



Commonwealth Dental Association

Working for Oral Health in the Commonwealth

May 15th 2015

No Embargo

New President and Executive for the Commonwealth Dental Association

At its Biennial General Meeting on Tuesday May 5th, held at the Manchester International Convention Centre, Dr Anthony Kravitz OBE, of the United Kingdom, was installed as the 9th President of the Commonwealth Dental Association. Present were delegates from 12 countries of the Commonwealth. His term of office will last two years.

In his Presidential Address Dr Kravitz said:

“Whilst we have been active during the time since our last General Meeting, we have been very quiet about this. Many do not know what we have been doing. Some thought that we had disappeared.

I believe that it is incumbent, indeed a moral duty, on the larger national dental associations of the Commonwealth to take an active part in the CDA and, through our organisation, reach out to our colleagues in the countries with only a limited number of dental professionals, to give help in their endeavours for their populations.

Our current strategy to do this was developed in the last couple of years. We have moved into a position where we focus on themes particular to the Commonwealth and we spend our limited resources on using internet communication to convey our messages at meetings, rather than paying airlines vast sums to send people across continents.

But, so far, we have barely promoted it. So, I intend that we will become “loud”. Indeed, we will need to shout, because whilst it may be true that many of our member associations have progressed such that they need our services less, it cannot be denied that there are many others who could look to us for support in the coming years, especially because they are very small”.

Other officers elected at the General Meeting were:

Professor Adeyemi Olusile (Nigeria) - President-Elect;
Professor DYD Samarawickrama (UK/Sri Lanka) - Executive Secretary;
Dr Stuart Geddes (UK) – Treasurer;
Professor William O’Reilly (Australia) - Immediate Past President.
Dr Suresh Shanmuganathan (Sri Lanka) – Vice President for South East Asia;
Dr Russ Ladwa (UK) – VP Europe;

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Dr Susan Maina (Kenya) – VP East, Central and Southern Africa;
Dr Gilbert Ankrah (Ghana) – VP West Africa;
Dr Ricardo Crawford (Bahamas) – VP the Caribbean and Canada;
Dr David Crum (New Zealand) – VP Australasia;
and appointed News Editor and Educational Adviser, Prof Stephen Lambert-Humble (UK)

The General Meeting was followed on Wednesday May 6th by a full-day conference and workshop on the topic: “**Support for Vulnerable Patients and Their Carers**”. Speakers included members from all regions of the Commonwealth. At the conclusion of the workshop, the participants agreed a statement of outcome related to this topic - “The Manchester Declaration”, which can be found on the CDA’s website, at:

www.comdental.org

Notes for Editors:

1. The Commonwealth Dental Association (CDA) is an association of national dental associations, which aims to improve dental and oral health in Commonwealth countries by raising the skills of practitioners and increasing awareness of oral health.
2. The CDA was founded in 1991 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; subsequent General Meetings were held every three years in Trinidad, Bournemouth, New Delhi, Nairobi, Colombo, Singapore and Cape Town.
3. There are 53 countries of the Commonwealth; about half of the dental associations (of these countries) are members of the CDA. There are half a million dentists, and it is thought that there are about a further half a million other dental professionals.
4. The CDA holds events and professional workshops in different countries of the Commonwealth, with many speakers and participants taking part using the internet and webinars.
5. Incoming President, Anthony Kravitz, qualified at Manchester Dental School in 1966, just after reaching the age of 21 years. He then worked in general dental practice in Greater Manchester, until he moved to London in 2005.
6. He was President of the British Dental Association from 2004 to 2005. He is the principal author of the EU Manual of Dental Practice, last published in 2014. He is currently co-chair of the Fitness to Practise Panel of the General Dental Council, the UK’s dental regulator. He was Treasurer of the CDA from 2003 until 2013.
7. Anthony has been married for over 44 years (to Hilary) and they have three children and 10 grandchildren.
8. He was appointed an OBE by HM The Queen in the 2003 New Year Honours List.

[Attached photo]

For more information, please phone the CDA Administrator, Ms Ulrike Matthesius, on 020 7563 4133 or email: administrator@comdental.org

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