

FROM THE DESK OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings from the International Office,
The Pierre Fauchard Academy embodies Pierre Fauchard's vision of elevating the standards of dental care worldwide, and his contributions to dentistry in the 18th century laid the groundwork for the practices we uphold today. Pierre Fauchard emphasized the importance of education, innovation, and ethical practice—values that remain at the heart of the Academy. Through its mission, the Pierre Fauchard Academy seeks to recognize and support dental leaders who embody these principles.

With these ideals in mind, the PFA Board of Trustees just completed its Interim Board Meeting in Rockville, MD (home of our international office). The 15 Officers and Trustees completed their work on our strategic plan, our committees will be revitalized, and our President-elect and Vice President will take on additional responsibilities for growth and governance.

In the spirit of innovation, the PFA is rolling out a new Association Management system created by NOVI AMS. This system incorporates our secure membership site with our accounting software system QuickBooks, which will simplify the member experience and give easy access to the many materials available to PFA Fellows. This includes the links to our Member Directory, online CE programs, the Elsevier Patient Education Materials (in English and Spanish), our journal Dental Abstracts, and links to all journals from Wiley and Springer (links to Elsevier's journals will be coming soon).

Now that the site is live, when you first visit it you will be instructed to create a new login to the member site, as we do not have access to old passwords. The new website is reached by following the Member Login button on the top of the PFA website. While I am sure there will be a few issues as we roll out this new system, I believe all Fellows will appreciate the clean design and ease of use.

One of the tenets of the PFA is the importance of lifelong learning, and we will also develop our library of online Continuing Education programs (free to all PFA Fellows). If you wish to contribute to this library of online programs, we would be interested in hearing from you and in promoting the work of PFA Fellows. We are especially interested to provide culturally and linguistically relevant online CE programs for our Fellows around the world. If you wish to create or share a CE program on the PFA website for our Fellows, please contact me at: executivedirector@fauchard.org.

Our Academy continues to be financially strong and is growing. In 2025, we inducted over 700 outstanding new Fellows from around the world and our member benefits continue to expand. We will be adding new online CE programs (the PFA is a PACE provider), greater access to dental journals, and new philanthropic grants. We have restarted the scholarship program that ended when the Oral Health Foundation chose to separate from the PFA, and we have allocated funds for philanthropic projects conducted by PFA



Mr. Robert Cattoi

fellows. The application forms for these projects are being designed and will be available soon on our new member site.

I am often asked: what does it truly mean to be a PFA Fellow? It means you have been recognized by your peers for your outstanding contributions to the art and science of dentistry, for your service to the profession, and for your unwavering ethical standards. It is an acknowledgment of your leadership, your integrity, and your passion for advancing oral healthcare. You are now part of a global honor society dedicated to recognizing and celebrating dental excellence and leadership. This Fellowship is not just an award; it is a calling. It is a call to continue leading, to continue serving, and to continue shaping the future of dentistry. Be proud of this honor and use it as a catalyst for even greater engagement. As an organization, the PFA will continue to provide resources to help you achieve your goals.

As always, please continue to nominate your colleagues for Fel-

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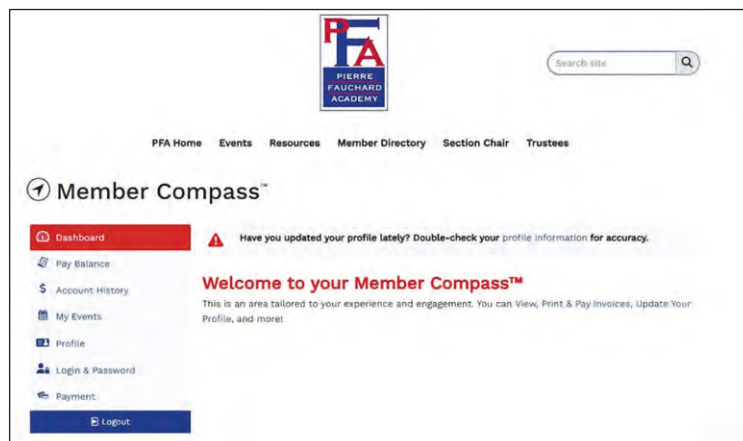


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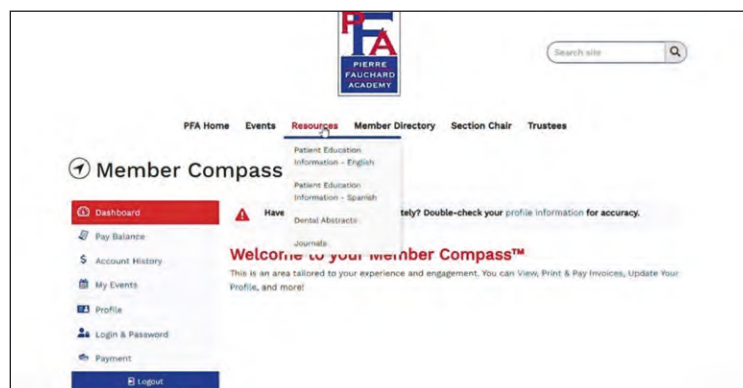
lowship in the PFA: <https://fauchard.org/sponsor-nomination-for-new-fellows/>. I look forward to meeting you at a future PFA event and to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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



Landing page on the new website



Drop-down menu to access resources



L to R: Back row – PFA Trustees Dr. Jay Skolnick, Dr. Ricardo R. Gatlinton, Dr. Paul Obrock, Dr. Tom Ochola, Dr. Federico Perez Diez and Dr. CR Anderegg. Middle row: Dr. Lucyna Raben and Dr. Heather Carr (PFA Trustees); Dr. Deb Cockrell (International Vice President). Front row: Dr. Luis Felipe Jimenez (International President-elect), Dr. Ghabi Kaspo (International President), and Dr. Dan Castagna (Treasurer).

From the Desk of the INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT



Dr. Ghabi Kaspo

Fellowship in Action: The Global Impact of Our Fellows

The Pierre Fauchard Academy's founders sought to recognize dentists who exemplified the highest ideals of professionalism, integrity, and leadership. As such, our Academy has long stood as a symbol of leadership and ethical excellence in dentistry. Today, that mission is as important as ever.

Serving as International President of the Pierre Fauchard Academy is an honor and has given me an inspiring perspective on the true strength of our Academy. That strength lies not in titles or ceremonies, it lies in the daily actions of our Fellows around the world—leaders who elevate our profession through service, mentorship, and ethical commitment. While visiting the Illinois Section during a joint meeting with leaders from other distinguished dental organizations, five new Fellows joined the Academy. Witnessing their enthusiasm reinforced an important truth: when we welcome new Fellows, we are not merely expanding our numbers—we are strengthening the future of our profession.

Wherever I connect with Fellows, it is a reminder that our Academy's influence extends far beyond any single country or region. Our Academy is a truly global community united by shared values. Our global reach is evidenced by the activities of all of our Regions. Recently, I

virtually inducted three distinguished new Fellows from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Abu Dhabi, and their dedication to leadership and professional excellence embodies the Fellowship's founding principles. Another example is the continued growth of our Sections across the Middle East and Asia, bringing forward leaders who contribute significantly to education, research, and professional collaboration. In Europe, our Fellows continue to maintain a strong tradition of academic excellence, research leadership, and mentorship that has developed since the time of Pierre Fauchard and enriches our profession.

Indeed, Fellows from the Americas to Australasia and across all of our Regions around the world have long shown exceptional leadership in organized dentistry, academia, professional advocacy, and mentorship programs, while also maintaining a strong tradition of collegiality and professional excellence. Many Fellows also devote extraordinary efforts to community outreach programs, providing dental care to underserved populations and demonstrating the humanitarian spirit of our profession.

These facts reflect a powerful reality: the Pierre Fauchard Academy is not defined only by its history—it is defined by the actions of its Fellows today. Our Fellowship is more than a distinction; it is a responsibility, a commitment to continue advancing our profession and serving society. Together, we honor the legacy of Pierre Fauchard while shaping the future

of dentistry through leadership, collaboration, and service.

As we look toward the future, the continued success of the Academy rests on three essential pillars:

- Leadership – our Fellows must continue to lead through clinical excellence, as well as by guiding professional organizations, supporting education, advocating for ethical standards, and shaping the future of dentistry.
- Mentorship – this must remain at the heart of our mission. By mentoring deserving colleagues, we help to ensure that the Academy continues to thrive.
- Global collaboration – we must strengthen communication across our Regions and Sections, as our global reach is one of our greatest strengths. By sharing ideas, achievements, and initiatives across borders, we strengthen both our Academy and our profession.

I encourage every Fellow to remain engaged with the Academy—support your Section, mentor colleagues, nominate future leaders, and share the accomplishments of our global community. Through the collective efforts of our Fellows worldwide, the Pierre Fauchard Academy will continue to inspire excellence in dentistry for generations to come.

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

One of the most relevant characteristics of our Academy is its presence in diverse regions and countries around the world. This presence, and representation by the profession in different regions, in turn helps to strengthen the principles and values that define the Pierre Fauchard Academy, while maintaining its institutional identity. This feature aligns with a growing trend whereby internationalization strengthens the capacity to influence in an increasingly interconnected environment. In this sense, our Academy not only expands its geographic reach but also enriches its work through the exchange of experience, knowledge, and best practices at a global level.

In consideration of the diversity and particular characteristics of each country, each Section may adopt its own organizational structure, provided this is in accordance with the Academy's statutes. The growth of the organization should be grounded in this international profile, promoting activities and initiatives that further strengthen integration and a spirit of fraternity.

Likewise, each Section has the capacity to develop and promote initiatives aimed at fulfilling both its specific objectives and those of the institution as a whole, while fostering leadership and encouraging the incorporation of new Fellows who meet their organizational responsibilities in a timely and appropriate

manner. In this context, it is significant that, in recent years, the Pierre Fauchard Academy has consistently elected International Presidents from different regions and countries, thereby reaffirming its truly international character.

Internationalization implies global representation and strengthens a network of dental professionals grounded in collegiality, collaboration, and, in many cases, solidarity in shared projects—an essential element for non-governmental organizations seeking to generate sustainable impact.

Sincerely,

—DR. LUIS FELIPE JIMENEZ,
International President-elect

From the Desk of the INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT



Dr. Deborah Cockrell

As we are all more than aware, continuing professional development (CPD) and ongoing education are essential components of modern dental practice. For many Fellows, such education is mandatory while for others it is nonetheless a critical element and helps to maintain involvement with our professional colleagues. Dentistry is a rapidly evolving field, with constant advancements in technology, materials, techniques, and patient care standards. Without regular updates to knowledge and skills, dental professionals risk falling behind, which can

ultimately impact the quality and safety of patient care.

Through in-person continuing education courses, hands-on workshops, ongoing training, conferences, and on-line learning, practitioners can obviously refine existing skills and acquire new ones. This not only improves treatment outcomes but also enhances efficiency and patient satisfaction. Since the beginning of the 2020s, on-line attendance at CPD and education courses has been an all-time high, however I was reminded of the numerous benefits of networking with peers when attending a face-to-face

meeting recently. As many Fellows are sole practitioners, the opportunity for personal discussions, benchmarking, mentoring and collegial support cannot be ignored.

Lifelong learning supports evidence-based practice. Furthermore, as new research emerges, dentists must be able to critically evaluate and integrate scientific findings into their daily work. This ensures that patients receive treatments that are current, effective, and aligned with best practices. Artificial Intelligence in this regard is both a boon and a bane!

Continuing education also contributes to professional growth and career advancement. It opens opportunities for specialization, leadership roles, and expanded services within a practice. Many of our Fellows are also providers of CPD and this contribution is one that

aligns with the vision of Elmer S Best. I encourage you all to continue to give back to our profession as times change.

Ultimately, commitment to ongoing education reflects a dedication to excellence. By investing in our continual development, we uphold high standards of

care, adapt to changes in our profession, and build trust with both our patients and the wider community.

Sincerely,

—DR. DEBORAH COCKRELL,
International Vice President

From the Desk of the EDITOR

In this issue of Dental World, you will by now have read articles from our Officers addressing several themes that we recognize as being at the core of the Pierre Fauchard Academy. These include:

- The embodiment of Pierre Fauchard's vision of elevating the standards of dental care worldwide;
- Advancement of the dental profession, including through professional organizations;
- The essential nature of CPD and ongoing education;
- The promotion of ethical standards and patient care standards; and,
- Informative and formative contributions to the future of dentistry.

Many of you will also, no doubt, have recognized the ways in which you and your close colleagues support and contribute to the dental profession and the future of dentistry. Perhaps, one of the less widely understood opportunities lies in voluntary consensus standards. These standards are developed on a vast array of topics and disciplines nationally, regionally and globally, and inform best practices which ultimately benefit society.

With respect to dentistry, voluntary consensus standards inform best practices for dental professionals and manufacturers on methods, materials, equipment, infection control and prevention, dental instruments, terminology, oral hygiene products, forensic odontology, dental implants, CAD/CAM, informatics, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and other topics. Within categories, multiple standards are developed.

Interested parties in the development and use of voluntary consensus standards on dentistry-related topics include dental professionals, manufacturers, other healthcare professionals, governmental organizations – including regulatory agencies, and others.

National organizations that develop voluntary consensus standards around the world include, among others, the American Dental Association, American National Standards Institute (ANSI), Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI), British Standards Institution, Bureau of Indian Standards, Canadian Standards Association, Deutsches Institut für Normung (DIN; German Institute for Standardization), Instituto Nacional de Normalización (INN; National Standards Institute of Chile), Japanese Standards Association, Saudi Standards, Metrology, and Quality Organization (SASO), and Standards Australia. Additionally, depending on the national structure, multiple national organizations may develop standards that are then accredited by a single organization (e.g., in the US, all US standards developers are accredited by ANSI).

At a global level, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), which was created in London (UK) in 1947, currently includes delegates from more than 160 countries. These delegates participate in ISO standards as experts, and work on harmonization of national and regional standards to create international standards, including those relevant

to dentistry. Examples of other relevant international voluntary consensus standards bodies include the American Society for Testing and Materials International (ASTM International), International Electrotechnical Commission, and the International Safety Equipment Association.

As already noted in this issue in the previous article by Dr. Deb Cockrell (PFA International Vice President), dentistry requires excellence and patient care standards, and is evolving with constant advancements in technology, materials, techniques, and patient care.

Participating in voluntary consensus standards addresses some of our core themes – it is also a valuable contribution to the development of standards on current best practices and on advancements as these emerge in the future.

If you are interested in pursuing this opportunity, I encourage you to learn more from colleagues, your national dental organization and other relevant standards organizations in your location.

Sincerely,

—DR. FIONA M. COLLINS,
Editor, Dental World

Dr. Collins is a member of American Dental Association (ADA) Standards working groups, and the Vice Chair of Consensus Body 5. Fiona is also the ADA representative to AAMI and co-chair of the AAMI/ADA joint working group developing what will be the first collaborative AAMI/ADA Standard in infection control for the dental setting.



Dr. Fiona M. Collins

MEET OUR SECTION CHAIR DR. REUBEN PELOT

Dr. Reuben Pelot is our Section Chair for Tennessee, and his contributions in support of the Pierre Fauchard Academy and dentistry in general have been many. Please read on to learn more about Dr. Pelot's leadership roles and achievements.

Dr. Collins: Dr. Pelot, your accomplishments have been many and your involvement in the dental profession and the Pierre Fauchard Academy now spans several decades. Could you share with our Fellows what first attracted you to dentistry?

Dr. Pelot: The very first thing that attracted me to dentistry happened when I was a "B" team player on my high school football team. The coach made me tackle the senior running back in practice, which unfortunately left me with a broken lower first molar! Needless to say, I then had to visit my dentist for treatment – and he let me watch the procedure. I was fascinated and thought to myself that I could learn to do that. I never forgot that day and kept this at the back of my mind throughout my schooldays. Every choice I made regarding my curriculum leaned towards dentistry, and by the time I was in college it was time to make a decision – I chose the pre-dental curriculum and stayed on track through dental school. My fascination with dentistry has only become more solid over time and now, after 63 years of practicing the profession, my love and interest in dentistry are still strong! Although now retired, I am still involved in patient care as I work for the Veteran Evaluation Service as a Doctor Reviewer evaluating claims veterans have made to the VA for disability. Though I do not render any treatment, I can give my opinion and hopefully help our veterans find relief.

Dr. Collins: Can you tell us a little bit about your experiences after graduating as a dentist, your first impressions, and what you learned during that time?

Dr. Pelot: Upon graduating from dental school, I entered the US Army as a dentist and was stationed in the US in a dental clinic on a large base. The Vietnam crisis was under way, so my career began with preparing soldiers for duty overseas, mainly in Asia. I was determined to give soldiers the best dental care possible with the least pain, and from the beginning focused on treating my patients the way I would also want to be treated. That has been my philosophy through the years, and it still is!

Dr. Collins: You have been involved in organized dentistry for many years. At what stage in your career did you realize you wanted to become involved, and what was your impetus for doing so?

Dr. Pelot: After serving in the army, I returned home – now with my wife, Barbara, and our two daughters and was fortunate to be invited to join the practice of Dr. Russell Ford's practice – my wife's uncle and a reputable and well-regarded member of the local, state, ADA dental organizations. As a plus, he was also a member of the Board of Dentistry in our state! That was how I learned the importance of organized dentistry. With Dr. Ford's encouragement, I began to follow in his footsteps and have since spent many hours over the years involved in our dental organizations.

Dr. Collins: For a number of years, you have held a leadership role within the Pierre Fauchard Academy as Section Chair for Tennessee. Looking back on this, what did it mean to you when you were first inducted into the Academy?

Dr. Pelot: When I was inducted, the Tennessee Section of the Pierre Fauchard Academy consisted of only a few dentists in

our location, however we had more members across our state. Most PFA Fellows were also members of the American College of Dentists and the International College of Dentists, and the PFA seemed to receive less attention. At the time, Dr. Tom Pryse was our Section Chair at the time, and his goal was to increase our membership and attain an equal status for our Academy. This then became my goal too, and a few years later Dr. Pryse asked me to accept the Section Chair position! I gladly responded that I would love to be Section Chair, not fully understanding what this would entail although aware that it would demand time and effort to support our Fellows and grow our Academy.

Little did I know, the Board of Dentistry then made a new rule that dentists must have at least 20 hours of approved continuing education credits annually in order to be able to renew their license. At that time, we had barely started on CE credit time so I decided that our PFA Section would hold CE courses approved by the board at a time when our Fellows were attending our State Dental Association meetings. We also invited non-PFA dentists, which turned out to be a real plus – as our membership increased, dentists became more familiar with PFA as a professional organization! When the Governor of our state appointed me to serve on the Tennessee Board of Dentistry years later, I was also happy to see that the Board passed a rule requiring a course of at least 1 CE credit hour on Chemical Dependency for license renewal and was proud to be involved in this rule!

Dr. Collins: Can you share some of your other achievements during your career?

Dr. Pelot: As a young practitioner, colleagues ahead of me shared an invaluable amount of information and help that stood me in good stead for the future. In addition to becoming chair of the Tennessee Section of the Pierre Fauchard Academy, I held several other leadership roles serving my dental community. These included serving as Secretary of our local dental society, then as Vice President and finally as President, and at the state level serving one term as Vice President of our state dental association.

Dr. Collins: What other areas of interest are you involved in, professionally or as a hobby?

Dr. Pelot: Following my time on the Tennessee Board of Dentistry, I was part of a group of guys from my Sunday School class that served breakfast once a week to the homeless in a shelter in our town of Knoxville, TN. However, a homeless guy complained that our food made his teeth hurt, so the guy next to me in the serving line told him I would fix it for him! That started the movement to establish a full dental clinic for the shelter. About a year later, my wife Barbara and I opened a full dental clinic at the shelter (now called the Peoples Clinic), spending our day off every week treating the homeless in Knox County. It was a roaring success, and we continued for 8 years until my wife and daughter had to quit, at which point I found someone else to continue the clinic. Through its foundation, the Pierre Fauchard Academy had provided several grants over the years to support the clinic, which is still in operation at the Volunteer Ministry Center here in Knoxville. That is one of my proudest accomplishments.

I really don't have a major hobby. Barbara and I were blessed with 4 children, and we devoted our free time to activities involving our kids. It was an absolute joy! Boating became our hobby, the glue that kept our kids close to home, and we loved it.

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

Dr. Pelot: My hope is that other dentists will give back to their communities in some similar way, and I hope that we don't get so involved in the technical advancements and financial side of dentistry that we forget why we are here. My hope is that dentists will continue to put themselves in their patient's position and render the same treatment they would want for themselves.

Dr. Collins: As an experienced dentist with many years in leadership roles, what would be your advice to younger colleagues who have recently embarked on their careers?

Dr. Pelot: Looking back on my many years in private practice, my involvement in organized dentistry was for me the most

rewarding part of belonging to the dental profession. I would recommend and encourage younger dental professionals to get involved in organized dentistry – because when you serve others, you also serve yourself.

Dr. Collins: Dr. Pelot, are there any takeaways you would like to share?

Dr. Pelot: Yes. Dentistry has given me a wonderful and fulfilling career that has spanned a lifetime. My biggest credit goes to my wife, Barbara, who has been by my side throughout our careers and has guided me through many challenges and endeavors, some with great hesitation. I could not have done any of this without her!

Aloha, on April 3, 2026, we held an induction ceremony at Schofield Barracks Dental Clinic where we inducted Lt. Col. Nicholas Wilson into the Pierre Fauchard Academy in front of his family and peers. Dr. Wilson's colleagues put together a congratulatory reception for him as part of the celebration, with lots of food and Fellowship. He even received a special pair of PFA Sunglasses, which were so appropriate for Hawaii and brought rave reviews and laughter! The presentation came with much praise and celebration for our inductee, Nicholas Wilson! Thank you for helping to make this such a success.

Sincerely,

—DR. NORA HARMSSEN,
Section Chair for Hawaii.



Lt. Col. Wilson wearing his special pair of PFA Sunglasses.



Lt. Col. Wilson together with his wife and daughters following his induction into PFA.

SECTION NEWS USA

Hawaii

SECTION NEWS

New York

The New York Section held its induction brunch at the Borgata Resort in Atlantic City, NJ. Drs. Fabiola Milord and Jay Skolnick (Section Co-chairs) greeted attendees and lead the meeting, where we inducted 11 new Fellows. Our guest speaker, Cristian Opazo, PhD (Director of Educational Technology at New York University College of Dentistry) gave an interesting CE course titled 'Using Generative AI in Dentistry — A Live Demo.'

During the meeting, we also presented the Family of Dr. Sanford Klein with his posthumous 2026 Distinguished Service Award. In addition, we presented Dr. Chester Gary, JD via Zoom with the 2026 Pierre Fauchard Academy Honor Award.

Sincerely,

—DRS. FABIOLA MILORD
AND JAY SKOLNICK,
Section Co-chairs



Dr. Fabiola Milord (Section Co-chair), Dr. Jay Skolnick (Section Co-chair, Trustee for Region 2), and Dr. Cristian Opazo (guest speaker), together with our new Fellows.



Via Zoom- Chester Gary DDS, JD 2026 is presented with the Pierre Fauchard Academy Honor Award.



Dr. Jay Skolnick together with the Family of Dr. Sanford Klein accepting his posthumous 2026 Distinguished Service Award.



Cristian Opazo, PhD, presenting the CE course titled 'Using Generative AI in Dentistry — A Live Demo'.

SECTION NEWS

Southern California

Co-chairs Drs. Norman Nagel and RK Chetty welcomed the Southern California PFA Fellows to the 52nd Annual Meeting on May 16th, 2026. The meeting was held in conjunction with the California Dental Association Meeting in Anaheim, CA. Over 31 Fellows and guests heard Dr. Cheryl Goldasich discuss the importance of becoming a Fellow in the Academy, and what this means. Thank you, Cheryl, for a wonderful presentation. We inducted eleven new Fellows at our meeting. Congratulations to Dr. Anjali, Dr. Joseph Minda Atalla, Dr. Stewart R. Balikov, Dr. Anand Purushottam

Bhalodi, Dr. Hubert Chan, Dr. Casey Chen, Dr. Marc Richard Hayashi, Dr. Shivani Karre, Dr. Akshay Ashok Katara, Dr. Mark Mintline, and Dr. Ashish Shrestha.

In addition, the four dental schools in the area had each selected a senior dental student as recipient of the PFA Dental Student Awards. One student, Arash Alirezaei, was present with his dental school dean, Dr. Elizabeth Andrews, and other Western School of Health Sciences faculty members. Our other student awardees included Dr. Helen Park (University of Southern California), Caitlin Mispagel (University of California Los



Dr. Cheryl Goldasich (PFA Fellow) welcomes new Fellows.



Southern CA Section New Fellows together with Arash Alirezaei (recipient of a PFA Dental Student Award).



Arash Alirezaei (student awardee; Western University of Health Sciences), together with Dr. Elizabeth Andrews (Dean of Western University Health Sciences Dental School), new Fellows and supporters.

SECTION NEWS

Southern California continued

Angeles), and Dr. Alexey Gurin (Loma Linda University).

During the closing comments, Drs. Nagel and Chetty expressed their thanks to our Fellows. They have both decided to step down as co-chairs of the Southern California Section after four years of leadership. They felt it was time to "pass the torch" to the next generation of

leadership. We look forward to the 2027 PFA Southern California Section meeting, which will once again be held in conjunction with the CDA Annual Session.

Sincerely,

—DRS. NORMAN NAGLE
AND RK CHETTY,
Cochairs, Southern California Section

Tennessee



Dr. Paul Obrock (Trustee for Region 3)
addressing our attendees.

The Tennessee Section meeting was held in conjunction with the Tennessee Sections of the American College of Dentists and International College of Dentists. Dr. Paul Obrock (Trustee for Region 3) greeted our Fellows and inductees and provided an overview. During our annual session, we inducted 7 new Fellows at our Annual Session meeting, including Dr. Leela Alluri, Dr. Vivek Buddha, Dr. Walter Owens, Dr. John Robinson (Mississippi), Dr. Sydney Sanford (Mississippi) and Dr. Ken Tilashalski (current Dean of the University of Tennessee Dental School). Dr. Ankineedu Babu Dasari was installed on a separate occasion. In addition, Dr. Drew Osborn and Dr. Josh Hethcox were inducted as new Fellows at the Knoxville Area Dental Association meeting held in Knoxville, Tennessee by Dr. Reuben Pelot (Section Chair).

Sincerely,

—DR. REUBEN PELOT,
Section Chair for Tennessee



Dr. Ankineedu Babu Dasari (new Fellow)
together with **Dr. Reuben Pelot (Section Chair for Tennessee)**.



L to R: Dr. Drew Osborn and Dr. Josh Hethcox
following their installation as Fellow in the Pierre Fauchard Academy.



L to R: Dr. Vivek Buddha and Dr. Walter Owens (new Fellows); Dr. Paul Obrock (PFA Trustee for Region 3); and new Fellows Dr. John Robinson (Mississippi), Dr. Ken Tilashalski (current Dean of the University of Tennessee Dental School), Dr. Leela Alluri and Dr. Sydney Sanford (Mississippi).

SECTION NEWS

West Virginia

The West Virginia Section of the Pierre Fauchard Academy held its annual awards ceremony and dinner on Wednesday May 6, 2026, at the beautiful Erickson Alumni Center on the campus of West Virginia University in Morgantown, West Virginia. The program began at 5:30 p.m. with a reception followed by the awards program and a great dinner. We were especially excited as a West Virginia Section to have the Executive Director, Bob Cattoi, as our special guest. He gave a wonderful presentation on functions and events at the Academy and helped present the awards given by West Virginia Officers.

It was a memorable time for the West Virginia Section as four new Fellows, Dr. Melissa Luna, Dr. Michael Cavender, Dr. Manali Vora, and Dr. Chris Ivanoff were inducted into the Academy. All four are faculty members at the West Virginia University School of Dentistry. Dr. Luna is in the Department of Diagnostic Sciences, Dr. Cavender is Chair of Endodontics, Dr. Ivanoff is in the Department of Restorative Dentistry and Dr. Vora is in the Department of Periodontics. All have contributed in countless ways to the school and the West Virginia Dental Association.

The West Virginia Section also presents Special Appreciations Award each

year, which is given to faculty or staff members at the school who have made extraordinary contributions to the Dental Profession. This year these awards were presented to Michele McElroy, who is the Patient Access Manager, and April Fields who serves as the Billing Manager at the school. In no way could their titles begin to tell you everything they have done for the West Virginia University School of Dentistry over the years.

In addition, our Distinguished Dentist Awards are presented each year to a dentist who has shown outstanding leadership and service to the state on a national level. This year, these awards were presented to Dr. Nika Hettlinger (President of the West Virginia Dental Association) and Dr. Kerri Simpson (ADA Delegate). Dr. Hettlinger and Dr. Simpson have both served in many leaderships at the West Virginia University School of Dentistry and the West Virginia Dental Association.

We had a fine attendance at the ceremony, and all were treated to a great dinner at our Alumni Center.

Respectfully submitted,

—ROBERT L. WANKER, DDS
*Past Chair of the PFA
West Virginia Section*



Mr. Robert Cattoi, Executive Director of the Pierre Fauchard Academy, giving a presentation on functions and events at the Academy.



L to R: Dr. Chris Ivanoff, Dr. Medissa Luna, Dr. Manali Vora and Dr. Michael Cavender (new Fellows).

SECTION NEWS

West Virginia continued



Ms. Michele McElroy receiving the Special Appreciations Award from Mr. Robert Cattoi.



Ms. April Fields receiving the Special Appreciations Award from Mr. Robert Cattoi, and Dr. Robert Wanker.



Dr. Nika Hettlinger receiving the Distinguished Dentist Award from Mr. Robert Cattoi.



Dr. Kerri Simpson receiving the Distinguished Dentist Award from Mr. Robert Cattoi.

UPCOMING EVENT

The upcoming Annual Meeting of the Pierre Fauchard Academy will be held on Saturday, November 28, 2026, in New York in conjunction with the Greater New York Dental Meeting.

TOPICAL ABSTRACT

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE - CURRENT STATUS AND THE FUTURE

Artificial intelligence (AI), also referred to as augmented intelligence when assisting with functions performed by individuals, has significantly changed the manner in which many processes and procedures are performed. In our personal lives, one example is ChatGPT and another is electronic wearable devices that monitor sleep patterns, physical activity or predict/detect health issues.

In healthcare, AI systems provide administrative, patient care, education and research functions. AI-assisted administrative functions in dentistry include the archiving and retrieval of images, records and charts, and ChatGPT used as a communication tool. AI-driven practice management software is also available that enables rapid confirmation of insurance coverage, rapid payment of insurance claims, automated scheduling and reminders. In addition,

Meanwhile, research and development on AI systems that aid clinical evaluation and decision-making has burgeoned, with the number of scientific articles on AI in healthcare published annually soaring from 1480 to 6450 in the five-year period between 2018 and 2023. Globally, clinical AI systems are submitted to appropriate national and regional regulatory bodies for regulatory clearance/approval. By early March 2026 in the US alone, companies had received medical device clearance from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for more than 1400 applications in the AI clinical care sector, based on their safety and efficacy. The vast majority of these are for medical disciplines.

In dentistry, AI related to clinical care includes systems that evaluate digital intra-oral and panoramic radiographs, lateral cephalograms, and Cone Beam Computed Tomography. AI use of bitewing, periapical and/or panoramic radiographs includes the detection of anatomical features, dental caries, furcation radiolucencies, periodontal disease, restorations, pulpal disease and periapical radiolucencies, root fractures, implants, impacted third molars, tumors and cysts. Some systems can segment and classify proximal caries, assess and classify periodontal disease, or provide information on root canal morphology. Among AI systems focused on proximal caries, findings include a greater degree of accuracy overall, specificity and sensitivity, and reduced observer differences in comparison to solely clinician assessment. Improved results have also been found with respect to the evaluation of periodontal disease. Specific AI systems can also aid general and periodontal charting through digital data transmission or the use of voice recognition to create a digital report of the patient's visit, and AI-generated risk assessments are a further option.

In orthodontics, AI contributions have changed the landscape of care. AI systems are available that can evaluate

radiographs (including lateral cephalograms), scans and dental models; automate tooth segmentation and aid diagnosis; predict tooth movement, plan treatment, design and fabricate orthodontic aligners; and help provide on-going monitoring and calibration of results (providing a feedback loop for treatment modifications). AI software is also now available that analyzes images derived from scans taken by patients at home or by healthcare professionals using an app or smartphone, enabling remote monitoring of orthodontic treatment progress and clinical parameters (including aligner, attachment or bracket and archwire issues). In a multi-study review, the estimated accuracy of orthodontic AI systems was over 95%, and AI-assisted care shown to result in more accurate treatment planning, streamlined treatment, and superior patient satisfaction compared to standard orthodontic therapy. At the same time, system-specific issues for orthodontic care include more AI errors compared to manual tracing, and AI analysis of 3D imaging has been found to require improvement.

Other examples of enhancements possible through AI include more efficient CBCT analysis with superior accuracy compared to clinicians, including oral and maxillofacial surgeons; AI-assisted diagnoses; CAD/CAM applications involving AI such as in prosthodontics; and the use of AI-driven 3D printing. Research and results on AI are encouraging in other areas, including findings showing that AI-guided robotic procedures are less invasive and more accurate than traditional methods, and improved detection and classification of furcation radiolucencies in primary molars. Wearable electronics have been shown to foster hands-on learning for procedures pre-clinically and clinically, and research demonstrates enhanced early detection of oral cancer, grading, and prognoses. AI-driven patient-tailored care is also promising for the future.

Regarding current issues and concerns across disciplines, these include cybersecurity; protection of patient privacy; ensuring that AI systems do not 'own' clinical decision-making and that patient-provider communication is enhanced rather than diminished. In addition, errors in databases or input are sources of poor outcomes – a risk in both personal and professional areas, such as readily available information through 'chat' programs. Clinically, the need for on-going research and robust studies on AI systems is recognized. Results from studies are system-specific, with limitations in available data on clinical outcomes, efficiency, and functionality.

If considering AI systems, those with proven safety and efficacy can be sought, while also assessing functionality, efficiency, security, ease of adoption and workflow incorporation. AI in dentistry will continue to be informative and ultimately transformative across dental disciplines.

Resources for Further Reading:

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- Yang S et al. Development and Validation of a Visually Explainable Deep Learning Model for Classification of C-shaped Canals of the Mandibular Second Molars in Periapical and Panoramic Dental Radiographs. *J Endod*. 2022;48:914–21. doi: 10.1016/j.joen.2022.04.007.

CURRENT PFA PODCASTS

Four new podcasts have been added so far to the Pierre Fauchard Academy in 2026 that make for interesting listening and learning. These three podcasts cover a variety of topics, as described below in chronological order.

January 21: In this episode, we meet Dr. Tom Ochola, our Trustee for Africa and the Middle East, who is based in Kenya. This podcast is focused on dental services in East Africa, as well as the wider continent.

February 9: This podcast is an opportunity to meet Dr. Ghabi Kaspo, our current International President of the Pierre Fauchard Academy (2025-2026). We look back at Dr Kaspo's career, current roles and his work for the PFA in promoting leadership, excellence and global collaboration in the profession.

March 11: During this podcast, we focus on Oral Healthcare Leadership in Ireland. In this podcast, we meet Dr. Will Rymer (President of the Irish Dental Association), Dr. Paul

Leavy (Senior Lecturer, School of Dentistry, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland) and Dr. Garry Heavey (Irish Regent of the International College of Dentists). All three are PFA Fellows and continue to contribute to leadership within the profession in Ireland. This episode examines the evolution of dental practice in Ireland since 1980, its current challenges and ultimately how leadership within the profession is helping both colleagues and patients.

June 20: In this episode we meet Dr. Jay Skolnick from the USA (Region 2 Trustee) and Dr. Felipe Jimenez from Chile (International President-elect, and former Region 7 Trustee). During the podcast, we look back at their careers to date, the current state of dentistry in Chile and New York – and plans for Dr. Jimenez's upcoming term as International President.

All four podcasts can be found at: <https://fauchard.org/podcasts/>.

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