



The Newsletter of the Pierre Fauchard Academy

February 2024

From the International President Dr. Pankaj Patel



What a challenging time we live in. It has been described as “VUCA” –Volatile, Uncertain, Complicated and Ambiguous! We face pandemics, natural disasters, the effects of climate change and sustainability challenges. We can add to this the particular challenges to our beloved profession which include increasing regulations, information overload (and therefore the potential accompanying misinformation), the advances of science, and especially artificial intelligence (AI) which can be a double-edged sword.

To cope with and manage all of this constant change, we need leaders of a special kind with remarkable qualities. However potential leaders have to have some pre-requisites. They have to have inborn honesty and integrity. Their moral compasses must be set right from the outset, but with an openness to be recalibrated in the light of experience and time. Our leaders must have the sparks to light the fire in their belly to make change for the better for the wider profession and the lasting passion to go with it. It therefore behooves all of us, at all levels of our careers, to look out for these future leaders and to encourage and nurture them. For these leaders, “VUCA” can then stand for the qualities of Vision, Understanding, Clarity and Agility!

I see a further and major problem facing us, and that is to do with inequalities in health both within our own nations and also between nations. It is a mammoth task to address these inequalities, but we have to begin somewhere, possibly at every level that one’s status experience and influence allows. In my own part of the world and similar less fortunate regions, we will need all your help to make a solid start to improve conditions in this my year of Presidency!



Academy growth continues at a great pace. I appreciate all the hard work our Trustees and Section Chairs are doing on behalf of our Academy. The progress our Academy continues to make would be impossible without the hard work of our Executive Director, Our Officers, Trustees and Section Chairs.

Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to serve our Academy.

From the International Executive Director Mr. Robert Cattoi



Whether it's the previous year ending or anticipating the year ahead, this time seems to bring about a natural urge to reflect. A new year provides a time for some self-reflection, and I believe that reflection 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 they labeled as 'being, engaging, performing, and accepting'. As examples:

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.

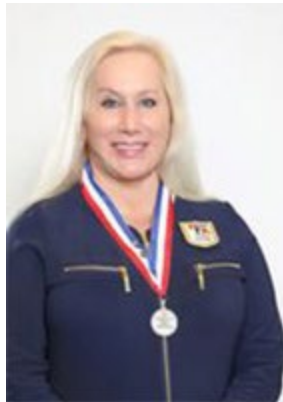
First, the act of self-reflection is important in that it helps you identify your strengths, your weaknesses, and areas for improvement. You may recognize patterns from your past experiences and adapt your leadership style. The HBR authors hypothesize that rigidly using one theme may limit your ability to experiment with different styles. It may constrain who you see as leaders, limit who you seek as role models, and who you tap to take on leadership roles.

Second, 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 toward a common vision; c. Increased adaptability – looking at your leadership style through a different lens or theme; d. Stronger relationships – inspiring confidence and trust among your team; 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.

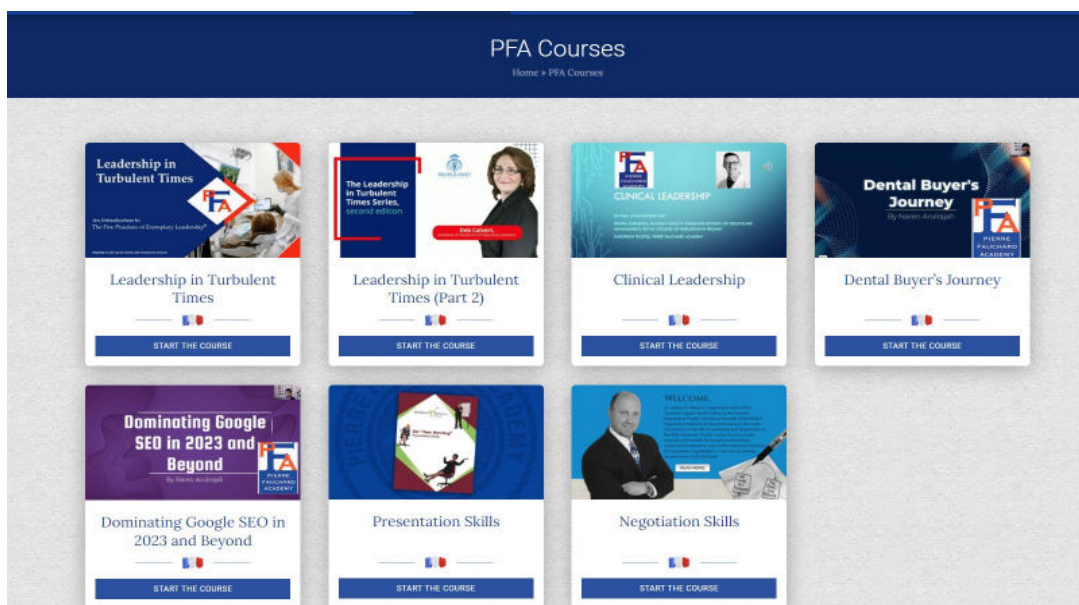
FREE CE FOR ALL FELLOWS AND ENHANCE YOUR LEADERSHIP SKILLS!

Dr. Cheryl Billingsley, CE Chairman, President-elect of PFA



PFA offers you the opportunity to obtain free CE and enhance your LEADERSHIP abilities. By going to the Membership tab on our website, www.fauchard.org, and then clicking on ‘Courses’, you will see several to choose from. These include the second part of the series, “Leadership during Turbulent Times.” Once you complete the 10-part series, you will be awarded a “Certificate of Leadership” that you can frame! This certificate can be placed in your office for your patients to see! The content presented throughout this course is derived from an evidence-based framework of leadership and global research with over 5 million leaders. Our presenter, Deb Calvert, is a leadership speaker and consultant who has been named one of “The 65 Most Influential Women in Business” by Treeline. I will also provide content, and you will be able to apply the concepts and tools in your office. In addition, several courses are offered on other topics, such as “Clinical Leadership”, “Presentation Skills”, “Negotiating Skills”, and “Marketing Skills”.

Our website CE content offers you wonderful training in Leadership that will be especially helpful during these challenging times.



PFA Section Spotlight

The Joint Convocation of the Pierre Fauchard Academy Philippine and Thailand Sections was held at the Novotel Siam Square in Bangkok, Thailand. This highly anticipated event brought together delegates from The Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, and Cambodia, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange among dental professionals. The outstanding efforts of Dr. Alma Soliman (Section Chair for The Philippines) and Dr. Anusak Sintapanont (Section Chair for Thailand) contributed significantly to the success of this event.

The presentation and awarding of pins, medallions, and certificates to all of our new PFA Fellows was one of the highlights of the convocation. This moment symbolized the recognition and celebration of their achievements, commitment, and contributions to the dental community. The attendees applauded and congratulated the deserving recipients, reinforcing our sense of pride and camaraderie within the Pierre Fauchard Academy.



Fellow Spotlight



Dr. Ernesto Acuña Esnaurizar, was born in Mexico City on June 22, 1938, he is now 85 years old. He comes from a family line in which he is the fourth generation of Dental professionals, and started working at the family's dental office when he was very young. His grandfather introduced him to help them out at the clinic when Dr. Ernesto was only in 5th grade. He used to clean dental instruments and do easy chores in the dental lab.

In 1958 he began his professional studies at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico at Mexico City, continuing the family's tradition. He was a very active student and became a member of the Student Association in 1960. Once he had started his dental office, he later became an active member of the Mexican Dental Association in 1967 and the Dental Association of Mexico City. In 1973, he received his first appointment at the Dental Association on the Public Relations Committee, and has never stopped ever since. During his career, he held positions in many Dental and Professional Associations as well as in Humanitarian institutions. Dr. Acuña was President of the Mexican Dental Association from 1979 until 1981, and President of the executive committee for the FDI International Meeting held in Mexico City in 1999. This was one of the most important international dental meetings in Mexican History. Subsequently, he was elected World President of the International College of Dentists (ICD) in 1983 and then became a Master Fellow of the ICD in 2014. After several appointments at the Pierre Fauchard Academy, including as Trustee for Region 7 (Latin America), he was elected as International President of the PFA in 2013.

For more than 55 years, Dr. Acuña has travelled worldwide working tirelessly for Mexican and International Dental Associations. Ernesto says his successful trajectory comes from his passion for the dental profession; but mostly, it comes from the great support and love that his wife Laura Luque, whom he's been married to for over 60 years, their daughter, two sons and their seven grandchildren have given him. Undoubtedly a PFA Fellow who has set an example to be followed.

Fellowship

Dr. Paul O'Dwyer – European Trustee



As the events of the recent pandemic fade in the rearview mirror, it was with eager anticipation that the first Convocation of new Fellows to the Pierre Fauchard Academy occurred on Irish soil for quite some time. Fellowship of the PFA marks both recognition of previous service to the profession and an acknowledgement of potential for the future. In-person ceremonies were curtailed during the pandemic, and so the event on 15 September in Dublin was a welcome return to meeting colleagues face-to-face. For this particular convocation, we welcomed colleagues from throughout the world, including the USA,

Canada, Australia, Greece, German and Armenia – to name but a few. A special display of artefacts was available for viewing at the event, including the toothbrush of Napoleon (leader of the French Republic in the late 1700s).

The mission of the Pierre Fauchard Academy is to both recognize and develop leadership within the profession internationally. It fulfils this mission through continuing education, publication of its journal, *Dental Abstracts*, in person and online educational meetings and annual awards. Through the Pierre Fauchard Academy's Oral Health Foundation, practical support is given to initiatives for direct oral healthcare to those in need – through various sponsored programs for both undergraduates and registered practitioners.

Dentistry is sometimes seen as an isolating profession – and the PFA's Fellowship has, at its heart, the camaraderie and collaborative approach that is vital for the profession and our patients. It seems fitting to end with a quote attributed to the Emperor himself: "A leader is a dealer in hope." As we set sail for 2024, where leadership within healthcare is vital now more than ever, Fellowship, camaraderie and collegiality will surely help the voyage run smoothly.



Upcoming PFA Meetings and Induction Ceremonies

January 26	Massachusetts
January 28	Alabama – Florida – Georgia
February 1	Utah
February 16	Nepal
February 22	Illinois
February 25	Cairo
March 8	Canada – Vancouver
April 13	Oklahoma
May 9	Washington
May 26	Canada – Montreal

Nominate your colleagues for Fellowship in the PFA

Requirements for Fellowship:

- ✓ Candidates must be nominated by an Active or Life Fellow in good standing.
- ✓ A candidate shall have graduated from an accredited dental school.
- ✓ A candidate in the United States must be an ethical member in good standing of the American Dental Association or similar dental organization. Internationally, a candidate shall be an ethical member in good standing of their national dental association or similar dental organization.
- ✓ A candidate shall have rendered outstanding contributions and service to the advancement of the art and science of dentistry and to society.
- ✓ The candidate shall adhere to the purpose and objectives of the Academy

Online PFA Sponsor form: <https://fauchard.org/sponsor-nomination-for-new-fellows/>



Dental Abstracts and Dental World

As a PFA Fellow, you receive the journal Dental Abstracts and the quarterly supplement Dental World. Dental Abstracts is a highly regarded bimonthly publication that presents information from around the world featuring approximately 50 abstracts from key articles in dentistry. Dental Abstracts keeps dentists informed of developments and advances in general dentistry and its specialties in an easy-to-read, abstract format. Dental World is the quarterly insert into Dental Abstracts that provides updates regarding the activities of the Pierre Fauchard Academy.

Our publisher, Elsevier, has announced an update to Dental Abstracts. Starting January 2024, Dental Abstracts will become an online publication. As is the trend for many major journals, the cost of producing and mailing a print publication has risen greatly in the last few years. Plus, more publications are becoming more environmentally conscious regarding the waste produced in the print and mail industry.

The cost for producing and distributing Dental Abstracts is still substantial. However, the PFA has agreed to continue the publication with no significant increase in cost to PFA Fellows. You will have full online access to all of Dental Abstracts and Dental World. You will receive information directly from Elsevier in the next month on how to access your online account. Please make sure you have an updated email address in your PFA account.

As an additional benefit, Elsevier has provided their Patient Education Materials to all PFA Fellows. These materials explain dental topics in easy-to-understand language that dentists may share with their patients. The materials (in both English and Spanish, and in both standard and easy-to-read format) are now available on the PFA website. After you login to your portal on the PFA Website, there is a link to the materials. You may use these materials for your patients as you wish.

As always, the PFA online educational content is available to all PFA Fellows at no cost. As the leaders in dentistry worldwide, PFA Fellows are recognized for their expertise in patient care, education, research, policy, and advocacy. The PFA will provide you with the resources you need to continue your path in leadership.



SAVE THE DATE!
PFA GALA in NEW ORLEANS, LA (USA)
October 19, 2024



Details to come!

Officers



Trustees



Pierre Fauchard Academy
103 N. Adams St.
Rockville, MD 20850 (USA)

ExecutiveDirector@Fauchard.org
+1(240)658-8070