

2026

# ICD<sup>®</sup>igest

Journal of the European Section  
International College of Dentists



**Fellowship, Science,  
Humanitarianism and  
Recognising Service**

**2026**

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INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF DENTISTS

### Mission

The International College of Dentists is the preeminent global dental honour society recognising outstanding professional achievement and meritorious service while advocating for humanitarian and educational initiatives.

### Motto

Recognising service as well as the opportunity to serve.

### Core Values

**Leadership:** Uphold the highest standard of professional competence and personal ethics.

**Recognition:** Recognise distinguished service to the profession and the public worldwide.

**Humanitarianism:** Foster measures for the prevention and treatment of oral disease by encouraging and supporting humanitarian projects.

**Education:** Contribute to the advancement of the profession of dentistry by fostering the growth and diffusion of dental knowledge worldwide.

**International Professional Relations**  
Provide a universal forum for the cultivation of cordial relations within the profession and to assist in preserving the highest perception of the profession worldwide.

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## ICDigest 2026 Volume 70

The ICDigest is published annually. It is the official, open access publication\* of the European Section of the International College of Dentists. All statements of opinion and supposed facts are published with the authority of the contributors under whose names the articles are published and are not necessarily to be regarded as the opinion or a policy of the European Section of the International College of Dentists. Therefore, the College, its officers, employees and editors accept no liability or responsibility whatsoever for the consequences of any inaccurate or misleading statements made by the contributors to the publication. All rights are reserved. No part of the ICDigest may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic or mechanical including photocopying or use of any information storage and retrieval system without written permission from the Editor. Published April 2026.

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ISSN X1565-964

\* See [www.icd-europe.com](http://www.icd-europe.com) for an online copy.



# Inspiring Leadership in European Dentistry - A Humanitarian Path Forward

European dentistry stands at a moment of both remarkable strength and profound responsibility. Our profession benefits from world-class education, advanced technologies, and deeply rooted traditions of scientific excellence. Yet even amid this progress, oral health inequalities endure across our continent and around the world. Confronting these disparities is not simply a clinical challenge — it is a call to our values, our compassion, and our collective leadership.



European institutions continue to drive innovation in preventive care, digital workflows, minimally invasive dentistry, and implantology. But these advances can only realise their full potential when they reach those who need them most. Many communities, including migrants, older adults, rural populations, and families facing socioeconomic hardship, still face significant barriers to care. This gap between capability and access invites us to rethink what it truly means to lead in healthcare.

## Humanitarian Dentistry: Building Systems That Endure

For decades, European dentists have been at the forefront of humanitarian outreach, bringing essential oral care to communities affected by conflict, natural disasters, or chronic under-resourcing. Organisations such as the International College of Dentists have long recognised that oral health is inseparable from human health, dignity, and opportunity.

Today, however, humanitarian dentistry is evolving. The most meaningful contributions are no longer short bursts of activity, but partnerships that strengthen local systems, empower local professionals, and leave sustainable care in place long after volunteers return home. This model asks us not to arrive as rescuers, but to stand alongside local colleagues as equals, sharing skills, learning together, and investing in solutions that endure.

## Oral Health as a Human Right

Growing evidence underscores the profound connections between oral health and systemic well-being. Untreated dental disease can lead to life-threatening infections and contributes to complications in diabetes, cardiovascular conditions, pregnancy, and beyond. If Europe is to remain a global champion of equitable healthcare, oral health must be recognised and defended as a fundamental human right, not an optional extra.

Within our own borders, this responsibility extends to refugees, displaced families, and undocumented migrants. While volunteer clinics provide invaluable support, truly equitable care requires structured pathways woven into national healthcare systems.

## Education and Ethical Purpose

European dental schools hold extraordinary power to shape the next generation of globally minded clinicians. Through service-learning, global health curricula, and international partnerships, we can instil in students the belief that dentistry is not only a science and a profession - it is a service to humanity.

Ethical practice must anchor all humanitarian work: cultural humility, responsible scopes of practice, robust safeguarding, and commitments to follow-up care. Excellence is not only technical; it is moral.

## A Shared Vision for the Future

European dentistry has the capacity, and the moral imperative, to lead. Our progress will not be measured solely by technological advances, but by the lives we improve, the communities we stand with, and the systems we help strengthen.

## Our shared mission is clear:

- Close the oral health gaps within Europe.
- Build sustainable partnerships around the world.
- Advocate for oral health in humanitarian policy.
- Educate clinicians who combine skill with vision and compassion.

Dentistry restores comfort, confidence, and dignity. As Fellows of the International College of Dentists, we are uniquely positioned to champion these values and help shape a more equitable world - one smile, one community, and one partnership at a time.

**Michael Thomas - FICD**  
Editor, European Section

# Reflections from Salzburg

The 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the European Section, Section 5, of the International College of Dentists took place in Salzburg, Austria from Thursday 19th June to Sunday 22nd June 2025. President of the European Section, Werner Lill, and Regent of Austria District, Hans Mayr, were pleased to welcome officers and regents, along with 63 new Fellows and nearly 350 participants in total, along with International President Ian Doyle from Canada and the Immediate Past President of Section 1, United States of America, Ira Titunik.



Mirabell Gardens, Salzburg.

Salzburg is the fourth-largest city in Austria with an extensive cultural and educational history, being the birthplace of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and home to three universities and a large student population. Salzburg's historic centre was enlisted as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1996 and is renowned for its Baroque architecture and is one of the best-preserved city centres north of the Alps. The weather for the meeting was perfect to allow all delegates to explore the beauty of this wonderful city and to appreciate its history and culture.

The meeting commenced with a classic chamber concert in the Wiener Saal, or Viennese Hall, of the Mozarteum, titled "(More than) A Little Night Music". The Mozarteum was established in honour of Salzburg's most famous son, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and is a prestigious institution dedicated to music and the arts. The Wiener Saal is celebrated for its exquisite acoustics and elegant architecture. The audience were entranced to listen to the programme of works by Mozart and Beethoven from the ensemble of violin, viola, cello, contrabass, clarinet, horn and bassoon. The concert was followed by a get-together at the Imlauer Pitter Hotel, which also hosted the board meetings and scientific programme. The music ensemble also attended the welcome reception, and this provided an excellent opportunity for Fellows and their guests to meet and congratulate them on their wonderful performance.

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June commenced with the Executive Meeting of the Board of Regents and Officers followed by the full meeting of Regents and Officers. Reports of the meeting are

included elsewhere in this publication. Many Fellows and their guests enjoyed a guided tour of Salzburg in excellent weather to discover some of the rich history and stunning architecture of this beautiful city. In the evening a welcome reception was held at the impressive Stiegl Keller. The Stiegl Keller is located in the heart of Salzburg's city centre, just below the Hohensalzburg Fortress. Here Fellows and their guests were able to enjoy the speciality beer range of the Stiegl and Wildshut private brewery and traditional rustic delicacies. All were delighted to be entertained by Elisabeth von Trapp, the granddaughter of the legendary Maria and Baron von Trapp, whose story inspired The Sound of Music. It was remarkable to be able to hear some of the memorable tunes from the film performed by a direct descendant of the family. Her beautiful performance contrasted with the livelier entertainment provided by the guitar and accordion duo who roamed the hall and kept spirits high as the evening progressed. The location of the Stiegl Keller also provided the opportunity for a gentle walk in the warm summer evening to explore the centre of Salzburg en route back to the accommodation.

On Saturday of the meeting, delegates gathered at the Imlauer Hotel Pitter for the Scientific Programme and Humanitarian Forum. The organisers had organised a programme of four lectures on the subject area of "Cranio-Mandibular Disorders – Everything you should know". The lectures covered the topics of "Psychiatric and psychosomatic aspects of temporomandibular joint dysfunction", "The Viennese Occlusal Concept and its importance for the functions of the stomatognathic organ", "Effective approach for stable resolution of locked joints" and "A stable Condylar Position – why should the orthodontist care?". The Humanitarian Forum is a key focus of the annual meeting to emphasise the importance of the core values of the ICD. At the forum, the delegates received presentations on the journey of Elisabeth and Werner Lill to Kenya to provide dental care for underserved communities, the Mai Tam House of Hope project in Vietnam presented by Dr. Robert E. Morris, an update on the work of



Entertainment at the welcome reception.



Friendships are renewed.



Friendships are renewed.



The Steigl Keller.



The welcome reception.



The welcome reception.



The concert at the Mozarteum.



Werner Lill with Jungmin Park, one of the musicians from the concert.



Friendships are renewed.



The welcome reception.



Elisabeth von Trapp.



Elisabeth von Trapp entertains at the welcome reception.



Anastasiya Dienga presents at the humanitarian forum.



At the scientific congress.



At the Hullbrunn gardens and water fountains.



Werner Lill introduces the scientific program.



Christa Rados presents at the scientific congress.



Petros Kokkinos presents at the scientific congress.



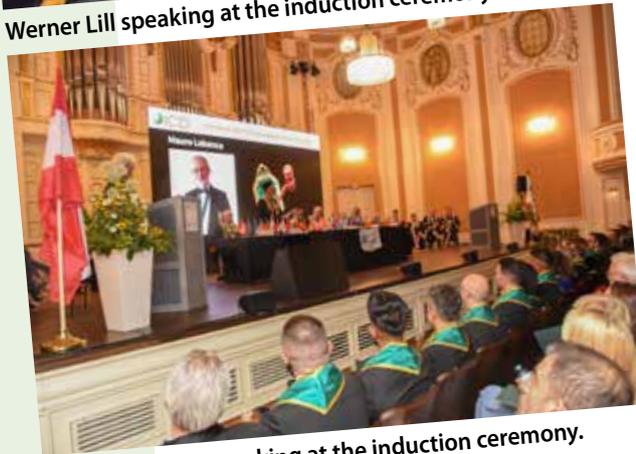
At the Hellbrunn gardens and water fountains.



The induction ceremony.



Werner Lill speaking at the induction ceremony.



Mauro Labanca speaking at the induction ceremony.



Elisabeth Lill presents at the humanitarian forum.

Mundo A Sorrir in Oporto, Portugal and a heartfelt presentation on the challenges of providing dental care in Ukraine under Marshall Law by Dr. Anastasiia Dienga. The challenge of providing dental care in Ukraine is considered in further detail later in this journal.

At the same time as the scientific programme and humanitarian forum were taking place, the meeting organisers had planned a visit to the Hellbrunn Palace Museum and Water Fountains. Built in the early 17th century by Prince-Archbishop Markus Sittikus as a summer pleasure palace, Hellbrunn Palace is world famous for its unique, 400-year-old "trick fountains" (Wasserspiele). The famous Sound of Music gazebo, where Liesl and Franz whispered their love for each other, is also situated in the gardens of the palace and provided opportunities for those who wished to relive their "sixteen going on seventeen" memories.

The highlight of the annual meeting is the induction ceremony. This took place in the Großer Saal of the Stiftung Mozarteum. This remarkable venue was built between 1911-1914 by Richard Berndl in the art deco architectural style and had a special ambiance to host the ceremony. New Fellows from 12 of the Districts of the European Section were presented to their colleagues, families and friends, and heard addresses by the Global ICD President, Ian Doyle and European Section President, Werner Lill. Werner also passed over the Presidency of the European Section to Mauro Labanca. The new Fellows and their guests were then able to enjoy the atmosphere of the gardens to the Mozarteum prior to preparing for the Gala Dinner at the Residenz Dom Quartier. The Residence served as the residence and place of representation for the Prince-Archbishops for 13 centuries. The state rooms reflect two centuries of art and style history from the Renaissance through Baroque to Classicism and provided a wonderful venue for this event. Guests were entertained between courses by two talented opera singers, prompting the Italian delegation to lead a rendition of "O Sole Mio" in recognition of Mauro as the new European President.

The following morning an early rise saw delegates take a trip to Salzkammergut, a scenic Austrian Alpine region east of Salzburg, renowned for its 70+ crystal-clear lakes, dramatic mountains (including the Dachstein massif), and UNESCO-listed heritage. Historically, it was the "salt domain" of the Habsburgs, with ancient salt mines still found in areas like Hallstatt and Bad Ischl. At St. Gilgen the paddle steamer "Kaiser Franz Joseph" took the attendees across Wolfgangsee lake to the village of St. Wolfgang on the northern shore. Lunch was at the Hotel Weißes Rössl and a visit was made to the pilgrimage church which houses a late Gothic altarpiece by Michael Pacher. The weather was again delightful, and the trip marked the end to a wonderful 68th annual meeting of the European Section. ■



Entertainment at the Gala dinner.



At the induction reception.



At the induction reception.



Entertainment at the Gala dinner.



Lunch at the Hotel Weißes Rössl.



At the induction reception.



Kaiser Franz Joseph.



Farewell to Salzburg.



Residenz Dom Quartier.

# Frans H.M. Kroon

Frans Kroon, DDS, PhD, MDSc (1941-2025)

Fellow of the International College of Dentists since 1998

Say “Frans Kroon”, and one says “ICD”. Within the International College of Dentists there are individuals whose name becomes inseparably linked with the College itself. For the European Section, Frans Kroon was such a person. His passing marks the loss of a devoted Fellow whose vision, leadership and humanity have left a lasting imprint on the ICD in Europe and far beyond.

Frans was inducted as a Fellow of the International College of Dentists in 1998 in Bergen, Norway, having been proposed by Dr. Jan Pameijer, Past President European Section. From that moment onward, his commitment to the College was profound and enduring. What began as fellowship developed into a lifetime of service to the ideals and international spirit of the ICD.

Over the decades, Frans fulfilled a remarkable number of roles within the European Section and the College worldwide. He served as Regent for the Benelux District from 2000 to 2007, as Secretary General (now Registrar) of the European Section from 2002 to 2009 and for many years as a highly respected International Councillor, serving from 2003 until 2018. In these capacities, his insights were consistently valued and often decisive. He possessed a rare ability to listen carefully, weigh considerations thoughtfully and articulate a course that commanded trust and consensus.

Frans also served as Vice-President of the European Section in 2007–2008 and subsequently as President in 2009–2010. His presidency marked a defining moment in the history of the European Section. The European meeting and congress he organised in 2010 has since become an anchor point in our collective memory and by many often described as a turning point between the development of the European Section from its founding in 1955 and the course it would take thereafter.

During these years, Frans was accompanied and supported by his wife Ineke, whose presence became

warmly familiar to Fellows across Europe and beyond. During international meetings and congresses, she played a gracious and invaluable role in welcoming Benelux Fellows and partners, ensuring that newcomers felt at ease and at home within the ICD family. Many will remember with affection the informal Benelux gatherings that Frans and Ineke hosted alongside official programmes. These were moments of friendship and hospitality that strengthened the bonds of fellowship and created lasting memories for all who attended.

Under Frans’ leadership, the European Section embraced a clearer and stronger humanitarian focus. With quiet conviction and unwavering commitment, he helped guide the ICD in Europe toward a more explicit and active engagement in humanitarian service. This orientation, which he championed with both vision and modesty, has since become integral to the identity of the European Section and continues to inspire its work today.

In recognition of his exceptional service and leadership, Frans was nominated Master of the International College of Dentists in 2010, one of the highest distinctions the College can bestow. Further acknowledgement followed with the Distinguished Service Award and the Meritorious Award in 2018, reflecting the deep respect he commanded throughout the College worldwide.

Beyond formal offices, Frans served the ICD in another distinctive way. On multiple occasions he acted as Master of Ceremonies during convocations and official gatherings. He fulfilled this role with a rare serenity and dignity that reflected both the traditions of the ICD and his own personal character. His presence lent solemnity and

**ICD Service Record Dr. Frans H.M. Kroon**

1998 – Inducted as Fellow of the International College of Dentists, European Section, Bergen, Norway  
 2000 – 2007 – Regent, Benelux District  
 2002 – 2009 – Secretary General, ICD European Section (now Registrar)  
 2003 – 2018 – International Councillor, European Section  
 2007 – 2008 – Vice-President, ICD European Section  
 2009 – 2010 – President, ICD European Section

**Honours and Distinctions**

2010 – Nominated Master of the International College of Dentists  
 2018 – Distinguished Service Award  
 2018 – Meritorious Award

warmth in equal measure, and many Fellows remember these moments with deep appreciation.

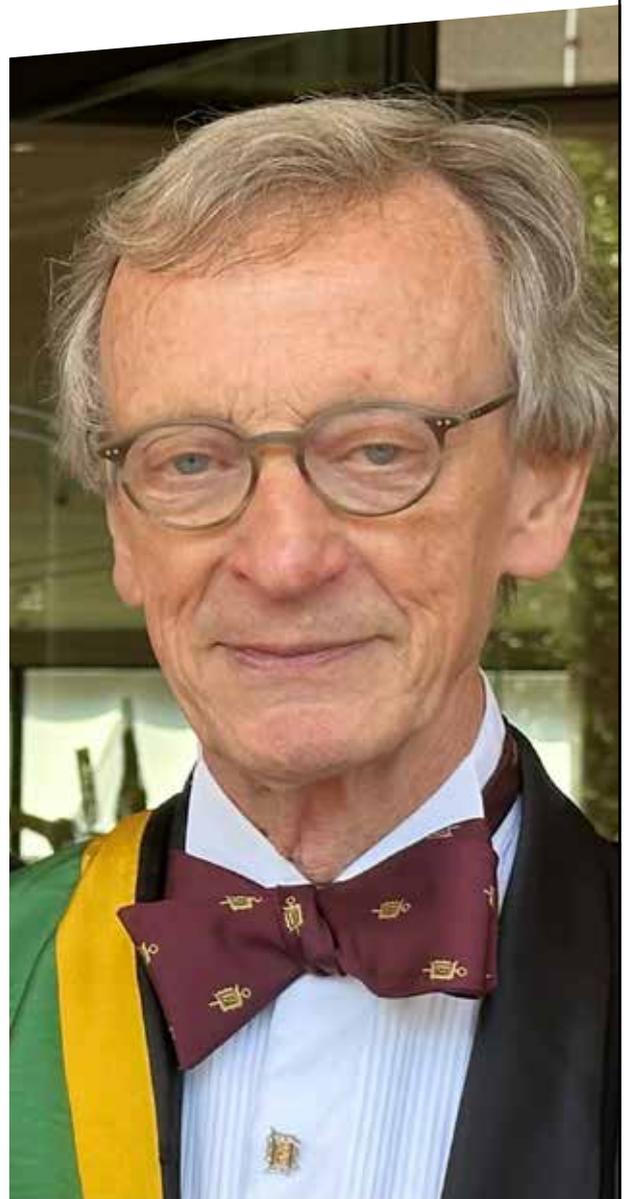
Throughout his long service, Frans remained a figure of continuity and trust within the College. He combined intellectual clarity with genuine modesty, authority with kindness, and a steadfast sense of responsibility with deep humanity. He respected the contributions of those who had preceded him and in turn earned the respect of colleagues across generations. For many within the European Section and internationally, he became not only a leader but also a trusted friend.

On behalf of the International College of Dentists and its European Section, we express our profound gratitude for the life and service of Frans Kroon. His contributions have shaped the College in lasting ways, and his influence will continue to be felt in the humanitarian spirit and collegial strength he helped to foster.

For the European Section, his name will remain forever synonymous with the ICD.

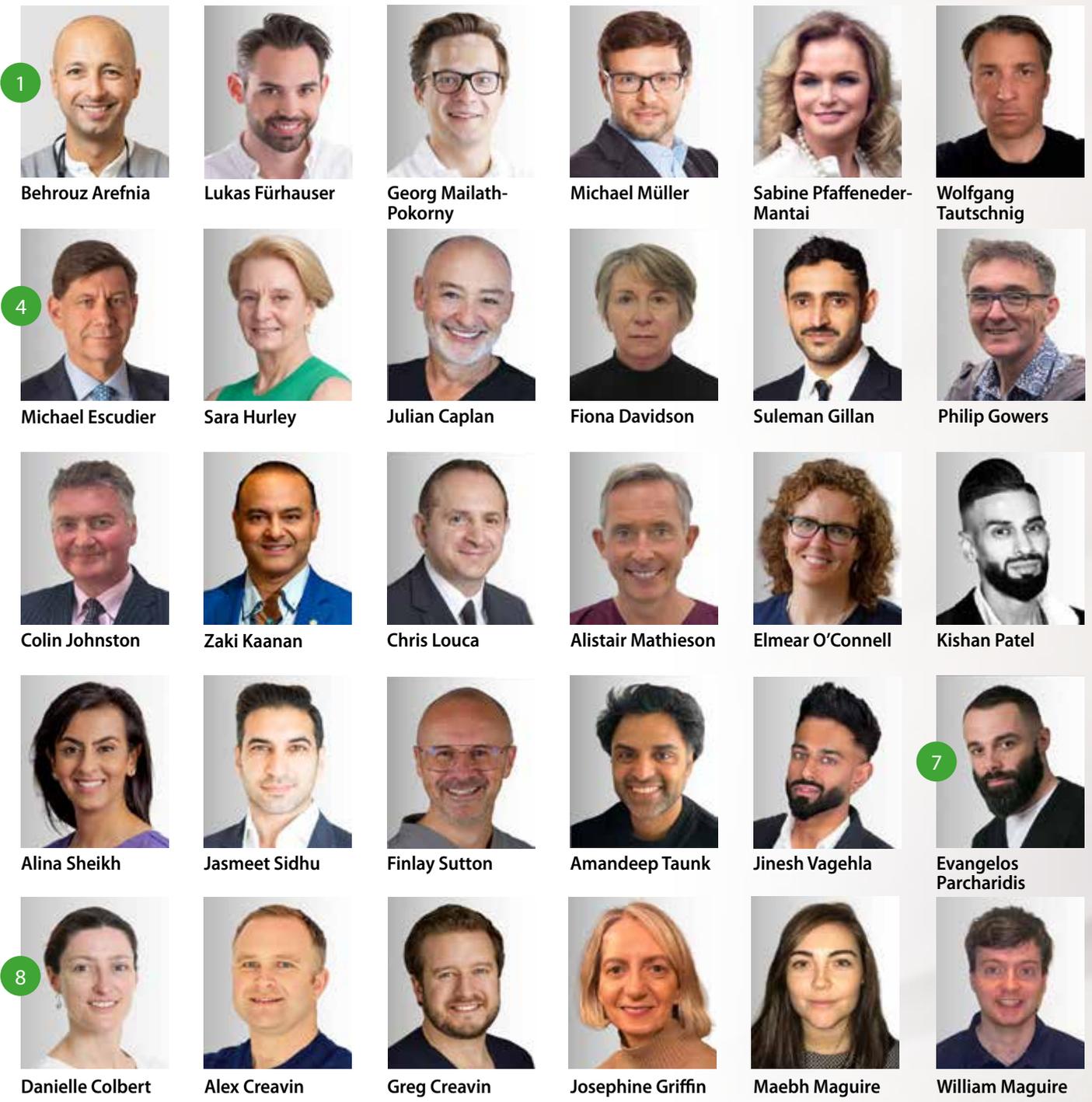
On a personal note, Frans will be remembered not only as a defining figure of the College, but as a presence of rare loyalty, wisdom and friendship which is deeply valued and profoundly missed. Those who knew him well will also remember the quiet moments when, seated at the piano, he revealed another dimension of the harmony and sensitivity that characterised his life and his fellowship.

**Walter van Driel, Past President European Section**



# New Fellows 2025

63 new Fellows from all Districts were inducted during the ceremony in Salzburg. The section therefore welcomes the 2025 entry of new Fellows, representing all 16 Districts, who have provided their portrait photographs.





9

Rachel Sarig



10

Alfonso Caiazzo



Jason Motta-Jones



11

Duarte Bruschy



Jaime Guimarães



Nuno Sousa Dias



12

Zara Diez-Lucas



Lluís Giner Tarrid



Antonio Saiz-Pardo Pinos



Laura Torrecilla



13

Roland Glauser



Hrvoje Jambrec



14

Aleksandra Banovic Groznik



Ksenija Cankar



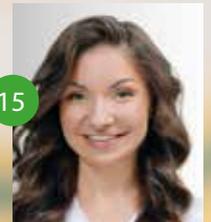
Mojca Drev



Petar Ducev



Emanuela-Lidia Petrescu



15

Arina Burnasova



Vitalijs Burnasova



Sergiu Ciobanu



Anastasiia Dienga



Madara Dzudzilo



Antonia Fartushna



Merike Immato



Viktor Kryzhanovskiy



Iryna Mazur



Maanus Raud



Santa Silava



Iryna Skrypnyk



Roman Smucler

- District 1 Austria
- District 2 The Netherlands
- District 3 Scandinavia
- District 4 England, Scotland and Wales
- District 5 France
- District 6 Germany
- District 7 Greece and Cyprus
- District 8 Ireland
- District 9 Israel and Malta
- District 10 Italy
- District 11 Portugal
- District 12 Spain
- District 13 Switzerland
- District 14 Central & Southern Europe
- District 15 Central & North Eastern Europe
- District 16 Georgia



Katarzyna Zarebska



16

Teona Danelia



Tamara Kutkhashvili

# First impressions from Salzburg by new inductees



**Anastasiia Dienga**

I am honoured to have been accepted into the International College of Dentists. For me, this is not only a recognition of my professional journey, but also an opportunity to become part of a community where knowledge, ethics, and a shared commitment to serving society go hand in hand. I am delighted to join colleagues who are not only outstanding professionals, but also remarkably warm and open-minded individuals. I look forward with enthusiasm to future collaborative initiatives and projects, and I am glad to have the opportunity to contribute and move together toward meaningful goals.

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to a performance by a talented singer descended from the Von Trapp family, accompanied by traditional Austrian fare. An enjoyable introduction to the days ahead. Receiving my fellowship in Salzburg was an experience filled with ceremony, reflection, and connection. The city itself, with its rich heritage and baroque architecture, offered a fitting backdrop for the occasion. The induction took place in the Mozarteum ballroom, a venue as elegant as it was historically resonant. As we processed into the room, I was struck by its atmosphere, dignified yet welcoming, and continued to be moved by the beauty of the setting throughout the event. The gala evening that followed was held in the Residenz Dom Quartier, another historic venue that provided a stunning setting for the celebration. Highlights included operatic performances of exceptional quality and a surprise solo by one of our own ICD members, offered in honour of our new Italian President for the European Section, Mauro Labanca. It was a touching moment that reflected the warmth and camaraderie that define the ICD community. For my husband and me, the entire experience was deeply rewarding. We formed new friendships with colleagues from across Europe, and the care shown by our Austrian hosts was truly appreciated. A special thank you goes to our Irish Regent, Garry Heavey, and his wife Fiona, whose support and hospitality were invaluable to the Irish contingent. I look forward to playing an active role in the work of the International College of Dentists in the years to come. Being part of this fellowship is not only an honour, but a responsibility I am proud to undertake.



**Sabine Pfaffeneder-Mantai**

It was a wonderful celebration with great impressions, a meeting of colleagues from all over the world and a knowledge exchange from different disciplines in the magical city of Salzburg.



**Sara Hurley**

ICD isn't just an honour - it's a global community with purpose, and a platform for lasting impact."

Being inducted into the International College of Dentists in New York was both an honour and a moment to reflect. To stand alongside colleagues from around the world, each with their own story, their own path into dentistry, and their

shared drive to make a difference, was deeply humbling. Held amid the buzz of the Greater New York Dental Meeting, the ceremony felt like a celebration not just of past contributions, but of future potential.

For me, being part of the ICD is about more than a pin



**Danielle Colbert**

This year, I had the honour of being inducted as a Fellow of the International College of Dentists. Like many, I began by researching the ICD - its history, its mission, and the community I was about to join. What I discovered gave me a deep sense of appreciation. To be welcomed into a group of colleagues I hold in high regard is both a privilege and a meaningful professional milestone. The welcome reception, held in the historic Stiegl Keller, was a warm and memorable beginning. Representatives from across Europe arrived in national dress, creating a vibrant display of cultures and traditions. We were treated

or a plaque. It's about connection. It's about joining a global community bound by common values of service, leadership, and a commitment to advancing oral health wherever the need is greatest.

A standout moment was the launch of the Global Oral Health Leadership Institute (GOHLI) - an ambitious ICD initiative backed by fellows and partners from Harvard School of Dental Medicine and King's College London. GOHLI is already emerging as a powerful platform for cross-border collaboration, leadership development, and shared impact.

This fellowship isn't just a recognition, it's a responsibility. I'm proud to be part of this inspiring community and excited to contribute to both the ICD's mission and the momentum building behind GOHLI in the years ahead.



Jason Motta Jones

The Induction ceremony at ICD Salzburg was an extremely touching experience. Being immersed in an international atmosphere surrounded by colleagues from all over Europe made everything special. I really hope to give my small contribution to this prestigious college.



Tony (Amandeep) Taunk

I am deeply honoured to be a part of this amazing group of dentists. The induction ceremony was truly mind-blowing and humbling, made even more special by the warm, genuine welcome from all my new colleagues.

My sincere thanks to each and every one of you. I look forward to building meaningful relationships, forming strong bonds, and creating wonderful memories together in the future.



Jason Motta Jones (on the left).



**Finlay Sutton**

Reflecting on my induction as a Fellow of the International College of Dentists in Salzburg, I can only say what a tremendous honour and privilege it was. From the moment I arrived, I was struck by the warmth, openness, and generosity of everyone I met. It was a very special atmosphere - friendly, inclusive, and filled with genuine kindness. The induction ceremony itself was wonderfully organised, deeply moving, and made even more memorable by being held in such a remarkable setting steeped in history, where Mozart himself once performed. The Black-Tie Dinner after the ceremony was utterly magical and added to what was an unforgettable evening. Throughout the meeting, I was both inspired and humbled by the global humanitarian work being carried out under the umbrella of the ICD. The presentations on the many projects taking place around the world made a deep impression on me, and I have found myself reflecting since on how I too might contribute in a meaningful way going forward. It has genuinely opened a new chapter for me, and I am very much looking forward to being part of the College's work in the years ahead, starting with Milan next year. I can't wait to bring my wife, Rachel, next year and maybe play a round of golf with other fellows!



**Ciobanu Sergiu**

I am honoured to be a member of ICD. We are ready for a future collaboration.



**Jaime Guimarães**

It was a great honour to be inducted as a Fellow of the International College of Dentists in Salzburg. The ceremony was both moving and inspiring, and I deeply appreciated the opportunity to connect with such esteemed colleagues from across Europe.

Reflecting on the event, I was struck by the shared commitment to excellence, ethics, and service that defines the ICD. It reminded me that dentistry is not only a clinical discipline, but also a profession rooted in humanism and global collaboration. I left Salzburg feeling both humbled and energised to contribute further to our profession and community.



**Michael Müller**

It was a wonderful conference and informative and inspiring days in Salzburg. I feel deeply honoured to now be a member of the College as a new inductee. The presentation of the certificate in such a historic hall for Austria and the additional honour of receiving the certificate from Werner Lill, a mentor, companion, and friend during his term as President of the European Section. I am also impressed by the College's projects and networking around the world with highly respected, scientifically active, and persistent colleagues with integrity, with the goal of advancing and promoting dentistry and trying to give everyone, even those who don't have it so easy in life, the opportunity for oral health. Of course, it is also nice to be recognized for having given time in one's life to dentistry, teaching scientifically and volunteering, ultimately for the well-being of patients. I am proud to now be part of this large family.





**Arina Burnašova**

It is a true honour for me to be a member of the International College of Dentists (ICD), one of the most respected and long-standing dental organisations in the world.

Being inducted as a Fellow of the ICD has been a deeply meaningful and unforgettable experience, an event I will carry with me throughout my professional life. The induction ceremony itself was filled with inspiration, positive energy, and the presence of distinguished professionals whose dedication and excellence were truly motivating. Participating in this event, meeting remarkable colleagues from around the world, and experiencing the generosity and inclusiveness of this global network has left a lasting impression. I value the sense of unity and professionalism that defines the ICD, and I am honoured to be part of such a powerful and inspiring community. With heartfelt appreciation,



**Aleksandra Banović Groznik**

This year's ICD Congress took place in the magnificent setting of Salzburg, Austria, an event marked not only by its inspiring location but also by a deeply meaningful induction ceremony held in a beautiful setting.

As one of the inductees from Slovenia, I felt truly honoured to become part of such a distinguished organisation. The ICD brings together professionals from around the world who are united not just by their expertise, but by a shared commitment to humanitarian values and a collective desire to serve. What makes the ICD unique is this common purpose: to go beyond our professions and contribute to better health and quality of life for underserved and vulnerable populations.

Regardless of the size or scope of the effort, this kind of humane and humanitarian participation is essential.

The ceremony itself will remain in my memory for a long time, its dignified atmosphere, the breathtaking scenery and the inspiring people I had the privilege to meet. We remembered those members who are no longer with us, welcomed a new ICD leader, and celebrated the remarkable work of the outgoing one.

There was no better way to conclude the event than with a joyous gala dinner, filled with music, singing and dancing- an evening that perfectly reflected the spirit of ICD community.

It was a truly uplifting and unforgettable experience, and I am already looking forward to seeing many of you again in Milan.





# Dental Care during Martial Law in Ukraine

At the scientific programme at the meeting in Salzburg, Anastasiia Dienga, Senior Researcher of The Institute of Stomatology and Maxillo-facial Surgery, National Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine and Professor of Odesa National Medical University presented a report concerning providing dental care during Martial law in Ukraine.



Anastasiia Dienga.

On February 24th, 2022, martial law was declared in Ukraine, which dictates new approaches to the entire healthcare system in terms of providing medical, including dental, care to both the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the civilian population. The problem of providing dental care also lies in the fact that the Ukrainian population

(in particular children, women, and the elderly) is in a difficult emotional and psychological state, which requires increased psychological support for the population. The issue of providing dental care, its availability, and capacity is relevant not only during wartime but also in the post-war period of Ukraine's reconstruction. Due to population migration, the workload on medical workers has increased because of providing dental care not only to local residents but also to displaced persons.

In Ukraine, according to World Health Organization (WHO) experts, more than 70% of health problems in





Children in Ukraine being advised on how best to care for their teeth.

the population are determined by lifestyle, working conditions, and the environment. In 2023, 4 million toxic substances were registered in the external environment, with their number increasing by 7,000 annually. Therefore, the widespread development of household chemicals, intensive chemicalization of agriculture, military actions, the use of medicines, and industrial pollution of air, water, and soil resources create a number of problems for the whole ecosystem.

Anastasiia explained that the main tasks that are being

dealt with every day are:

- establishing uninterrupted operation of all units and ensuring the safety of personnel and patients.
- providing dental care to servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU), territorial defence (TD) soldiers, children, and internally displaced persons.
- conducting epidemiological studies to analyse dynamics.
- conducting preventive measures for all segments of the population.
- improving contacts with suppliers of relevant dental materials and medicines.

Data collected during the conflict has shown an increasing incidence of dental caries and periodontal disease amongst children and adults. The dental status of military personnel shows disease rates even higher than among workers in industrial zones. The prevalence of malocclusion amongst 12-year-olds is also increasing.

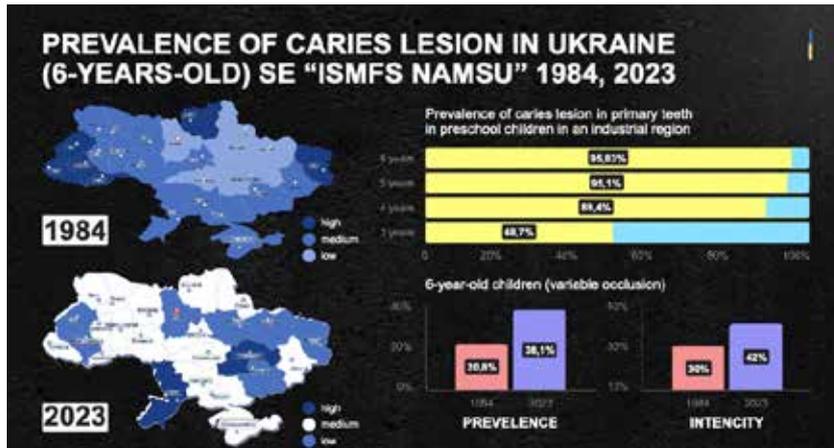
When considering military personnel, there is a high incidence of head, face and neck injuries. 35% of all injuries have been classified as head, face and neck injuries. This recognises the change in approach of modern conflict; in World War II the incidence of head, face and neck injuries was between 3.5 and 4.5%. However, the incidence of fatalities from injuries received in the current conflict for the three years to 2025 was 46,000 from 380,000 wounded, representing the importance of providing good access to high quality health care. Anastasiia was able to show her audience a number of extensive maxillofacial reconstruction procedures.



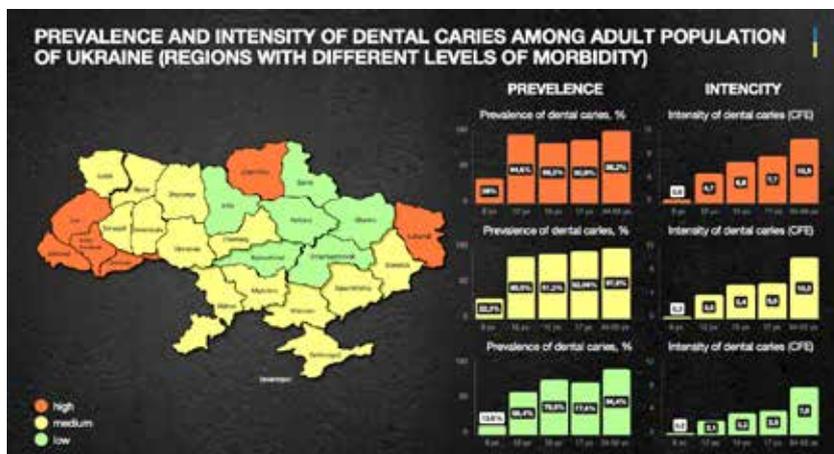
The Ukraine team with some of the children who received advice on how to look after their teeth.



A maxillofacial reconstruction procedure.



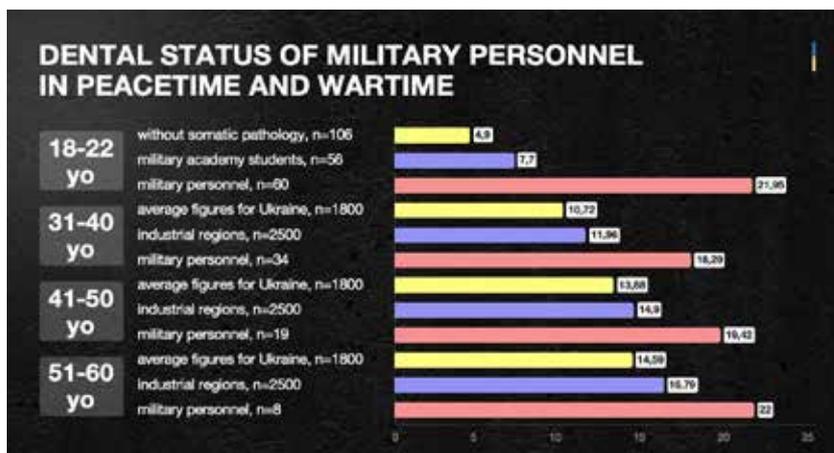
Prevalence of caries lesions in Ukraine in 6-year-olds, comparing 1984 to 2023.



Prevalence and incidence of caries lesions in Ukraine in adults.



Providing dental care to the military in a mobile dental clinic.



Comparison of the dental status of military personnel in Ukraine.

dentists of different specialties and upgrade existing modern algorithms and protocols to improve the level of dental care. Today, in Ukraine there is many clinicians providing dental care on communal and individual levels. Anastasiia expressed that all in Ukraine are grateful to everyone who provides assistance, to all medical specialists, organisations, scientists, volunteers, global organisations and those who care. ■

# News from the Districts

## District 1 – Austria

District 1 have continued to organise an annual meeting, the most recent event being held in Vienna on 16th January 2026. There are 45 active Fellows in the district with 3 life Fellows.

## District 2 – Benelux

District 2 held a meeting in Amsterdam in November 2025 and currently have 42 active Fellows and 1 life Fellow. The death of Rudy Landman, Fellow of the district, has sadly been reported.

## District 4 – England, Scotland and Wales

56 Fellows and guests attended the Royal Thames Yacht Club, London, on 15th November 2025 for fellowship and dinner. Following the drinks reception and enjoyable dinner, attendees received a report on the activities of COHI, the Community Oral Health Initiative from Albert Akhidenor.

The Community Oral Health Initiative is a registered Nigerian non-profit organisation established in 2013 that focuses on providing free dental and primary healthcare services to underserved, rural, and internally displaced persons camps. COHI is particularly active in the northeastern region of Nigeria, which has been severely affected by Boko Haram terrorist activities.

A presentation was also made by Mitesh Badiani founder of Smilestar, a volunteer-based charity in the UK, in 2010. Specifically, it aims to provide free, high quality dental care to disadvantaged communities in Africa and India, and ex Royal Marines in the United Kingdom. Smilestar's team members include a combination of highly skilled general healthcare professionals, dentists, dental nurses and

dental therapists. Each year, self-funded volunteers from various dental practices in the UK devote their time and services free-of-charge to support Smilestar. Donations are crucial to cover the cost of the vital aid work provided by the charity throughout the year in Africa and India. This includes setting up dental clinics and delivering much needed dental care. The charity also helps local clinicians and those with life-threatening medical conditions.

Roy Morris, Regent of District 4, also advised that a further meeting is planned in Edinburgh in September 2026, to include fellowship with families and a memorial lecture for Fellow Kevin Lewis, who died in 2025. Kevin was inducted as a Fellow in the International College of Dentists at the 64th meeting of the European Section in Thessaloniki in 2019. Kevin had been one of the most important voices in UK dentistry. From general practice to dentolegal leadership, and a later role as beloved ambassador and commentator, he helped the dental profession navigate a changing landscape for more than 50 years. His work, marked as much by reinvention as by his trademark combination of insight and warmth, touched the lives of thousands of dental professionals.

## District 8 – Ireland

Although too late for a report to be received in this edition of ICDigest, district 8, Ireland, remains active with their annual meeting scheduled for February 2026.

## District 9 – Israel and Malta

District 9, Israel and Malta, have also scheduled their annual meeting in February 2026.



Roy Morris, Regent of District 4, addresses the gathering in London on 15th November 2025.

### District 10 – Italy

On September 27, 2025, the annual meeting of the Italian Section of the International College of Dentists (ICD) was held in Bologna. This event combines scientific advancement, cultural exchange, and strategic planning for the College's future activities. The meeting took place in the conference hall of the Nove Archi dental practice, kindly made available for the occasion by Fellow Dr. Andrea Gandolfi, and brought together Fellows from across Italy, along with several distinguished guests.

The day featured a rich scientific program featuring speakers of international standing. Dr. Stefano Valbonesi opened the session by presenting complex prosthetic clinical cases, offering practical insights and reflections on interdisciplinary treatment. He was followed by Prof. Lorenzo Breschi and his research group, who presented the latest updates in adhesive dentistry and digital prosthetics, emphasizing how new technologies enhance precision and clinical efficiency. The session concluded with a lectio magistralis by Prof. Carlo Guastamacchia, who addressed an often overlooked yet crucial topic: the health and well-being of the dentist. Prof. Guastamacchia, a life member of the Italian District and long-standing ICD Fellow, is a true icon in the field—Italy's pioneer in ergonomics and a mentor to generations of professionals. At 92 years of age, he delivered an inspiring lesson in humility, wisdom, and the practical application of the concept of well-being.

Following the scientific program, the annual business meeting was held, attended by Fellows, candidates, and colleagues interested in learning more about the College.



Delegates enjoy a convivial dinner together after the meeting.



Delegates at the annual meeting of the Italian District of the ICD.

The Regent for Italy, Prof. Antonio Barone, reviewed the year's key achievements and shared updates in anticipation of the next European meeting, which will feature the European President and Global President-Elect, Prof. Mauro Labanca. Among the topics discussed, special emphasis was placed on the ICD Young project, an increasingly structured initiative designed to foster growth opportunities for younger members. Particular attention was given to encouraging younger members active involvement in promoting the College through social media. Ethics and the ICD's philanthropic mission were also central to the agenda. New Fellow candidates for 2026 were presented, and proposals for future humanitarian and solidarity projects were discussed.

The day concluded with a convivial dinner in one of Bologna's historic venues, a pleasant moment of socialization and reinforcement of collegial spirit. The Bologna meeting represented not only an important occasion for professional development and exchange, but also a forward-looking moment: the path undertaken by the College, driven by the enthusiasm behind its scientific and youth-oriented initiatives, promises an exciting future leading up to the major European event scheduled for July 2026.

#### **District 11 – Portugal and District 12 - Spain**

District 11, Portugal, held a meeting on 8th November 2025 in association with the 34th Annual Congress of the Portuguese Dental Association, at Exponor in Matosinhos/Porto. This major dental event, which includes the Exponentária 2025 exhibition, featured scientific sessions, training, and industry, and attracted many dental care professionals to the region. A joint meeting is also planned with District 12, Spain, in April 2026. Sadly, the death of Fellow, Juan Salsench, from District 12 has also been announced.

#### **District 14 – Central and Southern Europe**

Slovenian ICD fellows gathered for the annual autumn District 14 meeting on 29th September 2025 in Ljubljana. To emphasise the strong connection between ICD values and education and communication among members of the dental community, the official part of the meeting was held at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana. In the main lecture hall of the Dental Medicine Department, distinguished fellow Professor Nataša Ihan Hren delivered a lecture entitled "Aesthetic Aspects of Orthognathic Surgery". Professor Ihan Hren is a leading expert in orthognathic surgery, fully engaged in the surgical treatment of the most complex orthodontic patients. Her lecture highlighted the challenges in achieving successful outcomes in orthodontic treatment and orthognathic surgery, particularly considering the evolving expectations of new generations, where the aesthetics and functionality of the orofacial system are just one aspect of overall body aesthetics, contributing to the patient's self-confidence.

During the official part of the meeting, Slovenian Vice-Regent Professor Maja Ovsenic, Past-Regent Professor



Slovenian ICD fellows at the autumn 2025 meeting in Ljubljana.



Professor Nataša Ihan Hren during her lecture entitled "Aesthetic Aspects of the Orthognathic Surgery".

Photos: Dr. Matija Gorjanc, FICD.



International College of Dentists  
Section V  
District 15



# ETHICS IN DENTISTRY

Humanitarian Conference

Opening the Conference

10:00

10:05

10:20

International College of Dentists  
- the High Ethical Standards



Professor Mauro Labanca Milan, Italy

10:20

11:10

The Origins and Future  
of Professional Ethics



Professor Nairn Wilson Cheshire, United Kingdom

11:10

11:30

Medical Ethical Standards  
in Times of Peace and War



Professor Iryna Mazur Kyiv, Ukraine

11:30

Discussion and presentation of D15 candidates

November 29 Online – English language

# PROGRAM

Tomislav Jukič, and District 17 Regent-Elect Dr Rok Jurič addressed twenty Slovenian fellows. Recently inducted fellows Dr Aleksandra Banovič Groznik, Professor Dr Ksenija Cankar, and Dr Mojca Drev were presented to those Fellows who had not attended the Salzburg meeting. In the view of the forthcoming independent Slovenian District 17, a discussion on the legal aspects of establishing the ICD Society in accordance with national regulations was held. Fellow Dr Jure Poglajen presented the charity project Earth Medicine at the refugee camp on Lesbos, Greece, where Slovenian ICD fellows were involved.

The evening continued with an informal dinner at the Krpan restaurant, where cordial friendship among Slovenian fellows was evident. The good atmosphere, created by the presence of almost all Slovenian fellows and their spouses, provides a strong foundation for the new Slovenian district and supports the commitment of the new Slovenian District 17 leadership to further promote the ICD ideas and values among Slovenian dentists.

#### **District 15 – Central and Northern Europe**

Following the establishment of the new District 18, consisting of the Baltic States, District 15 now consists of Armenia, Czech republic, Moldova, Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine. Two new Vice Regents, Paruyr Daduryan for Armenia and Dr. Katarzyba Zarebska for Poland, Slovakia and the Czech republic, have been put forward for approval at the board of Regents meeting in Milan. Diana Uncuta remains the Vice Regent for Moldova. An online conference was held on 29th November 2025 entitled Ethics in Dentistry. The speakers were Mauro Labanca, who spoke about the high ethical standards expected by the International College of Dentists, Nairn Wilson who spoke about the Origins and Future of Professional Ethics, Iryna Mazur whose topic was Medical Ethics Standards in Times of Peace and War, Natalja Orlova who spoke about the Ethics of Play-based Dentistry without Fear or Tears, Piret Vali who spoke about Competition between Ethics and "Monetics": the European Code, Yevhen Niezhentsev whose topic was the Patient Interests and Collegiality in Balance, Nimet Guiga who spoke about Unethical concerns in Orthodontics and Ventsislav Stoev who presented on Clinical Communication in Dentistry. Anastasiia Dienga and Serhiy Radlinsky presented the 15 inductees for Milan from District 15.

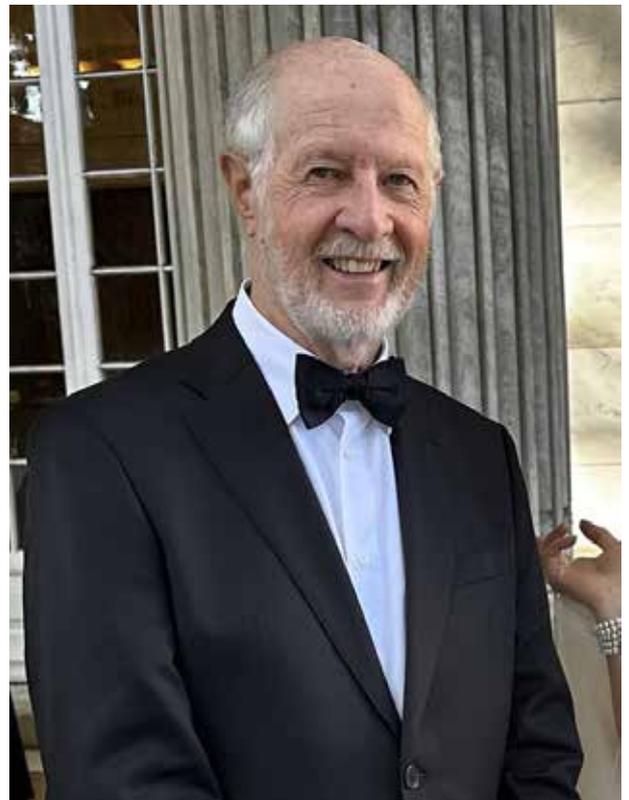
#### **District 16 – Georgia**

Fellows from District 16 attended two meetings in Tbilisi in association with the Georgian Dental Association in 2025. Humanitarian activities have been planned for February 2026 in a settlement for refugees from Russia with the support of the Georgian Dental Professional Association.

Robert Morris has been a regular attendee as a Fellow at the annual meeting of the European Section of the International College of Dentists. He received an Honorary



The logo for the conference.



Robert Morris.

Doctor of Public Service degree from the University of Maryland, Baltimore during 2025 graduation ceremonies. The honour recognized his decades-long efforts as a philanthropist, public health pioneer, and champion of health education. His varied lifelong contributions have significantly improved the health and quality of life for vulnerable populations throughout the world, particularly children, refugees, victims of war, and those living with HIV/AIDS. ■

# Report of Board Meeting

The Board of Regents of the European Section of the International College of Dentists met on held on 20th June 2025 at the Imlauer Pitter Hotel Salzburg Austria and on 6th December 2025 at the Hotel Bayerischer Munich.

The President, Mauro Labanca, welcomed all present at the December meeting. Dr Rok Jurić was welcomed to his first official Board meeting as Regent of our new District, District 17, Slovenia. A proposal was also received at this meeting from District 15, Central and Northern Europe, for a further District, District 18, consisting of the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, to be formed with Aiva Pakule as the new Regent. This was approved and a request has been sent to the global college for recognition.

Following the recent survey to all Fellows on the format of future annual meetings, it was decided to accept the present 2-day format, but to allow individual future Presidents to adapt the meeting slightly to meet their requirements. The scientific and humanitarian for a should provide CPD hours for those attendees at the annual meeting who require this to justify attendance at the meeting.

The President has written to all Fellows in District 5, France, to request nominations for a new Regent. At this time, the Registrar has taken control of District 5 until such time as a new Regent is appointed.

The registrar took the opportunity to thank Walter van Driel for his enormous contribution to the International Board as a Councillor representing our European Section. His tenure as Councillor has now expired and the Nominating Committee confirmed that Marina Mamaladze will now take over this role as our second International Councillor to support our Registrar.

Argirios Pissiotis has been accepted to receive the "Master Fellowship Award" by the international council following his nomination by the European Section in recognition of this extraordinary, conspicuous and outstanding service to the College. This was announced at the International College meeting held in Milan in October 2025.

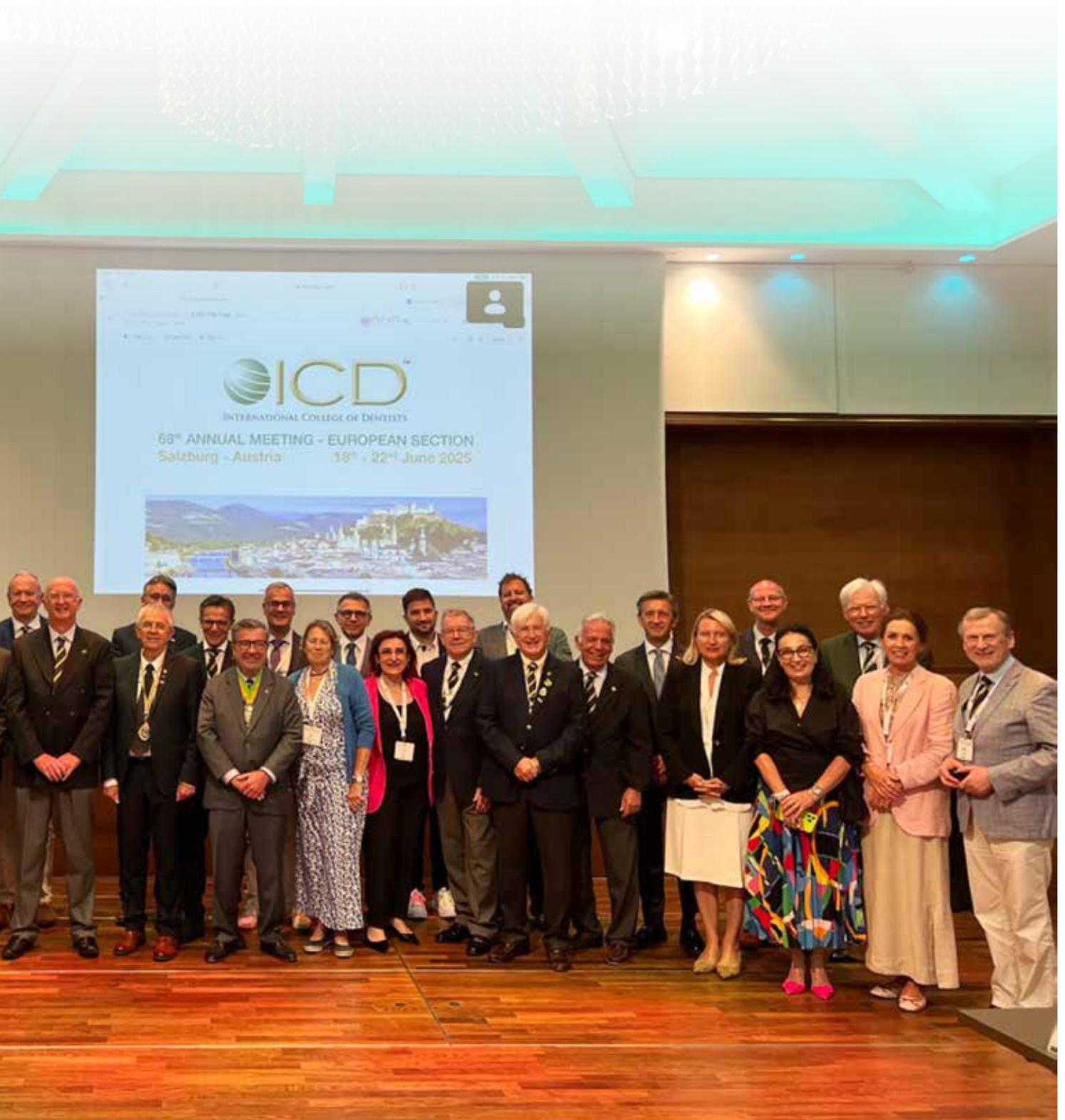
Three projects will be supported by the Phillip Dear Foundation in 2026. These are €10,000.00 for Mundo a Sorrir, €9000.00 for the project in Cadiz organised by Luis Seiquer and €9000.00 for Fundation Colores de Calcutta.

The outline of the Young Dentist Programme, ICD Young, was considered. This is aimed at dental graduates under



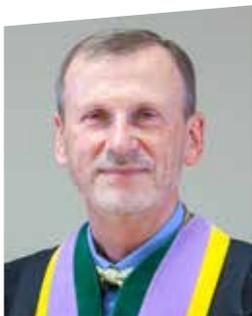
the age of 35 years. It involves two years during which the candidate commits to attending the national activities of the College and offering support for any organisational or operational needs. Participation in the events will be free, and the participant will only be responsible for any incidental costs. The following year, with the support of the College, the candidate must demonstrate more actively their educational activities towards the College by

organising events or meetings where College members will offer their availability and participation free of charge, and where the candidate must show their involvement by presenting new young potential future candidates. The following year, if the candidate has complied with the above and has demonstrated the right qualifications, they will be inducted into the College as a Fellow. Therefore, the induction process proposed is for four years. ■



# The Free Teeth programme in Ukraine

The Free Teeth Programme was created as part of the John Callahan Memorial Award, which is presented by the Ohio Dental Association. The winner of the Award must spend the US\$5,000 awarded on humanitarian causes of their choice. I was proud to be nominated for this award by Dr. Joseph Kenneally and was able to increase the budget to US\$10,000. The Programme was carried out in the Apollonia Dental Clinic-Studio from February 2024 to September 2025.



Serhiy Radlinsky,  
Dental Clinic-Studio  
"Apollonia", Poltava,  
Ukraine

School-age children whose families were forced to move to Poltava due to the war, children who lost their parents due to the war, and children whose parents are defending the country from war were invited to participate in the "Free Teeth" programme. A total of 75 children participated during the duration of the programme. This included examination and registration of the condition of teeth and bite, oral hygiene training, sealing of fissures and pits, treatment of dental caries and monitoring of oral health.

## Sealing fissures and pits

Sealing of fissures and pits was performed on all permanent teeth using the Total-Seal technique, which involves the use of 2 sealants of different viscosities at the same time: ultra-fluid dentine adhesive and flowable composite. The advantage of this technique is that the fissures can be filled to their full depth without preparation and exposure.



## FREE TEETH

The aim of the programme is to endeavour that teeth are free from plaque, caries and gingivitis in Free children in the Free Ukraine!



After professional cleaning and isolation of the teeth, a self-etching adhesive agent was applied to the surface of the fissures and pits with cotton roll isolation, the adhesive applied for 30 seconds, then the solvent was removed from the adhesive, the entrances to the fissures were covered with flowable composite, excess composite was removed with an applicator, and both sealants, dentine adhesive and flowable composite, were polymerized simultaneously.

## Treatment of dental caries

During the initial examination and registration of the condition of the teeth and bite, children were identified whose teeth required invasive removal of caries lesions. Treatment of both primary and secondary teeth affected by caries was carried out using an adhesive technique



The treatment of one of the participants of the “Free Teeth” Program is carried out by paediatric dentist Natalia MANTULA and dental assistant Svitlana STETSENKO.



with rubber dam isolation and the use of the Dentsply Sirona restorative materials.

In several cases, endodontic treatment with immediate restoration was performed.

### Collective oral hygiene lesson

The International Federation of Dentists (FDI) declared March 20th as the Annual World Oral Health Day – WOHD! The motto for 2025 was “A Happy Mouth is a Happy Mind!”. It is recognised that mental health, which is under threat in our time of constant stress, especially in Ukraine, depends on the condition of the oral cavity.

The cheerful beaver TOOTHIE encourages brushing your teeth with a toothbrush and toothpaste, flossing with an irrigator, eating healthy food, and getting regular checkups with a dentist.

To determine how long you should brush your teeth, TOOTHIE advises you to turn on your favourite song on your smartphone and brush your teeth while it plays. That’s why TOOTHIE the beaver is holding both a toothbrush and a smartphone!

10 participants in the hygiene lesson are divided into 2 groups. First, each participant brushes their teeth under the supervision of a dentist. Then in the dental office, the dentist discloses the teeth and shows the plaque after brushing, and hence is able to give individual instructions.



The materials included a one-component dentine adhesive in the self-etching and total-etching technique, a flowable composite for hydrophobic coating of the adhesive layer and an elastic liner for the restorative composite, a microhybrid composite for restoration of dentine and a nanohybrid composite for restoration of enamel.



After the treatment was completed, each participant of the programme had a traditional photo taken with their dentist against the background of the banner of the International College of Dentists.



All participants of the programme, whether restorative care was required or not, received lessons in supervised individual dental hygiene.



The teeth are then brushed according to the instructions given and under the supervision of a dentist. The teeth are then disclosed again and the participant shown the improved result with the modified technique. These lessons of controlled brushing with double staining should help each participant to practice the technique of effective brushing of teeth for better mental and oral health. At the end, a group photo with TOOTHIE the beaver is taken with the parents of the group, the lesson participants and mentors from our clinic.



The motto of World Oral Health Day 2026 is "A Happy Mouth is a Happy Life!"

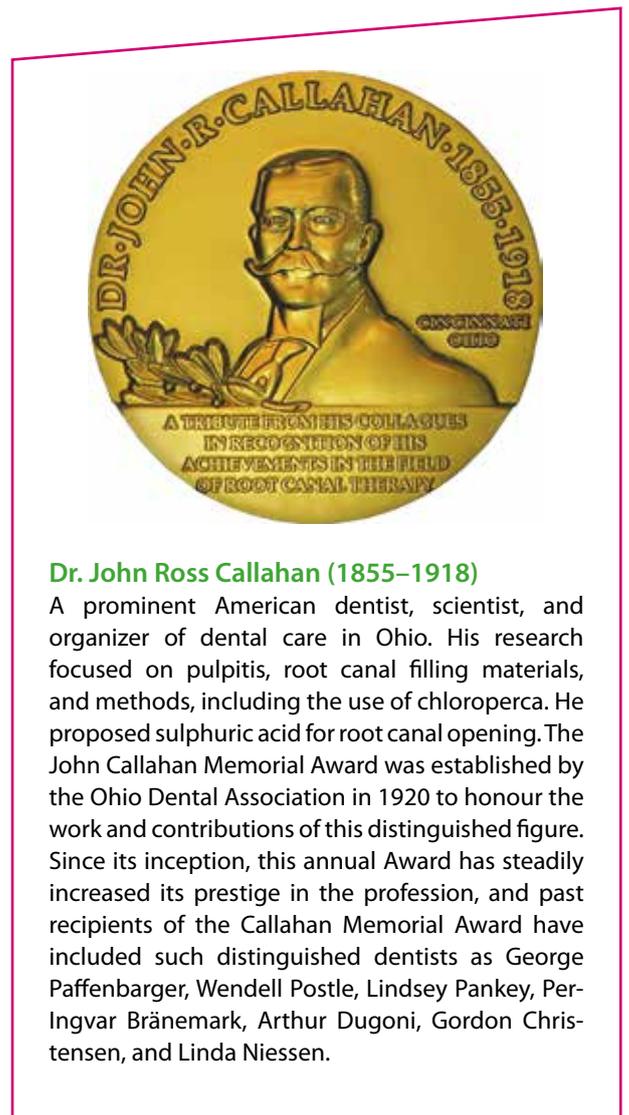
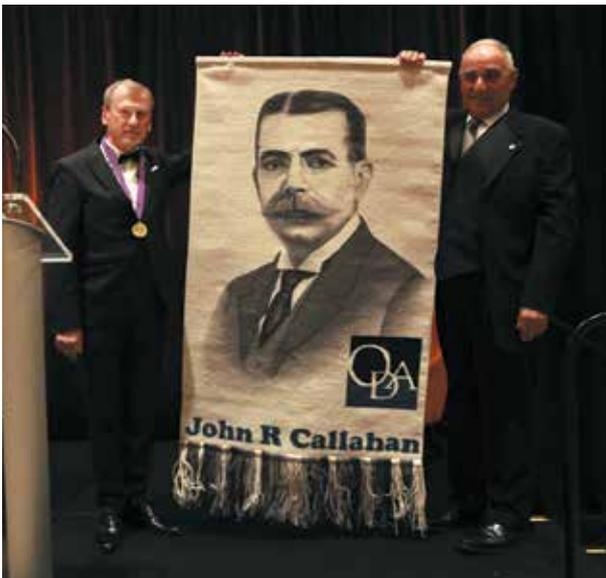
### Free Teeth Program Results

The Free Teeth Programme results were summarized at the 159th Annual Session of the Ohio Dental Association (ODA) in Columbus, September 25–27, 2025.

At the session, 200 delegates of the ODA (The House of Delegates) were informed, with sincere gratitude for the solidarity and support of our country, about how the "Free Teeth" programme was implemented in the conditions of Russian aggression in Ukraine and what are the funds of the John Callahan Memorial Award have produced. The image of the programme participants against the background of the banner of the International College of Dentists confirmed the implementation of this humanitarian program.

In the inaugural speech, given by Serhiy Radlinsky at the John Callahan Memorial Evening, this prestigious award





was addressed to all dentists of Ukraine who are performing their professional duty in the conditions of war in the free territory of Ukraine, in the occupied territory and on the front line. The speech was concluded with an appeal to the dentists present to continue this joint humanitarian programme, since the war continues.

As is customary, we did not arrive empty-handed, and a handmade tapestry woven in the Reshetylivka workshop “Solomia” with a portrait of John Callahan combined with the Ohio Dental Association logo was presented to Dr. Joseph Mellion, the Chairman of the Callahan Award commission, who declared that from now on all award ceremonies will take place against the backdrop of this tapestry from Ukraine! ■

**Dr. John Ross Callahan (1855–1918)**

A prominent American dentist, scientist, and organizer of dental care in Ohio. His research focused on pulpitis, root canal filling materials, and methods, including the use of chloroperca. He proposed sulphuric acid for root canal opening. The John Callahan Memorial Award was established by the Ohio Dental Association in 1920 to honour the work and contributions of this distinguished figure. Since its inception, this annual Award has steadily increased its prestige in the profession, and past recipients of the Callahan Memorial Award have included such distinguished dentists as George Paffenbarger, Wendell Postle, Lindsey Pankey, Per-Ingvar Bränemark, Arthur Dugoni, Gordon Christensen, and Linda Niessen.

# An update on activity of the Mundo A Sorrir project in 2025

Mundo a Sorrir, or “A Smiling World”, was founded in 2005 with projects in Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau. During 2025 we have had a focus on health literacy and training involving children, teachers and local health professionals in the areas of Bissau, Cacine and Bijagós islands. Using the radio and television as a way to increase the oral health literacy of the communities is also one of our strategies.



**Mariana Dolores,  
President of Direction,  
Mundo A Sorrir**

The involvement of local health professionals has been more and more a reality of our work. The training that we have been giving over the years is now showing a big impact in the communities.

In the beginning of the year, we did a scientific event that have had more than 120 participants. It has been of tremendous importance for the oral health of Guinea to see so many health professionals interested in discussing oral health and its relation to general health.

Our clinic is now a reference in Bissau and that is very important, we get cases of severe infection, oral cancer and others referred by several regions of Guinea and our doctor is the one trained to take care of these cases. The treatments in Cacine and Bijagos continue to be a very important part of the project as we are the only NGO working there and performing oral health care.

Also, having a health minister that had the opportunity to meet with us and participate in our 20 - year anniversary celebration in Guinea and publicly praise the importance of Mundo A Sorrir work in the country was extremely rewarding and encourages us to continue doing more and better. ■



Mariana Dolores, President of Direction, Mundo a Sorrir, being interviewed in Guinea-Bissau, on the work of the project.





# Meet the President, Mauro Labanca

The Editor was pleased to conduct the following interview with the current president of the European Section of the International College of Dentists, Professor Mauro Labanca.



**Michael Thomas – FICD  
Editor, European Section**

## What led you to become a dentist and how has your dental career progressed since graduation?

I come from a modest, very ordinary family: a stay-at-home mother and a father who worked as an insurance agent, who passed away the same year that I graduated. From my early high school years, I had almost always imagined myself becoming a medical doctor. For a long time, I was convinced I would be a cardiac surgeon, and I devoured every book I could find at what was then the dawn of the transplant era.

By my third year of medical school, I was already spending time in the autopsy room, deeply fascinated by the great mysteries of the human body. In my fifth year, I began working in a general surgery department, where I met the people who would become my first true mentors. It was there that they convinced me — half joking, half serious — that cardiac surgery was the discipline of failures and frustrations!

Meanwhile, I was discovering the magic of emergency surgery, a field that demands broad knowledge and the ability to make decisions instantly. The screensaver on my computer still reads: “You will learn to act when you no longer have time to think.”

In 1986, I graduated in Medicine and Surgery with full marks and honours, defending an experimental thesis on the first electronic endoscope used at the Policlinico of Milan. That work was presented at the World Congress of the International College of Surgeons, and even led to a private papal audience, where I met Pope John Paul II, later proclaimed a saint.

Immediately afterward, I enrolled in the specialty of Digestive Surgery and Digestive Endoscopy. Those were intense years. I met some of the greatest Italian surgeons

and lived in the world of the emergency room, urgent surgery, and the operating theatre with overwhelming passion. However, at least in Italy, surgery was often a career reserved for those from wealthy families or surgical dynasties. So, to earn some money, I worked as a dentist in a colleague’s practice during my free afternoons, covered night shifts in the emergency room, and did medical on-call duty on Saturdays and Sundays. Basically, I was on duty 24/7, long before supermarkets ever were!

Everything changed when one of my chiefs and mentors told me: “Mauro, leave surgery and dedicate yourself entirely to dentistry.” I cried all my tears, convinced that this advice was based on technical reasons or doubts about my manual skills. Only later did he explain that his true motivation was to save me from being trapped in a system that, in his view, left little room for personal initiative and for the real talents he believed I possessed.

That was the moment of my historic, radical decision. I enrolled in the specialty of Odontostomatology and began attending courses abroad, determined to bring my surgical expertise into the dental field. My mission became clear: If the world wouldn’t let me be a surgeon, then I would become a great dental surgeon.

I don’t know if I fully succeeded, but from that moment on, my journey truly began. It led me to teach courses, write articles and books, become a Key Opinion Leader for major dental companies, teach at universities, and travel the world, uniting my two greatest passions: surgery and education. Today, I am proud to be a national and international point of reference on topics that are both fundamental and too often neglected: anatomy, pain management, and the human factor as a cause of error.

## How did you become aware of and involved in the ICD?

In the early 2000s, I was teaching at the University of Brescia. The person who would later become Head of the Department of Dentistry was Professor Corrado Paganelli, someone I knew very well. He had long been a Fellow of the ICD and was serving at the time as Regent for the Italian Section.

In 2005, during the presidency of Professor Giorgio Blasi, Corrado approached me and said, quite literally, and very much in his own unmistakable style: “Would you like to become part of a very special and exclusive group that does great things, and that once a year forces you to wear a tuxedo?”



**Mauro Labanca.**

I was immediately intrigued. I asked him to explain what he meant, investigated it more carefully, and in the end decided to accept. I was about to join what seemed to me a group of great prestige, dedicated to admirable initiative – so much so that I could hardly believe I was worthy of being part of it.

I became a Fellow in June 2006, during the presidency of Giorgio Blasi, with the great Frans Kroon, recently passed away, and to whom both I personally and the College owe an immense debt of gratitude, as Registrar.

Not long afterward, in 2008, Corrado entrusted me with the prestigious role of Vice Regent for Italy. From that moment on, my journey within the College truly began, leading me to become Regent in 2015 and International Councillor in 2016.

In 2018, I had the honour of becoming the first Italian in history to be elected Registrar; an appointment of enormous prestige and responsibility, which I held until 2023 when I was elected European Vice President. In 2024, I was appointed Global Vice President.

A great part of the credit for this journey goes to the constant and fraternal support of my friend Dov Sydney, whom I will never cease to thank.

I believe that my path within the College, so luminous, emotionally rich, and deeply fulfilling, is a powerful example of how the College offers everyone, truly everyone, the opportunity to grow. And for those driven by enthusiasm and guided by serious, well-founded projects, it is possible to achieve goals that once seemed unimaginable and wholly unexpected.

### What have been your best memories within the ICD?

In 2016, just after being appointed International Councillor by the European section, I travelled to Denver for what would be my very first experience of college life at a global level. That alone was already filled with emotion, a strong sense of inadequacy, and genuine apprehension.

During the meetings, I was approached by the then Registrar, who later became Global President, Professor Argirios Pissiotis, a great friend of mine and an admirable person in terms of his knowledge of the College, his competence, elegance, and true gentlemanly spirit. His request was the most unexpected and surprising thing I could have imagined: he asked me to consider becoming the future Registrar.

Of course, I burst out laughing, thanked him, and said there was absolutely no way. But the same request was later repeated, first by Argirios himself and then by the President. I explained that I felt completely inadequate; my limited knowledge of the College rules, my constant sense of self-doubt, my modest level of English compared to others, and a thousand other reasons.

At one point, Argirios said to me: "This is the third time you've been asked, by me and by the President. It's not very nice to keep saying no." We were standing in the hotel lobby before heading out to dinner, and I told him, "You know I won't sleep tonight thinking about what you've asked me." His reply, one I will never forget, was: "I'll give you the solution to the problem: decide tonight, and then you'll sleep peacefully." We smiled and went to dinner.

During dinner, I found myself talking with Argirios and Frans, a person of impeccable integrity, rigor, and seriousness and his predecessor as Registrar. Honestly, I had always thought he didn't like me very much, because of my light-hearted nature and sometimes excessive impulsiveness. And that's when the second miracle happened. Frans not only told me he already knew about the proposal (which I never expected), but that he fully supported it. Even more, he offered me all the help he could, at any time and in any situation, even phone calls on weekends! And that promise was kept absolutely, becoming one precious mentor.

I was overwhelmed, literally shocked. At that point, I had no reason left to resist. Even though I was terrified by the idea of taking on such a crucial role in the governance of the College, one previously held by people of such calibre, I accepted that very evening.

We then celebrated the next day with an equally memorable lunch with dear friends and long-time supporters, including Dov and Phillip Dowell. Denver, and everything that happened there, will forever remain etched in my heart and in my mind.

### What have been your best achievements within the ICD and what are you looking forward to most during the year of your presidency?

Those who know me are aware of how many battles I have fought, and won, within the College. I have consistently tried to introduce innovation into an institution of great prestige that, at times, was too firmly anchored to positions that were no longer fully in step with the present.



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One of my first initiatives was the introduction of a shared Dropbox™ - based system, eliminating paper documentation, which was still overwhelmingly dominant when I became Registrar. I also pushed strongly for a real change in the way presidencies were managed. In the past, there was an unwritten rule tied to location – after a certain number of years, the annual event would return to a specific country, and the Regent of that country would then become President.

I fought to implement a different and, in my view, more meaningful principle, that the prestigious role of European President should be awarded to those who have truly distinguished themselves, through active presence, initiative, precision and punctuality in their role as Regent, the ability to engage the Fellows of their district, and a concrete capacity to recruit new Fellows, regardless of their country or geographic affiliation.

I continue this battle today, advocating for the recognition of Regents from newly established districts, coming from

geographical areas that were previously under-represented yet are enormously important. These districts are standing out for their enthusiasm and hands-on participation; districts whose very creation I proudly and gladly claim as part of my legacy.

Over the years, I have also worked to increasingly involve younger colleagues. I firmly believe they represent the new lifeblood of a college that is deeply connected to its past and its roots yet must remain projected toward a future filled with new challenges. As I often say: “The future pushes the present into the past.” This belief gave rise to my ICD Young project, which I care deeply about. It is working well in Italy, and I sincerely hope it will soon be adopted across Europe and, as so often happens, eventually throughout the rest of the world.

Finally, during this year of my presidency, I have made a conscious effort to interact closely with all the Regents, encouraging those who are less involved to take a more active role. I am trying to put into practice what I have



**Mauro Labanca.**

always believed: being President cannot, and must not, mean simply wearing the collar and organising a single outstanding event the following year, with nothing in between.

That is why, at the European level as well, I have sought to apply the same model I adopted globally; a long-term pathway in which continuous exchange between the President, the President-Elect, and the Vice President creates the conditions to realize projects that simply cannot be achieved within a single year, the traditional duration of a presidency.

### What are you most looking forward to during the meeting in Milano?

Hosting the European event in Milano is a source of immense pride for me. I was the behind-the-scenes organizer of the 2016 event, during Professor Paganelli's presidency, and this time I am truly happy to take on the role officially.

My goal is, of course, to welcome all European Fellows in a warm, almost family-like atmosphere, striving to offer each and every one of them an experience that feels genuinely heartfelt and truly unforgettable.

The social moments will naturally be as inclusive as possible, with the aim of creating opportunities for relaxed and enjoyable sharing in settings that are at once distinctive, welcoming, and, why not, special and memorable.

I have invested a great deal of energy in the congress itself, an aspect that matters deeply to me. I firmly believe that the scientific program must be inclusive and transversal. Events that are overly specialized tend to be of limited interest to those working in other disciplines and are often far less appealing to the younger generations we hope to attract. Young colleagues can find answers to highly specific technical questions elsewhere, not within the College.

The College, therefore, must offer them, and all of us, something different, something off the beaten path, genuinely new and distinct, truly universal, capable of inspiring curiosity and intellectual growth. With this in mind, I introduced reduced registration fees for younger participants, making their involvement more accessible. This also allows them to fully experience what is, in my view, the College's greatest strength, sitting at the same table with those who, in Europe and around the world, have shaped and elevated our profession.

Being there as equals, learning directly from their experience and wisdom, this is the true value of the College, the added value that no conventional congress can ever provide.

I have retained the two-day event format, which allows those with limited time to participate without an excessive commitment. At the same time, I am offering everyone the opportunity to enjoy a richer program, one that encourages a longer stay and deeper sharing of the collegiality and fraternity that represent the College's most precious resource.

Finally, securing sponsorships has allowed me to keep individual registration fees at a reasonably low and accessible level, ensuring that participation remains open and sustainable for as many Fellows as possible.

### Do you have any plans following the year of your presidency?

That's a great question! In fact, shortly after the conclusion of my European presidency, my term as Global President will begin, meaning I will continue to carry an enormous load of responsibilities and commitments.

Once this chapter concludes, I will, of course, dedicate the wealth of experience I have accumulated within the College to anyone who wishes to benefit from it, and make my professional expertise available to young Fellows. I will always continue, with all my energy, to promote the College and its initiatives as an ambassador around the world.

At the same time, I hope to find the opportunity and space, something I have often told my closest friends, to simply sit in the back rows, free of official roles and duties, and fully enjoy the camaraderie and warmth that permeates the College. In short, to return to having fun purely by enjoying and sharing the company of long-time friends, the true and priceless gift the College has given me over the years, and one I am confident it will continue to give.

*Thank you, Mauro, for your inciteful interview that will I trust provide inspiration for so many of our college. ■*

# President of the International College of Dentists

## Joseph Kenneally

Dr. Joseph Kenneally from the United States of America is the General Secretary of the International College of Dentists and at the same time the Registrar of this World Professional Honorary Organization with a 105-year history. Our conversation takes place behind the scenes of the 159th Annual Session of the Ohio Dental Association, which is traditionally held in the fall in Columbus. The photos are from the Joseph Kenneally Archive.



Serhiy Radlinsky

**Thank you for the opportunity to talk about our beloved profession, dentistry, from the perspective of the International College of Dentists and through your own career as a dentist. How did you choose to become a dentist, where did you get your dental degree, and what path did you take in the profession?**

I was named after my father's brother, Joseph P. Kenneally, DDS, FICD who was a well-loved dentist in my hometown of Biddeford, Maine. At my father's suggestion, it seemed that I had a good skill set for a career in dentistry, so I followed my uncle's path. As Joseph R. Kenneally, DMD, MICD, I have a different middle initial, dental degree, and ICD Fellow status than my uncle. We confused people for a while until he retired in 1986.

I received my dental degree from Tufts University in Boston, Massachusetts in 1981 and worked as an associate dentist for two years before beginning my private practice in my hometown in 1983. I operated a patient-centred high-tech practice there until 2019, when I retired just a few months before the COVID pandemic. This proves that I am clairvoyant!

**The organization of dentistry in the United States is distinguished by its national characteristics, known throughout the world, such as the**

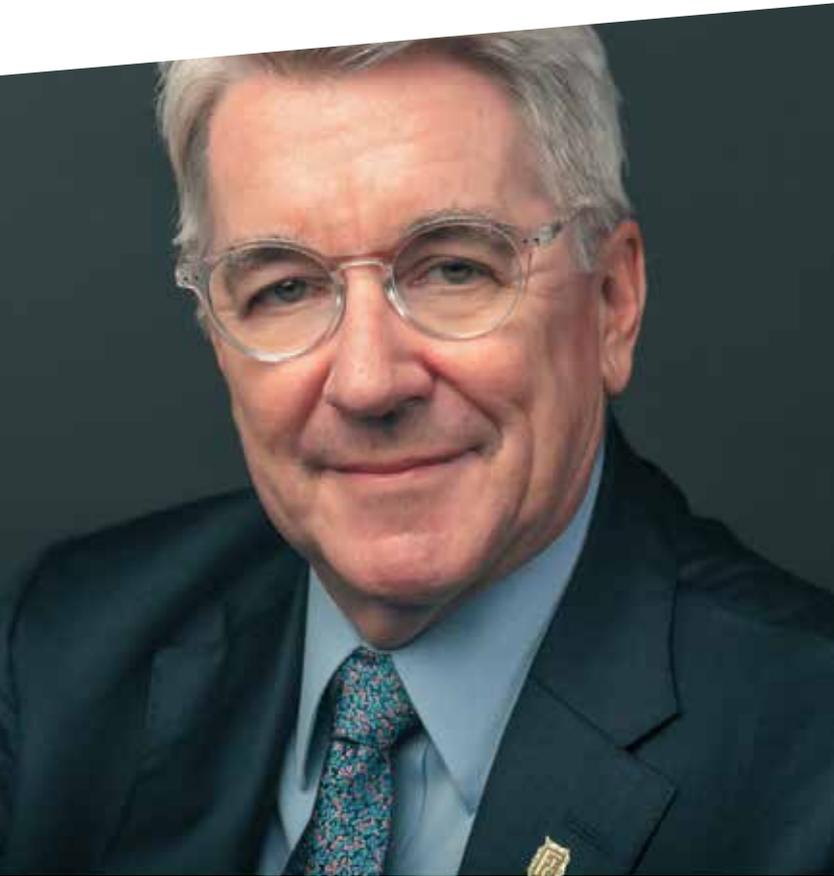
**cost of education, the individuality of private practice, the activity of hygienists, the pressure from lawyers. How have these and other features of American dentistry influenced your career as a dentist?**

Dental education is very expensive in the USA, especially with private universities. This has effects upon the cost of care here, as many young dentists are saddled with crushing debt loads. My student debt was considered high at the time, about US\$ 80,000, but it did not total the cost of one year's tuition at my Alma Mater, Tufts, today. It made it difficult to obtain financing to begin my private practice in 1983, but I found a bank that would take a chance on me despite my lack of collateral. They remained my bank for my entire career.

I was blessed to have worked together with wonderful dental hygienists, including two who were with me for well over 30 years and two who were children in my practice when they were growing up. I have great respect for hygienists and their profession, and the late great Esther Wilkins, author of the preeminent textbook for dental hygiene, was a professor of mine.

My private practice was a source of great pride for me. My staff were well-trained and well compensated, and they did their jobs well. I would tell them: "I pay you to think. If you are not thinking, I am not getting my money's worth." I hired smart people with positive personalities, and they made our patients happy. They also made my workdays pleasant.

I never felt much pressure from lawyers in my practicing years. I believed that it was important to get to know the patients as individuals and form relationship with them. One of my professors at Tufts used to tell us "You should never treat a stranger." If I was successful in creating a relationship of trust with each patient, then I was able to make things right on the few occasions when things did not go as well as I had planned.



**Dr. Joseph Kenneally:** "ICD will identify 'dental deserts' and bring water to these deserts."

**Looking at the professional careers of the most famous European dentists, we can see that many of them has in their dental history an internship, training or practice in the USA, and maybe that is why they became so successful in Europe and in the world! How did American dentistry become the leader of dental education in the world and paved dental roads to the world from themselves?**

Dental education in the form of dedicated university-based programs taught to the doctoral level was developed in the United States. The first such program anywhere in the world was the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, which is now the University of Maryland. It created the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS). Harvard was second, and it offered the Dentiriae Medicinae Doctoris (DMD), and US schools are divided into those two camps.

Since the influential 1910 Flexner Report on medical education, US dental schools abandoned the previous apprenticeship system of education and embraced a curriculum based upon evidence-based science.

US dental schools are accredited through the Commission on Dental Accreditation, which sets rigorous standards for its dental programs.

The U.S. is a leader in developing new dental techniques and technologies, and U.S. dental schools often provide extensive training with these new tools. This includes innovations like: Computer- Aided Design and Manufacturing (CAD/CAM), digital radiography, intraoral scanners, and virtual and augmented reality. US dental programs have access to these technologies and usually incorporate them into their curricula.

Clinical experience is a cornerstone of the U.S. dental curriculum, with many students gaining hands-on practice starting early in their program. Large dental schools, such as New York University and Tufts, also provide extensive clinical exposure through diverse patient populations. Many U.S. universities consistently rank among the world's best. These institutions attract top talent, creating a highly competitive and innovative educational environment. Many times, that talent does not necessarily come originally from the USA. For example, the current Dean of my alma mater, Tufts, was born and raised in Kenya, but completed his university education in the United States.

**The International College of Dentists was founded in 1920 by Dr. Tsururkichi Okumura and Dr. Louis Ottofy, two dentists who were able to see the distant future of dentistry, grasped the psychological features of the dental profession and proposed, through recognition of merits to the profession and society, to create an organisation of honorary dentists. How does the ICD now continue its main mission of recognizing the merits of dentists through an invitation to join its members?**

I have studied the history of these two dentists. Okumura was at the Tokyo Dental College when Ottofy passed through Japan for a few months, on his way to founding dental education in the Philippines. Ottofy shared his knowledge freely and worked to improve the standards of dental education wherever he saw the need. Born the son of a medical doctor in Hungary, he was a genius who spoke 12 languages, most of them fluently, so he translated many dental texts and journal articles for use in many countries. He was a friend and contemporary of G.V. Black, and they taught together for a while at Northwestern University. He was also a pharmacist, a physician, and a lawyer. Okumura was the driving force behind getting Ottofy to get around to starting the International College of Dentists. He wouldn't let Ottofy be distracted by his many other interests and causes.

ICD Fellowship is a singular honour in a dentist's career. One cannot join the ICD; Fellowship requires a sponsor and a rigorous peer review process which examines things like the nominee's character and activities in support of dentistry and those who it serves. Fewer than 1% of the world's dentists can add the letters FICD after their professional degrees.

**ICD is now a global professional organisation, with more than 12,000 dentists as fellows from most countries on all continents of the planet, whose achievements in dentistry and public life are recorded by membership in the College. How is the structure of the International College of Dentists organized to be able to present the activities of each fellow and the entire ICD community for the benefit of the profession and society?**

Modern communications technology has made the world smaller, but the ICD is still divided into Sections, to allow local control over local projects and local new Fellow

recruitment. Dentists are a relatively small niche in the healthcare marketplace, and they know and interact with each other in their local areas. The ICD selects dentists who share their knowledge and talents freely with colleagues, students, and the patients they serve.

Over time, as the need for a vector of sharing dental information around the world has diminished, the ICD has become more of a selfless force for all that is good about our profession: care for at-risk populations, mentoring young colleagues, sharing skills and knowledge, and promoting improvements in dental health outcomes in developing nations. The ICD is geared toward promoting the noblest aspects of the dental profession.

**You lead a special section, section 20 (XX) whose regions are scattered all over the world, and which, as it seems to me, is a kind of incubator for the creation and growth of new sections and districts. Could You reveal what's so special about your section and how you manage to lead it?**

I have come to love Section 20. Its' members are often working in difficult situations, and they are so dedicated to helping their communities, they often seem surprised that they were chosen to be Fellows. The gratitude of those who are inducted into the ICD is palpable and heart-warming. The projects that Section 20 regions sponsor are among ICD's most successful and heart-warming.

For example, I want to tell you the story of Dr. Sherrie Ephraim- LeCompte, from Saint Lucia, an island country in the eastern Caribbean with a population of about 250,000. Dr. Sherrie Ephraim- LeCompte is a member of the ICD and Minister of Dental Health in Saint Lucia. She also received a grant of US\$ 5,000 to purchase toothbrushes, dental floss, and picture books. This program affected every kindergarten and elementary school on the island. The children were taught how to brush their teeth and how to properly care for their oral cavity. Each child was given a toothbrush and told what they should eat and what sweets they should limit. A toothbrush costs US\$ 5-6, which is not cheap. Some people live on that amount per day! After a while, every child knew how to take care of their teeth. These are the positive changes we are trying to achieve. Leading such a geographically, politically, and culturally diverse Section is not always easy. For one thing, it is spread out over at least 19 separate time zones, and requests can sometimes come in at inconvenient times for my sleep hours. Different nations use different communications modalities, and sometimes email is not possible, so I must monitor WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger on a regular basis. Another issue is the multiplicity of languages that are spoken. I am not as good as Ottofy, but I speak English and French fluently, Italian fairly well, and I can understand and speak some Spanish, Croatian, and Japanese. There are a lot of languages in Section 20 that go beyond my ability to understand.

One Section 20 region, Indonesia, has petitioned to become an autonomous Section, so you are correct in calling Section 20 an incubator for new Sections. Someday, I would love to see the Regions of Africa in



With ICD USA President Dr Eliot Paisner and Global ICD President Dr Ian Doyle at the USA Convocation, September 2025.

Section 20 organise to form the Africa Section of the ICD.

**An important component of the College's activities is the organisation of communication between fellows. In what forms does communication take place between sections, districts and fellows in the College?**

Currently, Global College communications fall under the purview of ICD staff, including Director of Communications Dov Sydney, but also heavily involving Executive Director Chelsea Segren and Office Manager Crystal Demps, as well as our newly hired Communications Specialist, Cameron Bridgewater.

The ICD also has many publications within the Sections, including some of a scientific nature and some of more of a news-style nature. There are also many Districts that produce newsletters on a regular basis. Your European section has a very nice journal!

ICD believes that it is important to engage and interact with its Fellows, and the Global Office is in the process of building a new member platform that will have the ability for all Fellows to find and connect with one another from around the world, in real time, with language translation ability. We believe a digital space where Fellows can engage will strongly enhance the value of Fellowship, as well as organically enable collaboration to a much greater degree than ever before.

When Okumura and Ottofy joined forces, the telephone was something new. Now we have new technologies, and we are becoming closer to each other.

**Ethical standards have always been an issue in dentistry, and visiting a dental office is not the most pleasant experience for every patient. With the modern reorientation of dentistry from medical care to aesthetic services, the issue of ethics has become more acute than ever before. How does the ICD help dentists and patients maintain high ethical standards in their collaboration?**

It is in our first core value in the Bylaws, under Leadership:



At the Section II Convocation (from left to right): Florence Lymburner, Gordon Thompson, Julio Rodriguez, Marissa Rodriguez, Joseph Kenneally, Lisa Howard, Ira Titunik, Anne Doyle and Ian Doyle.

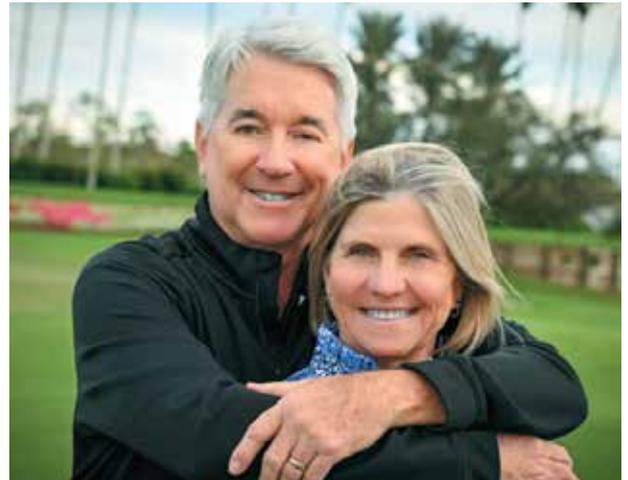
“Uphold the highest standard of professional competence and personal ethics”. ICD dentists make a pledge when they are inducted that says, in part: “I pledge that in my practice of dentistry or its recognized specialties, I will selflessly place the welfare of the patients dependent upon my professional knowledge and skill above my own interests; I will always respect the interests and reputation of my colleagues, as long as they exhibit proper ethical behaviour and professional competence; I will seek the counsel of competent colleagues as needed and will willingly give assistance to my colleagues; I will freely offer my professional aid to disadvantaged people with limited means and opportunities to access dental care; I will continually increase my professional knowledge by the use of available technologies and literature or by post-graduate instruction, and by the free interchange of experience and opinions with my colleagues.” This is a powerful message and was written down from the very beginning, and I think every dentist feels it with their heart.

**Many countries are unable to provide even a basic level of dentistry, and in every country, even the most prosperous, there are people who need special help from dentists. Could you describe the goals and directions of ICD humanitarian programs that are implemented in different countries?**

Until very recently, the ICD relied upon Fellows to identify areas with serious unmet dental needs and create projects to help meet those needs.

With its’ new initiative, the ICD Global Oral Health Leadership Institute, a different paradigm is beginning to develop. The ICD now will have the capacity to identify the world’s areas of greatest unmet needs, the so-called “dental deserts”, and create projects directed toward meeting those needs. It will be exciting to see how our great College can bring “water to the deserts”.

**It’s known that there are dental clinics in the world that help people in the status of “ICD-supported**



Joe and Lisa in 2023 on the golf course near their home in Fort Myers, Florida.

**clinics”. How do such clinics work, and what support does the College provide or involve?**

Utilizing its partnership with industry partners such as ICD’s largest supporter, Henry Schein Cares, the ICD provides financial support in the form of cash grants and gifts of supplies through its’ Global Visionary Fund. Projects must involve an ICD Fellow, and grants are limited to a value of US\$ 5000 per year per project.

Projects are also supported by charitable activities within many Sections, which include the USA Section Foundation, ICD Canada’s Spence Foundation, ICD Europe’s Phillip Dear Fund, and Section VIII’s fundraising paradigm, in which it raises money for charity each year and disburses everything it raises in that year.

**How do you see dentistry in 100 years? Will dental caries and periodontitis still exist? Will people be toothless?**

I believe that dental education will be integrated into medical education and that dentists will become true physicians of the stomatological system. Caries and periodontitis will exist, but with reduced incidence. Edentulism will exist, but also in a reduced way. I think that it will become possible to use genomics to replace missing teeth, although dental implants will remain the best technology for this purpose for many decades.

**How many dentists are there in your family?**

Just my Uncle Joseph P. Kenneally DDS, FICD, and me, Joseph R. Kenneally DMD, MICD and of course my orthodontist wife, Lisa P. Howard, DDS, MS, FICD.

My granddaughter, Hadley, says she wants to become a dentist, so we have hope! She is only 6 years old, but very smart and determined, and she loves her Nana and Poppa (Lisa and me) who are both dentists. Her grandparents buy her every dentally related playset that they can find. And Hadley playfully copies us!

*Thank you very much, Dr. Joseph Kenneally, for your answers in this interview! ■*



Introduction to the meeting in Milan

# Milan is a city with a sophisticated, cultured, beautiful Italian experience

Mauro Labanca, President of ICD European Section, along with Antonio Barone, Regent District Italy, take great joy and pride in hosting the 69th European Meeting of the International College of Dentists from 3rd to 5th July in Milan.

Milan is the economic dynamo behind the country's economy, a city like no other in Italy, closer in outlook as well as distance to London than Palermo, a fast-paced business city in which consumerism and the work ethic rule. It is a city with a sophisticated, cultured, beautiful Italian experience, where history, world class attractions, fashion and gastronomy await.

The meeting will offer a truly multidisciplinary scientific event. Since our College brings together professionals from a wide range of fields, the scientific program will be designed for everyone – genuinely engaging, thought-provoking, and a rich source of inspiration. This will be followed by the essential humanitarian session, to showcase how the College is actively living out its mission around the world. Meanwhile, accompanying persons will have the chance to explore and enjoy the many wonders Milan has to offer – for those who know where (and how) to look!

The meeting will also share moments of true togetherness. The College is family – a place of connection and camaraderie. Our newly inducted members will come to understand the true added value of being part of the ICD. At the same time, long-standing fellows will have the chance to reconnect with dear friends and experience many moments of joyful sharing, professional exchange, and mutual growth.

The annual meeting again follows the two-day format with the option of additional social events on the eve and the day following the meeting. The scientific programme and humanitarian forum will take place at the Hotel Rosa Grand, Milan. The hotel also hosts the Welcome Reception on the eve of the meeting as well as the induction ceremony for new Fellows. There will be opportunities to visit the Dolce & Gabbana (D&G) workshops, the Brera Art Gallery, and Scala Museum in organised tours. The Brera Art Gallery is a museum of international relevance, located next to the Academy of Fine Arts in Milan. Built for Empress Maria Theresa of Austria in 1776, it was originally



Villa Necchi Campiglio.



Lake Como.



Brera Art Gallery.



Torre Dei Gelsi.

dedicated to teaching. When Milan became the capital of the Kingdom of Italy, the collection, by order of Napoleon, was converted into a museum to highlight the most important paintings of all the territories conquered by the French army. The Scala Museum, besides being a meeting place for the public, remains a place of study and research for researchers and opera lovers as well as a place where new generations can approach music through the activity of educational laboratories. The museum goes through the history of the Theatre over the years, through a large collection of portraits, mementos, busts, documents, playbills: a tribute to great musicians, from Giuseppe Verdi and Giacomo Puccini to Arturo Toscanini and Victor de Sabata.

The Torre dei Gelsi is the venue for the Get Together dinner. Located in the small village of Cisliano, about 30 km from Milano, it dates back to the end of Middle Age and was built as a hunting lodge. Throughout the centuries, has been used as a farm for the cultivation of silkworms, hence the name "Torre dei Gelsi." 20 years ago,

the beautiful location was been converted into a restaurant and promises to be an amazing place for an unforgettable event. The gala dinner will take place at Villa Necchi Campiglio. This venue was built between 1932 and 1935 by the Milanese architect Piero Portaluppi and later updated with the connection of Tommaso Buzzi. It is a luxurious family villa located in the heart of the city, surrounded by a large garden.

The final organised event for those wishing to extend their stay is a tour of Lake Como, one of the most beautiful and scenic lakes in Italy. The spectacular views and crystal-clear blue waters were created by the same glaciers that carved the peaks and valleys of the Alps. A trip to Lake Como is incomplete without a visit to its pearl: Bellagio, known as "the Pearl of Lake Como", thanks to its enchanting position, its majestic villas and gardens, picturesque hamlets and colourful stairways.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in July 2026 in Milan. ■

# Future Annual Meetings of the European Section International College of Dentists



Photo Alex Hufnagl (Unsplash)

**2026 Milan**  
Italy, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> July 2026



**2027 Barcelona**  
Spain, 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> June 2027



Steve Culkrov / Shutterstock.com

**2028 Dublin**  
Ireland 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2028



See [www.icd-europe.com](http://www.icd-europe.com) for further information on the Annual Meetings of the Section.