

## 2005 IFD Country Reports

### 1. Australia – Stephen Boxhall

Australia held its 18th Biennial conference in Sydney in August this year. An informal open meeting of international delegates was held, including Chief Executive, Gerry Hansen, Chris Allen of the United Kingdom, John Egan from New Zealand, Andrea Bendal from the Netherlands, the Australian (IMP) President and Chair of IFD Education committee, Mr Graham Key, and a number of other observers from Australia. A very informative and worthwhile discussions occurred. It was particularly appreciated by our newest IFD member New Zealand.

Gerry Hansen presented the opening session to the conference “The Globalization of Denturism”. There were many who came up to Gerry, and to ADPA officials afterwards saying what a great presentation it was. There were many other fantastic sessions over the three days and some amazing social functions. Gerry and Chris, your attendance at the conference was very much appreciated by the ADPA. It was good PR for the IFD. It was as pity though that there was not more international delegates, my expectations after Montreal were that there may have been more travel to Australia.

The ADPA also held its annual meeting and a new national Executive was elected. Graham, Terry McHugh and Stephen Boxhall stood down and Mr. Jos de Klijn, was elected national president. Stephen Boxhall was reappointed IFD delegate. Stephen Boxhall was also awarded Life Membership of the ADPA, together with Jos DeKlijn at special function during the conference.

The existing ADPA website , <http://www.dentalprosthodontists.com.au/national/> will give contact details and other information. A revamp of the site is presently being undertaken and a new address will probably be allocated.

### 2. Canada – David Hicks

The highlight of 2004 for the Denturist Association of Canada was the very successful 4<sup>th</sup> World Symposium on Denturism which was held in Montreal in October 2004. We were honoured to co-host the Symposium with the International Federation of Denturists and the Association des denturologistes du Québec. The Symposium’s success was certainly measured by the attendance of over 900 practitioners, over 100 exhibit booths, and the sharing of substantial revenue. We were most honoured by the attendance of so many of our international colleagues.

The ‘puzzle’ of Denturism in Canada has been completed by the legislation for the recognition of Denturists in the small province of Prince Edward Island. This small (4) group of Denturists has fought long and hard for recognition and they ended up with one of the best legislations in Canada. We now have Denturism in all provinces and territories of the great and immense land of Canada.

In addition, the membership of the Denturist Association of Canada has been bolstered by the new Denturist Association of Alberta which reformed as a result of direct intervention by the Denturist Association of Canada. In March of 2005, representatives of the Executive conducted two Town Hall meetings in Alberta to encourage the re-formation of the Association which would represent the interests of Denturists in that province. From the past three years, there has been no direct support of Denturists as the College of Alberta Denturists was formed by the Alberta Government as the regulatory body to protect the interests of the public and the existing Denturist Society was no longer in existence. We are very happy to welcome back Alberta in its rightful form as an Association of Denturists.

The Curriculum Advisory Committee has embarked on on-site accreditation surveys of the four schools of Denturism in Canada. This will be the first on-site visit since the inaugural visitations in 1999. Three of the schools (NAIT, College Edouard-Montpetit and George Brown College) have been accredited since 1999 and are preparing for their on-site revisits. Vancouver Community College has been successful in completing its first accreditation survey.

As you know from previous reports, the Denturist Association of Canada has been developing an electronic claims network for Denturists for the past 10 years. This project has proven to be a more difficult task than we originally envisioned because of the unwillingness of the insurance industry to embrace Denturist claims. We are happy to report that a pilot project for the launch of DACnet will start this year and we hope for a full launch in early 2006. Interestingly, our biggest supporter in the process of the pilot project has been the Canadian Dental Association who has provided us with the rights to use the message standard of CDAnet. We are certainly cautious about this relationship but pleased that we are able to work well with our dentist colleagues in this project.

As with other countries, the profile of Canadian Denturism and its national representative has slowly but surely increased through public awareness, strong education, and fostering good relationships with government. The Denturist Association of Canada represents Canadian Denturists on the Federal Dental Care Advisory Committee which oversees oral health care for six government departments and the First Nations peoples. It is a member of the Canadian Standards Association Technical Committee. In 2004, a direct liaison was established between the DAC and the Non-Insured Health Benefits branch of the Canadian government which provides services to First Nations peoples in Canada.

In the spring of 2006, the Denturist Association of Canada, in cooperation with the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Toronto, will facilitate a pilot study called "A Day in the Life of a Denturist." This pilot study will test the full survey to take place in 2007 which is anticipated to deliver much needed data on the situation in Canadian oral health care and provide the means to determine the care required by Canadians, what is actually being provided, risk factors to good dental health, and human resources.

I hope that you are all receiving a complimentary copy of "Denturism Canada", the quarterly journal of the Denturist Association of Canada. The Executive of the DAC and the publisher of the journal have discussed the importance of developing an international journal, professionally presented and of specific interest to our international colleagues. Therefore, the DAC has decided to launch an International Section of our journal, effective 2006. We envision this section to be a specific section of the journal devoted to international news and articles. We invite those of you without a national journal, or even if you have one but still wish to be included in the international journal, to create a liaison with our publisher and have news and articles from your country, in your language, printed in the journal. I have distributed a promotional piece from our publisher which describes the new section and how each country or group of countries can be profiled in the journal and how it can be funded. The Managing Editor of the journal Mr. Kevin Hill will be in contact with your country to start your participation. We do hope that you will embrace this new international section, contribute technical or information articles of interest to your members, and prove this pilot project to be a successful venture. This could certainly lead to bigger and better publications for the benefit of the international Denturist community.

Thank you to the Slovak Denturist Association for hosting this meeting, and thank you to the International Federation of Denturists for its dedication to the profession.

### 3. Ireland - Colum Sower

The Dental technicians association Ireland is a body made up of both Dental Technicians and Denturist. It is the policy of our Association to actively seek Denturism in Ireland and have been working very hard in the past five years to achieve this goal.

In 1983 a government report was published which recommended that Dental Technicians/Denturist should be allowed to work independently from the Dentist to supply Dentures directly to the general public. With this in mind the Government passed a new dental act in 1985. This act enabled the Dental council to introduce Denturism in Ireland at the request of the Minister of Health. The Dental council which is made up of a majority of Dentist failed to do this of their own accord and in fact wrote a report stating it was not needed. Then in 1993 the Minister officially requested a scheme to register Denturist. This scheme took till 2000 to formulate and was in the minister's opinion completely unworkable. The government requested a new scheme and in 2001 the Dental Council presented the same scheme with minor changes. At this stage legal action was taken by a Dental Technician against the Dental Council. The outcome of that case was that even though the Government of Ireland could request a scheme they could not change the content.

However the judge stated that a scheme was desirable and some regard should be given to Dental Technicians with previous experience.

Earlier this year the Department of Health contacted our Association to discuss the content of the Dental council's schemes. The Department of Health has stated that it is now policy that Denturism be introduced in Ireland as soon as possible. The quickest way is through the Dental Council, but other options will be considered if the Dental Council refuses again. The detail of our discussions with the Department and their talks with the Dental Council must at this stage remain secret. The outcome is expected to include the Technicians in Ireland having to undergo a course of training. To this end some of our members have completed or are in the process of taking the George Brown IDEC course as this is expected to be the base requirement. The whole process could take between one to three years.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Chris Allen and the CDTA, for all their help and for giving Dental Technicians in Ireland access to the IDEC course.

The DTAI hope you all enjoy your stay in Bratislava and have a productive meeting. We hope that one day soon Ireland will join the ever growing list of counties that benefit from Denturism and will then be able, as you have to help others achieve their goal of becoming legal Denturist.

#### 4. United States – Austin Carbone

I must at this time as well thank the IFD members for awarding me with the first IFD Pieter Brouwer Award of Merit. The award was presented to me by Mr. Paul Levasseur and Ms Gerry Hansen in May 2005 during the NDA spring meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada. I consider this award to be one of the most prestigious awards I have received during my career in Denturism and I will honor and cherish it forever. Thank you.

As far as Denturism as a movement in the US is concerned, there have been attempts at legislation in the States of California, Massachusetts, and Minnesota this year, all of which have failed for various reasons. In Maine, we are continuing to fight for an expanded scope of practice but are continually let down by government bureaucrats and legislators who occupy themselves with agendas that do not seem to include Denturists. It appears we will be putting forward a new bill to the legislators and Mr. Levasseur can elaborate on this and other items if you have any questions.

There will soon be a movement in Arizona to open the legislation which governs Denturists in that State. This is being spearheaded by a separate group other than those Denturists who are presently licensed in Arizona to open Denturism to others who qualify. Again, Paul can elaborate.

No matter how the battle goes, the NDA is alive and well and we intend to keep it that way.

#### 5. Poland - Andrzej Dulian

The situation of Polish Denturists is not easy, as for today. The absence of a law regarding dentistry technicians makes reaching possible Denturists very difficult. Constant changes in Polish medical administration made vain our efforts in submitting propositions to legalize Denturism. The analysis made at our request showed, that current Polish law provides a profession called "authorized (qualified) dentistry technician". The authorization is granted by the Minister of Health Care after passing due examine. Examinations should be Organized by Medical High School, but for the last time they had been carried out at about 1960. Since then no authorizations had been granted to dentistry technicians to work with patient.

Polish dentistry technicians practicing Denturism we managed to contact with showed moderate interest in P.U.D. Activity. Unfortunately, for most of them prosthetics is the basis, and they fear conflict with dentists too much to risk their professional positions.

We prepare now to undertake talks with two Nation-Wide Organizations Associating Voluntarily technicians: "Polish Society of Dentistry Technicians" and "Trade chamber of dentistry technicians", but they are not much interested in cooperation with an organization which will be a bone of contention between dentists and dentistry technicians.

By the end of October there will be a meeting of D.T. from south Poland. We are preparing some materials to attract more colleagues with our initiative. We had also some meetings to discuss options to begin action to reactivate the profession, and manuals in work with patient accepted by IFD, subjects of IFD Exams etc.

We look forward to outcome of new political opening, for winners to be are renowned for breaking privileges of some profession's lobbies and are heading for more.

#### 6. United Kingdom – Chris Allen

I am pleased to report that the United Kingdom has had an excellent year in relation to Clinical Dental Technicians/Denturists. Legislation passed through the UK Parliament on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2005. The legislation amended the old Dentist Act and gave the General Dental Council the powers to introduce new professions. These new professions will be known as Dental Care Professionals. The legislation requires that any person carrying out any dental procedure is required to register with the national regulatory body.

The new professions to be registered from July 2006 will include Dental Hygienists, Dental Therapists, Dental Nurses, Dental Technicians, Clinical Dental Technicians/Denturists, Orthodontic Therapists.

It has already been agreed that the scope of practise related to clinical dental technicians/denturists will be as follows

Work in their own practises

No prescription required from a dentist

Requirement for competency in taking and processing dental radiographs

Work within the scope of practise for which they are trained and competent

May employ any other member of the dental team

The scope of practise for a clinical dental technician/denturist will cover all removable dental appliances. At present this will relate to removable dentures but the philosophy encompasses the principle that if a registrant is trained and competent at a particular procedure then there is no barrier to them undertaking that procedure.

We are looking forward to hosting the fifth World Symposium on Denturism during 2006 in conjunction with the International Federation Of Denturists, the UK Dental Laboratories Association and the UK Dental Technicians Association and would like to extend a welcome to any denturists in the world who may wish to attend and celebrate the legalization of the profession in the United Kingdom.

I would like to offer, on behalf of all UK denturists our sincere thanks to all those who have supported us in our endeavours to reach our ambitions and in particular Ms Gerry Hansen, Mr Paul Levasseur, Mr Austin Carbone and Professor Mike Vakalis for their support over many, many years.

#### 7. Malta – John Salamone-Reynaud

One achievement Denturists can be proud of is completing the baseline curriculum. We have established standardization of training and education. I hope it is being recognized in practice. How are Denturists recognized in different EU states? It would be nice to see Denturists amongst the professions in the selective system of the EU directives together with all the listed ones including Pharmacists, Dentists, Midwives, etc.

In the past, I have addressed and encouraged our European Committee, through the IFD, to work in coordination with the FEPPD (Lab Owners), if it feels it necessary, to elect a Denturist representative in the MDEG (Medial Directive Expert Group) and other committees for small and medium enterprises. Our concerns must be heard and we must create the facility of expressing Denturists' views were Directives related to our profession are undergoing amendments. We manufacture dental appliances but also put them "into use". We must work to have an EU, which is aware of the Denturist Profession.

Accession into the EU stimulated lengthy discussions on free movement of workers. I wish to see a couple of Denturists apply for registration in Malta. Denturism is not recognized yet. It is not illegalized; in fact

we have 5 practicing Denturists – 3 in the pensional age and 2 in the early fifties – who have been practicing for well over 30/40 years. However in the past some were heavily attacked by the Dentists proclaiming that they were ‘fake dentists’ or illegal dentists who fitted dentures that causes cancer. Denturists’ submission for registration with our Council will definitely arouse members of the council of the growing profession and enhance our efforts for recognition.

Following my last request for introducing regulation, the Council recommended to submit the proposal when Clinical Dental Technicians are fully recognized in the UK and the revised Dental Act implement. I have passed on the latest developments in the UK to the Ministry. We hope there will be a positive response once the above-mentioned episodes occur. Attitudes within some of the Dental Hierarchy are still 50 back, unfortunately. With the right contacts and an IFD input towards our aims, our national Administrators, the Medical Council and the Council for Health will ease the process of recognition. In the meantime our organization, the MDTA, representing dental technologists and Denturists, is facing continuous problems of illegal employment of various individuals as dental technologists. Regarding the MDD on custom made appliances, we are in the final stages of complying with the requirements of the Directive and getting our members registered with the MSA (Malta’s notifying body). One last point I would like to suggest is that for small islands, e.g. Cyprus, St. Kitts & Nevis, and Malta, I am sure attending such important meetings and conferences may over-stretch our budget’s limitations, especially when no direct flights are available. I would appreciate, if possible, for the IFD to consider this request.

#### 8. Hungary – Attila Szep

All the members of our society have passed the pathology exam, which is one of the requirements for the dental exam. We do not understand the hold-up in the exam process for the Hungarian applicants, as the IFD had already approved it in Utrecht. At the meeting in Aarhus, the possibility of taking the exam in Denmark or the Netherlands was mentioned. Several times in the last few years we asked about the fees and expenses of such an exam for a group of six persons but we never obtained an answer. As a result I am in the unpleasant situation of not being able to inform the members of the society of the examination possibilities. On this occasion we would like to kindly ask the executive board to come to a comforting decision in our case.

#### 9. Slovakia – Mario Wojcicki

Since 1999, when IFD meetings were held in Bratislava, the Slovak Dental Prosthetists Association (SAZP) was established. Since that time great progress has been made especially in the education, examinations in years 2002 and 2004. We worked hard to get involved with Government officials and had the Prime Minister attend our meeting in 1999 for a little ‘chat’. At the examinations dinner party in 2002, the Minister of Health was invited with the Chairman of the Health Committee. At his address to the new graduates, he encouraged them to stay at home to provide services to the public. He nothing in the process of legalizing Denturism. The new Minister of Health from the opposition party knew nothing about Denturism. We have ‘bombarded’ the Minister with letters.

Shortly after the Montreal meeting I sent again letters re Denturist matters to the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic, the Minister of Health, and the Dean of the Slovak Medical University. For the first time, I received a letter from the Office of the Prime Minister. He thanked me for the favour and trust. He said he appreciates new ideas from people in resolving matters concerning the society. It is so pleasant to know that, our country men who placed roots far away abroad are with their hearts and thoughts close to Slovakia. He thanked me for valuable ideas related to the profession of Denturism and a practical view of the problem from my involvement being a member of the EU Committee. Because Denturism falls under the jurisdiction of Health, he sent the letter directly to the Minister’s Office. From that moment I received a request from the Deputy Minister of Health who is also Secretary of State, for information urgently needed as he described it and all of you on my request promptly provided it, such as countries where Denturists are legal, the names of the schools or colleges, curriculum persons to contact. In January 2005, I received a letter from the Secretary of State and he suggested to meet him in person with the presence of representative from the Minister of Health, Dentists, Health Council. We set a date for March 8, 2005. At the meeting I did in detail a presentation of Denturism which I gave to everyone (the Dentists did not show up), including the IFD contact list, to be sure that nothing is missing. The next day my friend, an MP, told me that met the Secretary of State and Minister of Health who told him “why are you doing so much for Denturism when as

far as he has information Denturists practice only on Malta and nowhere in the EU.” Both of us burst into loud laughter!

Obviously there is a huge pressure lobby by the dentists to stop Denturists program. Dentists treated to go on strike if Denturists will be legalized. On the other hand, I wrote an eight page letter to the President of the Slovak Chamber of Dentists who in March this year lamented in the news that in Slovakia there is a shortage of Dentists and if something isn't done in short time it will be a crisis.

Being in Bratislava in March, I was invited to see Dean Prof. Jan Stenel MD PHD of Slovak Medical University. He was pleased with the Denturist curriculum his university has as was the final approval of six semesters of academic and clinical studies. (When I received a copy of the program) to my surprise all words relating to Denturist curriculum has been changed overnight to Dental Technician and in the morning complete curriculum and syllabus should go to the Ministry of Education for formal approval. I urgently called Prof. Sagat who is pro-Dean at the same university and we corrected all the departmental wording.

In June, the Minister of health told my friend MP that he is going to introduce the Denturists Bill as a new profession through the legislation on June 22 2005. He did not, due to pressure from the Dentists. Now the Minister is trying to proclaim a legislative “public notice” re Denturism. We know it will be some day in our favour.