

Message from the President of the International Academy of Periodontology

September 2015



My journey with the International Academy of Periodontology (IAP) started almost two decades ago when I was introduced to Dr. Thomas Van Dyke and immediately became a member of the association. I made my first visit to an IAP congress with a poster presentation in 1998 in Seoul, Korea. Since then, it has been a fascinating journey with the IAP. I look back and at times feel awed that today I have the honor of being president of this esteemed organization.

Last year we conducted the first ever IAP Conclave. It was an enriching and enlightening experience - three days spent with a large gathering of professionally acclaimed periodontists from around the world. All delegates who participated in the Conclave shared their significant expertise at various levels during the unique deliberation session. The Conclave resulted in some definitive statements endorsed by the more than 100 delegates present that will likely stimulate more research, new findings, and new therapies in the field of periodontology.

In my two-year term as president of the IAP, I would like to see our organization initiate fruitful partnerships and fresh initiatives in addition to the biennial congress that will take place in 2017. We have already begun a dialogue with the *Fédération Dentaire Internationale* (FDI, or World Dental Federation) to renew our partnership for the future. We have also begun a fruitful discussion with International Dental Exhibitions and Meetings (IDEM) Singapore for future collaboration. I thank our immediate past president, Dr. Mark Bartold, who initiated the idea of such collaboration. I personally will be at the FDI general assembly in 2015 to sign our partnership program, and will meet with group representatives to finalize the Academy's association with IDEM.

There has been strong discussion about collaborating and bringing together a scientific program focused on periodontal research, and I will strive towards creating this new initiative under the aegis of the IAP. I would like to invite and encourage more regional periodontal education programs supported by the IAP and am looking at the possibility of a strong regional program in India in 2016.

I thank all the IAP Board members and past presidents for all of their support when I was the secretary of the IAP and my presidential journey was just beginning. I have to again mention Dr. Tom Van Dyke, who has always been a guiding light for me in the IAP central office in Boston. I also wish to thank my mentor and guru, Dr. Klaus Lang, who has been an inspiration to me at all points in my professional career as a periodontist.

I wish the greatest of success and exponential growth to the IAP.

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