

CDSA Presidential Update

December 2013

As the year draws to a close, it is my pleasure to update the Membership on the state of affairs regarding the Canadian Dental Specialties Association. It has been rewarding to witness the progression of the CDSA from a vision to becoming the officially recognized national voice of Dental Specialties in Canada. If not for the efforts of CDSA's Founding Fathers, Drs. Lee McFadden (CAOMS), John Perry (CAOMP/OM), and Christopher Robinson (CAOMS), it is unlikely CDSA would be up and running today. A great many thanks to them for their efforts, both past and present.

Under the guidance of our first two Presidents, Drs. Aaron Burry (CAPHD) and Calvin Pike (CAE), CDSA made significant inroads to fulfill its mandate as the authoritative national voice of the Canadian National Dental Specialty Organizations. We have maintained and strengthened our relationship with the Canadian Dental Association and believe we have much to offer each other as national organizations. The three CDA Presidents in office since CDSA's inception, Drs. Rob McGregor, Rob Sutherland, and current President Peter Doig, have been very forthcoming in their support for CDSA and have made efforts to reach out to CDSA and its Member associations. In return, CDSA has been available to respond to any requests by CDA for Specialty input, with the full CDSA Board being kept abreast of CDA's activities. With this level of mutual understanding and respect, we have asked CDA to disband its internal Committee On Specialist Affairs (COSA), which was the conduit between CDA and Dental Specialists, but now is non-functional as CDSA has taken on that role. This has been one of our goals from the outset and the CDA leadership has agreed in principle to disband COSA and we expect this will be completed in the near future.

CDSA has been further asked by CDA to develop a program for the 2014 CDA National Dental Forum, which is held annually just prior to the CDA Annual General Meeting. This interactive Forum provides the opportunity to examine and discuss current issues and concerns in Dentistry among CDA's Members and leadership. It further allows CDSA to highlight its role as the voice of Dental Specialists while contributing to the CDA's role as the national voice of Dentistry.

As a young organization, CDSA has identified the need for recognition and participation in other national Dental organizations as one of its key objectives. To this end, we sought to attend the annual Council meetings of the Royal College of Dentists of Canada (RCDC), as well as the Board meeting of the Canadian Dental Regulatory Authorities Federation (CDRAF). I am pleased to



inform our Membership that we have been granted observer status to attend both these important meetings, where our role as the national voice of dental specialties can be furthered. CDSA Vice President Dr. Rob Barsky (CAPD) attended the RCDC Council meeting in Toronto in September 2013, to present this request formally which was approved in November 2013. As CDSA President, I attended the CDRAF meeting in Saskatoon in October 2013, where I presented the CDRAF Board with our CDSA message as well as an offer to participate in future meetings as the voice of Dental Specialties.

Internally, we are continuing to identify further activities that CDSA can be involved with. We will endeavour to establish a dialogue with our provincial counterparts, to help improve the lines of communication at the national level. Our website will continue to improve as we have posted our Bylaws and Minutes of our meetings for the Membership. We further need to establish standing Committees and assign roles and responsibilities to our Board Members as needed to continue our growth.

I am proud of what we have achieved as a national organization in a relatively short period of time. However, it is obvious there is much to do. This leads to my last point – we are only as strong as our Membership. We need the active participation from each of our nine Member associations and the individuals within. If we cannot continue this momentum, the strength of our organization will falter. Our Founding Fathers and your Board Members have invested much of their blood, sweat and tears into the birth and infancy of CDSA. Its future growth and success will depend on our Members and their respective membership. It is the newer and younger members of each Member association that must take ownership of CDSA, because it is helping to shape their future.

In the attached table, I would like to introduce you to the current CDSA Board members from each of the nine dental specialties, as well as the CDSA Executive. Please feel free to contact any of the members to discuss getting involved with the CDSA.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ritchie Mah', written in a cursive style.

Ritchie Mah, DDS, MSc, Cert(Ortho), FRCD(C)
CDSA President & CAO Board Member

CDSA BOARD MEMBERS 2013-2014

CDSA BOARD MEMBER	SPECIALTY	CDSA EXECUTIVE POSITION
Dr. Ritchie Mah	Canadian Association of Orthodontists (CAO)	President
Dr. Robert Barsky	Canadian Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (CAPD)	Vice-President
Dr. Duncan Chambers	Association of Prosthodontists of Canada (APC)	Secretary-Treasurer
Dr. Calvin Pike	Canadian Academy of Endodontics (CAE)	Past-President
Dr. Marie Dagenais	Canadian Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology (CAOMR)	
Dr. Frank Hohn	Canadian Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (CAOMS)	
Dr. John B. Perry	Canadian Academy of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology and Oral Medicine (CAOMP/OM)	
Dr. Jean-Pierre Picard	Canadian Academy of Periodontology (CAP)	
Dr. Carlos Quiñonez	Canadian Association of Public Health Dentistry (CAPHD)	
Dr. Grahame Usher	Canadian Academy of Endodontics (CAE)	

