

# The Pinnacle

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## College of Diplomates of

The American Board of Endodontics  
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## The Obligation of the Privileged

by A. Eddy Skidmore

Why did the "founding fathers" of the **College of Diplomates** choose to call our newsletter **The Pinnacle**? To me the reason is obvious. They probably wanted to call it **The Diplomat**, but that title was already taken by the **ABE**. Desperate for a meaningful title, they no doubt turned to dictionary and thesaurus where they discovered that according to Webster, pinnacle is a lofty peak, or the highest point of development or achievement.

The **College of Diplomates** is a group of the "most special" of all the specialists in Endodontics. Its members have reached the highest point of achievement in their chosen profession. As could be expected of such a high-quality membership, we have become a strong and active organization. Since our beginning in 1996, we have grown to over 600 Diplomates and we are financially solvent. Under the leadership of Joe Dovgan, our website is constantly updated and improving. Our summer conferences have been outstanding.

Stu Fountain led us to Jackson Hole, WY in 2000 and Fred Goodman took us to the Biltmore in Asheville, NC in 2002. Both were wonderful educational and social adventures. Our administrative secretary, Susan Hawkinson, continues to help make the duties of the officers and directors easier and more enjoyable. Our Grossman Luncheon at

*Where did we get that name—"The Board Walk?"*

the AAE Annual Session continues to be well-attended. This year in Tampa we had a record crowd to hear Greg Chadwick and to honor our 33 new Diplomates. Thanks to the efforts of Steve Cohen, on May 6, 2004 in Anaheim, CA, our speaker will be Dr. Art Dugoni.

Our mentoring program continues and is constantly assessed and revised to improve it. Our new mentoring leader is Andre Mickel from Case Western Reserve University. He is very enthusiastic and is determined to move us forward in this important mission of the **COD**. He has outlined a preliminary plan that includes seeking more help

from our Program Directors, using the website for mentoring purposes, encouraging new Diplomates to become mentors, and improving the ways that we mentor our mentors! You will be hearing more from Andre soon. Andre and the Board of Directors of the **COD** would like "each one to reach one" of the candidates who begin the "Board Walk" to certification.

Where did we get that name—"The Board Walk"? Several years ago when I was a director of the **ABE** we decided to have an instructional session at the Annual Session of the AAE for those who were considering Diplomate status but were not sure what was involved. Sandy Madison and Susan Skidmore (children of the 60's and early 70's that they are) suggested "The Board Walk." I never thought that it would fly and here we are still using it! Thanks to the **ABE**, "The Board Walk" continues to be a great venue for the candidates to hear the lat-

*(Continued on page 4)*

## *The Ritz Carlton Bachelor Gulch—Summer Conference August 4 to 8, 2004*

Whoever said “It’s the journey, not the destination” never stepped foot in the valley that is home to one of the most magical places in the Rocky Mountains — Ritz Carlton Bachelor Gulch. For 4 glorious months each year, moguls and powder are replaced by columbines and daffodils as the hillside transforms itself into a kaleidoscope of color practically overnight. Whether golfing or mountain biking past a seemingly endless forest of evergreens, or having the weight of the world lifted from your shoulders in the luxurious spa, you may forget when you’re supposed to return home. Which is fine, since you’re stepping into another world — a world where your only job is to have fun. The world of summer in Bachelor Gulch — your final destination. ♦



*The Ritz Carlton Bachelor Gulch, where the spirit of the Rocky Mountains takes shape in a luxury resort of excep-*

### *Current Treatment Approaches to Dental Trauma. Based on Fact or Opinion?*

The 2004 conference will be dedicated to dental trauma. Jens Ove Andreasen D.D.S., Odont., Dr. h.c., and Leif K. Bakland D.D.S. two of the foremost authorities on dental trauma in the world will conduct the three (3) day education session. A format will take place which is interactive.

The three mornings during the conference will be used to look at evidence-based dental traumatology and ask questions about our understanding of the pathophysiology of trauma and the biology of wound healing, which forms the basis for the principles of treatment, and then ask the question---do our treatment recommendations make sense?

The first session will be devoted to luxations and root fractures, second to intrusions, and the third to avulsions and replantations. We will look at the research that has been done: bench top, animals, and clinical reports. From the evaluations and discussions should come some consensus about the appropriateness of treatment as is currently practiced.

To prepare the participants for this innovative and unique conference format, they will receive, prior to the conference, several articles covering the topic areas to be discussed, so the they can develop questions and concerns for the conference sessions. It is anticipated that computers will be available or participants will bring there own laptops to the conference so that literature searches will be up to date.

#### **Jens Ove Andreasen, D.D.S., Odont., Dr. h.c.**

Dr. Andreasen is recognized as the most prolific contributor to the knowledge of dental trauma spanning more than four decades in which he has authored over 200 publications: text books, manuals, and journal articles. He is an honorary member of the AAE and a recipient of its Sommer Award. He has lectured word wide and has been a frequent presenter at the AAE’s Annual Sessions. His publications and research have helped establish guidelines for treatment of dental injuries resulting in many thousands of patients receiving proper treatment for their injuries. While he is very interested in sharing

advice about treatment of injuries, Dr. Andreasen has a keen interest in investigating the biologic principles involved in dental trauma and wound healing and discussing how these principals affect treatment

#### **Leif K. Bakland, D.D.S.**

A long time active member of the AAE, Dr. Bakland has had an interest in dental trauma since meeting Dr. Andreasen 25 years ago. He has authored many journal articles and several chapters on trauma in a number of endodontic text books both here and abroad, is a frequent lecturer on this topic and has been involved in several AAE projects dealing with dental trauma, such as the guidelines for avulsed teeth, articles in *Colleagues for excellence*, and as a spokesperson to news media about dental trauma. The latter resulted in sharing information about the use of milk in storing avulsed teeth to readers of numerous newspapers and news journals. Dr. Bakland has worked with Dr. Andreasen on many projects including spending a WHO fellowship at Dr. Andreasen’s clinic in Copenhagen. ♦

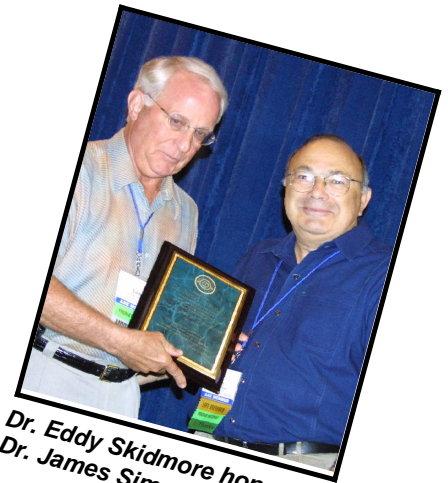
***Louis Grossman Lecture AAE—Tampa Bay 2003***



**Dr. Carl Newton at podium**



**Dr. Chadwick speaks**



**Dr. Eddy Skidmore honors Dr. James Simon**



**ABE President, Dr. Gary Hartwell and past president, Dr. Gerald**

***Dr. Arthur Dugoni to Speak at Louis Grossman Luncheon — May 6, 2004  
12:00 Noon—1:30 PM***



Dr. Arthur A. Dugoni has been the Dean of the School of Dentistry at the University of the Pacific (UOP) since 1978 and is a former

president of the American Dental Association and the American Association of Dental Schools. An orthodontist from San Francisco, he served as Director of the American Board of Orthodontics from 1979 to 1986 and as President in 1986.

Long active in organized dentistry, Dr. Dugoni served as trustee

of the ADA's thirteenth District, representing the State of California from 1984 to 1987. He was a member of the ADA House of Delegates for 19 years, served as consultant to the Association's Council on Dental Education from 1973 to 1982, and 1991 to 1995, and as treasurer of the ADA 1987 to 1988. Dr Dugoni served as a member of the Council of the FDI World Dental Federation for nine years and as treasurer and member of the Executive Committee for six years.

At the 2001 American College of Dentists Annual Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, Dr. Arthur A. Dugoni received the William Hohn Gies Award which recognizes exceptional contributions to the profession, the community and society. This is the

highest honor bestowed by the College.

Dr. Dugoni is a founding member of the National Academies of Practice. He is an honorary member and recipient of an honorary fellowship from the Academy of General Dentistry and an honorary member of the American Academy of Oral Medicine. He has presented more than 600 lectures, papers, clinics and essays throughout his career and is the author of over 100 published articles. Dr. Dugoni and his wife, Katherine, have seven children: Steven, Michael, Russell, Mary, Diane, Arthur and James—and 15 grandchildren. ♦

### ***Obligation of the Privileged***

*(Continued from page 1)*

est about the board process. It is a great place for “old” Diplomates and mentors to get current on the requirements. As Ed Osetek said in 1994 at our Grossman Luncheon, “Mentoring is the obligation of the privileged.” He defined a mentor as a cheerleader, technician, advisor and advocate. As Diplomates, we are the privileged and have the obligation to ourselves and our specialty to help increase our numbers.

Has the process of certification changed through the years? You better believe it has. The oral and written examinations are constantly evaluated by **ABE** Directors with a goal for standardization. The written examination is now computerized and is adminis-

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*...being an ABE Director is a lot like owning a boat.*

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tered at regional testing centers throughout the United States. Ninety-three candidates took their written exams this way in November of 2002 and 82% were successful. In 2002, 47 case history portfolios were submitted for evaluation (92% were accepted) and 42 candidates took their oral examination with 72% passing. Those of you who have been Directors of the

**ABE** know that being an **ABE** Director is a lot like owning a boat: Two of the happiest days of your life are the day you are asked to become a Director and the day that your term is over. In addition to their responsibilities for the certification process, the **ABE** Directors have recently finalized the requirements for re-certification. They deserve our gratitude for their hard work and dedication.

Plans for the Summer Conference 2004 are now complete. We are going to the Ritz Carlton at Bachelor Gulch, CO from August 4-8. Bachelor Gulch is near Vail and Beaver Creek. Fred Goodman says that it is “a fantastic property.” Our program is on trauma and speakers will include Bakland and Andreasen.

There are currently over 500 candidates in the process of becoming board-certified endodontists. The rate of attrition between the written exam and passing the orals is huge. As Diplomates, we need to reach not only the candidates who are currently engaged in the process but the ones who started and never finished. We all know somebody who has dropped out and never reached the **PINNACLE**. If “each one” would “reach one” our numbers would quickly double! After all, it is “the obligation of the privileged.” ♦

### ***Statement on Disability Status***

The Board of Directors of the College of Diplomates has agreed to accept the bylaw of the AAE regarding disability. It is as follows:

#### **According to the bylaws of the AAE (Chapter 1, Section 3)**

“An Active member of this Association who is unable to engage in any duties of the dental profession for a continuous period of one year due to a medical disability and who was an Active member in good standing at the time of the disability occurred, shall be exempt from the payment of dues and shall remain in good standing during the period of disability.

**A.** permanently disabled member, to be exempt from dues payment, shall submit to the secretary a medical certificate attesting to said permanent disability.

**B.** temporarily disabled member, to be exempt from dues payment, shall submit annually to the secretary a medical certificate attesting to said temporary disability.” ♦



***One Year eligibility***

### ***From the Webmeister Joseph S. Dovgan***

Oh the joys of having your mentored candidate pass the case submissions. I'm as happy as the candidate is! Now, onto the next stage, getting ready for the orals. Problem is, we just don't have all the study guides we need in place yet. We have a fantastic literature guide that does a good job until year 2000. More importantly, I'd like to see some study guides on local anesthesia, must know anatomy and ramifications of spaces, important pharmacology, medical emergencies, oral pathology, and dental management of the medically compromised patient ... Do you know of any you feel would help our candidates? If so, please send them to me or let me know about them. It's all about content! The objective is to become the central location for information for those taking boards. I can be reached at [joe@endodovgan.com](mailto:joe@endodovgan.com) if you have any comments. ♦

## *A Five Point Mentoring Plan!* By André K. Mickel

What a pleasure it is to be allowed to serve my peers in the capacity of Director of the mentoring Program of the College of Diplomates! As all Diplomates know, board certification is not only a PRIVILEGE, but carries with it a RESPONSIBILITY to see to it that our beloved specialty of Endodontics remains a highly respected discipline and one that encourages each specialist member to adhere to the highest standards of practice. The COD would hope that one day, all endodontists would take advantage of the extraordinary opportunity to earn the title, DIPLOMATE OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF ENDODONTICS. To that end, a five point plan has been proposed.

### 1. Predestined Diplomates

ALL Program directors of ALL Postdoctoral endodontic programs must initially, "Light the flame of the board certification fire," beneath each resident such that each incoming resident becomes a Predestined Diplomate. Each resident must feel the unquenchable desire to achieve the Diplomate status. Directors can accomplish this by a number of means. The first is by ensuring that potential residents even before and during the interview process know that although their two or three year program will one day be completed, their Endodontic education is never completed. They/ We must continually strive to learn and grow for the rest of their/our lives. Board certification is just the beginning of this life-long process. Directors should make it known from the very beginning that each resident upon graduation is OBLIGED to immediately begin this certification "journey." Of

practical note, by taking the written exam in the first November after graduation (which is the earliest time one can take the written exam after graduating), one probably has the best chance of recalling the required information. Directors should therefore insist that immediately upon graduation or as a requirement of graduation, new graduates/residents make application to the ABE and plan to take the written exam ASAP. The Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) Endodontic program actually has incoming residents sign a "Letter of intent," which essentially states that each resident understands that board certification is an explicit objective of the program and that they will immediately upon graduation make application to the ABE and take the written exam at the earliest possible time. While this may not be a legally binding document, the present program director has achieved a one hundred percent application and pass rate.

Program directors must believe in their own hearts, that not only is board certification a necessity to endodontics remaining a specialty, but that it is also a necessity to achieving the highest level of accomplishment in endodontics. It is important that directors see to it that all residents receive the information on the process of board certification sent to each resident by the ABE. Each director should make a copy for themselves and be thoroughly knowledgeable of the process, as there are periodic changes

by the ABE. It is not enough that each resident receive the ABE process information. Directors of each program MUST: actively promote the pursuit of board certification by all residents past and present; ensure that each resident has absolute knowledge of all three phases of the board certification process; provide extremely comprehensive and purposefully overlapping literature/book reviews to help solidify residents' knowledge of Endodontics such that all residents will have the tools to pass the Written Exam and the Oral Exam of the ABE; ensure that each resident has complete knowledge of what is expected of an acceptable ABE case portfolio; and prepare each resident (by giving frequent oral exams) to overcome the "Hot Seat" phenomenon often associated with those ill-prepared for the ABE Oral Exam.

Every program should have a "Board Certification Ambassador" (program director or some specific faculty member, similar to our AAE Foundation Ambassadors- whose job would be to ensure that the "flame of the Board Certification fire," is initially lit and remains burning. Who is your programs "Board Certification Ambassador?")

From this day onward ... let every resident in every program be a Predestined Diplomate!

### 2. On-Line Mentors

Some board candidates may feel that they do not need a full time mentor, but just have a few questions or would like some feed-

*(Continued on page 6)*

### **Five Point Mentoring Plan**

*(Continued from page 5)*

back on a particular topic. The COD is considering making use of the Website to allow candidates to post questions that can be viewed by all. These questions can then be answered by either the COD Board and/or any mentor who may have experience in the particular area of questioning. Also, under consideration, pending approval by the ABE, is the posting of examples of acceptable Case Portfolios or examples of poor cases and how to correct.

#### **3. Mentoring The Mentors**

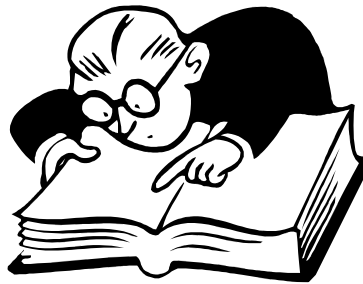
The COD Board would like to encourage all candidates and mentors to attend the Board Walks given by the ABE at each AAE Annual Session Meeting. This is an opportunity to hear directly from the ABE of any new updates in the board process. Additionally, there is insight shared by the ABE that is of priceless value that one might not otherwise have the opportunity to make use of. Next year's Board Walk will focus on the Oral Examination part of the ABE. This has been a problem area for candidates in recent years and therefore any candidate or mentor should make this a "Must attend."

Additional COD Board considerations include mock Oral exams for candidates or mentors

and formal "Mentoring the Mentor" sessions which could be held in conjunction with the AAE Annual session or the COD conference.

#### **4. Geographical Mentors**

The COD continues to maintain a listing of diplomates who are willing to serve as mentors to candidates who would like someone in their geographical area to provide one-on-one guidance through the board process. Any COD member who volunteers to be a mentor must be thoroughly knowledgeable of the PRESENT ABE process and all of the instructions which candidates must follow PRECISELY. Un-



fortunately, there have been times when mentors have evaluated a candidates' Case Portfolio by looking solely at the radiographs. Excellent radiographs of diverse and complex cases should be given. The key to an acceptable portfolio now rest on following the ABE instructions as written!

The COD offers to each new diplomate a free one-year membership to the COD. In return for

this "gift," the COD Directors encourage these new diplomates to volunteer to serve as mentors to those candidates coming behind them. To volunteer, please call the COD at (630) 510-7136 or (216) 813-3636 and leave your contact information. Additionally you can E-mail at [codabe96@aol.com](mailto:codabe96@aol.com).

#### **5. Each One Reach One**

The COD Directors are calling upon each and every diplomate to find at least one other endodontist to encourage AND empower them to journey through the board certification process. If you can not think of any reason to do this, do it for selfish, self-survival reasons ... "If endodontics is to remain a specialty, we must continue to have Board certified endodontists." Hopefully, we diplomates will all do this because we love our specialty and have the privilege to be a part of the greatest profession on the face of the Earth!

Again I think each one of you for the opportunity to have afforded me to serve as the Director of the Mentoring Program of the College of Diplomates of the American Board of Endodontics.

Please feel free to E-mail your comments to me at [axm69@po.cwru.edu](mailto:axm69@po.cwru.edu) regarding the Mentoring program or anything else I can help you with.♦

EMPOWER THEM TO JOURNEY



## *Annual Business Meeting Minutes by Carl W. Newton*

**Wednesday, April 30, 2003**

**Tampa Marriott Waterside**

**Tampa, FL**

President James Simon called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM EST. The following were present: President James Simon, President-elect Ed Skidmore, Secretary Carl Newton, Treasurer George Goodis, Directors Cindy Rauschenberger, Martha Proctor and Eric Rivera, Directors-elect Chuck Cunningham and André Mickel and Administrative Secretary Susan Hawkinson. Editor Fred Goodman and Director-elect Joe Dovgan were absent.

1. **Agenda**—The distributed agenda was approved after it was revised at the request of Director Rauschenberger to add a discussion of the issue of posting the names of Diplomates on the College website under new business.

2. **Secretary's Report**—The minutes from the 4/09/03 Conference Call Meeting were revised to delete Director Rauschenberger from the Nominating Committee report and then approved. Secretary Newton reported that Lamar Hicks has been notified of the ABE Director's Visitor's Award for Gary Hartwell to attend the Einstein Board Review Course and that the College will fund the reception to host candidates. Dr. Newton provided Directors-elect Cunningham and Mickel with DC copies of College minutes, bylaws and policies.

3. **Treasurer's Report**—Treasurer Goodis reported a 4/29/03 balance of \$106,320.57 in the College checking account. He has reviewed the last two year's income and expenses summary and intends to submit a draft budget proposal.

4. **Administrative Secretary's**

**Report**—The current membership stands at 605. Mrs. Hawkinson has developed promotional material on SC 2004 for display in Tampa.

5. **Summer Conference 2004**—The BOD previously approved Chairman Fred Goodman's site recommendation of the Ritz Carlton at Bachelor Gulch, CO for August 4-8, 2004. It was proposed that the College seek AAE or Affiliate sponsorship of SC 2004 to qualify as credit for the time-dated certificate requirements of the new ABE policy.

6. **Mentoring Program**—No report. It was agreed that the Mentor Program should be a focus for future College activity and Director-elect Andre Mickel was appointed Chair of the Mentor Committee.

7. **ABE Director's Visits**—Administrative Secretary Hawkinson will prepare the letter for College Secretary Cunningham's signature to announce the availability of ABE Director's Visit Awards to all Advanced Specialty Education Program Directors. The letter should be sent before the end of May.

8. **Grossman Luncheon**—ADA Immediate Past President and College member Greg Chadwick will be the Grossman Luncheon speaker at the AAE Annual Session in Tampa and will be introduced by Secretary Newton. The Luncheon is scheduled in Ballroom D on May 1, 2003 and will be immediately followed by the Annual College Business Meeting to elect new directors. A total of 33 new Diplomates, AAE Officers, ABE Directors and AAE Executive Director Jim Drinin will be complimentary guests of the College at the Grossman Luncheon. Tables will be reserved for all directors and officers. Art Dugoni was recommended

for the speaker on ethics and College member Stephen Cohen has been asked to extend the personal invitation. Dr. Newton has contacted AAE President-elect Torabinejad and ABE President Gary Hartwell as a courtesy to obtain their approval of Dr. Dugoni.

9. **Website**—no report.

10. **Editor's Report**—no report.

11. **Nominating Committee Report**—The Nominating Committee of President-elect Skidmore, Secretary Newton and Past Presidents Drs. Tom Mork and Lamar Hicks met by conference call on 2/9/03. The following slate was approved at the 4/9/03 BOD Meeting: President—Ed Skidmore, President-elect—Fred Goodman, Secretary—Chuck Cunningham, Treasurer—George Goodis, Directors—Joe Dovgan and André Mickel.

12. **Old Business**—Treasurer Goodis is now registered as agent for the College Articles of Incorporation in the State of Illinois.

The establishment of Disability Member status was approved for any current College members that have been awarded AAE Disability Member status. Secretary-elect Cunningham was directed to submit the necessary bylaws changes for BOD approval and member notification for amendment at the next Annual Session. Director Rivera asked the BOD to consider establishing an Honorary Life membership. Some discussion occurred about criteria and the nomination procedures but no action was taken. He also suggested that the AAE Annual Session Committee be asked to consider inviting all annual session regis-

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## ***The Pinnacle***

C/O Dr. Fred Goodman, Editor  
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### ***Annual Business Meeting Minutes***

*(Continued from page 7)*

trants to the Grossman Luncheon to increase the visibility of honoring successful candidates. The College Executive Committee is scheduled to meet with the AAE Executive Committee on May 2 in Tampa to give them a current status of College activities. No agenda was discussed. Director Rauschenberger reminded the BOD that the issue of making the names of Diplomates available on our Website should be discussed with the AAE and ABE.

13. **Next Conference Call**—The next College Board of Directors Conference Call Meeting was scheduled for 7:00 PM CDT, Wednesday, July 23.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM EST. ♦

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