



Commonwealth Dental Association

Working for Oral Health in the Commonwealth

'The Commonwealth Dental Association is committed to the promotion of Oral Health in the Commonwealth and, in particular, in the underserved and underdeveloped communities, in co-operation with the National Dental Associations and the respective Commonwealth Governments.'

CDA ACTIVITIES 2000 – 2009

December 2009

President: Dr Hilary Cooray **Executive Secretary:** Dr Sam Thorpe OOR **Treasurer:** Dr Anthony S Kravitz OBE
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The Commonwealth Dental Association

The Commonwealth currently accounts for around 1,500 million people, one quarter of the world's population, who live within its 53 constituent countries. These countries vary enormously in size, from India, Pakistan, the UK, Australia and Canada on the one hand to Kiribati and Vanuatu on the other. Some are amongst the poorest in the world and some amongst the richest, but they are drawn together by a common language (English), historical ties, educational links and similar legal and business cultures.

It is the bond between the individuals of these countries which helps to forge the links and develop the Commonwealth bodies which, in their turn, can facilitate the exchange of information and provide assistance for the less developed countries.

HISTORY OF THE CDA

It was in this spirit that the Commonwealth Dental Association (CDA) was established. It is one of the 202 non-governmental organisations that are "very much the lifeblood of the official Commonwealth" and was formed in May 1990 by a decision of delegates from 23 commonwealth countries meeting in London. Its official launch followed almost a year later in Kuala Lumpur when the then Prime Minister of Malaysia, headed the inaugural celebrations.

The Association's principal objectives are to assist in the promotion of oral health and the development of primary oral health care strategies especially in the less well developed countries. To this end one of its more important achievements to date has been to obtain 'observer status' to the Commonwealth Health Ministers Meetings which precede the World Health Assemblies in Geneva each May. This entitles the CDA to receive documents on Commonwealth health matters as well as attending meetings of the Health Ministers. The challenge here is to raise the awareness and stress the importance of oral health in the minds of the decision makers.

Several workshops have been held throughout the Commonwealth usually in cooperation with the national dental associations. The format and subjects have varied considerably. The CDA developed *Guidelines for formulating oral health policy for Commonwealth countries* and these guidelines are a tool to persuade governments of the need to develop such policies within their overall health strategies.

Over the years since its foundation the CDA has participated in or arranged many workshops, the first being an HIV/AIDS Cross Infection Control Workshop in Jos, Nigeria in March 1992, sponsored by the WHO and the World Dental Federation (FDI). This dwelt on the role and responsibility of oral health personnel in the presentation, diagnosis, infection control and care of HIV/AIDS patient with special reference to Africa. Delegates from eleven African countries participated in this workshop which clearly demonstrated the value in sharing information and experiences.

One of the significant changes that has emerged during the last few years is the movement away from the Commonwealth simply being centred in the United Kingdom to a matrix of individuals and organisations stretched across the Commonwealth countries participating in exchanges of dialogue and communications stretched across more than 50 nations. Such exchanges require a network of interested and committed individuals and the establishment of such a network within the dental profession is one of the most important aspects of the work of the CDA. Such links are fostered and reinforced by attendance at conferences and congresses and it has been most encouraging to witness the increasing number of participants especially from the African countries. Often delegates to our meetings are sponsored by the CDA through funding from the Commonwealth Foundation.

The Association thus uses the opportunity of NDAs attending FDI congresses to enable networking and to hold regular CDA business meetings. However, between these congresses the CDA uses modern methods of communication. Telephone conversations, faxes and now e-mail allow speedy transmission of the spoken and written word and hardly a day goes by during which no contact is made between the offices and members of the Association.

Membership of the Commonwealth Dental Association is open to all national dental associations within the Commonwealth, who contribute by way of a yearly subscription¹. Additional and substantial funding has been made available by the Commonwealth Foundation whose support for the Association since its inception has been laudable. Many individuals have also made enormous contributions to the work of the Association.

General Meetings

At the inaugural meeting of the CDA in 1991, Dr Sonny Akpabio became the founder President. The **first Triennial Meeting** was held in Trinidad in July 1994, when Dr Ratnanesan of Malaysia became the second President. Infection Control was the subject of a concurrent workshop organised jointly by the CDA and the Dental Association of Trinidad and Tobago. In developing countries there are enormous difficulties in conforming to reasonable standards which are the norm in the more affluent countries. The shortage of resources and of trained manpower presents problems which were explored in this forum.

In June 1997 the **second Triennial Meeting** was held in the United Kingdom in conjunction with the Annual Conference of the British Dental Association in Bournemouth. The theme of that CDA meeting was '*Fluoride – Its Benefits and Dilemmas in Dental Public Health*'. At this meeting Dr Victor Eastmond, from Barbados, was installed as the third President of the CDA. It was during his term of office that the CDA began to participate in the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings (CHOGM). In October 1997, in Edinburgh, a display stand was mounted demonstrating the importance of oral health, and at a meeting in South Africa (November 1999) the CDA, in collaboration with the South African Dental Association, again mounted a display and held a seminar on HIV/AIDS, Child Abuse, and NOMA.

The **third Triennial Meeting** was held in Delhi, India, in January 2000 in conjunction with the 54th Annual Conference of the Indian Dental Association. The joint meeting had the theme '*Oral Health – Equity and Excellence in the new Millennium*'. Dr Brian Mouatt was installed as the President and under his guidance a comprehensive list of activities was planned. These included promoting the use of the *Atraumatic Restorative Technique (ART)* within developing Commonwealth countries; collection of data for *Fluoride Mapping and Screening; Distance Learning* initiatives and work on *HIV/AIDS, Oral Cancer and Noma*. The very successful programme of supplying used computers to dental personnel in Commonwealth countries was continued and was extended to include the distribution of textbooks and journals.

The **fourth Triennial Meeting**, was held in Nairobi, Kenya (13-14 December 2003). It was arranged in collaboration with the Kenya Dental Association's and the FDI World Dental Federation's *Continuing Education Programme*. It was the FDI's first attempt in bringing continuing education on a regular basis to dentists in Africa. 68 delegates attended, representing 16 countries (Bahamas, Botswana, Fiji, Ghana, India, Kenya, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, United Kingdom).

In the business meeting Dr L K Gandhi (India) was installed as the President for a three-year term of office and the Officers of the CDA were elected. A new CDA Executive Secretary, Dr Sam Thorpe (Sierra Leone), and Treasurer, Dr Anthony Kravitz (UK) were elected. During the CDA General Assembly the title *Emeritus Founder President* was conferred upon Dr S Prince Akpabio (Founder President 1991-1994 and Executive Secretary 1994-2003) in acknowledgement of the distinguished service he had given to the Commonwealth Dental Association.

The **fifth Triennial Meeting** took place at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall Colombo, Sri Lanka from 1 to 3 December 2006. The meeting was hosted by the Sri Lanka Dental Association, as part of their *Continuing Education Programme*. The theme was: *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*.

The Continuing Education Programme was held over three days and included lectures by eminent speakers, symposia, free communications, poster presentations and a trade exhibition.

¹ Most associations pay a minimum subscription and small countries (with less than 10 dentists) do not pay anything

On Saturday 2 December, there was a CDA Symposium followed by the CDA General Assembly. The Symposium opened with the theme “*Oral Health Workforce in the Commonwealth*” with lectures on *Continuing Education*, by Professor Martin Hobdell, *Dental Auxiliaries Across the Commonwealth*, by Dr Anthony Kravitz and *the Impact of a World Dental Organisation (FDI) on the Daily Practice of each Dentist World-Wide*, by Dr Michèle Aerden (President, FDI World Dental Federation).

The presentations were followed by three working group sessions to examine the following topics:

- “*Training Appropriate Personnel to Demands in each Category including Auxiliaries*”
- “*Regulations, Licensing CPD and Ethics*”
- “*How the Workforce could be Retained in Their Own Economy*”.

Following a second plenary session during which the working groups presented their reports a *Statement on the Oral Health Workforce* was adopted).

At the CDA General Assembly which took place in the afternoon, 13 countries were represented: *Australia, Bahamas, Botswana, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom and Zambia.*

Professor Jacob Kaimenyi (Kenya), was installed as the President for a three-year term of office and the Officers of the CDA were elected. Dr Hilary Cooray (Sri Lanka) was elected as President-elect, CDA Executive Secretary, Dr Sam Thorpe (Sierra Leone) was re-elected as was Treasurer, Dr Anthony Kravitz (UK). During the CDA General Assembly changes to the CDA constitution were agreed.

The **fifth Triennial Meeting** took place at a meeting in Singapore, held at the same time as the World Dental Congress of the FDI, on Saturday September 5th 2009.

The meeting was preceded (in the morning) by a half-day workshop entitled “The challenges of infection control in resource limited settings”. Thirty-Five delegates from 15 countries attended. Presentations were made by three speakers:

Prof R Yee (Singapore) – “Improving infection control in resource limited settings”

Prof S Joshi (India) – “Training and Monitoring for Infection Control in Rural and Urban Settings”

Dr C Vincent (Malaysia) – “Update in infection control and antibiotic prophylaxis in dentistry”

The presentations were followed by working groups, whose reports were later incorporated into a CDA Policy on Infection Control.

At the General Assembly which took place in the afternoon, 16 countries were represented: *(Australia, Bahamas, Botswana, India, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom and Zambia).*

Dr Hilary Cooray (Sri Lanka) was installed as the President for a three-year term of office and Dr Bill O’Reilly (Australia) as President-elect. Executive Secretary, Dr Sam Thorpe (Sierra Leone) was re-elected, as was Treasurer, Dr Anthony Kravitz (UK). During the CDA General Assembly changes to the CDA constitution were again agreed.

During the whole period from 1990 until November 2007 the CDA was administered by Mrs Julia Campion. However, after a short illness, Mrs Campion was tragically taken from us when she died on November 9th 2007.

MEMBERSHIP

Open to National Dental Associations (NDAs) in Commonwealth countries.

REGIONAL ORGANISATION

The Commonwealth Dental Association is organised under the 6 Commonwealth Regions:

- (1) Europe
- (2) South East Asia
- (3) Pacific/Australasia
- (4) Caribbean/Canadian
- (5) West Africa
- (6) East, Central and Southern Africa

Other CDA activities

August-September 2000 **Harare, Zimbabwe** **IADR/CDA Workshop**

The CDA held a workshop in collaboration with the International Association for Development Research (IADR) on the *Appropriate Research and Development* of the ART Technique (Atraumatic Restorative Technique). Dr Brian Mouatt (CDA President) gave a review of the science behind the *Atraumatic Restorative Technique (ART) and a detailed look at the chemistry of glass ionomers*, and Dr S Prince Akpabio (CDA Executive Secretary) described the use of the technique in practice.

November–December 2000 **Paris, France** **FDI 2000**

The CDA was represented at the International Dental Federation (FDI) World Dental Congress. CDA's half-day seminar, chaired by Dr Brian Mouatt (CDA President), was attended by representatives from the Bahamas, Botswana, Ghana, India, Malaysia, South Africa, UK and Zimbabwe, included 2 presentations entitled '*Links with the World Health Organisation*' and '*The FDI Developing Countries Fund*', followed by an *Open Forum*.

March 2001 **London, UK** **CF Commonwealth Fellow**

A CDA nominee, Dr Dileep De Silva from Sri Lanka, was awarded a Commonwealth Foundation Fellowship and came to London in March 2001 to undertake the Commonwealth Foundation's programme. Dr De Silva's chosen research project was a '*Survey on Community based Oral Health Care Systems*' and as part of this he had meetings with the Chief Dental Officer for England, the Department of Health, the Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, University College London Medical School and the Department of Conservative Dentistry, Royal London Hospital.

April 2001 **Geneva, Switzerland** **WHO Consultation Meeting**

The Commonwealth Dental Association was represented at the WHO Consultation Meeting on *Oral Health Promotion and Oral Disease Management*. The objectives of the consultation meeting were:

- ◆ *To outline evidence-based policy for improving global oral health with emphasis on disadvantaged populations, with recommendations for WHO.*
- ◆ *Review common risk factor approach in health promotion and oral disease prevention.*
- ◆ *Discuss opportunities for including basic oral health activities into Primary Health Care.*

May 2001 **Geneva, Switzerland** **Pre-WHA Meeting**

At the 34th Pre-WHA Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting on Sunday 13 May 2001, *The Commonwealth Oral Health Statement*, initiated by the CDA, was unanimously approved and

adopted by the Commonwealth Health Ministers. CDA, together with the International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI), hosted a Reception for the Commonwealth Health Ministers; this was funded by ILSI

June 2001 London, UK Adopt-a-Dentist Scheme

The CDA's *Adopt-a-Dentist* scheme was officially launched at the Local Dental Committees Conference on 14 June 2001. Dentists throughout the Commonwealth were invited to join the scheme giving them the opportunity to exchange views and to send professional journals, books, materials and even equipment to their named contact in the other country. The scheme was supported by colleagues from India, Kenya, Nigeria, Seychelles, Tanzania, United Kingdom and Zimbabwe.

June 2001 Nassau, Bahamas CARDA Meeting

While in Nassau, at the 11th Biennial Conference of the Caribbean Atlantic Regional Dental Association (CARDA) the CDA's representative, Dr Brian Mouatt (CDA President), also had a meeting with the Minister of Health (Bahamas) to discuss CDA activity in relation to educational initiatives and risk management, also a courtesy meeting at Government House with the Governor General. Dr Brian Mouatt was also given an opportunity to address the CARDA AGM to expand on the virtues of CDA.

September–October 2001 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia FDI 2001

During the FDI World Dental Congress in Kuala Lumpur CDA held a half-day seminar (28.9.01) focussing on HIV/AIDS. As Dr Brian Mouatt (CDA President) was unable to be present, Dr T Thurairatnam (CDA Regional Vice-President for South-East Asia) took the Chair. Two presentations were given by Dr S P Akpabio (UK) on '*HIV/AIDS – The Global Picture*' and by Dr K Ranganathan (India) on '*HIV/AIDS – The Asian Experience*'.

An *Open Forum* followed. At this FDI Congress Dato Dr A Ratnanesan (who was CDA President 1994-97) was elected as FDI President; he attended the CDA Seminar.

October 2001 Brisbane, Australia Commonwealth People's Centre

Although the Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) was postponed until March 2002, the Commonwealth People's Centre went ahead as planned. CDA was represented by the Executive Secretary and helped to produce the *Communiqué*.

October 2001 Barbados, West Indies Barbados Dental Council

A CDA representative acted as External Supervisor of the first examination to be held by the Barbados Dental Council (BDC). The written examination consisted of a multiple choice question paper and an essay question paper. The clinical/practical examination consisted of practical exercises covering operative, endodontic, periodontal and prosthetic disciplines. No oral surgical skills were tested.

November 2001 Christchurch, New Zealand 13th CHMM

The CDA was represented and participated in the 13th Commonwealth Health Ministers' Triennial Meeting (13CHMM) and also at the 2-day (23-24.11.01) Non-Governmental Organisations' (NGO) Workshop which preceded it.

March 2002 Diet, Nutrition & Prevention of Dental Caries

The Commonwealth Dental Association published a paper on *Diet, Nutrition and the Prevention of Dental Caries*.

May 2002 **Montreal, Canada** **Canadian NDA Meeting**

The CDA was represented, by Dr Victor Eastmond (CDA Immediate Past President), at the 100th Anniversary of the Canadian Dental Association held in conjunction with the Quebec Association, which celebrated its 31st Anniversary.

October 2002 **Vienna, Austria** **FDI 2002**

During the FDI World Dental Congress in Vienna CDA held a half-day seminar (2.10.02), chaired by Dr Brian Mouatt (CDA President), focusing on *Partners in Oral Health*. Presentations were given by Dr Habib Benzian (FDI) on *'The Role of FDI'*; Dr Brian Mouatt (CDA) on *'The World Dental Development Committee'*; Dr David Purdell Lewis (Unilever) on *'Questions to Industry'*; Dr Jenny Wordly (Dentaid) on *'Dentaid – Dentistry and Oral Health in the Developing World'*; Dr S Prince Akpabio (CDA) on *'The Role of the Commonwealth'* and Dr L K Gandhi (CDA) on *'Aid in India'*. The last item on the agenda was an *OpenForum*; this was followed by an informal reception.

January 2003 **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia** **Commonwealth Medico-Legal Conference**

Dr T Thurairatnam (CDA Regional Vice-President, SE Asia) represented the CDA at the Commonwealth Medico-Legal Conference. It was jointly organised by the Commonwealth Medical Association, Commonwealth Dental Association, Commonwealth Lawyers Association and the Royal Commonwealth Society of Malaysia.

At the conclusion of the conference the following Resolution was adopted:

'This Conference Advocates that the various national Medical, Dental and Legal Associations of the Commonwealth countries discuss and actively move towards the formation of a Commonwealth Medico-Legal Society for the mutual benefit of the Medical, Dental and Legal professions as well as the people of the Commonwealth'.

March 2003 **Trinidad, West Indies** **Quality Assurance**

The CDA was invited to be part of a small team to conduct a Review of the UWI's School of Dentistry which was built and equipped in the late 1980s and the first students enrolled in 1989. The main task of the Team was to review the aims and objectives of the School and the degree to which the curriculum had been designed to deliver those aims and objectives. The currency, relevance and appropriateness of the curriculum as well as the range and appropriateness of the teaching strategies, the learning opportunities and the assessment methods were looked at - as well as the adequacy of the human and physical resources and the quality assurance procedures in place. The Review Team visited the School for five days during which time they observed:

- ◆ Classes in action
- ◆ Practical work in the phantom head laboratory
- ◆ Operative work on patients in the poly-clinic and children's clinic

They also toured the library which has an extensive range of journals, books and videos and other distance learning materials. At the end of their visit the Review Team submitted a Report to the University of the West Indies.

April 2004 **Nairobi, Kenya** **Oral Health Planning Conference**

Dr Sam Thorpe (CDA Executive Secretary) represented the CDA and gave a paper at the FDI/WHO Planning Conference for Oral Health in Africa, at which Ministers of Health and Senior Government Officials participated. The principal outcome was the *Nairobi Declaration on Oral Health in Africa*. This was the first time that African Ministers of Health and Senior Government Officials have met solely to discuss Oral Health matters in Africa.

May 2004 Geneva, Switzerland Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting

Dr L K Gandhi (CDA President) represented the CDA on the Commonwealth Advisory Committee for Health (CACH) and at the Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting (CHMM) in Geneva.

September 2004 New Delhi, India CDA Meeting & Seminar on Oral Cancer

The CDA held a meeting, chaired by their President (Dr L K Gandhi) during the FDI World Dental Congress in New Delhi. One of the items discussed was the Oral Cancer Seminar which they had attended that morning.

January 2005 Bangalore, India Oral Health Conference

The CDA President, Dr L K Gandhi, was invited by The Commonwealth Association for Mental Handicap and Developmental Disabilities (CAMHADD) to represent the CDA at this conference which was organised by CAMHADD and WHO. Dr Gandhi was the moderator of two plenary sessions on '*Global Challenges to Oral Health Promotion*', '*The Burden of Oral Diseases in Children and Adolescents in Asia*' and the '*Role of Tri-Sectors: Government, Private Sector and Civil Society to Promote Oral Health as a Component of Healthy City Project*'.

May 2005 Geneva, Switzerland Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting

Dr John Hunt (CDA Regional Vice-President for Europe) and Dr Anthony S Kravitz (CDA Treasurer) represented the CDA at the Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting (CHMM) in Geneva.

September 2005 Montreal, Canada CDA/Caribbean HIV/AIDS Seminar & Open Meeting

The CDA held a very successful half-day seminar to bring awareness of HIV/AIDS and cross infection to the Caribbean Region. This was followed in the afternoon by an Open Meeting to give feedback on the morning seminar and to discuss other issues relevant to the CDA.

October 2005 Abuja, Nigeria Joint NDA, CDA and FDI meeting

The CDA participated in a joint Continuing Education Programme of the Nigerian Dental Association and the FDI World Dental Federation, in Abuja, Nigeria (October 2005). Among the topics covered were *Common Oral Infections*, *Infection Control* and *HIV/AIDS in Dental Practice* and the *Migration of Health Workers*.

November 2005 Valletta, Malta Seminar at the Peoples' Forum, CHOGM

The CDA in collaborated with the Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association, the Commonwealth Nurses Federation and the Commonwealth HIV/AIDS Action Group/Para55 in holding a one-day seminar on '*Global Health – Networking for Better Outcomes*'. There were two sessions on '*HIV/AIDS – Access to Treatment and Care*' and '*Migration of Health Workers – The Global Impact*'. At the end of the seminar a Communiqué was delivered to the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers who met immediately prior to CHOGM.

November 2005 Suva, Fiji Pacific Regional Meeting

The CDA is held its first Pacific Regional Meeting in collaboration with the Fiji Dental Association, to establish the Pacific Region of the CDA and to discuss the *Role of Dental Auxiliaries*. Oral health is regarded a low priority in the health sector, therefore, the meeting was an opportune time for representatives from 10 national dental associations in the region to emphasize the mounting oral health problems. Countries represented at the meeting were Fiji, Australia, Samoa, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu – with participation from India and the UK also.

March 2006	London, UK	Planning Conference
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The CDA participated in a two-day conference held in London (21-22 March 2006) on ***Mobilising the African Diaspora Health Care Professionals and Resources for Capacity Building in Africa***. Dr John Hunt (CDA Vice-President, Europe) gave a presentation demonstrating the need for oral health care and education and illustrated methods developed by people to deal with common oral diseases in the worst areas of health worker shortage. He emphasised the importance of oral health and the need for oral health professionals and educators.

May 2006	Geneva, Switzerland	Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting
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Dr John Hunt (CDA Regional Vice-President for Europe) and Dr Anthony S Kravitz (CDA Treasurer) represented the CDA at the Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting (CHMM) in Geneva.

May 2006	Geneva, Switzerland	Tobacco Cessation Workshop
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Two days before the CHMM the CDA held a one-day seminar on 19 May 2006, in Geneva, on ***Commonwealth Priorities for Oral Tobacco Cessation***. Delegates from Ministries of Health, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Commonwealth Foundation and Physicians for a Smoke-Free Canada participated. The outcome of the seminar was *The Commonwealth Chewing and Smokeless Tobacco Cessation Statement* which was tabled at CHMM 2006. A project proposal was developed for the role of National Dental Associations in promoting tobacco use cessation.

January 2007		Dental Workforce Survey
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A research project by Dr Anthony Kravitz was completed and a paper: ***"The Dental Workforce Across The Commonwealth"*** was published on the internet.

May 2007	Geneva, Switzerland	Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting
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Professor Jacob Kaimenyi (CDA President), Dr Sam Thorpe (CDA Secretary) and Dr Anthony S Kravitz (CDA Treasurer) represented the CDA at the Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting (CHMM) in Geneva. Dr Kravitz presented a paper: ***"Impact of Nutritional Changes on Lifestyle Diseases"***

November 2007	Kampala, Uganda	Seminar at the Peoples' Forum, CHOGM
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'Prioritise Health – Realise Potential' - A one and a half day workshop at the Commonwealth People's Forum in Kampala, Uganda in collaboration with the Commonwealth Medical Association (CMA), the Commonwealth Nurses Federation (CNF) and the Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association (CPA), to was held on 19 and 20 November 2007. The theme was *'Prioritise Health – Realise Potential'* and the sub-themes cover *Human Resources, Maternal & Child Health, Lifestyle Diseases* and *Safe Health Practices*. The CDA is, in particular, focussing on *Safe Health Practices*, which covers the disposal of waste and is a great problem in the developing Commonwealth countries.

May 2008	Geneva, Switzerland	Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting
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Professor Jacob Kaimenyi (CDA President) and Dr Sam Thorpe (CDA Secretary) represented the CDA at the Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting (CHMM) in Geneva.

May 2008	Sydney, Australia	"Disaster Management" workshop
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'The Integration of Oral Health Workers in Disaster Management' - A workshop to identify the key areas where oral health workers can be integrated in disaster management and to publish guidelines for dental personnel in Commonwealth countries was held in Sydney, Australia (under the auspices of the Australian DA). The CDA financially supported (with external sponsorship)

dentists from Nigeria, Botswana, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Fiji and the Cook Islands, to attend this training meeting.

November 2008 New Delhi, India Symposium on Migration of Health Workers

The Commonwealth Foundation in collaboration with Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Medical Association (CMA) convened a two-day symposium on the migration of health care workers, with particular focus on the Commonwealth code of practice for the international recruitment of Health Workers. Eight Asian commonwealth countries participated in the 2 days symposium and participants included 4 dentists appointed by the CDA – one of whom gave a paper.

The objectives were to share experiences of good practice among countries and to address challenges on managing health workers migration. Strategies to manage issues on migration at national, regional and international levels were identified raised and discussed.

February 2009 Mwanza, Tanzania Workshop on Urgent Oral Treatment

A workshop was conducted by Bridge2Aid at their facility in Mwanza, Tanzania – “The Bridge2Aid Model for Training of rural Clinical Officers in Urgent Oral Treatment - a training programme for dentists from less developed countries, Dentists from across Africa and Asia attended.

September 2009 Singapore Workshop on Infection Control in Rural Settings

A workshop was conducted and 35 delegates from 15 countries attended. Presentations were made by three speakers:

Prof R Yee (Singapore) – “Improving infection control in resource limited settings”

Prof S Joshi (India) – “Training and Monitoring for Infection Control in Rural and Urban Settings”

Dr C Vincent (Malaysia) – “Update in infection control and antibiotic prophylaxis in dentistry”

The presentations were followed by working groups, whose reports were later incorporated into a CDA Policy on Infection Control.

Ongoing CDA activities

Distance Learning

In 1999 Dr Brian Mouatt (then CDA President-Elect) edited and produced a CDA directory of *Distance Learning Material for Commonwealth Dental Practitioners*, which was widely circulated to Commonwealth countries. The CDA *Distance Learning* initiative, set up by Dr Mouatt, is an ongoing activity. CDA purchased, from the University of Nijmegen, Netherlands, CD Roms on the *Atraumatic Restorative Treatment (ART)*. These were sent to National Dental Associations and Deans of the Faculties of Dentistry in Commonwealth countries, together with a video which was donated to the CDA by the Faculty of General Dental Practitioners of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. A book on the ART Technique was also purchased by the CDA and distributed to NDAs and the Deans of the Faculties of Dentistry in Commonwealth countries.

CDA has also distributed copies of ‘*A New Vision of the Commonwealth – A Report for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2002*’. Some consignments of dental books and journals have been donated to CDA and these have been sent to the Inter-country Centre for Oral Health (ICOH) in Jos, Nigeria, via the Nigerian High Commission in London, and also to the Lusaka Dental School in Zambia. This consignment to Zambia went as part of a shipment of equipment that Dentaid were sending to Zambia. CDA received a CD Rom ‘*Facing Africa – Noma*’ which was distributed to Commonwealth countries.

In 2005, CDA distributed to all CDA member associations, a CD on infection control, supplied with the help of OSAP, entitled “*If saliva was red*”.

The CDA, in collaboration with a company which manufactures dental equipment, is sending dental books and journals to the new Dental School at Muhimbili University in Dar Es Salaam. These books are donated by members of the dental profession and are transported to Tanzania by the dental company as part of their consignments of equipment, at no cost to either CDA or the donors.

CDA Executive Meetings

The CDA holds regular Executive Meetings, by Email only.

Commonwealth Secretariat Meetings

The CDA is invited to attend frequent meetings of Commonwealth interest arranged by ComSec and/or the Commonwealth Foundation. Usually these are held in London and the CDA almost always has one or more UK based people (officer or Administrator) attend.

Fundraising

Our primary sponsor is the Commonwealth Foundation which pays an annual grant towards the bulk of the cost of our administrative expenses and usually pays a further grant towards our activities². The Activity Grants must be used for support of training of dental professionals from less developed countries only.

Other fundraising is continually being looked into by the CDA. National Dental Associations are reminded, several times a year, to pay their subscriptions. Individuals and dental/pharmaceutical companies are invited to join the '*CDA Friends*'. We have individual, professional organisation and corporate members. *CDA Friends* are sent renewal notices each year. Companies are written to requesting sponsorship for specific activities. CDA has received sponsorship and help as outlined in some of the activities listed in this document.

² For CDA funded activities it should be noted that where Commonwealth Foundation support funding has been given the activity must take place (normally) in a less-developed Commonwealth country, unless a special case can be made for it to take place elsewhere. All Commonwealth countries are deemed "less developed" except for Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Singapore and the United Kingdom.