continuing education. Remarkable dentists lead, unremarkable dentists confuse. We can strive to be the "remarkable leader."

—DR. CHERYL BILLINGSLEY,  
*President-elect and Continuing  
Education Chair of the  
Pierre Fauchard Academy*

## SECTION NEWS

### *Australia*

The Western Australian Section of the Pierre Fauchard Academy held its annual gathering on November 12, 2023, at the Cottesloe Golf Club in Perth, Australia. Our Guest speaker, Dr. Jennifer Ha,

is an ENT surgeon and presented on the topic of odontogenic sinusitis. During the meeting, we welcomed three new Fellows. Congratulations to Drs. Gregory Celine, Tom Huang and Rebecca Penco.



WA Section committee members together with our new Fellows Dr. Tom Huang (left), Dr. Rebecca Penco (center) and Dr. Gregory Celine (right).

The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual PFA India Conference was held on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in association with Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences. Our chief guest, Dr. M. R. Jayaram (Chancellor of the University and Chair of the Gokula Education Foundation), addressed our attendees. Our guest of honor was Dr. Rajiv Chugh (National President of the Indian Dental Association), and the office bearers of the India Section of the Pierre Fauchard Academy present were Dr. N. R. Krishnaswamy (Chair), Dr. Subhash Garg (Vice President), Dr. J. Sabarinathan (Secretary), and Dr. Maya Ramesh (Joint Secretary). In addition, we welcomed the Chair and

Co-chair of the Organizing committee, Dr. O. P. Kharbanda and Dean Dr. Silju Mathew. Dr. Om Prakash Kharbanda (Pro Vice-Chancellor of Health Sciences, Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences) delivered the welcome address. Lifetime Achievement Awards were conferred upon Dr. Ved Prakash Jallili and Dr. Rajiv Chugh. Dr. Dominic Augustine, the Organizing Secretary of the conference delivered the vote of thanks. There were 75 posters, 90 presenters and 21 students at the conference, and the book of Abstracts and Scientific Proceedings was formally released by the dignitaries.



**Dr. N. R. Krishnaswamy giving the Chairman's address.**



**Our Chief Guest, Dr. M. R. Jayaram (Chancellor of Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences), addressing attendees.**

The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Convocation and Awards Ceremony of the PFA India Section was held on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in conjunction with the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. We recognized and honored Dr. U. S. Krishna Nayak, Principal and Dean of AB Shetty Memorial Dental Sciences, as the best dental professional who has contributed immensely to the profession

and was awarded the International Certificate of Merit of the Pierre Fauchard Academy. Dr. Maya Ramesh introduced the 30 new inductees, and they were awarded the PFA India Section Fellowship certificates. With this Annual Convocation, the total membership of the India Section of PFA crossed 1000 and stands at 1004.



**L to R: Dr. N. R. Krishnaswamy, Dr. Subhash Garg (newly installed Chair) and Dr. O. P. Kharbanda.**

# SECTION NEWS

## India continued

Dr. Maya Ramesh presented the India Section's fifteen PFA International Senior Student Awardees. The International Student Undergraduate Certificate of Merit was presented to Mr. Paarthieban T. B. of Tagore Dental College in Chennai and two PFA International Student Scholarships for BDS students were also awarded. Dr. Ramesh then presented the 14 PFA India Section Best Outgoing B.D.S. Student Awards to students at 14 dental colleges and the certificates were presented by the dignitaries. Prof. Dr. S.G. Damle, Past Chair of the India Section and Former Dean of Nair Dental College and Hospital instated the Annual Best Outgoing Student Award at Nair Dental College and Hospital, Mumbai in 2023. He also

instituted a new award in 2023, the Best Teacher Award in the specialty of Pedodontics and Preventive Dentistry. Dr. S.G. Damle joined the Chief Guest and Dignitaries and presented a cash prize of Rs. 14,000 to Dr. Ritesh Rambharos Kalaskar, recipient of the Best Teacher Award.

Following this, Dr. N. R. Krishnaswamy introduced and installed the incoming Chair for 2024, Dr. Subhash Garg from Indore. The PFA India Outgoing Officer Award was then presented to Dr. N. R. Krishnaswamy.

Sincerely,

—DR. SUBHASH GARG,  
*Chair of the India Section of the Pierre  
Fauchard Academy*



L to R: Dr. Maya Ramesh, Dr. J. Sabrinathan, Dr. U.S. Krishna, Dr. N.R. Krishnaswamy (receiving the PFA India Outgoing Officer Award), Dr. Subhash Garg, and Dr. O. P. Kharbanda.



Dr. U.S. Krishna (third from left) receiving the International Certificate of Merit.



Newly installed Fellows together with dignitaries of the India Section.

# SECTION NEWS

USA

Arizona

The Arizona Section recently held an induction ceremony. Congratulations to our new Fellows, Drs. Sheri Brownstein, Marc Shlossman Dean, Jessica Robertson and Terrence Yu.

We combined this event with our philanthropy project, which has involved making 60 blankets for the Amanda Hope organization for children undergoing cancer treatment.



Fellows with blankets for the Amanda Hope organization



L to R: New Fellows Dr. Terrence Yu, Dr. Jessica Robertson and Dr. Sheri Brownstein.

The Hawaii Section recently held its breakfast meeting and induction ceremony, which was attended by Dr. C.R. Anderegg (Trustee for Region 5) and

our new Vice Chair Dr. Candaca Wada. Congratulations to Dr. Paul Yoo and Dr. Natalie Chen who were inducted as new Fellows at the meeting.



L to R: Dr. C.R. Anderegg, Dr. Paul Yoo (new Fellow), Dr. Natalie Chen (new Fellow) and Dr. Candace Wada (Vice Chair for the Hawaii Section).



Dr. C.R. Anderegg addressing attendees.

Hawaii

# SECTION NEWS

## Wisconsin Section

The Wisconsin Section held its annual meeting on November 3, 2023, in Madison, Wisconsin. Dr. Russ Dunkel (Dental Director for Wisconsin and PFA Fellow) gave an update on State dental issues and Dr. Cliff Hartmann was presented with the Distinguished Dental Award by Dr. Gene Shoemaker (Section Chair). In addition, we inducted 10 new

Fellows. Congratulations to Drs. David Casteel, Molly Conlon, Giancarlo Couch, Ryan Dodge, Andrea Emmerich, Shane Fisher, Karen Johnson, Mariela Siehoff, Richard Voigt and Rustin West.

Sincerely,

—DR. GENE SHOEMAKER,  
Section Chair for Wisconsin



**L to R: Dr. Cliff Hartmann (recipient of the Wisconsin Section Distinguished Dentist Award) together with Dr. Gene Shoemaker (Section Chair).**



**Dr. Russ Dunkel, State Dental Director for Wisconsin updating Fellows.**



**L to R: Drs. Richard Voigt, Molly Conlon, David Casteel, Andrea Emmerich, Gene Shoemaker (Section Chair), Karen Johnson, Ryan Dodge and Giancarlo Couch.**

## SAVE THE DATE

The Oklahoma Section will hold its meeting on April 13, 2024.

The Washington State Section will hold its meeting on May 9, 2024.

The Philippines Section will hold its 43rd Annual Convocation on May 12, 2024, at the Manila Hotel in Manila.

The Canadian Section in Quebec will hold its Installation and Award Luncheon on May 26, 2024, at the l'Hotel Place d'Armes, West Terrace, Montreal, Quebec.

The New York Section will hold its annual meeting at the Turning Stone Resort & Casino on Friday May 31, 2024.

# MISSION

*Our mission as Fellows in the Pierre Fauchard Academy is to recognize and develop outstanding leadership in our profession, internationally.*

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