The official newsletter of the World Federation of Orthodontists

Volume 18, Issue 1 - 2005

WFO reaches milestone of 100 affiliate organizations

In April, the WFO reached a milestone in its membership growth with the addition of four affiliate organizations. To date, 100 orthodontic organizations have joined the WFO. Over the past decade, the WFO has grown by 51 affiliate organizations. In 1995, 69 orthodontic organizations signed the WFO Charter: The new affiliate organizations are the Emirates Society of Orthodontists, the Slovenian Orthodontic Society, the Iraqi Orthodontic Society (IOS) and the Asian Pacific Orthodontic Society (APOS). The APOS, a regional organization, represents orthodontists in the following countries: Japan, Korea, China, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, India and Australia.

Dr. Azlan Al-Huwaidi, secretary-general of the IOS, said the affiliation with the WFO has had an enormous impact on his organization. The IOS, for example, recently reconvened its levels and founded an orthodontic journal. The organization’s affiliation with the WFO will also help to encourage Iraqi orthodontists to join the IOS, he said. There are 150 orthodontists in Iraq, but only 100 orthodontists are members of the IOS. In addition, approximately 40 IOS members are applying to become fellows of the WFO.

To learn more about the WFO affiliate organizations, use the WFO’s online directory. This resource allows you to search for affiliate organizations by country. The search results will provide the name of the affiliate organization and contact information for its president. Go to www.wfo.org. Select the Directory link.

Submit organizational news, photographs to WFO

To keep the WFO meeting list up to date and helpful, the WFO needs meeting information from affiliate organizations and fellows. Information about past meetings or activities, including photographs, is also welcome. This information will be useful for the WFO Gazette and the WFO website.

Submit upcoming meeting dates, locations and topics, as well as general news items, to Terri Wise of the WFO Secretariat. She may be reached at 314-995-1700, ext. 235. Her fax number is: 314-995-5288. Her e-mail address is: wfo@wfo.org.

WFO announces nominees for Executive Committee

WFO Council to elect new committee members during 6th IOC

During the 6th International Orthodontic Congress (IOC) and the 3rd Meeting of the WFO, the WFO Council will elect 10 individuals to serve on the WFO Executive Committee for the next five years. The elected individuals, who will represent the major regions of the world, will help carry out the WFO’s mission to advance the art and science of orthodontics throughout the world.

The incoming WFO Executive Committee will have 13 members in all, including the president, secretary-general and a representative from the Australian Society of Orthodontists (ASO), the host of the 7th IOC. President-designate Dr. Abhinesh E. Abhinesh of Athens, Greece, will succeed Dr. Lee Graber of Berkswich, Illinois, USA, as president of the WFO. Dr. William Bock of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, USA, will continue his service as secretary-general, and Dr. Peter Coll of Brisbane, Australia, will represent the ASO.

In preparation for the WFO Council meeting, the WFO Executive Committee has selected 10 nominees for the WFO Executive Committee election. The Executive Committee derived the slate of nominees from the numerous nominations submitted by the affiliate organizations of the WFO.

"As it was the case with the past and present Executive Committees, the slate of nominees for the new board consists of prominent collegiate who have been recognized as leaders in their country and respective region, as well as worldwide," Dr. Abhinesh said. "Most of them have served or held posts on the boards of international orthodontic organizations. We were privileged to receive a number of very qualified nominations that made the final selection very difficult. The great number of WFO affiliate organizations and individual fellows provides us with a rich pool of highly distinguished colleagues who can serve it in any capacity and according to the various needs and assignments. Of course, the WFO Council will express its formal opinion on the issue of the incoming Executive Committee." The slate of nominees is listed below.

Africa and the Middle East

Dr. Abbas Zaher of Alexandria, Egypt, has been nominated to represent Africa and the Middle East. This would be Dr. Zaher’s second term on the WFO Executive Committee. Dr. Zaher is a professor in the Department of Orthodontics at the University of Alexandria. He is also a visiting associate professor at Margate University, Saint Louis University and Cairo University. He is also in private practice.

"During my current term, I have been in contact with orthodontic groups in several countries in the Middle East and Africa," Dr. Zaher said. "I have also assisted with the founding of the new orthodontic organizations, which later became affiliated with the WFO."


dr. Abbas Zaher
Register online or by fax

You can register for the 6th International Orthodontic Congress (IOC) in two ways:

2. Fax the registration form to the Europe Organisation (the registration company) — +35 5 34 45 26 46.

If you have general questions, contact the Europe Organisation at +35 5 34 45 26 45. Additional program information and the registration form are also available online.

Three important topics to be addressed through special sessions, exhibits

The 6th International Orthodontic Congress (IOC) will highlight the importance of the specialty’s professional boards through three sessions. In addition, a special exhibit will highlight and explore the diversity in orthodontic education, professional environment and insurance systems throughout Europe. Another special exhibit will highlight the history of orthodontics.

Professional Boards

Dr. James Moss and Dr. Pierre Fanché will host a symposium on the status of orthodontic board examinations around the world. The symposium will be offered in three parts. On Monday morning, September 12, an initiation-only session will be available to those who are involved in or who have an interest in professional boards. This presentation will be followed by an open session that will feature presentations from the major professional boards around the world. On Tuesday, September 13, Dr. Moss and Dr. Fanché will give a final presentation on the information gained from the prior two sessions.

If you are interested in participating in these sessions, contact Dr. Moss by e-mail at jamespun36@aol.com.

Educational and Professional Environment

Orthodontic educational systems, the specialty’s professional environment and insurance systems around the world are diverse. Dr. Charles Bolender and Dr. Wolfgang Schmidt, in conjunction with the European Federation of Orthodontic Specialists Associations (EFOSA) and its president, Dr. Frans Van Der Linden, will offer an exhibit that compares the variation in standards across Europe.

The Past to Foresee the Future

Dr. Julien Philippe, Dr. François Brunner and Dr. T.M. Graber have written a book on the history of orthodontics for the 6th IOC. This book, along with a special exhibit, will focus on research, instruments and appliances that have developed over the years.

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WFO EC Nominees

Continued from page 2

Dr. Somsak Satrawaha

Dr. Allan Thom

Dr. Francesca Motti

Dr. Allan Thom of Lutonridge Wells, England, and Dr. Francesca Motti of Padova, Italy, have been nominated to represent Europe. If elected, this would be Dr. Thom’s first term and Dr. Motti’s second term on the Executive Committee. Dr. Thom would succeed Dr. Athanasiou, who will become president of the WFO. Dr. Thom is president of the British Orthodontic Society. He is a past president of the British Orthodontic Technicians Association and the European Federation of Orthodontists. He also serves as a consultant orthodontist and honorary senior lecturer for Guy’s Hospital, London, and has been in part-time private practice for the past 27 years. He looks forward to working with all of the European orthodontic societies. “The European Union is expanding and, in a short space of time, has grown from 15 states to 25 states,” Dr. Thom said. “In the next few years, more countries will join. This is a great opportunity to widen the horizons of orthodontic practice and training across the European continent and, by so doing, enhancing the quality of care available to our patients. The WFO has a significant role to play.”

Dr. Motti is a professor of orthodontics at the University of Padova School of Dentistry and is the chair of the postgraduate School of Orthodontics. She is also in part-time private practice. Currently, she is serving as chair of the Scientific Committee for the 6th IOCO and as vice president of the European Federation of Orthodontic Specialists Associations (EFOSA).

If elected to the Executive Committee, Dr. Motti hopes to focus on orthodontic education. “I hope to further enhance the support of education in orthodontic specialty training and to assist with providing guidelines, options and suggestions to improve the quality of both educational programs and orthodontic care for all our patients,” she said.

Central and South America

Dr. Julia Harlin of Buenos Aires, Argentina, has been nominated to represent Central and South America. If elected, this would be her second term on the Executive Committee.

Dr. Harlin is a past president of the Argentine Society of Orthodontists, the Latin-American Association of Orthodontists and the Argentine Chapter of the International College of Dentists. “My goals for Latin America will be not only to increase the number of fellows of the WFO but also to raise the standards of as many of the orthodontic programs as possible,” she said. “In this way, we would be improving the quality of the professionals we have in the future. As a member of the Executive Committee, I will do my best to extend the WFO’s reach by pulling us together with the common objective to improve the standards of our specialty.”

North America

Dr. James Gjerset of Georgetown, Texas, USA, Dr. Larson Keso of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, USA, and Dr. Roberto Justus of Mexico City, Mexico, have been nominated to represent North America. If elected, this would be Dr. Gjerset’s first term and Dr. Keso’s and Dr. Justus’ second term on the Executive Committee. Dr. Gjerset would succeed Dr. Athanasiou, who will become president of the WFO. Dr. Keso is a board-certified orthodontist in private practice for 38 years, and, for the majority of that time, he practiced in Grand Forks, North Dakota, USA. “If I am elected to the WFO Executive Committee, I intend to work together with the other members to share knowledge and experience and to further the mission of orthodontics worldwide,” Dr. Gjerset said. “I have one interest and that is the advancement of orthodontics.”

Dr. Keso, an associate editor of the WFO Gazette, is a past president of the American Association of Orthodontists. He is an assistant clinical professor of orthodontics at the University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Dentistry, and he serves on the Clift Palace and Colonial Club at the OU Children’s Hospital.

Dr. Justus is in private practice and is the director of research for the Graduate Department of Orthodontics at the Intercontinental University. He is also on the editorial board of the World Journal of Orthodontics and serves as an associate editor of the WFO Gazette. He is a past president of the Latin-American Association of Orthodontists and the College of Diplomates of the American Board of Orthodontics. “My priority will be to help Dr. Athanasiou, WFO president designate, to achieve the goals he will establish during his tenure,” Dr. Justus said. “By the end of the 2010 term, I envision the WFO will be the premier orthodontic organization.”

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Dr Brent Larson, USA
Prof. James McNamara, USA
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News & Announcements

The Asian-Pacific Orthodontic Society (APOS) held the 5th Asian-Pacific Orthodontic Conference (APOC) in Beijing, China, from March 31 to April 2, 2005. The conference, which convenes every three years at various sites in the Asian-Pacific region, was hosted this time by the Chinese Orthodontic Society (COS) and the Hong Kong Society of Orthodontists (HKSO).

"The conference has developed year by year and provides a convenient time and place for Asian-Pacific orthodontic colleagues to meet," said Dr. Hideo Miki, who served as president of the APOS during the conference. "In addition, the 5th APOC has helped further orthodontic care for the public of the Asian-Pacific region."

At the time of the APOC, Dr. Jianxiang Lin was president of the COS, and Dr. Paul T.W. Lau was president of the HKSO. The APOC organizing committee included Dr. Miki Kikukawa and Dr. Urban Hagg, who both chaired the committee.

More than 50 speakers, who represented several countries, including the United States, Canada, Germany, France, Greece, Australia, Hungary, the Netherlands and the United Arab Emirates, participated in the conference program. The conference also included a scientific poster presentation and a youth forum for the younger orthodontic faculty, residents and graduate students.

WFO AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION PROFILE

Taiwan Association of Orthodontists is in its 17th year of providing continuing education, resources to its members

The Taiwan Association of Orthodontists (TAO) was established January 24, 1988. Today the organization has 520 members, including 265 TAO board-certified members and 95 TAO board eligible members. Full members must meet the Taiwan Dental Board's requirements for an orthodontic specialist. These requirements include at least two years of postgraduate education in an accredited university program and completion of a written exam and an oral exam of a case-based presentation.

TAO's Objectives

The TAO strives to elevate the level of research, education and treatment outcomes to orthodontics, and to establish and maintain the standards of the orthodontic specialty. The organization also continually promotes an international exchange of information that is both academic and clinically oriented. As part of these objectives, the TAO founded the Taiwan Orthodontic Board in 1994. The Taiwan Orthodontic Board is central to the long-term development of educational and treatment standards within the discipline of orthodontics.

One of the main goals of the organization is to achieve specialty recognition for orthodontics in Taiwan. Currently, the Health Department of the Taiwan government only recognizes maxillofacial and oral surgery and oral pathology as dental specialties.

Member Resources

Throughout the year, the TAO offers several opportunities for continuing education by hosting or co-hosting conferences. Most recently, the organization held a conference on excellence in finishing in early May. In December 2004, the TAO held its 17th Annual Meeting in conjunction with the 3rd Asian Implant Orthodontic Conference. All TAO members are eligible for reduced registration fees for any TAO-sponsored or co-sponsored course.

In addition, TAO members receive the journal of the Taiwan Association of Orthodontists, which is published every three months, and the organization's monthly newsletter. The TAO also provides legal consultation and educational leaflets and books that inform the public of the benefits of orthodontic treatment.

To learn more about the TAO, visit the organization's Web site at www.tao.org.tw.

WFO Council to convene during the 6th IOC

On Sept. 10, 2005, the WFO Council will convene in conjunction with the 6th International Orthodontic Congress (IOC) and the 3rd Meeting of the WFO, which will be held in Paris, France, at the Hotel des Congres. This will be the second meeting of the Council in the WFO's history. The first meeting occurred during the 5th IOC in 2000 in Chicago, Illinois, USA.

The WFO Council will elect the 10 executive committee members (see the related article on page 3), as well as honorary members. The Council will also consider amendments to the WFO's Bylaws, and the councillors will receive full reports on the actions of the WFO Executive Committee over the last five years and a full financial report on the status of the WFO.

Each country that has a WFO-affiliated orthodontic organization will be represented on the Council. Affiliate organizations were to have submitted names of selected councillors to the WFO Secretariat by March 1. The WFO encourages the affiliate organizations that have not submitted the names of their councillors to do so as soon as possible.

For countries that have only one national organization, the national organization is charged with appointing its representative. If more than one national organization was from one country, the organizations must agree on the national representative for the WFO Council. Regional organizations are to appoint their representative and to inform the WFO Secretariat.

In addition, 40 councillors are selected at large, based on each affiliate organization's pro rata share of the total WFO membership.

Both WFO meetings are referred to as the Council meeting, which will begin at 9 a.m. on Sept. 10 in the Midi Room, Level 2 of the Palace des Congres. A visitors' section will be provided for those who wish to watch the proceedings. Look to the next issue of the WFO Gazette for a report on the Council's actions.

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AOA seeks your input

The American Association of Orthodontists (AOA) Council on Communications is investigating the feasibility of producing various AOA products and materials in languages other than English. These resources might include patient-education brochures, presentation materials and materials for referring dentists. Currently, few AOA patient-education brochures are available in Spanish.

To determine the value of this service, the Council on Communications needs your input. If you would be interested in purchasing such materials, contact Linda Gladdon, the AOA director of communications and marketing, by e-mail: lgladdon@aoarent.org. Her fax number is +1-514-692-8178.

Please specify your language preference(s) and the type of resources that would be most helpful to you in your practice.

Approximately half of the WFO membership belongs to the AOA and is eligible to purchase AOA products and resources.