EDITORIAL BOARD:
Duffy Malherbe (Editor-In-Chief) duffy.malherbe@international-denturists.org
Urban Christen Méndez (President) urban.christen.mendez@international-denturists.org
Camille Bourbonnais (CEO) camille.bourbonnais@international-denturists.org
Tony Sarrapuchiello (Past President) tony.sarrapuchiello@international-denturists.org
Colum Sower colum.sower@international-denturists.org
Michael Vout mcvout@gmail.com

OFFICE BEARERS:
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FUTURE MEETING VENUES:
• 28 September – 3 October 2020
  IFD, DAC, and 3 provincial Annual General Meetings
  Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
• 11 - 16 October 2021
  12th World Symposium on Denturism with IFD and NDA meetings
  The Orleans Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA
• Sept/Oct 2022 - St Kitts, West Indies (?) IFD AGM.

IFD Website: www.international-denturists.org

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Working for Denturists World-Wide
Recognition for Denturists World-Wide
Knowledge for Denturists World-Wide
Respect for our partners is at the heart of the IFD’s values. The priority of the IFD is towards the maintenance and expansion of the profession. Our members are national organizations from around the world, who have partnered with us in providing a forum for the promotion of the profession. Our focus is the standardization and globalization of denturism. We are in partnership to provide information and support each other, to learn from our joint pool of experience. For that purpose we hold regular meetings to exchange information and share strategic planning, to encourage the development of our profession. We promote research in career training programs and educational standards and ethical conduct for denturists. We also share information by means of our website, the Secretariat and our Newsletter. We promote the recognition and acceptance of the services provided by Denturists.

Through the Exco and the Board, we partner in various initiatives to fulfill the mission and objectives of the International Federation of Denturists. Without the support of our Sponsors, we would be stretched to maintain many of these goals. Our Sponsors partner with the IFD to provide the financial assistance required to communicate efficiently with our member countries; to promote and establish a category of denturist throughout the world, in every jurisdiction where there is an identified need for optimal denture services; to restore the functional, emotional, psychological and social well-being, together with the oral health and general health needs of denture patients.

On a personal level, I respect myself, the IFD Board members, our IFD Sponsors, the patients in my clinic, and the students whom I teach, as equals and as partners with mutual outcomes. I maintain goodwill and respect, a good interactive spirit and good relationships with all those partners. Being respectful with one’s partners is essential to accomplish one’s shared mission and goal. By respecting my partners, I take care of them as if they were me and I endeavor to treat them as I would appreciate to be treated. I never abuse my professional position and I work for an optimum relationship with all our partners. This respect permits maximum progress for both parties. We want them to feel confident to trust the Federation; we want to exchange concepts and share interest in a sincere relationship.

I work for professional discipline with harmony, clarity and expect self-regulation by all partners. A high level of communication with one’s partners is significant to guarantee success. During my tenure, the International Federation of Denturists will work for inspiring these partnership-values for Denturists! Let us move forward together, in a spirit of partnership for mutual success worldwide.

Respectfully yours,

Urban Christen Méndez, DD - IFD PRESIDENT
Partnering with legal justice:

In 1843 a Danish man was accused of practicing illegal dentistry by making and inserting dentures. He was subsequently released by the Supreme Court with permission to continue his business after the ruling that “the production and fitting of dentures was not included in the domain of Dentists”. Many unsuccessful lawsuits by dentists followed. Gradually denturists gained importance as an appreciated oral healthcare provider. In 1913, a parliamentary commission declared that “dentists could not have a prosthetic monopoly, because the public would then have to pay more for their dentures”. Legal justice was served! Denmark remains the only country in the world where organized dentistry failed to create a monopolistic definition for dentistry in legislation - to consolidate their control on all oral health procedures and the business of dentistry. Denturists in Denmark were successful to retained self-regulation in 1979, when they gained independent legislation to regulate and educate the profession.

Partnering with front-runners:

Traditionally, organised dentistry are the only opponents to the introduction of formally regulated denturism. History remembers the brave denturist-leaders who were prepared to face the heat in the often-inevitable conflict, the singled-out victims .... Pioneers who stood up for their convictions! They paid the price and consequences for standing their ground for a principle, to advance the cause. When discussing the birth of the profession in any country, the sacrifices of those front-runners are recalled in the battles with the opposition. Many of them were jailed, their clinics closed, equipment seized, slandered and blacklisted from professional and personal communities. A few of these pioneers whose names immediately comes to mind includes the likes of William Lees in Alberta, Ben Sweet in Ontario, George Connolly in British Columbia and others like Clarence Phipps and later Austin Carbone from Canada, also Reginald Scott in Tasmania, Jos De Klijn in Victoria, Bruce Menzies and John Taylor in Queensland, Australia, Paul Levassuer (Senior), Bill Buxton (Senior) and Bruce Anderson in the USA, and in Europe, Pieter Brouwer in the Netherlands, Chris Allen and Peter Meeds in the UK, and many others. Their numbers are legion. These frontrunners and many others like them, were the trailblazers who opened new frontiers! Their followers were organized in Associations, with a mutual cause for professional recognition. Those partnerships helped initiate our profession in different parts of the world and they are worthy of our gratitude and respect.

Partnering with the public:

During the 1920-30s rural Canada was sparsely populated. In many parts of the world, Dentistry was a newcomer amongst the learned health professions and getting legislation established, as a separate statute, or jointly with Medicine and Pharmacology. The world economy was in the grips of the great depression after World War 1. William Lees was an immigrant dental mechanic making dentures in Edmonton, Alberta, subcontracted to almost 20 Dentists and charging only $3 for a F/F. His dentist-clients were charging about $45 and suddenly pressurized him for lower fees. Not surprisingly, he consequently decided to serve the public directly! The first time he got caught, the fine was $50. He just went right back to practice again. Harry Courtney joined him. They only served the public and limited their services to the making and provision of dentures. The dentists were upset with the competition and tried to close them down, for “practicing dentistry” without a licence. Every court case they faced, their business would boom due to the publicity, because they had the public behind them for cutting out the expensive middleman!

When the dentists gained an injunction to close the business of Lees and Courtney altogether, the public rallied behind the dental mechanics and established a Petition! The mounting legal costs caused Lees to lose his house! It was in the middle of the depression, people were out of work, the per capita income of Alberta had dropped by 65%. People in their thousands came forward to sign up in support of the Dental Mechanics. Alf Hooke was a member of the Alberta legislator who were sympathetic to...
the cause and argued strongly for changing the law, to provide freedom of choice for consumers. The dentists’ claims against the direct practice of the dental mechanics were observed as self-serving. The Legislator listened to the arguments from both parties and eventually decided to amend the law in favour of Dental Mechanics. The 1933 Dental Association Amendment Act of Alberta became the first legal recognition of Denturism anywhere, driven by a partnership with the public, who stood up against perceived greed and exploitation!

Partnering with politicians:
Lucien Maynard was an astute member of the Social Credit party in Canada, who always took an interest in community affairs, a true champion of the people! When he became Attorney-General of the Alberta Government, he took up the cause of denturists. His involvement with denturists and his tireless support of their profession is viewed by many as the key to their success. Alf Hooke carried on supporting denturists and convinced many colleagues within the Legislator of denturists’ merits. Another member of the Legislator, who fought very hard for the denturists’ cause in caucus, was Charles Johnson. These partnerships were fundamental to creating support within the Legislator and despite huge pressure from the opposition, assured the eventual success for a just cause. Not only were Maynard instrumental in achieving independent legislation for Alberta denturists in 1961, but as inter-provincial co-ordinator, he assisted other Canadian provinces in efforts to obtain appropriate Denturist legislation. Neighbouring British Columbia followed the next year. Gradually every Canadian province achieved independent recognition, argued on its own merit locally for the profession, despite controversy and longwinded intense battles. In 2003 the Prince Edward Island Denturist Act, eventually concluded national establishment throughout all 12 jurisdictions of Canada.

Partnering with stakeholders of a similar vision:
The Great Depression followed by World War2 left returning dentists and dental mechanics the daunting challenge of restarting practices and laboratories. Dental mechanics were often faced with a choice between financially unrewarding demand for their services by dentists, or to go outside “the law” to supplement their income by providing direct services to the public - for which there was a fair demand. It was simple; the fees they received from subcontracting to dentists, were often not enough to support their families. This common phenomenon became the prevailing practice in many parts of Canada, Scandinavia, Europe, and in Australia.

Pressure on the Australian Government to legalize popular practice led to the introduction of the 1958 Tasmanian Dental Mechanics Act, which introduced legislated clinical rights for dental mechanics in Australia. After the establishment of the Tasmanian Act, Australia started recognizing dental mechanics’ direct services, to serve the public denture-needs as oral health clinicians. There was a shortage of dentists to serve the Australian dental needs. When the Dental Mechanics Association in Victoria wanted to advance their cause for clinical recognition during the 1960s, they took a bold step and made an appointment with the chair of the Dental Board of Victoria, Prosthodontist Dr Anthony Dickinson, to discuss their involvement in the dental team. They structured a course which was opened to their membership and very well received. But more importantly, in working with leaders of the dental profession, a partnership was created with a mutual goal to serve the oral health needs of the public, through an appropriately qualified dental team. This partnership broke down many barriers. The idea of a structured professional relationship came to fruition with the implementation of the 1972 Dental Prosthetist Act of Victoria. There was good communication between dentists and dentist’s, referral pathways were improved, as was access to Continuous Professional Development (CPD) speakers for denturists. Dr Dickinson and some of his colleagues was working with the Denturist Association, despite objections from many within the Dental Association and this really changed the culture of the profession. This partnership paved the way for success, also in other states of Australia.

New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia followed soon. In 1991 Queensland became the final Australian state, to conclude national legislated recognition, throughout all 8 states and 2 territories. Recently the implementation of a strategic consolidation-plan was successfully accomplished to standardize education in the 6 training courses and centralized representation by one national body. This includes a revised Scope of Practice by the ADPA (Australian Dental Prosthetist Association) for all its members, to serve the Oral Health needs of Australian communities, by practicing their particular discipline.

Partnering with Educational organizations and Institutions:
The Nuffield Foundation was established after WW2 in the United Kingdom for the sake of strategic planning into dental education. Over time, several enquiries were conducted into the stakeholders involved and public needs, as well as the training of human resources deployed in Oral Health Services. Epidemiologic studies were conducted into all conceivable aspects related to dental services and the required educational outcomes needed in the UK. Despite the thousands of dental technicians admitted to the Dentists Register under the 1921 Dentists Act, proving to be successful dental practitioners, particularly in prosthetics by virtue of their training as technicians, emotional opposition still existed against denturism. Organized dentistry, kept recounting long-established rhetoric and finding excuses to discredit any opposition. However, when debating the facts, there was little opposition to the idea of someone undertaking the clinical as well as technical aspects of making dentures, provided they were appropriately trained and regulated. In 1993 the Foundation published a Report with profound recommendations. Solid rationalizations were made by the Nuffield Foundation for the introduction, training and registration of the categories of clinical dental technician (denturist) and oral health therapist.
The International Denturism Education Centre (IDEC) at George Brown College in Toronto, Canada was ahead of its time. IDEC served its purpose and contributed to the standardization of the Denturist education internationally from 1994 – 2012, when IDEC was terminated at GBC. Large numbers of graduates, especially from the UK and other countries, came to be trained in Canada for many years and at a very high cost. This partnership made it possible for them to return and be recognized in their own country. Education was, and still is the key! Completion of the educational program equipped them to prove their knowledge, skill and attitude competencies for regulation, to establish the profession in their country of origin.

Partnering with Consumer organisations:
The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is an independent agency of the United States government. Its principal mission is the promotion of consumer protection and the enforcement of civil (non-criminal) U.S. antitrust law through the elimination and prevention of anticompetitive business practices, such as coercive monopolies.

In 1980 the American Dental Association (ADA) advocated the development of inexpensive techniques (the Triad-system) to reduce the cost of services, as a method of reducing the impact of Denturists in the provision of denture-services at much lower cost. Dental clinics were opened in Oregon, Maine and Arizona and operated by Dentists, to provide a low cost denture service in competition with privately practicing Denturists. These clinics were financially supported and subsidized by the ADA, but this did not end the popularity of Denturists. The ADA clinics have since closed and the counter-offensive failed. After conducting a five year study, the US Federal Trade Commission sent all state governments a letter of recommended rule-making; encouraging them to institute the profession of denturism in their state. In the States of Idaho (1982), Montana (1984) and Washington (1994) the profession of Denturism have since been legislated, bringing the USA total to six.

The Office of Fair Trading Report (2003) into private Dentistry in the UK and the Irish Competition Authority Report (2005) into the professional services of Dentists, both did in depth investigations into the results of restrictive practices of denture provision. In conclusion, both Reports made specific recommendations for the speedy introduction of a class of Clinical Dental Technician (Denturist) to provide this direct service in competition to dentists, as it would inevitably improve the efficiency of the service and decrease the cost to the patient. Patients also claimed to get a higher degree of denture satisfaction from those dentures supplied directly by CDTs.

The Irish Competition Authority demanded significant reform of the dental system as it stated that a lack of competition pushes up prices, with Irish consumers paying elevated fees. In a report published during October 2007, the Authority concluded that competition is restricted and discouraged by an “outdated system of over-regulation”.

The report stated that consumers did not have the option of going directly to qualified hygienists and dental technicians for services and dentures, and the numbers of trained professionals is not sufficient for the existing demand. The Competition Authority called for significant reform, which places the consumer first, with explicit recommendations for the long-overdue implementation of a class of Clinical Dental Technician. It is significant that since these Reports were published, both the UK (2005) and Ireland (2008) have introduced legislation to recognize a category of Clinical Dental Technician. In both countries, the category is regulated by the General Dental Council, which regulates the practice, training and ethical conduct of all Oral Health Personnel.

Convergence of health stakeholders:
Collaboration, Synergy and Convergence are strategic buzzwords used over the last decade, to direct and align principle outcomes during health-reform processes globally.

- **Collaboration** is the process of two or more people or organizations working together to complete a mutual task or achieve a communal goal.
- **Synergy** is the term used to describe a situation where different entities cooperate advantageously for a final outcome. Simply defined, it means that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.
- **Convergence** is the coming together of stakeholders from different directions to meet eventually, with the merging of distinct entities into a unified whole; by relationships built around an exchange of cultures and bridging ideas, for the common good of health consumers.

Successful collaboration with strategic partners and OH stakeholders is essential for reform towards patient-centred efficiency. The IFD have a Vision: A dream of a globalized Team of Oral Healthcare experts serving the dental patient jointly and purposefully, with inter-professional referral protocols when required. The noble goals of good Oral Health and General Health will be achieved through restoring the patient’s self-esteem and ability to eat, talk and smile with confidence!

DM.

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It is a great pleasure to share this edition of our Newsletter, showcasing the growth of our mission for Denturist-recognition worldwide. The International Federation of Denturists has been serving the national associations of our member countries for more than 60 years. We have an active engagement with denturism associations worldwide, dental companies, education institutions, government departments who impact health policies and legal entities in different countries where denturists are established, or in the process of getting recognized. Ultimately our motivation in all our strategies is the best viable outcome for patients who require the services of denturists.

Networking amongst all partners is critical for the success of our activities, as the peer-to-peer sharing, and continued learning is one of the most powerful aspects of our mission. Our IFD website provides an information platform. Combining with those of our partners is even more beneficial, particularly in our joint efforts to spread the legalization of our profession. We collaborate in strategic planning and executing successful events that promote Denturists’ recognition worldwide.

Our annual general meetings and world symposiums drive tangible progress for denturists worldwide. Professional knowledge that is created and shared, the inward friendship connections and camaraderie that are stimulated and the oral healthcare challenges that are addressed and solved, have a significant impact on society. We partner with our board members, to assist in providing optimum value to your national associations and their impact to the growth of our members’ specialized field of expertise. We look forward to sharing benefits of new ideas about education in our networking. Partnership for success is our form of interaction to promote our IFD Mission together. We pool knowledge, skills, and other resources, to follow the development pattern of denturism, proven to succeed in history and we also constantly investigate new avenues.

The International Federation of Denturists and our partners demonstrate dynamism and enthusiasm by being proactive about Denturism events. We stimulate development by action, rather than waiting for external events or from reacting to an event, when it is already too late. We investigate the dynamics of events beforehand, to identify the most beneficial action to take for successful consequences and partnerships.

Significant events of partnership for success, may be compared to green, red or yellow traffic lights on our road.

Events may be a GREEN light when everything goes well, according to the conduct of our organization. We may require continuing the way we are to perform optimally. Currently, the International Federation of Denturists is in the green light zone, most of the time. We are online with our by-laws and constantly reminded of our mutual resolutions.

Events may be a YELLOW light when we need to rethink to understand the long-term impact of information we have in hands. Sometimes it is beneficial to wait and investigate deeper, before exploring new possibilities. Sometimes it is best to reduce growing speed to consolidate the impact on our Denturism profession. We require to observe the pace and direction of our organization structures, to obtain our goals. YELLOW lights indicate to us to observe and interact with other partners around us and others in a opposite direction, to prevent accidents and conflict. It is the time to slowdown and evaluate.... How do we make decisions? We will listen to the wisdom of our partners and use the democratic structure of our by-laws, such as following the voting process. We have various options to choose from, for example: Discussion with our Executive Committee, discussion through our various committees and discussion with our board of directors. When required, we will proceed by vote. You may find all details of our processes on our International Federation of Denturists website, about the IFD by-laws.

Events may also be a RED light when we go too fast or when we must stop. Sometimes we must stop our movement, or direction. To stop at an intersection is significant, because it permits us to observe and evaluate everything around us and to take the necessary care to prevent a loss. Sometimes our opposition may be on a direct collision course to derail an initiative. A RED light indicates when we require to study our course, or to change directions of specific strategies, local initiatives, or even our worldwide action, to be more efficient in our mission.
IFD – Working for Denturists Worldwide

The International Federation of Denturists is performing at optimum level when the GREEN light is there and when IFD fulfill its mission at a good pace for the organization and for our various partners. Partnership for Success is our unique collaboration between national associations, government educational institutions, dental companies, and patients. Our IFD Board members come from different countries, providing different opportunities for collaboration. We accomplish our mission and realize our full potential as a federation in a setting that fosters good oral healthcare communities, collaboration between denturists, and confidence of our patients. Our IFD members demonstrate a good knowledge and interest in their own professional development, are likely to address the challenges in their denturist service to the community. They are committed to rigorous and consistent professional growth and reciprocity in their exchange with their local partnering stakeholders.

Partnership for Success is a meaningful process for collaboration between all partners to help them achieve their goals and learn the skills needed for a brighter future of the Denturist profession with proven long-term results for all partners.

Our country members fulfill their commitment for recognition of Denturists worldwide. They respect each other and cooperate in projects with mutual trust. We, the International Federation of Denturists will continue to be partner with all of you. I trust this information will be of value to you for the success of our mission. CB.

Focus on Education - Striving for Harmonization and Convergence:

In November 2018, the International Federation of Denturists officially joined the ranks of the ADEE (Association to standardize Dental Education in the European Union and the European Commission). Membership is made up from dental professional associations and educational institutions from across Europe and their aim is to maintain high standards of education in the oral health industry throughout the region. They also work in conjunction with their counterparts in North America, Australia and Asia.

Our representative from the IFD European Committee is Colum Sower, based in Ireland. Colum Sower met with ADEE in January 2019 and at their AGM in Italy. Since then, the European Committee completed drafting a questionnaire (to be completed by every European member state with Denturism regulation, to disclose their educational program criteria, for comparison and harmonization). All rules and guidelines were followed to produce documents to be approved by the ADEE, about the Denturist process in education. Colum Sower forwarded the draft questionnaire to the ADEE for ratification.

Once the questionnaire is approved, we will coordinate the available input of the training courses from each European state and will work towards standardization thereof, within the European Union and the wider European community. We now anticipate the feedback from the ADEE to our representative. As soon as we receive the response, we will move forward. The whole process may take several years to complete. We believe that this partnership with the ADEE is worthy, because convergence of education will make our profession more recognizable to the public and increase our profile worldwide. We will monitor the process closely and report back all progress through IFD structures.

About the ADEE:

The evolution of the Association is set out in "ADEE - The First 25 Years", accessible from their website. ADEE brings together broad-based membership across Europe comprised of dental schools, specialist societies and national associations concerned with dental education. ADEE is committed to the advancement of the highest level of health care for all people of Europe through its mission statements:

- To promote the advancement and foster convergence towards high standards of dental education.
- To promote and help to co-ordinate peer review and quality assurance in dental education and training.
- To promote the development of assessment and examination methods
- To promote exchange of staff, students and programs.
- To disseminate knowledge and understanding on education.
- To provide a European link with other bodies concerned with education, particularly dental education.
The IFD cherish the partnerships with our Dental Trader sponsors. They invest into our objectives;
- to promote and establish a category of Denturist throughout the world, in every jurisdiction where there is an identified need for denture services,
- to restore the functional, emotional, psychological and social well-being, together with the oral health needs of denture wearers.

They assist the recognition and acceptance of the expert denture-dedicated services, provided by Denturists. With their financial assistance the IFD can communicate effectively with our member countries, develop our strategies and achieve our practitioners’ objectives, by keeping their focus on the noble goals of good oral health, in innovation and health! Dental Traders continuously research new materials and current technology, making denturists more efficient in our daily routine. Articles and product promotions provided by our sponsors, are published in this Newsletter, on a rotational basis. About our appreciated sponsors:

**VITA**

Though we at VITA have achieved so much in dental technology since 1924, we intend to keep on working hard to improve our products even further. One thing has remained the same: The desire to find increasingly better solutions for the fabrication of perfect prostheses. For more than three generations VITA has been a byword for constant innovation and progress. The demands and requirements of dental technicians, dentists, denturists and patients in over 150 countries is our focus. VITA have set the universal standard for shade systems and keeps on developing new comprehensive product-ranges, services and state-of-the-art equipment, according to market needs. We constantly strive for improvement in standards, enthusiasm in innovations, in meeting the challenge of global competition. Based in Germany, VITA remains at the forefront of progress; equally for laboratory, practice and clinic – now and in the future.

**CANDULOR**

CANDULOR stands for high-end prosthetics in dentistry, and has been for more than 80 years. Founded during 1936 in Switzerland, the factory remained a family business until 1972. As a supplier of prosthetic systems, customers worldwide benefit from a complete package of aesthetics, design and functionality. Together with the science-based setup system established by Prof. A Gerber (Condylolorm), the physiological setup system (Bonartic) forms the basis of this Swiss system. When artificial appearance cannot be distinguished from natural appearance, then we have achieved our goal. With the demands we make on ourselves, we also like to encourage dental technicians, dentists, and denturists to give their best for their patients. CANDULOR promotes the active exchange of knowledge and in our courses worldwide, we teach theoretical approaches and practical applications, to give back better quality of life to patients.

**KULZER**

With a new style and company name, Kulzer remains a reliable partner for all dental professionals – with more than 80 years of expertise. Based in Germany, Kulzer provides an extensive product range, covering cosmetic dentistry, tooth preservation, prosthetics, periodontology and digital dentistry. Our goal is to provide the best possible solutions, so that our customers can restore their patients’ oral health and well-being in a safe, more convenient and cost-effective way. Through restorative and aesthetic treatments, you provide patients with beautiful smiles, self-esteem and improved quality of life. The whole team deserve materials that meet the highest quality standards. It is our mission to support your daily work with innovative and reliable products, because oral health belongs in good hands. Kulzer teaches the most efficient means of achieving aesthetic results, using both traditional techniques and digital solutions.
VITA VIONIC® SOLUTIONS: Digital full and single arch dentures with freedom in set-up and function

Individual solutions for patients
Full denture fabrication has now become practicable and economical thanks to VITA VIONIC SOLUTIONS, the first fully digital system. The crucial difference lies in the VITA VIONIC tooth library with its set-up intelligence. It currently enables over 600 functional scenarios in four protocols, including cross bite and all skeletal classes. As a result, digitally fabricated, individual, high quality total prosthetic rehabilitations are now possible. The VITA VIONIC material concept is available for the Ceramill Motion 2 (Amann Girrbach), as well as other system partners and transfers digital precision into total prosthetics: no tolerances, no intermediate manual steps.

Freedom of choice for the dental expert
As the perfect complement, the denture teeth VITAPAN EXCELL and VITAPAN LINGOFORM fit easily in the VITA VIONIC BASE following basal adjustments by computer-aided manufacturing. For precise grinding results, the composite denture teeth are positioned in the VITA VIONIC FRAMES in a stable position. After basal and circular adjustments, a clinical wax try-in can be produced for the patient as usual, and individual patient-specific changes can be made. All this is made possible by the VITA VIONIC WAX disc. It is milled according to the virtual design. The modified denture teeth fit perfectly into the precisely milled cavities.

Fig.: At the end of the fully digital workflow, the denture teeth fit perfectly in the denture base.
Integrated material concept

After the digital denture design, a monoblock try-in or a digital wax setup can be used for checking midline or phonetic adjustments. Any changes can be integrated into the digital design by a second scan. This is the basis for all further steps. The PMMA denture base VITA VIONIC BASE disc can now be milled. Manual investing and pressure-packing is no longer required and residual monomer content left by the polymerization does not occur. The milled denture base without polymerization shrinkage ensures an exact fit and prevents pressure sores. With the special VITA VIONIC BOND bonding system, the modified teeth can be integrated quickly, accurately and reliably into the PMMA base. With no need for hot or cold polymerization, the low-viscosity and self-curing adhesive ensures gap-free, secure fixation of the denture teeth in the pre-milled alveoli.

New: Single Arch Dentures and 3D-Print Monoblock

With the latest roll-out of the Ceramill Mind CAD Software update 3.14 even more opportunities are given to the practitioners: Without any manual re-work single arch dentures can now be produced with VITA VIONIC SOLUTIONS in the Ceramill D-Flow software module. In the virtual articulator parameters can be adjusted individually and dynamic jaw movements be integrated. According to the model analysis of the existing antagonist the set-up is realized automatically in a one to two tooth relationship. Every tooth can now be repositioned easily and safely in the chain mode and the static and dynamic occlusal contacts be checked. Finally occlusion can be adapted to the opposing teeth; interfering contacts are ground virtually before definitive milling. Alternatively to the wax monoblock a printed monoblock can now also be generated with the NextDent 5100 3D high speed printers.

Digital value added from A to Z

VITA VIONIC SOLUTIONS represents the next chapter in digital prosthetics. Efficient CAD/CAM-assisted production of full and single arch dentures is now economical, thanks to the first fully digital system and its precisely matched material components. Digital dentures 2.0 are ready for practical application!

Successful Teamwork in Uganda Outreach:

by Mordey Shuhendler DD., R.D.T, F.C.A.D

I recently had the privilege, along with Mark Serebnitski DD. from Winnipeg Manitoba, to participate in a two-week outreach program, Build Your Smile Foundation, which is a not-for-profit organization based in Toronto, providing critical dental care in remote villages of Uganda, Central Africa. The group, under the leadership of Dr. Izchak Barzilay, a Prosthodontist and Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation, was comprised of dentists, prosthodontists, a periodontist, a restorative hygienist, dental assistants and two denturists.

In total the group was made up of 20 providers from various parts of Canada, as well as Los Angeles. It was a remarkable trip in which hundreds of patients, who normally don’t have access to dentistry, were served.

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Churches and schools were transformed into makeshift dental centres and powered by our generators. Patients were treated for dental services such as extractions, oral hygiene, preventive fluoride application, fillings and dentures. Oral care instruction and toothbrushes were provided to everyone attending our clinics. The demand for these services was overwhelming.

The foundation is determined to provide these treatments on a semi-annual basis. The camaraderie in the group and the friends we made in Uganda has been an experience I will long cherish. While we worked hard during the week, we had the opportunity to unwind over the weekend at a world class resort called The Birds Nest.

During our stay at this resort, several members participated in various activities such as a trip to a healer living high up in the mountains, accessible only by boat. On the final day of our journey, we were given a choice of going on a Safari, or trekking through an ancient rainforest in search of the world-famous silverback gorillas. While Mark chose the safari, I participated in the gorilla trek. Our guides helped us locate the gorillas deep in the forest. We came within three feet of these wild creatures.

This trip, for both Mark and I, was a life-altering event that we shall long remember. I would encourage our Canadian members to consider participating in this unforgettable, exhilarating experience. While I was in one of the villages, I sent my son a video of my patient doing a cultural dance in appreciation for the new denture that I had just provided her. I would like to end this article by sharing his response to me regarding our much-needed services in Uganda.

"That gratitude that your patient showed is amazing. The fundamental right to health in Canada is an amazing privilege and not actually a right at all. When you bring that privilege to places that lack it, the trajectory of life changes. You are changing life trajectories. And the gratitude expressed through art and custom is so precious and sincere." Dr. Adam Shuhendler

For more information please contact:
Caroline Szymaniak - Chief Operations Officer
Build Your Smile Foundation
2300 Yonge St. #905 Toronto, Ont. M4P 1E4
Tel. 416-484-0337
We started this adventure from Vancouver; it was an evening flight, so we arrived bright eyed and bushy tailed, and thankfully we didn’t lose any luggage! Whoo Hoo! On our first day of sightseeing, we were off to a local nature reserve to see the flora and fauna. Lots of Kangaroos, Wallabies, Koalas, birds of every colour with an aerial show featuring some of the birds they have at the sanctuary.

Landing in Cairns was a warm 25 compared to a chilly 15, so we shredded our “jumpers” as we climbed into a taxi to take us to Port Douglas. The Cairns/Port Douglas area is famous for the “Four Mile Beach”, absolutely beautiful! However, from Nov-May the water is populated with “stingers”. Caution must be utilized when swimming with the box jellyfish (or Irukandja) as they sting, so we walked along this beautiful beach and touched nary a toe in its waters.

One of the most popular attractions is the proximity to the Great Barrier Reef, so we took a “high-speed” catamaran to 3 different areas of it. On the boat their foremost attention was to safety. They stressed to us the need for safety; from the stinging octopi, and the reef can be as sharp as razor blades, even if you touch it accidentally. The currents are strong along the reef and divers can be separated from your group easily. Who thought playing in the water could be such hard work? Next stop - more diving, snorkeling in the clear waters, watching the incredibly colored fish and marine life just going about their daily life on the reef. A breath-taking experience of under-water paradise! This is when I decided I’m too old for all this fun and begged off, which was also when they opened the small buffet for everyone, and I was content to stay onboard and have a good nosh and a relaxing hot cup of tea.

The next morning as we were off on another contrasting adventure, this time on the Kuranda Scenic railway to Kuranda village in the middle of the Daintree Rainforest and the spectacular Skyrail cableway, travelling above the tropical Rainforests, to return to the starting point in Cairns. The first stop was the Kuranda scenic railway station from there we wound our way along the base of the hills that constitute the rainforest before starting the ascent into the forest. We were quickly enclosed by the tropical forest, with only a few feet clear on either side of the tracks. As the trip got steeper, you realize just how amazing this rail line was.
After the long trek up from the station we found the Kuranda hotel, and then headed to the local market place - a tangle of small huts and booths filled with merchandise made by local artisans. Another spot we stopped was the Koala Gardens, where I got to hold a live Koala and she was so comfortable with me she fell asleep in my arms and I got to hold her for over ten minutes.

From there we needed to be back at the historic station to catch the Skyrail down the mountains. The tram cars are big enough for four people and for a few dollars extra you can ride ones which have a transparent bottom. As each tower was passed, it opened a new view and at the last tower we saw the city of Cairns and surrounding areas with a breathtaking view as the aquamarine ocean met the blue sky.

The time finally came to head back to the Cairns airport to catch our flight to Brisbane with a week of international meetings ahead of us. Held at the five-star Sofitel Hotel, we connected with teammates we hadn’t seen since the last meeting in Cape Town, South Africa. That evening at the welcome reception, lots of hugs and laughs were exchanged, as old friends were embraced and new friends made.

The next few days were tied up with meetings, so Sherry, Didi and I set off to explore the city, such a beautiful one at that! Built along the Moreton-bay shore and with the Brisbane river winding through the middle, it is a city with water views and waterfront dining. There were options from old-style English pubs to five star cuisine, and even the more modest priced fare was mouth-watering as Brisbane is a big “foodie town”. As the meetings wound down, we were all treated to the Conference Dinner at Howard’s Hall located on the Howard Smith Wharf. It was a historic area, one of the many the Queensland Government has reclaimed from abandonment and decay, as it was largely abandoned since the 1960s when the port moved downstream. What a magnificent memorable evening! The entertainment, service and food were fantastic. That night the IFD welcomed Mr. John Rogan into the Brotherhood of Sterkenburgers and he was honored and humbled to accept it. Delegates to the Conference agreed that the 11th World Symposium on Denturism was a big success and a fantastic experience!

After the last day of continuing education we headed off to “Eat Street”. There is nothing like Eat Street anywhere in the world - a special one-of-a-kind experience that had been created for everyone to enjoy. Adults, children and even your pet is welcome. Priceless city & river views surrounded the 180 dining and entertainment shipping containers that added a blazing colored landmark to the Brisbane & South East Queensland dining and entertainment scene. The "Main Deck Stage" was where we found ourselves next, which was an enclosed area draped with huge steel girders spanning a large open space and covered with canvas and features top local & touring bands as well as regular featured headline shows. However, the main attraction is the food! Wood fire Pizza, Tandoori Chicken with Basmati rice, Seafood Chowder, Slinky Fries, baked stuffed Oysters, 12 hour Pork Belly were just some of the endless options.

Every year when we are fortunate enough to go to these conferences, we say, “this is the best trip ever” and every year they have something, not to top the last, but to make us leave saying “Man, that was fun!” Thank you so much John & Sherry Rogan for hosting us in your home and travelling with us. In closing, a special thanks to the ADPA for hosting this wonderful conference and of course to the IFD for yet another memorable conference! MR.
Finland is one of the world's northernmost countries. A quarter of Finland's territory lies within the Arctic Circle. This is the perfect destination to experience the Northern Lights, Midnight Sun & Polar Night. The blue in the national flag symbolizes all the lakes and the white color, the snow. It is the most sparsely populated country in the EU. The Finns pride themselves with the fact that they offer free education for students, even at university level. They have the world’s highest annual consumption of milk per capita and the average coffee consumption is 12 kilos annually! In Lapland one may visit the Santa Claus village. Finland have more Saunas than Cars. Finland is ranked #1, as the happiest country in the world by the UN.

In 1964, Finland achieved the historic distinction of becoming only the 5th jurisdiction to adopt denturism legislation, after Tasmania (1958), Alberta (1961), Zurich (1961) and British Columbia (1962), to recognize and regulate the profession. Erikoishammasteknikkoliitto ry (EHT), the registered Union of Denturists in Finland, was established in 1979, replacing its predecessor. The Association name, Erikoishammasteknikkoliitto ry (Special Dental Technician), means "clinical dental technician" or "denturist" Association. Affiliation with the IFD provides the link with the international denturist community and keeps them up to date with what is happening in the profession elsewhere in the world. The EHT is also an active member of the IFD European Committee and has a history of pro-active awareness of developments in nearby Denmark and other EU countries with denturism legislation.

This interaction and liaison allow the association to be strategically aware of EU tendencies and to advise their members of new technology when it becomes relevant. The Association has 320 members, which represents 90% of all the legalized denturists in Finland. The Association provides its members with all kinds of practical help, education and advice to assist practitioners in their daily tasks and professional matters. They convene internet meetings four times a year. The President and regional leaders try to visit their members and regional areas as often as is possible during the year. The scope of practice in Finland is limited to full dentures, but the need to expand and include the provision of partial dentures have been on their Agenda for a very long time. Patients use the services

Honouring the old guard
of dentists for the maintenance of their natural teeth. They are happy with the services of denturists and questions why they can't have partial dentures provided by denturists, as full denture-provision proved so efficient!

On Saturday the 9th November 2019, the EHT celebrated their 40th anniversary and 55 years of legislated practice, with a formal gala event at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Helsinki, Finland. Special guests were invited, that included IFD Board members and a very impressive event was hosted with superb style and impeccable taste. The IFD were represented by:

- Urban Christen Méndez, IFD President (Switzerland)
- John and Sherry Rogan, IFD Vice-Pres (Australia)
- Camille Bourbonnais and Michel Lamarache, IFD Chief Executive (Canada)
- Eric Engelbrecht and Yourri De Visser, (Netherlands)
- Johan Järvinen, (Finland)

The event was hosted by the forever-gentleman Ilkka Garaisi, President of the EHT since 2012. Ilkka and his elegant wife Anne, welcomed all office bearers and members of the EHT Association, members of the IFD and special visitors to the anniversary celebrations. The menu was an amazing blend of exquisite local flavors that was presented in delicious elegance.

The MENU was:

- Lightly smoked reindeer paste, potato salad and cranberry
- Crab fillet with pike-perch fillet and crab sauce
- Apple-almond frangipane, salt custard and vanilla mousse.

In his speech, Mr Garaisi reflected on the history of the Association and what they mean to its members. He thanked the members for their hard work over the years and their active participation in making the celebration a successful event. He expressed a special thanks to the vice-president Mr. Tapani Korkeala for the organization of the evening’s celebrations. He also thanked their sponsors who always support their organization and his beautiful wife for her constant support.

The Guests speeches was presented by Eric Engelbrecht and Yourri du Visser from the Netherlands. They came to give their support to their colleagues from Finland. Ilkka and Eric are long-time friends and fellow members of the IFD. During 2020, the Netherlands will celebrate the 45th Anniversary of Denturism in their country and the next year 50 years commemoration of their training. The International Federation of Denturists will be joining them to celebrate these events. The date of the Netherlands GALA will be October 9, 2020. Mr de Visser will keep the IFD informed of the details as arrangements are finalized.

After this discussion, Ilkka Imad Garaisi received the honor of being inducted in the Brotherhood of Sterkenburgers. See the detailed article about this presentation elsewhere in this Newsletter. This significant event is a great occasion for the IFD, for recognition of one of our appreciated long-serving members. After this, a special dedication was made to present the trophy for the Denturist of the year by the EHT, to Svahn Johan. Well done and congratulations!

After dinner the guests danced and enjoyed the camaraderie. Anna Hanski and her band performed music of a high quality for this
exclusive live event. The range of music was versatile and good classic taste. Anna was obviously pleased to be there too and was enjoying the party with us. It was a wonderful occasion, and it was clear that all the guests enjoyed themselves, the music and the company of their colleagues; fun was had by all.

The 2 days prior to the EHT festivities, an Oral Health Expo was hosted in Helsinki. Some of the delegates participated in this 2-day event of Inspiration, Knowledge & Networking between dentists and denturists. The event presented achievements and innovations in science for denturists and advanced the exchange of information for public benefit. On behalf of the IFD, we thank you EHT and especially our hosts Ilkka and Anna for inviting us to share celebrating your wonderful 40-year anniversary. You make us all proud!
During the festivities of the Finnish Denturist Association (EHT) celebrating 40 years of success, on the 9th of November 2019, the President of EHT and IFD representative for Finland, Mr Ilkka Imad Garaisi was honored by admission into the Brotherhood of Sterkenburgers. The IFD President, Mr Urban Christer-Méndez said that all the IFD country-representatives work hard for recognition and advancing the profession, but that he wanted to focus on the dedicated contribution of Mr Garaisi! Mr Christen-Méndez called on all present to witness, as he inducted Mr Garaisi into the esteemed Brotherhood of Sterkenburgers, in recognition of our respect. Fellow Sterkenburgers Eric Engelbrecht (Netherlands) and John Rogan (Australia) observed as he was presented with the medal and honourable membership certificate of the Order of Sterkenburg.

The privilege to receive this prestige, is earned by few!

Brotherhood of Sterkenburgers

The Sterkenburg Castle near Utrecht became the venue, where Dutch Denturists first started their education and training for professional status in 1971. The Dutch Denturist pioneers started courses that were, initially, run over two years with attendance once a week. Very soon, Denturists were attending the courses for entire weekends. Sterkenburg Castle became their weekend school and home! Because of their comprehensive training, Denturists retained their right to educate themselves and pressure government for legal status. After official recognition, they formed a comradeship, a brotherhood of Denturists from those original pioneers, to honour those who were committed to Denturism and education. The IFD adopted the Sterkenburg medal for international application with the philosophy to help and support the education of Denturists and honour those who have shown an unyielding commitment to the Denturist profession worldwide. Candidates for induction are nominated by the Brotherhood of Sterkenburgers through the Executive of the IFD. See also the article about the Sterkenburg Castle on the next page.

Who is Ilkka Garaisi?

Ilkka grew up in Israel and graduated as a dental technician in 1981 from the Dental College in Haifa, Israel. He received his qualification in Finland in 1988 and graduated as a Specialized Dental Technician (Denturist) in 1993 from the Helsinki Institute of Dental Technology. He is married to Anne Toivonen-Timez and they have a son Tomas and a daughter Susan. They live in Vaasa, a city on the west coast of Finland in the Ostrobothnia region, where his denture clinic is situated and lectures part-time at Erikoishammastek College. He is the Managing Director of Alueen Hammas Oy. During 2019 Ilkka presented the Delara tooth line, which he co-developed for Kulzer, at the IDS in Cologne, Germany and at the 11th World Symposium on Denturism in Brisbane, Australia. For the past 7 years Ilkka has been the Chairman of the EHT and have represented Finland at the IFD for more than a decade. As we are all aware, Ilkka truly carries out his duties as country-representative with the utmost honour and courage. His affable nature has been an asset to the International Federation of Denturists where his presence has always been a winning situation for us. Ilkka Garaisi has attended most of the following meetings as Finland representative:

- 2009 in Las Vegas, USA
- 2011 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands,
- 2012 in Ghent, Belgium,
- 2013 in Montreal, Canada,
- 2014 in Dublin, Republic of Ireland,
- 2015 in Washington, United States,
- 2016 in Lucerne, Switzerland,
- 2017 in Montreal, Canada,
- 2018 in Cape Town, South Africa,
- 2019 in Brisbane, Australia.

Ilkka Garaisi has been an enthusiastic and passionate country representative for the Union of Denturists in Finland (Erikoishammasteknikkoliitto Ry) and serves as a member of the European Committee of the International Federation of Denturists. He is a team leader that does a lot to assist organisations to prosper. As stated by our IFD President, Ilkka has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the cause of denturist at both a national and at an international level. He does a lot more than what we know about, behind the scenes. Mr Garaisi has excelled and inspired those around him as a major driving force.

Thank you Ilkka, for your excellent contribution to the profession, over many years to the IFD and together towards legislated recognition worldwide and the education of Denturists. You have earned our gratitude and respect. The International Federation of Denturists recognize you, Ilkka Garaisi, and we honour you as a member of the Brotherhood of Sterkenburgers!
IFD – Working for Denturists Worldwide

Sterkenburg Castle:

The Utrecht province in the Netherlands is home to numerous glorious castles and country estates; all well-known tourist attractions. Castles are defined as fortified strongholds – towers of legacy and culture! One of them is Sterkenburg Castle, a place with high cultural-historical and ecological value, with particular historic interest for Denturists.

The castle is on an island, surrounded by moated canals. An example of power and splendour, situated in the scenic rural landscape, it is located in the lovely countryside outside the village of Driebergen. The estate functions nowadays as a stylish and unique venue for special occasions such as weddings, B&B or business events. Sterkenburg Castle has unique rooms with original features, such as wooden floors, stained glass windows and boasts lush grounds and elegant public spaces. History, present and future merge together.

The core of the Sterkenburg country estate is the 13th century Sterkenburg Castle with its 2.5 m thick walls, standing out in particular for its high, characteristic medieval round tower. The estate contains outbuildings like the Coach house and the Gardeners house surrounded by meadows, orchards, wooded banks and forest, sporting storks, chickens, ducks and the occasional roe deer.

History

A moat is a defensive ditch with steep sides, and filled with water. Its purpose was twofold; to stop devices such as siege towers from reaching the defensive wall and to prevent the walls from being undermined. Water moats in Middle Aged Castles were usually crossed by a drawbridge, although these were often replaced by stone bridges. Both fortified towers contain a battlement design in architecture, to allow for the launch of arrows or other projectiles from behind the rectangular parapet embrasures.

Sterkenburg has its origins in the Middle Ages, when the bishop of Utrecht had a fortified ring castle built with a high round tower in defense of the district. The oldest mention of Sterkenburg dates from 1261. Sterkenburg is one of the oldest remaining castles in Utrecht. Many famous names from the history of the district are therefore inextricably linked to Sterkenburg.
A garrison of state troops were deployed at Sterkenburg Castle to protect it and the surrounding lands from the Spanish at the beginning of the 80-years War (1568-1648). William I, Prince of Orange (William the Silent) or more commonly known as William of Orange was the main leader of the Dutch Revolt against the Spanish Habsburgs, that set off the war and resulted in the formal independence of the United Provinces in 1581. The most influential and politically capable of the rebels, William led the Dutch to several successes in the fight against the Spanish. He became the ancestor of the monarchy of the Netherlands and is also known as the Father of the Fatherland.

The purpose and appearance of castles changed as a result of the invention of gunpowder at the end of the Middle Ages. The castle occupants grasped the disappearance of the defensive function to improve their functional standards of living. From the fifteenth century, castles were not only renovated with more windows and doors, even plumbing, but many were demolished to make way for more modern buildings. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, large parts of the Sterkenburg Castle was demolished, with the exception of the round tower and some foundations. A new house was built against the round tower with a square tower on the other side. The Castle have been used for a variety of purposes during the past century.

Brotherhood of Sterkenburgers

It was at the Sterkenburg Castle that Dutch Tandprothetici (Denturists) first started their education and training for professional status during 1971. Almost a half-century ago, the Dutch Denturist pioneers started courses that were, initially, run over two years with attendance once a week. Very soon, Denturists were attending the courses for entire weekends. Sterkenburg Castle became their weekend school and home! The camaraderie that developed, disciplined this group to back each other during the campaign to lobby for recognition. Because of their comprehensive training, Dutch Denturists retained their right to educate themselves and pressure government for legal status. After official recognition, they formed a comradeship, a Brotherhood of Denturists from those original pioneers, to honor those who were committed to Denturism and education. The Sterkenburg medal was coined, depicting a key in the turret of Sterkenburg Castle, a denture and a book scroll, with the words “Recognition through study”, in Dutch, at the back.

The IFD adopted the offer to apply the Sterkenburg medal for international application. The associated philosophy is to help and support the education of Denturists and honour those who have shown an unyielding commitment to the Denturist profession worldwide. The privilege to receive this prestige, is earned by few! Candidates for induction are nominated by the Brotherhood of Sterkenburgers through the Executive of the IFD, and the Abt, who was appointed for life. This prestigious position was held by Pieter Brouwer until his death in 2005. The International Federation of Denturists has agreed that no one person would ever be able to replace Mr. Brouwer. The administration of the Brotherhood of Sterkenburgers now resides with the Executive Committee of the IFD.

Current members of the Brotherhood of Sterkenburgers: (DD = member of the IFD)

**Australia**
- Mr. Stephen Boxhall, DD
- Mr. Graham Key, DD
- Mr. John Rogan, DD

**Belgium**
- Mr. M.L.L. Kortleven, TP
- Mr. Matthias Luypaert, DD

**Canada**
- Mr. Michel Gamache, DD
- Prof. E.M Vakalis, DD
- Mr. Tony Sarapuchillo, DD
- Mrs. Gerry Hansen
- Mr. Robert Pereault, DD †
- Mr. Mario Wojcicki, DD
- Mr. Martin Damphousse, DD
- Mr. Carlo Zanon, DD
- Mr. Michael Vout, DD

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Denmark
Mr. Viggo Bramstof, DD

Finland
Mr. Harri Aalto, Eht
Mr. Ilkka Garaisi, DD

Malta
Mr. John Salamone-Reynaud, DD

Slovak Republic
Mr. Stefan Masiak, DD
Mr. Stanislav Skoda

South Africa
Mr. Duffy Malherbe, DD

Switzerland
Mr. Urban Christen-Mendez, DD

The Netherlands
Mr. J.A. Bandel, TP
Mr. L.A. Bertens, TP
Mr. P. Brouwer, TP †
Mr. W.M. Busse, TP †
Mr. E.W. Engelbrecht, TP
Mr. W. te Gussinklo, TP
Mr. J. Fontijn, TP
Mr. J.H. Jansen, TP
Mr. R. Leeseman, TP
Mr. J.C. van Leeuwen, TP
Mr. J.Th.J.M. van der Linden, TP
Mr. M. Mattiassen, TP
Mr. L.F. Mersman, TP
Mr. L.F. Mertens, TP
Mr. J. Perfors, TP
Mr. H. Pool, TP
Mr. J.P.A. Rossel, TP
Mr. P.A. Sparenburg, TP
Mr. H. de Vries, TP
Mr. J. Willems, TP
Dr. H.H.P. Vergouwen
Dr. W. Sneeuwloper
Mr. M.A. van Oudheusden

United Kingdom
Mr. Chris Allen, TP
Mr. Phillip J. Tucker, TP
Mr. Maxted, D. Jones †
Mr. Patrick Nicholls, MP
Mr. John Goodman, DD
Mr. Peter Meeds DD †

United States
Mr. William Buxton Sr., DD †
Mr. Frederick Gerrity, DD †
Mr. Austin Carbone, DD
Mr. Paul Levasseur, LD
Mr. Bruce Anderson, DD †

The Pieter Brouwer Award of Merit:
This is the highest IFD accolade, reserved exclusive for individual members of the Brotherhood of Sterkenburgers who have demonstrated extraordinary and exemplary service to the profession internationally. This award was created to recognize the dedication and huge contribution made by Mr Pieter Brouwer and the award was renamed after him after his death. It is the highest token of recognition a Denturist can aspire to and has to date only been bestowed on 8 members! These illustrious recipients are:

* Mr. Pieter Brouwer (Netherlands),
* Professor Efthymios Makis Vakalis (Canada),
* Mr. Austin Carbone (USA),
* Mr. Chris Allen (UK),
* Mr. Paul Levasseur (USA),
* Mr. Eric Engelbrecht (Netherlands),
* Mr. Tony Sarrapuchelli (Canada),
* Mrs. Gerry Hansen (Canada).

Oral Health Humour:

YOU HAVE ACUTE GINGIVITIS.
THANK YOU!

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SAVE the Date in 2020:

International Federation of Denturists Annual General Meeting
Monday, Sept 28 & Tuesday, Sept 29

The Denturist Association of Canada’s Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, Sept 30 & Thursday, Oct 1

Continuing Education
Friday, Oct 2 (all day) & Saturday, Oct 3 (afternoon)

Tradeshow:
Friday, Oct 2 (12 pm – 7pm)
Saturday, Oct 3 (8 am – 2 pm)

Annual General Meetings
Saturday, Oct 3 (9 am – 12 pm):
Denturist Society of Nova Scotia
New Brunswick Denturist Society
Denturist Association of Newfoundland & Labrador

Additional activities will be announced shortly!

Hotel Rooms starting at $212.00

Contact admin@nsdenturistsociety.ca for more information
The profession have been blessed with devoted Trailblazers who led with conviction, dedicated to their calling to convince governments that denturists be legally recognized, to practice professionally without supervision, so that patients can exercise their freedom of choice. The standards they set, have been significant factors in achieving the level of professionalism and status that we as denturists enjoy today. In this tribute the IFD acknowledge Paul Levasseur.

Paul Levasseur LD, DD (Canada), HMCDFP (UK) is a widely known and respected denturist from the USA. For many years he has taken a leadership role in the activities of Denturism in the state of Maine and has also been a long-standing official of the National Denturist Association. He has also served in various capacities for the IFD and throughout the world. Paul’s qualifications include:

- Advanced Diploma in Denturism (Canada), with Honors, George Brown College, Toronto (Canada)
- Certified BPS Denturist, Ivoclar/Vivadent, Shaan, (Lichtenstein)
- Denturist Registry Education at the Royal College of Surgeons (England)

Paul Levasseur was the product of Paul (senior), WW2 veteran and his mother Marion, who met in Germany during the post-war US occupation. After returning to the USA, Paul (senior) pursued various entrepreneurial opportunities, before ending up as a dental technician. Due to the high fees charged by dentists and the low remuneration dental technicians received for making the dentures, it is no surprise that he soon became a pioneer denturist. When he was trapped for direct services and prosecuted for illegal dentistry, the judge found an excuse to dismiss the charges, because his brother was a satisfied client/patient of the accused.

Paul (senior) and his wife Marion, established the family business of Standish Denture Centre in Maine and young Paul (junior) soon joined the business to become a dental technician. Drawing patients from as far as 150 miles away, Standish Denture Clinic quickly became the premier source of high quality dentures in the surrounding area, with branch-offices in Standish, Fryeburg and Portland.

Around the mid-1970’s, when the denturism movement came to Maine, father and son, together with John Merril, John Hussey, Ed Bates and others, were successful in getting the profession regulated. Maine is one of only 6 states to have achieved this goal in the USA. Paul and his father continued working together to fight the legislator for educational opportunities and legal clinical experience. They had permits to practice under supervision in 1996, but then full licenses in 1998. Paul never shunned away from unavoidable confrontation, but he is also a charming diplomat and efficient negotiator.

With this kind of history in activism, it was only natural that Paul Levasseur found his way to the International Federation of Denturists. His first meeting was in Helsinki as the first-ever representative of the National Denturist Association (NDA). “I went to the men’s room and when I came back I was Vice President for North America” he laughs.

In 2007 Paul became the Chief Examiner, Denturist Licensing Examination for the States of Maine and Montana. In the same year Paul became the Chief Examiner, Exit Examination for the International Denturist Education Centre (United States, United Kingdom, and Republic of Ireland) at the George Brown College, Toronto, in Ontario, Canada.

Paul also served as DCP Member of the Faculty of General Dental Practice in the UK, Director of the Maine Society of Denturists, and as a member of the Wyoming Denturist Association. In addition, he served one term as President of the National Denturist Association (USA), and was named 2010 Denturist of the year by the NDA. His involvement in the UK earned him honorary membership of the Clinical Dental Technicians Association (United Kingdom), and honorary membership of the College of Dental Prosthesis (United Kingdom).
In 1999 Levasseur became the President of the IFD and after a 10-year tenure, handed over the chair to Tony Sarrapuchiello in 2009. Since then he continued to serve another term as Vice President for North America until last year, when Daniel Robichaud was elected into the vacancy. He simultaneously served as Treasurer, until 2017, when he handed over the Treasury to Urban Christen Méndez. During the 2014 meeting in Dublin, Ireland, Paul chaired the meeting for Tony Sarrapuchiello, who could not attend due to ill-health.

In 2003, he was inducted into the Brotherhood of Sterkenburgers by Pieter Brouwer at Sterkenburg Castle, Netherlands for his dedication and leadership to the profession and to denturist education. During the World Symposium held in Coventry, England in May of 2007, Paul Levasseur became one of only eight recipients ever to be honoured with the Pieter Brouwer Award of Merit - the highest IFD accolade, reserved exclusive for individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary and exemplary service to the profession internationally.

Paul have recently sold Standish Denture Centre, where he served the children and grandchildren of the patients his father served. His current retirement plans are to alternate between Maine and St Kitts. His late parents had championed their favorite charities including youth boxing and Special Olympics in their second home in St. Kitts, in the West Indies. Paul has suggested that the IFD host the annual general meeting for 2022 in St. Kitts, who are a member of the IFD.

We are proud to honor a great leader and his pioneer father with this tribute and it will be fitting to honor Paul’s suggestion in this manner.

Dear Paul Levasseur:

On behalf of all you have served with at the International Federation of Denturists; we honor you. We are deeply grateful for your generous support of our organization during so many years and in so many different roles. We want you to know that we acknowledge and appreciate your wonderful work and commitment to the profession, your camaraderie and your brotherhood.

At a time when voluntary action was vital to IFD success, your contribution has enabled us to not only maintain our status, but also further expand and enhance our quality of service to our members. Your contribution demonstrates how committed individuals like yourself can make the difference to enhance and build the profession in global locations.

Our mission to provide recognition and knowledge for Denturists worldwide is at the very heart of all that we do. Through your time investment in IFD, you enabled us to continue reaching a high level of excellence in oral healthcare services by denturists. Your experience in the Denturism field proved invaluable, by supporting the progress in many countries and preventing avoidable strategic mistakes. Even in Switzerland your advice supported our mission in a very positive way.

Thank you for your partnership and brotherhood for so many years as we continue our efforts to provide the highest quality, patient-centered oral healthcare. We were so proud to share your company during our 10th World symposium on Denturism in Montreal 2017 and will always remain proud to be your friend and ally.

Respectfully yours

Urban Christen Méndez
IFD PRESIDENT