

FROM THE DESK OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings from the Pierre Fauchard International office. The PFA Board met at the end of October for our annual Board Meeting, held in Washington, DC (USA). The discussions and approved initiatives show how far the PFA has come in just the last few years. Our membership has grown by over 28% in the last three years, providing for growth while maintaining the high standards required for PFA Fellowship. As a result, the Pierre Fauchard Academy now comprises more than 6,500 Fellows around the world.

Our growth has allowed us to expand the programs that are available to all Fellows. The PFA recently signed agreements with the three major publishers of scientific journals: Elsevier, Springer, and Wiley. All PFA Fellows already have access to every scientific journal produced by Springer and Wiley. Fellows can log in to the PFA member site on our website and then be able to reach these publishers' sites with a quick link. From there, you will be able to read and download any publication for your use. No more firewalls. Fellows will also soon have access to all scientific journals produced by Elsevier.

In addition to gaining access to all scientific journals produced by the three major publishers, the PFA official journal – Dental Abstracts – continues to be available to all Fellows. Dental Abstracts provides current information in a short, readable format and links to the full articles are included with each abstract.

Dental World, our quarterly publication, provides updates on the Academy, its Sections, and its Fellows. Dental World will expand in 2026 and include more information regarding leadership and dental practice.

The PFA Board has also approved the re-establishment of student scholarships and philanthropic outreach programs. In 2024, the Oral health Foundation (OHF) chose to separate and no longer be affiliated with the PFA and to no longer support student scholarships or PFA Fellow philanthropic programs. The PFA Board's decision to reinstate these programs has been enabled by our increased growth in Fellowship. While our funds are limited, we will provide a small scholarship check to those students who receive Student Certificates of Merit from PFA Sections with the appropriate minimum number of Fellows. We are also in the process of creating our philanthropic outreach program, and an application process will be available globally through our PFA Section Chairs. The intent of this outreach program is to help fund PFA Fellows who provide dental outreach programs to underserved populations. More on this to come.

Our new PFA Podcast is now available on Spotify, with our European Trustee Dr. Paul O'Dwyer as our host. Please 'listen in' to learn about PFA events from around the world. Additionally, the PFA Continuing Education program, which is web-based, is being reevaluated and new programs will be launched soon. We recently became an AGD PACE provider, and our upcoming programs will reflect this and offer CE credits. As applicable and permitted in your location and jurisdiction, these credits can then be earned and used by PFA Fellows towards your annual CE requirements.



Mr. Robert Cattoi

During our Annual Meeting, the PFA Board also voted on new Officers and Trustees for 2025 – 2026. The following officers were elected:

- International President:
Dr. Ghabi Kaspo (USA)
- International President-elect:
Dr. Luis Felipe Jimenez S. (Chile)
- International Vice President:
Dr. Deborah Cockrell (Australia)
- Treasurer:
Dr. Daniel Castagna (USA)

The Board elected Dr. Heather Carr (Canada) and Dr. Bill O'Reilly (Australia) as our two new Trustees, thereby replacing two Trustees with expired terms, and approved the renewal of Dr. Paul Obrock for a second term as the Trustee for Region 3 (Southeast USA).

The final event at the PFA's 87th Annual Meeting was our Gala, where we hosted more than 320 guests. The black-tie dinner included the presentation of the following annual awards:

- PFA Gold Medal (USA Dentist):
Dr. Roger Levin
- PFA Elmer S. Best Award (Ex-USA Dentist):
Dr. Laurence Walsh (Australia)
- Trade & Industry Award:
A-Dec France, represented by Jean-Phillipe Vergnes.

Subscription Information:

The Pierre Fauchard Academy publishes the Dental World as a service to its Fellows and it is distributed as part of the Dental Abstracts Journal.

Please send change of address information or subscription inquiries to the Central Office of the Pierre Fauchard Academy at:

Pierre Fauchard Academy

103 North Adams Street,
Rockville, MD 20850.
E-mail: centraloffice@fauchard.org
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Submissions:

Please send to the Dental World Office for possible publication any editorials, or articles and photos about PFA Section activities, or Foundation grants and scholarship activities. Please contact the Dental World Editor for more information.

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Dental Abstracts Editor-In-Chief:

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Dental Abstracts Journal Manager:

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Dental World Editor:

Dr. Fiona M. Collins



PIERRE FAUCHARD ACADEMY
www.fauchard.org

We were honored to induct 113 new Fellows from all around the world into the Pierre Fauchard Academy at this meeting. In addition, the PFA presented an Honorary Fellowship to Regina Messer, PhD, who works in the Department of Oral Biology at the Dental College of Georgia.

With the conclusion of our Annual Meeting and Gala, the PFA staff returned to our International Headquarters to prepare materials for the upcoming induction meetings in Wisconsin and India (Mumbai and New Delhi) and to begin preparations for the early 2026 meetings (Chicago Midwinter, Yankee Dental, and the joint Alabama-Florida-Georgia event).

In conclusion, I am reminded of the original groundwork laid down by Pierre Fauchard himself. He emphasized the

importance of education, innovation, and ethical practice – values that remain at the heart of our Academy. Through its mission, the Pierre Fauchard Academy seeks to recognize and support dental leaders who embody these principles. As Fellows, let us remain committed to the ideals that Pierre Fauchard championed. Let us strive for excellence, uphold the highest ethical standards, and foster an inclusive environment to share the latest research and ideas. Together, we can elevate the profession and make a lasting impact on the health and well-being of individuals around the world.

Sincerely,

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

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**A NEW MEMBER
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on the PFA Website
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and search the
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From the Desk of the INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT



Dr. Ghabi Kaspo

Building Bridges Through Leadership, Communication, and Connection

Dear Fellows,
It is a great privilege to address you for the first time as International President of the

Pierre Fauchard Academy. I am deeply grateful for the trust you have placed in me, and inspired by the remarkable legacy of excellence, professionalism, and service that defines our Academy.

It is truly an honor to follow in the footsteps of many outstanding leaders whose dedication has shaped the

Academy into what it is today, a respected global community of dental professionals united by shared values. The PFA has always stood as a beacon of leadership and excellence in dentistry, uniting Fellows who share a commitment to advancing our field, upholding ethics, fostering mentorship, and contributing to the welfare of society. Yet, as we look to the future, our greatest strength lies not only in our history and leadership, but also in our ability to communicate, collaborate, and grow together.

I am a strong believer in bidirectional communication, a genuine exchange between leadership and Fellows. Listening to your experiences, insights, and local challenges helps us understand the evolving needs of our members and our profession. Your feedback and engagement are vital for shaping initiatives that reflect our collective vision and values. Communication, when it flows in both directions, becomes a catalyst for growth, innovation, and mutual respect.

As a global Academy, we are privileged to include Fellows from diverse cultures,

regions, and professional backgrounds. This diversity is one of our greatest strengths. Each Fellow brings unique experiences and perspectives that enrich our organization. By strengthening communication among our regions, sharing successes, learning from one another, and celebrating what makes each section unique, we become a shared force for innovation, collaboration, and unity.

This year, my focus will be on “Building Bridges Through Communication and Service.” Through open dialogue and collaboration, we will continue to promote mentorship and leadership across the world. In doing so, ideas can move freely between regions, and each Fellow feel connected to a global network of peers, where our collective voice amplifies the positive impact of dentistry in every community we touch.

I warmly invite each of you to be an active participant in this journey. Share your local initiatives, community projects, and stories of leadership and service. Your contributions will help highlight the remarkable work being per-

formed across the globe and strengthen the bonds that unite us as Fellows of the Pierre Fauchard Academy. Together, our efforts—whether in clinics, classrooms, research, or humanitarian service—represent the living spirit of the Academy.

As we move forward, let us reaffirm our commitment to the core values that define us: leadership, mentorship, ethics, and service. These are more than guiding principles—they are the pillars that uphold our Academy’s identity and ensure that we continue to inspire future generations of dental professionals. The future of the Pierre Fauchard Academy will be built on our shared voices, our collaboration, and our common purpose. I am confident that, together, we will continue to strengthen our Academy, serve our profession with pride, and make a lasting difference in the lives of those we reach.

With sincere appreciation and best wishes,

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

From the Desk of the INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT-ELECT



Dr. Luis Felipe Jimenez Squella

Leadership Challenges

Dear Fellows,
The Bylaws of our Academy establish various objectives, one of the most distinctive of which is the recognition, promotion, and development of leadership as an essential value. Leadership can be defined as a set of skills and qualities that enable a person to influence, guide, and lead a group towards achieving common goals. It involves having the ability to inspire, influence and motivate others to work together toward a shared purpose, while also adapting in changing contexts. This goes far beyond holding a position of

authority, managing teams or making strategic decisions.

Exercising leadership involves an approach that embodies integrity, fairness, and a strong ethical sense. It also entails having the skill to unite people around a clear vision and to face challenges along the way with resilience. Today, leadership challenges are more complex than ever, driven by digital transformation, generational diversity, evolving workplace expectations, and the need for empathetic and transparent communication. Understanding these challenges is essential for any leader who aspires to maintain effectiveness and credibility.

In daily interactions, leadership plays a fundamental role in both our personal

and professional lives. It is not limited to the upper echelons of an organization, and it is reflected in every action we take. Developing leadership skills involves strengthening effective communication, empathy, problem-solving, and assertive decision-making. These abilities allow us to positively influence our environment and create a space conducive to collective growth.

Cultivating leadership in daily life offers us countless benefits. It improves interpersonal relationships, reinforces self-confidence, and provides tools that help us face challenges with determination and optimism. Additionally, it fosters mutual inspiration and teamwork toward shared goals.

Leadership, more than a position, is an attitude. Cultivating leadership based on empathy, active listening, and adaptability allows us to generate a lasting, positive impact. Reflecting on its importance and maintaining a constant willingness to learn are key to facing the challenges of today's world wisely.

In summary, understanding and applying the principles of leadership pro-

vides us with an opportunity to grow personally and professionally, to positively influence our surroundings, and to achieve our goals more effectively. Leadership, exercised with ethics and authenticity, is a powerful tool capable of transforming our lives and the lives of those around us.

As I begin my term as International President-elect of our Academy, I invite

you to reflect on your role as leaders of the profession and to carry out your responsibilities with enthusiasm and dedication.

Sincerely,

—DR. LUIS FELIPE JIMENEZ SQUELLA,
*International President-elect of the
Pierre Fauchard Academy*

From the Desk of the INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT



Dr. Deborah Cockrell

I feel very honored to have been appointed as International Vice President at our recent Pierre Fauchard Academy meeting, and look forward with excitement to continuing to contribute to our Academy's activities and growth. It does not seem so long ago when, in 2003, I received my Fellowship certificate here in Australia, stunned that a colleague would take the time to think of me and recommend me for Fellowship, let alone take the time to complete the paperwork required. I suspect you may have felt the same?

It might be easy to view dentistry, as with other professions, as simply a job. At its most basic, we provide patients with empathetic quality care, and they pay us to do it - although we all know that caring for people is not as transactional as that. Often, the true lasting value of our career is more about the contribution we make through empowering our patients, using our skills in other areas of the community and advancing our profession at all levels.

As Fellows, some of us choose to share our knowledge with colleagues in the form of mentoring or providing

personal and professional support. Alternatively, we may identify areas where improvements can be made and spend time problem-solving and leading change. Through service, whether through association involvement, education or voluntary participation, all Fellows 'give back' to the profession that has given us so much.

When we contribute, everyone wins. Our profession gets stronger, we improve experiences for our patients, and we motivate others to reap the benefits of being an active contributor. As contributors we are in turn inspired, have greater job satisfaction and build valuable networks and relationships in what can be a very isolating and isolated profession.

While this is what we all bring to the table as Fellows, I wonder if we can do more. Do we always reach out to our colleagues, young and old alike, or do we wait for them to contact us? Whether a product of aging in the process of gaining experience and contributing, or a reality, it may seem that more older colleagues and fewer younger colleagues become involved in contributing to professional groups and associations.

Whether or not a reality, we should also consider whether society is truly changing and, if so, how we can embrace this as individuals and as a profession?

Our professional contributions are the legacy we build, while also transforming our dental career from a series of tasks into a meaningful journey of impact. Legacies don't just begin late in our careers; they develop during the early years of our careers. As we move forward, we need to continue to encourage all Fellows to participate, to mentor younger colleagues and to seek out their involvement.

We need to also look at ways in which we can work differently, while ensuring that professionalism endures. To keep our Academy vitalized we could, for example, start by thinking of someone who has made a meaningful contribution at any stage of their career and nominate them for Fellowship. I have no doubt that they would feel as honored as we all did when that congratulatory email arrives!

Sincerely,

—DR. DEBORAH COCKRELL,
International Vice President

REPORT OF THE 87TH ANNUAL MEETING

The Pierre Fauchard Academy held its 87th Annual Meeting and Gala at the end of October 2025 in Washington DC, in conjunction with the American Dental Association Meeting. More than 320 guests attended our very successful Gala, participating in a black-tie dinner and silent auction, and enjoying the presentation of our PFA Annual Awards, installation of officers, and induction ceremony for 113 new Fellows. The Gala began with a welcome from Mr. Robert (Bob) Cattoi, PFA Executive Director, and was followed by Dr. Paul O'Dwyer (Trustee for Region 1) addressing attendees. During our Awards Ceremony, the Fauchard Gold Medal, Elmer S. Best Memorial Award and Trade & Industry Award were presented. The PFA also presented an Honorary Fellowship to Regina Messer, PhD, who works in the Department of Oral Biology at the Dental College of Georgia. As is customary at our Annual Meeting and Gala, the installation of new PFA Officers took place after the black-tie dinner for Dr. Ghabi Kaspo (PFA International President), Dr. Luis Felipe Jimenez (PFA International President-elect), and Dr. Deborah Cockrell (PFA International Vice President).

The Pierre Fauchard Academy awards the Fauchard Gold Medal annually to a person who has made outstanding contributions to the progress and standing of the dental profession. This individual must have a dental degree or its equivalent and reside in the United States of America. The 2025 recipient of the Fauchard Gold Medal is Dr. Roger P. Levin, a third-generation dentist and the Chairman and CEO of Levin Group, Inc. Dr. Levin is a leading authority on improving dental practice efficiency, has authored numerous books and articles, and presented thousands of live seminars and webinars, many as a keynote speaker for major dental conferences. He has also served on the editorial boards of five prominent dental publications. Amongst other honors, Dr. Levin has received an Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award, served as Chairman of the Board of the National Museum of Dentistry and on the Board of Advisors of the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Med-

icine, and worked as an adjunct faculty member in several dental schools.

The Elmer S. Best Memorial Award, named in memory of the founder of the Pierre Fauchard Academy, was established by the Board of Trustees in 1962. It is awarded when the occasion is deemed proper by the Board, and to no more than one recipient in any year. Recipients must be members of the dental profession from outside the United States and have made distinguished contributions of international significance to dentistry. The 2025 recipient of the Elmer S. Best award is Emeritus Professor Laurence Walsh, a specialist in special needs dentistry based in Brisbane. Following his dental education and PhD at the University of Queensland, Laurence received postdoctoral training at the University of Pennsylvania, and executive education at Stanford University. He is an authority on several topics, including infection control, oral microbiology, and lasers in dentistry. Laurence has authored over 400 journal publications and contributed to 12 textbooks, as well as multiple Australian standards and national guidelines. He holds patents in 7 areas of technology and has 17 granted patents. Laurence has been a faculty member of the University of Queensland School of Dentistry for over 40 years, serving for 10 years as the dean, and for 20 years as the research group leader in advanced technologies. Since retiring from a full-time university position in 2020, he has continued to have a strong involvement in research, supervising 10 research students across 3 universities and contributing to specialist clinical training. Laurence has an extensive portfolio of service to the profession and is a life member of the Australian Dental Association and the Australia New Zealand Academy of Special Needs Dentistry. Emeritus Professor Laurence Walsh was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2018.

The Dental Trade and Industry Award of Recognition may be presented to honor an outstanding leader in the field for contributions to dentistry and the community. The recipient must be



Mr. Robert Cattoi (PFA Executive Director) welcoming Fellows and guests to the Gala.

nominated by the awards committee and have the approval of the Board of Trustees. The 2025 recipient is Mr. Jean-Philippe 'JP' Vergnes who has dedicated more than 20 years to elevating the dental profession through education, innovation, and a deep commitment to the well-being of dental teams. His career began with a decade in the United States, where he refined his expertise, expanded his international network, and developed a passion for helping dental professionals thrive. For the last 15 years, JP has led A-dec in France, where he is recognized not only as a manager but also as a mentor, advocate, and specialist in dental posturology.



L to R: Dr. Ghabi Kaspo (PFA International President), Dr. Roger P. Levin (recipient of the Fauchard Gold Medal), and Dr. Lucynda Raben (Trustee for Region 10).



L to R: Dr. Ghabi Kaspo, Mr. Jean-Philippe 'JP' Vergnes (receiving the Trade & Industry Award on behalf of A-dec) and Dr. Lucynda Raben.



Dr. Deborah Cockrell (PFA International Vice President) announcing that Dr. Laurence Walsh is the recipient of the Elmer S. Best Award.



Dr. Regina Messer addressing attendees after receiving her Honorary Fellowship in the PFA.



L to R: Back row - Dr. Kim Gardner (Trustee for Region 4), Dr. Jay Skolnick (Trustee for Region 2), Dr. Lucynda Raben (Trustee for Region 10), Dr. Paul O'Dwyer (Trustee for Region 1), Dr. CR Anderegg (Trustee for Region 5), Dr. Federico Perez Diez (Trustee for Region 7), and Dr. Tom Ochola (Trustee for Region 11). Front row - Mr. Robert Cattoi (PFA Executive Director), Dr. Luis Felipe Jimenez (PFA International President-elect), Dr. Ghabi Kaspo (PFA International President), Dr. Deborah Cockrell (PFA International Vice President), and Dr. Pankaj Patel (PFA Past President).

YOUNG LEADERS IN ACTION

Dr. Saloni (Sal) Singh was the winner of the Pierre Fauchard Academy Emerging Young Lecturers competition in Australia in 2025, and is a Fellow of both the Pierre Fauchard Academy and the International College of Dentists. Read on to learn more about Dr. Singh's achievements and areas of interest.

Dr. Collins: Can you first tell us a little about your background and how you became interested in dentistry as your profession?

Dr. Singh:

I became interested in dentistry as a fresh high school graduate because it's one of those rare careers where you get to use both your hands and your head, whilst still interacting with people.

Over time, I do think my relationship with dentistry has evolved. Clinical work remains central, but I'm now increasingly drawn to education, mentorship, and trying to improve professional culture and sustainability. Being involved with our professional body (the Australian Dental Association), has given me a bit of perspective and motivation to improve the structures that help practitioners thrive.

Dr. Collins: Since graduating as a dentist in 2016 from The University of Adelaide you have worked in a variety of areas. What have some of the highlights been in your career to date?

Dr. Singh:

I've had the privilege of working across a few different parts of the profession, but private practice has been the mainstay for most of my career. It's where I first developed my clinical identity, and it continues to keep me connected to the everyday realities that matter to practitioners and patients.

Along the way, I've spent time in public and hospital settings, and in recent years I've stepped into academia as a co-ordinator in the Bachelor of Dental Surgery program at the University of Adelaide. The blend of clinical work and education has been one of the real highlights for me, and I believe it's given me a broader view of how we train, support, and sustain the profession across the whole career span.

Another strong highlight for me has been my involvement in the Australian Dental Association. Throughout high school and university, I was always drawn to serving on student societies, and student committees. I think I just loved that collaborative, community environment. After graduation, I quickly realized that clinical dentistry can sometimes feel quite siloed, and I was searching for that community and connection. Naturally, I gravitated toward the Australian Dental Association, starting off as a junior member of the Recent Graduates Committee. Now, nine years on, I serve as a State Councillor (Board of Directors) and as a member of a Federal Advisory Panel. That journey has been incredibly rewarding and grounding, giving me a bird's eye view of the profession while keeping me connected to the people and communities that make it thrive.

Dr. Collins: What drew you to teaching and lecturing?

Dr. Singh:

Teaching emerged quite organically for me. About a year after graduating, I started doing some casual teaching alongside my private practice, and I realised how much I enjoyed helping students to connect the dots. In practice, I have always been drawn to mentoring younger clinicians or helping patients understand their treatment in a way that feels empowering. Stepping into formal teaching felt like a natural extension of what I was already doing. Now, balancing my roles as an academic and a private practitioner, I feel that each role helps to inform and strengthen the other, and benefits my work in both.

Dr. Collins: You are currently researching Neurodiversity in Health Professions, what initially interested you in this area of research?

Dr. Singh:

My interest in neurodiversity began with individual stories. People I knew that were such amazing, talented, exceptional practitioners and young clinicians, were struggling to thrive in the profession long-term. I quickly realized that these events weren't isolated and that they reflected broader systemic pressures. Findings published in medicine

and nursing show that high cognitive load, sensory stress, and rigid structures negatively affect practitioners, particularly those who identify as neurodivergent.

We seem to be entering a generational shift: more people than ever before are identifying as neurodivergent, our patient populations are more diverse than ever, and health systems can't afford to lose talented clinicians because environments were never designed with different cognitive and sensory needs in mind.

The patients of tomorrow will expect practitioners who understand them and their needs, and the next generation of young dental clinicians will gravitate towards workplaces that understand and support their practitioners too.

This is fundamentally a workforce sustainability challenge.

The good news is that addressing these challenges benefits everyone. The title of my talk, "A rising tide lifts all boats", is a nod to universal design principles. The things that help neurodivergent practitioners to thrive actually improve outcomes for all practitioners, and help to enhance wellbeing and performance across the entire workforce.

I hope to start filling the gaps on what helps and hinders neurodivergent practitioners to thrive in all parts of their career such as education and the workplace and use that as a basis for improving outcomes for all practitioners.

It marks a shift from the way we've always done things, but change isn't always a bad thing. When there's a chance to re-evaluate how we do things, it also presents a real opportunity. By redesigning how we educate, train, and support our workforce, we can create a healthier and more sustainable profession for the future.

Dr. Collins: One of your achievements in 2025 was winning the *Pierre Fauchard Academy Emerging Young Lecturers* competition, a program that champions new leaders in Australia and is the brainchild of Dr. Mark Sinclair. How did you experience participating in this valuable competition?

Dr. Singh:

I'll admit there was some trepidation going in, for sure., knowing that the competition would attract the best and

brightest from across the country and that the standard would be incredibly high. To add to that, my topic hadn't been presented before in Australia and there was little published research in this area internationally. It felt like uncharted territory, and I genuinely didn't know how the profession would respond.

However, that also made the experience profoundly meaningful. Instead of finding resistance, I found curiosity and a readiness for us to have this conversation. Being selected as the national winner was such an honour, and I see it as a reflection of the work of many mentors and colleagues who've supported me so far. I also must acknowledge the calibre of the other presenters and the competition's strong legacy and history. Dr Sinclair's vision for the program is exceptional, and I'm grateful to have been part of it.

Dr. Collins: You became a Fellow of the Pierre Fauchard Academy, in 2024. What did this mean to you?

Dr. Singh:

Becoming a Fellow was immensely meaningful and so surreal. I've always thought of the Academy to be this amazing bastion of leadership, service, and contribution to dentistry, and for me and my work to be welcomed into that community of colleagues, was so humbling and motivating. So many people whom

I've admired throughout my career, I can now call my peers, and I feel a need to try and live up to the responsibility of being a fellow.

Dr. Collins: In your free time, how do you spend your time?

Dr. Singh:

Outside of work, I try and focus on hobbies that help me slow down and recharge. Gardening has been a love/hate journey (mostly love now) as it's been a humbling lesson in patience and celebrating (very) small wins. When my husband and I bought a place with a bit of land, I started learning the ropes from his grandmother, our Yiayia, who has been growing and cooking from her garden for decades. Bit by bit, it's coming together.

Another little-known fact is that I have a long-standing passion for Latin and classical literature. I studied Latin formally for six years, but now it's much more relaxed and I enjoy reading at my own pace, free from the pressure of exams, thank goodness. For me, downtime is about keeping it simple and helping me recharge for everything else in life.

Dr. Collins: As a Young Leader, can you offer any advice and encouragement to your peers?

Dr. Singh:

I think two big things come to mind that I would say to a 'new graduate'

version of me and to all young professionals today:

1) Don't underestimate the value of your perspective. Sometimes, it's easy to feel that there are louder and more experienced voices in the room, but our profession benefits from fresh thinkers and those who can ask difficult questions and challenge assumptions.

2) Back yourself when given opportunities. So many times, I've been stuck in 'analysis-paralysis' about whether I'm ready, whether there's someone else who might be better suited than me and so on and so forth. Yet the best learning comes from just giving it a go, so back yourself, say "yes," even before you feel entirely ready.

Dr. Collins: What are your hopes for the future?

Dr. Singh:

In the short term, I hope to publish about my research, which is among the first to explore the experiences of neurodivergent dental professionals. Long term, I'm hoping that my learnings lead to better outcomes in education- and workplace policy- based learning what keeps our practitioners happy and thriving. Hopefully, my research endeavors will bear fruit, even if the trees in my garden don't!

Dr. Collins: Thank you, Dr. Singh, for sharing your accomplishments and vision of the future as a Young Leader!



Dr. Saloni (Sal) Singh, Pierre Fauchard Academy Emerging Young Lecturer

SECTION NEWS

AUSTRALIA

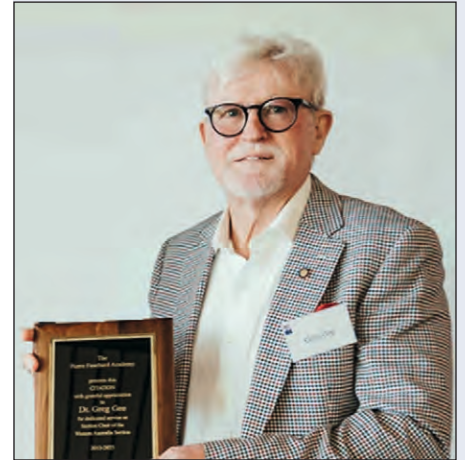
Western Australia

The Western Australia Section held its induction lunch on November 2, 2025, where it was a great privilege to welcome Dr. Armand Putra and Dr. Dina Papas as new Fellows of the Pierre Fauchard Academy. During the meeting, we were very grateful to hear from Kush Shah, Tom Di Fulvio and Glen Yeo who generously shared their time and insights on the evolving role of AI in our day-to-day lives with a presentation title 'AI

Now and Beyond'. In addition, we had the pleasure of celebrating with Dr. Greg Gee, who concludes an incredible 12 years of service as Section Chair. Greg's leadership over the years has brought us all closer, and he leaves big shoes to fill. Lastly, special thanks to our Section's Committee members, Dr. Amanda Phoon Nguyen and Dr. William Reidy, for their efforts in organizing such a successful event.



Dr. Greg Gee (outgoing Section Chair), Dr. William Reidy, Dr. Kang Kim, and Dr. Amanda Phoon Nguyen together with our two new Fellows, Dr. Armand Putra and Dr. Dina Papas.



Recognizing Dr. Greg Gee (outgoing Section Chair)

The PFA India Section conducted the 39th Annual PFA Scientific Convention, Convocation and Award Ceremony

on Saturday, December 13, 2025. Dr. Rajiv Kumar Chugh (Chair, PFA India Section) addressed the gathering,



L to R: Dr. Maya Ramesh (Secretary, PFA India Section), Dr. Ghabi Kaspo (PFA International President), Dr. Rajiv Kumar Chugh (outgoing Chair, PFA India Section) accepting the Model Section Award on behalf of PFA India, and Dr. Sabita M. Ram (incoming Chair, PFA India Section).

India

SECTION NEWS

India continued



Dr. Deepak Muchhala (center) receiving the International Certificate of Merit.

and Dr. Chugh then introduced Dr. Ghabi Kaspo (PFA International President) and honored him with a memento. Dr. Maya Ramesh (Secretary, PFA India Section) introduced the Pierre Fauchard Academy and briefed our Fellows about the activities of the PFA India Section in 2025. Following this, Dr. Ghabi Kaspo delivered the Chief Guest Address and announced that the PFA India Section was selected as the 2025 recipient of the Model Section Award by the Pierre Fauchard Academy

International Headquarters in 2025. The award was received on behalf of PFA India Section by Dr. Rajiv Chugh. During our Convention, 116 Fellows were inducted into Fellowship and more than 50 students received student awards. In addition, Dr. Deepak Muchhala was honored with the International Certificate of Merit. Dr. Rajiv Kumar Chugh (outgoing Chair) introduced Dr. Sabita M. Ram from Mumbai and then installed her as the Chair of PFA India Section for 2026.

Jordan

The Jordan Section of the Pierre Fauchard Academy held a wonderful induction ceremony in conjunction

with the Jordanian/Arab Orofacial Pain Congress. We were delighted to welcome Dr. Ghabi Kaspo as our guest.



Cake-cutting to celebrate our new Fellows.

SECTION NEWS

Jordan continued



Dr. Ghabi Kaspo and Dr. Zaha Khalifé Amarin (Section Chair for Jordan), together with our new Fellows.

We greatly appreciated his presence, support and generous stipend, part of which funded our successful induction ceremony. Congratulations to our new Fellows.

Sincerely,

—DR. ZAHA KHALIFÉ AMARIN,
Section Chair for Jordan

The Massachusetts Section of the PFA held its 2026 Section Breakfast and Induction Ceremony on January 30th in Boston, in conjunction with the Yankee Dental Congress held by the Massachusetts Dental Society (MDS). Those in attendance included Dr. Jay Skolnick (PFA Trustee for Region 2), Dr. Cherie Bishop (Section Chair), Dr. Janis Moriarty (Section Vice Chair), Dr. Andrea Richman

(former PFA Section Chair), Dr. Richard Rosato (President of the American Dental Association), Dr. James Lee (PFA Fellow and MDS Treasurer), Dr. Jennifer Korzeb (Vice President, MDS), Dr. Colleen Chambers (MDS Trustee), Dr. Steven Spitz (MDS President), Dr. Todd Belf Becker (MDS Trustee), Dr. Marita Morell (MDS Secretary) and Dr. Dylan Weber (MDS Trustee).

USA

Massachusetts



Dr. Cherie Bishop with Dr. James Thiel, recipient of the PFA Massachusetts Section Distinguished Dentist Award.



L to R: Dr. James Lee (PFA Fellow and MDS Treasurer), Dr. Jennifer Korzeb (MDS Vice President), Dr. Colleen Chambers (new Fellow and MDS Trustee), Dr. Steven Spitz (new Fellow and MDS President), Dr. Todd Belf Becker (MDS Trustee), Dr. Maritza Morell (MDS Secretary), and Dr. Dylan Weber (MDS Trustee).

SECTION NEWS

Massachusetts continued



Dr. Cherie Bishop presenting an award to Dr. Andrea Richman (Section Chair for Massachusetts 2017-2025).



L to R: Dr. Jay Skolnick (PFA Trustee for Region 2); new Fellows Dr. Khara Gresham, Dr. Colleen Chambers, Dr. Saurab Bither, Dr. Ankur Kaul, Dr. Steven Spitz, Dr. Yuko Torigoe and Dr. Bushwa Ahmed; Dr. Cherie Bishop (PFA Chair for the Massachusetts Section).

Southern California



Dr. Chethan Chetty (President of the AGD) providing the keynote speech.

The Southern California Section held its first breakfast meeting (and 51st Annual Meeting) at the Anaheim Hilton Hotel on Saturday, May 17, 2025, in conjunction with the Annual Session of the California Dental Association (CDA). Our keynote speaker was PFA Fellow Dr. Chethan Chetty, the President of the Academy of General Dentistry and Dr. RK Chetty's son. He gave an inspirational presentation and was accompanied by his wife Avina. Special guest recognitions included Dr. Max Martinez (CDA President), Dr. Bob Hanlon (CDA President-elect), and Dr. Scott Kim (CDA Treasurer), all of whom are PFA Fellows. Dr. Dan Castagna

(PFA Treasurer) provided an update on PFA activities around the world and assisted with our induction ceremony for nine new Fellows. Our Section also presented certificates to four senior dental students, with the schools selecting the students. These prestigious awards were received by Yijin Liu (University of Southern California), Jiawei Liu, DMD (Western University of Health Sciences), Jingwei Cai (Loma Linda University), and Caitlin Neapole (University of California Los Angeles). Our first breakfast meeting turned out to be a big success and the Section is planning a breakfast meeting again in 2026.



New Fellows Drs. Mouhanned Almajdalamo, Zeynep Barakat, Cheryl Engineer Bhatt, Corinne Devin (U.S. Navy Captain), Joni A. Forge, Tran Que Han, Brian Y. Hong, Mark S. Kahn, and Lisa B. Popkoff.

TOPICAL ABSTRACT

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is a global crisis that affects men, women, and children. It encompasses both labor trafficking and sex trafficking, crimes that respectively compel or coerce individuals to provide labor or services or to engage in commercial sex acts.⁷ In addition, sex trafficking includes commercial sex acts in which the individuals induced to perform such acts have not attained 18 years of age.⁸ Individuals are trafficked in a broad range of industries (legal and illegal) and in a variety of locations including at home, and by 2021 an estimated 50 million individuals globally were victims of human trafficking. In a recent publication, among the 371 alleged cases reported in a 6-month period to the Australian Federal Police, known birth origins for victims ranged across 9 regions and 26 countries. Countries can be source and/or destination countries and, while Western Europe is a destination area, the US is regarded as a top child trafficking destination and a source country.

Victims of human trafficking are subject to violence, manipulation, deception and may be lured with fake job offers/protection. The health consequences of trafficking include chronic pain in the back, dentition, or other locations, and compromised mental health (e.g., PTSD, stress, depression, personality disorders, suicidal ideation and attempts). The myriad of issues reported by sex-trafficked women include physical and sexual violence, eating disorders and/or malnutrition, and substance abuse. Potential oral presentations can include fractured teeth, untreated oral disease, dental pain, perioral and intra-oral mucosal trauma, petechiae, and up to 65% self-report or are confirmed to have sexually transmitted diseases. In one study, dental visits had accounted for a quarter of healthcare visits by trafficking victims.

Dental visits, as such, are an opportunity to identify red flags (indicators) for trafficking, such as behavioral signs (e.g., being withdrawn, silent), suspicious physical signs including appearing malnourished or injured, being accompanied by someone who appears to be 'in charge', not having identification or not knowing their address. Careful assessment is required, taking into consideration any other potential causes of physical signs. During the visit, any suspicious intra-oral and peri-oral findings should be noted, as well as any head and neck injuries such as bruising, cigarette burns, scars of various ages, and welts – and to then ask yourself whether these are in line with an accidental injury, or are rare and likely to be associated with deliberate injury (such as bruising in this area).

The dental visit may be the first opportunity to help a trafficking victim, underscoring the value of training. Dental professional training on human trafficking is therefore invaluable, including on general background, guidance on identifying suspect signs, symptoms, behaviors, red flags/indicators during patient visits, and how to discuss findings one-on-one with the patient (who may be fearful), use a screening tool, and avoid alerting any accompanying individual.

Countries have to varying degrees passed laws that are intended to help prevent trafficking, protect victims, encourage/mandate reporting of suspected trafficking for both children and adults and prosecute perpetrators. Depending on location, a Dental Board or National Body may require training for healthcare personnel. It is also necessary to understand the protocols and laws regarding reporting suspected cases in your specific location. Whether or not mandated, taking the lead, training and being prepared to identify potential victims of human trafficking is of significant benefit.

Resources for further reading

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- Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign to End Human Trafficking – <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign>
- Department of Health and Human Services. Adult Human Trafficking Screening Tool and Guide. https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/otip/adult_human_trafficking_screening_tool_and_guide.pdf.
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- Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000. <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/PLAW-106publ386/pdf/PLAW-106publ386.pdf>.
- WalkFree.Org. Global slavery index/country study: modern slavery in United States. <https://www.walkfree.org/global-slavery-index/country-studies/united-states/>. 2024.
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Our mission as Fellows in the Pierre Fauchard Academy is to recognize and develop outstanding leadership in our profession, internationally.

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