



From the Editor



Welcome to the new look CDA website and the CDA NEWS. This is one of the outcomes of the collaboration established recently between the CDA and Smile-on. Many more positive outcomes of this collaboration will be evident in due course.

This marks the end of the CDA Bulletin as we knew it and the birth of the CDA NEWS. The former was established in the nineties as the successor to the CDA Newsletter which was published from the inception of the CDA. The current Editor has been associated with the CDA Bulletin for more than 10 years. This Editor was mandated to publish the Bulletin twice a year and to increase its scientific content. He has endeavoured to fulfil this requirement to the best of his ability. The readers will be the judge of the success or otherwise of that policy.

The times have changed with some astonishing developments in electronic publishing. On line Continuing Professional Education CPE has also developed very rapidly with the result that the limited scientific content in CDA Bulletin has become somewhat irrelevant.

In keeping with these and other developments, a new look CDA website has been launched. The new look CDA NEWS will carry no scientific content because these will be available through other sections of the CDA website. We invite you to explore the website and enjoy its many features. As the development of the website progresses, more and more exciting features will become available to you. The CDA, in collaboration with Smile-on, is hoping to utilise a variety of electronic platforms such as webcasts, podcasts and mobile phone applications to disseminate information. Obviously, some of these developments will take time to implement fully.

Some of you may be aware that Smile-on is a major provider of CPE in the UK. In view of this, it is hoped that the CDA members will be able to access this service in due course. The terms and conditions under which this service can be made available are currently under consideration.

In the meantime, explore the website and enjoy its contents including the CDA NEWS.

DYD Samarawickrama

Professor DYD Samarawickrama
Editor, CDA NEWS

From the President



Technological progress has certainly changed communication methods and life styles and brought about the advancement of consumerism. These developments are evident in the fields of dentistry and medicine as well.

Professionals need to be aware of the fact that research and development in dentistry must benefit the people through their application by the oral health care practitioners.

The Commonwealth Dental Association is a professional organisation formed for the improvement of oral health care of the people of the Commonwealth countries. The CDA works by sharing experiences, skills and knowledge amongst the professionals with emphasis on the promotion of oral health and prevention of oral disease which are top priorities for most developing countries. At the same time, the curative and rehabilitative aspects are also given their due place.

Preventive population strategies such as water fluoridation, preventive care for school children and other identified target groups are used. The sharing of knowledge can be used to increase access to care, an equitable distribution of services available, outreach programmes and the utilisation of operating auxiliaries in countries where there is an acute shortage of dental manpower. Innovative models of health care with prevention factored into social and economic policies need to be adopted in the developing country setting. Where promotion of oral health and prevention of oral diseases have failed, the curative and rehabilitative aspects come into play. Aesthetic dentistry, implants, crowns and bridges and orthodontics assisted by CAD/CAM are some of the new procedures practised predominantly by the dentists in the developed countries. These procedures are beyond the reach of the people in less developed countries.

The CDA is at a critical stage where it is reviewing its educational strategy and its funding with its meagre resources. In doing so, we must be aware of the demands of the various countries of the commonwealth and strive to meet those demands. Educational strategy needs to utilise the technologies appropriate to the diverse economies of the 54 countries containing two billion people of the world's population.

It is indeed an uphill task.

Hillary Cooray

Dr. Hillary Cooray
President

CDA in South Africa

Seventh CDA Triennial Meeting in South Africa: Oral Health and Oral Disability in the Elderly

The CDA is pleased to announce its 7th Triennial Meeting, to be held in Cape Town, South Africa, on Friday and Saturday November 2nd/3rd 2012. The meeting will be run in association with the South African Dental Association's Annual Congress, which will run from November 1st to 3rd 2012.

The event will consist of a workshop on a theme important to dentists and the dental team in Commonwealth countries, a debate about the CDA's new strategic direction, as well as the CDA's business meeting.

Workshop

The workshop theme this year will be Oral Health and Oral Disability in the Elderly which ties in with the overall theme of the SADA Congress, Dental Dignity for All.

Treatment of elderly patients, even in the developed world, brings its own special difficulties; in the less developed world there is an even more complex set of issues. This workshop will describe and discuss these issues and the methods dentistry can use to overcome them.

The will consist of a number of presentations from 3 experts in this field, notably the CDA's Vice President for the European region, Dr Sue Greening and AN Other. The third speaker will be by webinar from the UK and will be confirmed over the next few weeks.

Future Strategy Considerations

CDA members will know that, since the last Triennial meeting, the Executive has been concerned about how the Association's work can be maintained and remain meaningful in times of financial constraint and diverse local needs. We are preparing an exciting new strategy for the way forward and are planning a debate about this with the membership at the meeting.

Business Meeting

The meeting will also include the triennial business meeting. This will see the election of officers for the next term, and a vote on proposed changes to the constitution, including a move from triennial to biennial meetings.

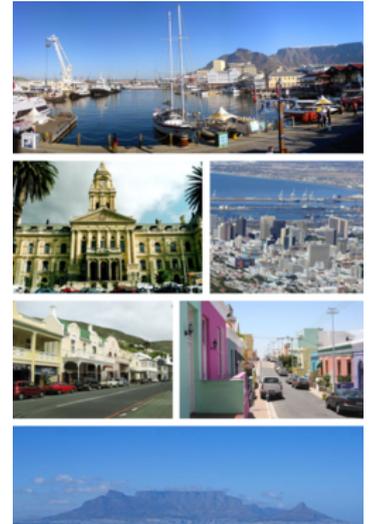
Cape Town

Vibrant, diverse, colourful and captivating are just some of the adjectives that describe this beautiful city. Set at the edge of the cold Atlantic Ocean, surrounded by the Cape Floral Kingdom (a World Heritage Site) and adorned with a world-renowned landmark, Table Mountain, Cape Town offers... experience.

Cape Town is blessed to have South Africa's top six tourist attractions within one hour's drive from the city centre, the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront, Table Mountain, Cape Point, the Cape Winelands, Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens and Robben Island a short boat trip away.

Congress Venue - Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC)

Cape Town International Convention Centre successfully hosted approximately 2000 events in its first five operating years. These events include international conferences, national conferences, special events, exhibitions, trade fairs and banquets ranging between 10 and 12 000 delegates attending conferences and up to 50 000 visitors at consumer exhibitions.



Further Information

A full programme will be published in the next few weeks. For financial support please see below. For any other information please contact: Administrator@comdental.org

We hope that the CDA workshop as well as SADA's extensive programme will provide you with an attractive choice of educational activities and look forward to seeing you in Cape Town in November!



Financially supported participation

The CDA has received some sponsorship funding from the Commonwealth Foundation, to financially support a (limited) number of participants – dental professionals from Commonwealth countries other than South Africa.

We are able to offer:

- Reimbursement of air fares, to a maximum of £400
- Reimbursement of hotel charges (bed and breakfast only), to a maximum of £400
- Free registration for the meeting

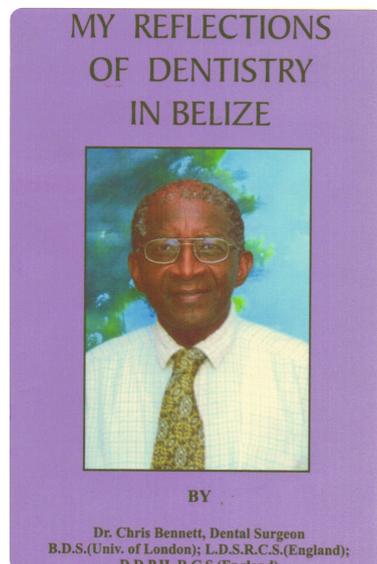
We offer this reimbursement to equal numbers of males and females; this will be on a "first-come, first served" basis, but initially it will be limited to one person of each gender per country.

Applications must be made by sending an email **before July 31st 2012**, to CDA Treasurer Anthony Kravitz:

AnthonyKravitz@gmail.com

“My Reflections of Dentistry in Belize”

by Dr. Chris Bennett



“My Reflections of Dentistry in Belize” written by Dr. Chris. Bennett is a big picture approach to dentistry in his homeland of Belize. Dr. Bennett cleverly takes one back in time to the Central American Country of Belize, to describe how life used to be for a young man growing up in Belize City. The book relates Dr. Bennett’s drive to fulfill his career ambitions and to make life meaningful for himself, his nation and

the world. The book documents a proactive approach to oral health, and the struggles and achievements of a man of vision in the area of oral health. The book is about the history, attitudes and culture of dentistry and dental treatment in Belize. It describes the profound impact and transformation which can be achieved in Belizean people, when a more positive attitude is created towards dentistry and dental treatment.

The period of time spans the 1960’s to the new millennium. The Book highlights some of Dr. Bennett’s experiences in practising dentistry in Belize for 38 years. He worked for the Government of Belize for 25 years, eventually becoming the Chief Dental Officer for the Government of Belize. In the book, Dr. Bennett takes one on a journey through his formative years in Belize to England and back to Belize. The book proves that Southside Belize young men who possess ambition, drive and perseverance can reach their highest career potential. He continuously displays these qualities throughout the

book, as the Krem.TV slogan states “Show weself, see weself, be weself”

The book describes how a stewardship approach of service before self interest allowed Dr. Bennett to boldly step out with faith in God, his country, and his devotion to serve mankind universally. The book is about a community approach to Dental Health. It also discusses the importance of nutrition and dental hygiene from the earliest stage of life to dental care of the elderly.

The Book should be of interest not only to Dentists and Historians, but to everybody. Besides having some practical aspects of Dental Health Education and Dental Disease Prevention, a variety of topics are dealt with, which include dental tourism, dental folklore in Belize, various clinical dental surveys in Belize, the Belize Medical and Dental Association, the Medical Council of Belize, the Caribbean Atlantic Regional Dental Association (CARDA), the Belize Dental Society, the Mennonites in Belize and dental treatment, dental diseases in Belize due to ethnic differences, some eating habits in Belize which affect good dental health, etc.

In the book, Dr. Bennett discusses how dental health evolved into a public health priority in Belize and he gives credit to and acknowledges all who pioneered dental health in Belize. Of great interest to me is his diligence in the research and his systematic documentation on the School Dental Programmes he collaborated in. This book makes an excellent gift. The book has a number of interesting historical photographs, is full of humor, it is enlightening, and easy to read. It should be a required reading in schools. The book is a must read for all who desire a beautiful smile and good health. After reading the Book, “You will extract the truth and not the tooth”.

Ms. Penny Casasola

Our Partner: Smile-on LTD

Smile-on is the home of the most advanced thinking in undergraduate and postgraduate healthcare education. Smile-on bring you internationally acclaimed learning solutions with innovative interactive content and media rich websites for dental students around the globe.

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Workshop Report

REPORT OF THE MDA/CDA MEETING AND WORKSHOP IN KUCHING, MAY 2012



“Bridging Technologies: Past, Present and Future”

The Malaysian Dental Association hosted an International Scientific Conference & Trade Exhibition and their 69th Annual General Meeting, in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia, on May 24th to 28th 2012. Pictured: Dr Lee Soon Boon (Malaysia) and Dr Sello Matjila (South Africa)

The formal opening ceremony on May 25th was addressed by a state junior minister, representing the Chief Minister of Sarawak. Amongst the other welcoming speeches, one was given by the President of the CDA, Dr Hilary Cooray, who thanked the Commonwealth Foundation and the MDA for making the event possible and the collaboration; he also welcomed delegates from all the Commonwealth nations who were present.

During this event, the Commonwealth Dental Association also ran a half-day workshop entitled:

“Transfer of Technologies Amongst Commonwealth Countries (Prevention, Promotion, Curative and Rehabilitative).”

The national associations of the following countries were represented.

- Malaysia
- Sri Lanka
- Pakistan
- Nigeria
- Seychelles
- South Africa and
- Singapore

In all there were 28 delegates at the CDA meeting, including 10 sponsored by the Commonwealth Foundation. Also present were the CDA Vice-President for South East Asia, Dr. Lee Soon Boon and a past president of the CDA, Dr Lee Soon Boon (Malaysia) and Dr Ratnanesan. The meeting was chaired by Dr Cooray, while Professor Dr Sello Matjila (South Africa) Adeyemi Olusile of Nigeria served as the Rapporteur.

Dr Cooray gave the key-note address.

“Transfer of Skills and Knowledge of Oral Health Care amongst Commonwealth Countries.”

The lecture began with the history of the Commonwealth of Nations, 54 different nations of about 2 billion people of different races, with different religions, cultures and traditions. There was a similar educational system, with per capita income very wide ranging, but linked by the English language, spoken by all.

The lecture delved into the oral health care status of Commonwealth countries, looked at the determinants of oral health and factors contributing to oral health and compared the oral health status of the high, middle and the low income countries. In summary, the lecture concluded that access to affordable and quality oral health care was limited in certain countries, especially the low income ones. There was a need for transfer of technology and innovative skills in promotion of health, including oral health and prevention of diseases, especially oral diseases. Dr Cooray made a number of recommendations.

Dr Ratnanesan thanked the lecturer and went on to explain why he felt that the CDA should continue; “The bond must stay”. He reiterated the history of the CDA and concluded that so that the efforts of those that founded the CDA would not be in vain, the Association must continue.

There then followed individual country presentations, from the delegates. Many issues were raised and, after discussions, several recommendations were made.

For a full list of the issues and recommendations, please see the complete report, which can be found on the CDA’s new website at:

www.comdental.org

Acknowledgement

The CDA wishes to sincerely thank the Commonwealth Foundation for the travel sponsorship for many of the delegates and also thank the Malaysian Dental Association for the free conference registration and hotel accommodation for all the Commonwealth Dental Association delegates, and most importantly for their very warm hospitality.