

# The Pinnacle

Volume VI, Issue 2  
Editor: Fred Goodman, D.D.S.

Fall 2002

## College of Diplomates

of

The American Board of Endodontics

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The Pinnacle is published in

the Spring and Fall.

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## President's Message by Dr. James Simon

**"The only constant is change."** One of the goals of educators is to prepare students to cope with and adapt to change. Endodontics will change and educators have to be able to evaluate changes.

In the past, board candidates were required to present 25 case histories with two-year recalls. As you know the requirement has been reduced to 15 cases with a one-year recall.

Recently the ABE instituted some new changes. The written

exam may now be taken by computer at multiple centers throughout the country. Until now all candidates had to go to Chicago in November to take the written exam. For new graduates just starting practices or jobs, this presented a great deal of hardship. It was not only expensive but also difficult to find time to study. In the past you knew that if someone passed the board, he or she also had been to Chicago. I feel this is a positive step in the right direction.

Even the order in

which the candidate takes parts of the exam has changed. One of our faculty members has decided to begin with the case histories as the first step toward certification. You can now elect where and in what order you want to pursue certification. One of the College's goals is to help candidates and mentor more people to certification. These changes by the Board will help encourage more candidates to pursue certification by making the process more "user friendly."

## Mentoring Update by Dr. John Lundgren

Greetings.... A special thanks to all the mentors who have volunteered for the Mentoring Program. To date, the College of Diplomates has a total of 141 mentors. This year alone we have signed up 61 new volunteers. We now have mentors in 34 states and five foreign countries. To all candidates: *there is now a mentor near you.*

The Mentoring Guide has been updated recently with the latest guidelines and forms from the American Board of Endodontics. Our immediate goal is to provide updated versions of

the Guide to seasoned mentors and new Guides to our 61 new mentors. These should be delivered to you in the near future. In addition, we hope to update the College of Diplomate's website with pertinent mentor information.

We are now poised to have a positive impact on the board certification process. One way to do this is to get the word out to the candidates in your local area. Personal on-one contact with potential candidates at local dental meetings and endodontic study clubs is a

great way to start. If each mentor made a concerted effort to contact a known board candidate and to offer support and encouragement to that candidate, a number of new mentor relationships would certainly arise.

For mentor information, contact the

College of Diplomates  
at: Phone: 630-510-7136  
FAX: 630-510-7176

Or by E-mail at:  
codabe96@aol.com

## *Annual Business Meeting Minutes*

### *Hilton Chicago Hotel, Chicago, IL*

*Friday, April 12, 2002*

Secretary Carl Newton declared a quorum and President Tom Mork called the meeting to order immediately following the Grossman Luncheon at 1:50 pm. He reminded the members that the purpose of the meeting was to approve the Nominating Committee report and install the officers. Minutes of past meetings of the Board of Directors and Annual Business Meetings are available electronically upon request from Secretary Newton.

The Nominating Committee

report was then presented by committee chair Cindy Rauschenberger and unanimously approved. Fred Goodman was elected as a Director for the term 2002-2005. This year's officers will be: President James Simon, President-elect Ed Skidmore, Treasurer George Goodis, and Secretary Carl Newton.

New Directors and officers were installed.

There was no old business.

There was no new business.

President James Simon assumed the gavel and was joined by past President Stuart Fountain in recognizing Dr. Mork for his service

as a two-term Director of the College.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm to allow members to attend scheduled scientific sessions.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dr. Carl Newton, Secretary



## *Summary of Returned Critiques for Summer Conference 2002*

1. Why did you decide to attend Summer Conference 2002?

*Great speakers and subject matter  
Meeting size, attended 2000 and loved it  
Great resort*

2. Was your conference registration handled in an expeditious and competent manner (mail and on site)?

*36 of 36 YES*

3. Was the conference site (Asheville, North Carolina) appropriate for this meeting?

*36 of 36 YES  
Beautiful location, facilities and weather  
Outstanding, relaxing and lots to do*

4. What focus topic(s) would you recommend for future Summer Conferences?

*Scientific topics: surgical endodontics, retreatment, oral pathology  
Evidence based studies: microscope success of NSRCT & SRCT, obturation  
Patient relations, trauma*

5. Please rate the apportionment of conference time to scientific sessions, leisure/family time, College planned social activities.

*Excellent—36 Good—2 Fair—0 Poor—0*

*Comments: Format conducive to include families  
Very well thought out, a great mix  
Start earlier - four hours is too long*

6. How successful was the meeting concept of combining intellectually stimulating scientific sessions with a variety of directed and self-directed family activities? (circle one)

*Highly successful—34 Moderately successful—2*

7. What is your overall rating of the scientific sessions at Summer Conference 2002?

*Superior—27 Excellent—9 Good—0 Fair—0  
Poor—0*

*Comments: Hargreaves and Hutter excellent. I learned more here than other meetings. Exceedingly appropriate topic, seminar approach good.*

Other Comments: *I like small number of attendees, among the best I have attended. It will be a regular part of my C.E. program. Need more clinically relevant topics. Meeting full of great ideas.*

*Speakers more important than topic, an absolutely great job. Excellent combination of lecture and family time. Shift more of registration fee to course participants and exhibitors. I'm looking forward to 2004.*

## ***ABECOD Survey Results*** by Dr. Carl Newton

The College of Diplomates of the American Board of Endodontics was formed in 1996 primarily to promote board certification among students, educators and educationally qualified specialists. In addition to sponsoring educational opportunities, board review courses and visits to Advanced Specialty Education Programs by ABE Directors, the College provides an international network of qualified and willing Diplomates to mentor candidates through the certification process.

Many board eligible candidates successfully complete the written examination soon after graduation but experience an extended pause when increasing professional and family responsibilities conflict with the submission of the case history portfolios or preparation for the oral examination. They have already demonstrated that they value Diplomate status but become further removed from the encouragement of their Program Directors, the educational support of their university and adequate time to prepare. No one can understand this better than a recent Diplomate of the ABE. The College surveyed recent Diplomates to measure some of these factors and to identify op-

portunities to encourage eligible candidates to complete the certification process.

The one-page, 12 question survey was developed by College Secretary Carl Newton and distributed to the 113 Diplomates that had completed certification since 1996. The outstanding 73% response indicated their sincere desire to use their experience to encourage other endodontists to achieve the highest level of professional achievement. The median year since the Diplomates had completed their Advance Specialty Education Programs was 1994, with a range from 1975-1998. It appears that the longer a candidate waits, the less likely it is that he or she may complete certification. A total of 38 programs were represented. At least ten programs were not represented at all.

ABE Directors had visited the schools of 48%. Seventy-eight percent of those responding reported that they had attended a board review course at Loma Linda University, the University of Michigan or Albert Einstein Medical Center. Many had attended more than one course, and 79% had attended the ABE

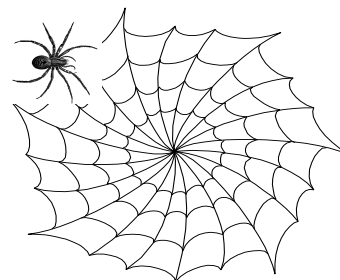
Boardwalk at the AAE Annual Session. Although 69% indicated that they were aware of the College of Diplomates, only 22% had visited the website and only 15% had formally requested a mentor from the College. A majority of 81% was mentored informally, however, and 65% indicated that they would like to be a mentor. The personal and professional value of the achievement was listed as the most common motivation, followed by encouragement by their Program Director, another Diplomate or ABE Director.

An overwhelming 78% said that the case history portfolio presented the greatest challenge to the timely completion of the certification process, with most of the rest indicating that the oral examination caused some delay. Most of the comments were very positive about the experience. Their pride in the achievement was obvious, and there was an eagerness to encourage others to succeed. The College Board of Directors intends to use the results as a measurement of the effectiveness of the programs and as a comparison with future Diplomates to determine the role of the College in their support of the ABE.

### **Grossman 2003 Speaker**

Current ADA President, North Carolina endodontist and Diplomate Greg Chadwick has agreed to be the speaker for the Grossman Luncheon at the AAE Annual Session in Tampa in 2003

*Visit our Website*



*[Http://CollegeofDiplomates.org](http://CollegeofDiplomates.org)*

## *Summer Conference 2002 by Dr. Carl Newton*

The value of the evidence based decision-making process became apparent to College members attending Summer Conference 2002 in Asheville, North Carolina, August 7-11, during 12 hours of continuing education provided by Drs. Jeff Hutter and Ken Hargreaves. Almost

100 Diplomates and family attended the conference. Dr. Hutter used the results of a systematic review conducted by the AAE to strengthen the inference required to make clinical decisions from the literature about the relationship of oral disease and systemic health. Dr. Hargreaves introduced a new index developed from a systematic review that permits comparisons to be made between randomized controlled trials on drugs and endodontic procedures for treating acute postoperative pain.

Both speakers emphasized the role of the clinical judgment and experience of the clinician and the patient's preferences in applying the best available evidence. Attending Diplomates were eager to determine how this new understanding of evidence-based dentistry will impact the teaching of literature in Advanced Specialty Education Programs in Endodontics and the distribution of awards by the AAE Foundation, and how they could use it in the mentoring of eligible candidates to successfully complete the board certifying process. Course evaluation forms rated the sessions as superior with many comments that it was "the best they had ever attended."



*The Inn on Biltmore Estate was the perfect setting.....*

The Inn on Biltmore Estate was the perfect setting to provide the balance of personal and professional fellowship that is an added benefit to participation in the College. The estate experience was enhanced with a variety of available activities starting with an outdoor reception and dinner with bluegrass music on Wednesday and finishing with an entertaining Mark Twain impersonator following a dinner together at Deer Park Restaurant on Saturday. Some participants compared the overall experience to the early AAE Annual Sessions when membership was small.

### *The Conference is a work in progress...*

General Chair and College Director Fred Goodman and Program Chair Ken Spolnik led a team of volunteers that characterize the strength of the College. Local arrangements hostess Dr. Sandra Madison embodied the southern hospitality of Asheville. Generous sponsorships by C.K. Dental Specialties, Coltene Whaledent, Global Surgical Corporation, Intravantage, Satelec Corporation, and Tulsa Dentsply were sincerely ap-

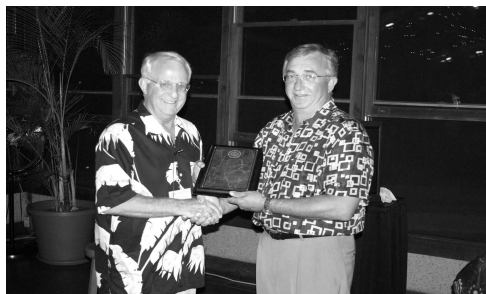
preciated as recognition of the value they place on Diplomates. Support for future College sponsored Summer Conferences was overwhelming and initial plans for the summer of 2004 are already floating around the Board of Directors. We can expect this

summer's participants to return and hope all Diplomates will join the College and consider joining us next time.

The College is already planning for Summer Conference 2004! The 56 participants have critiqued this year's event and suggest that we keep August as the time to provide the 12 hours of Continuing Education credits. California/Nevada; Lake Tahoe, Napa Valley, Colorado, Vail or Broadmoor, Canada, Banaff or Vancouver or some place off shore all got votes as possible locations. Suggested topics included: ethics, pain, trauma and surgical endodontics.

As work on our third Conference begins the board is looking to restructure the spouse and family costs. The Conference is a work in progress and we learn from each event. With your input each Conference will be a blend of intellectually stimulating scientific sessions and family time. As a College member your suggestions count. If you have site or topic suggestions contact Dr. Fredrick Goodman who has graciously consented to be our meeting chairman for 2004.

### College Of Diplomates Asheville Meeting 2002



**Photos** by COD Director Dr. Eric Rivera

(Upper Left) Summer Conference 2002 Chairman Dr. Fred Goodman (L) and COD Administrative Secretary Susan Hawkinson greet arrivals to the Inn on Biltmore Estate.

(Upper right) Mark Twain impersonator, spins tales for the crowd at the closing dinner.

(Center) Conference speaker Dr. Jeff Hutter interacts with meeting participants.

(Middle left) North Carolina's favorite sons, the White-water Bluegrass Company, perform at the opening night barbeque.

(Middle right) Conference speaker Dr. Ken Hargreaves (middle) discusses a point with COD Director Dr. Cindy Rauschenberger and COD Secretary Dr. Carl Newton.

(Lower left) Dr. Paula Russo enjoys the kick-off barbeque with two young friends.

(Lower center) Summer Conference 2002 Chairman Dr. Fred Goodman (L) and COD Administrative Secretary Susan Hawkinson greet arrivals to the Inn on Biltmore Estate.

(Lower right) AAE President Dr. Sam Dorn (L) and former COD President Leif Bakland share a light moment during a break in the Conference.

## ***The Pinnacle***

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### ***We Have a New Look!*** *by Dr. Joseph S. Dovgan, Webmaster*

If you have not been to our site recently, [www.collegeofdiplomates.org](http://www.collegeofdiplomates.org), please take a few moments to peruse it. You also will find a link to the ABE examination dates. While I'm proud to be a part of the facade, I really want to make this the site for:

- > advocating becoming board certified in endodontics
- > pairing together mentors with candidates
- > centrally locating materials for mentors and candidates alike for the entire process

I believe we can create the

gateway and staircase to meeting our mission by using the site to deliver information electronically, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. It is the power of the Internet. We could have material such as a streaming media presentation on helpful hints and what to expect when addressing each phase of the examination process.

Here is another thought. Should we consider having "top quality" continuing education presentations made available from the site? I know the con-

ferences we have every other year are fantastic, but sometimes I would like an additional dose of "COD quality" presentations between the conferences.

Since our new site went up in August, traffic is already up 30%!

It's all about content. So, I'm asking, what do you think and what direction should we go? How can we meet our stated mission? Please contact me at (480) 483-9011, or e-mail me at [webmaster@collegeofdiplomates.org](mailto:webmaster@collegeofdiplomates.org) with any thoughts you might have.