

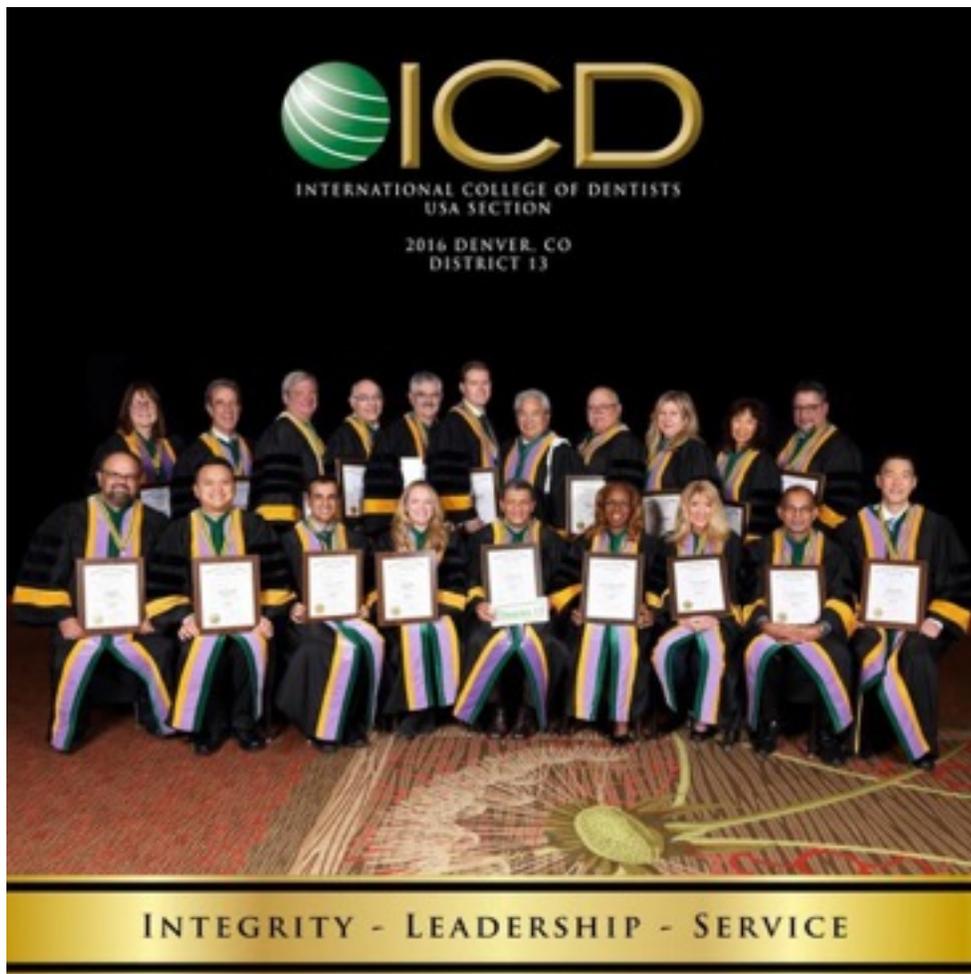


**District 13 International College of Dentists**

# **California News**

**winter 2016**

## **Nineteen new fellows for District XIII in Denver**



Regent Bruce Toy stands with new fellows: Homayon Asadi, San Francisco; Katie Bales, Novato; Michael E. Cadra, Modesto; Katrina Yvonne Eagilen, Los Angeles; Desmond Gallagher, San Francisco; Cheryl D. Goldasich, Torrance; Terry Hoover, Los Gatos; Parag R. Kachalia, San Ramon; Jaikrishnan Kakanar, La Verne; Fariba Kalantari, Hollywood; Irvin Htun Kaw, Pasadena; Bijan Modjtahedi, Fountain Vallley; Joan Otomo-Corgel, Manhattan Beach; William L. Perry, Los Gatos; John M. Piscane, San Jose; David M. Rainero, Walnut Creek; Saeid Razi, Los Angeles; Dennis Song, San Francisco; and Sue Spackman, Loma Linda.





## Critical thinking aka intellectual independence

She was six years old. Her mother told me that my young patient was excited about her first dental treatment. During the appointment everything went smoothly—the anesthetic, the rubber dam, and the amalgam on the lower first

molar. But at the end, she stood at the door, reluctant to leave with the dental assistant. I squatted down to her eye level and asked if there was something else. There was. She said, “I want to tell you somethin’ ”

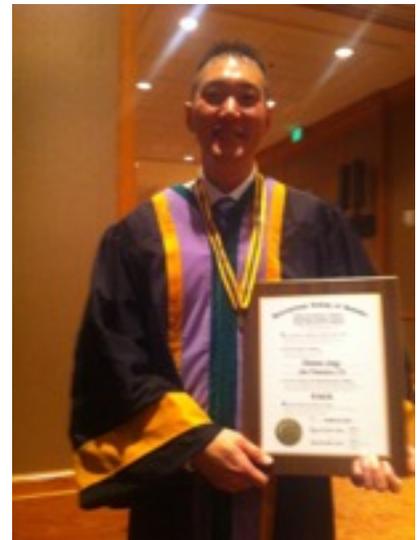
I invited her to continue. She then said, “The kids at school say it hurts to go to the dentist. They say that needles are stuck in your mouth and that it really hurts.” She seemed to stand up a little taller when she added, “*But I say it doesn’t hurt.*”

My point is not that I’m a great dentist. I’m not. Nor am I saying that dental treatment never causes pain. Sometimes it does. I have an entirely different point to make. At six, this child was already thinking for herself. She did not take the opinions of her peer group as a given or an ultimate truth. I hope that this little girl never lost such a valuable virtue, intellectual independence.

I recently heard Dr. Michael Glick, JADA editor and lecturer on evidence based dentistry, speak at the American Association of Dental Editors and Journalists annual session in Denver. Dr. Glick, professor at the School of Dentall Medicine at Buffalo, made a strong case of why we need to teach our students critical thinking. He stressed that students must maintain a questioning mind because most of the immense volume of scientific studies is incorrect or otherwise flawed. Dr. Glick identified intellectual independence as the defining characteristic of critical thinking.

I believe that intellectual independence is the most important virtue of a human being next to being rational. Such a virtue cannot be obtained from a group of other people. It has to come from within a solitary individual. An idea or thought is generated from the self. Of course we want our students to be collaborators with their classmates in many teamwork scenarios. But each student should recognize that her own mind takes the responsibility of judgment. There is no substitute for one’s own thinking. It should be no other way in dental school—or in life.

Donna B. Hurowitz, DDS, editor



*Drs. Irvin Htun Kaw (with ICD Virginia member), Goldasich (with daughter), John M. Piscane and wife, Dennis Song, all enjoying the convocation and dinner.*



Carol Gomez Summerhays, ICD member and outgoing ADA President, joined ADA Executive Director O'Loughlin and husband Soames in welcoming the 2016 ADA Distinguished Speaker Malala Yousafzai.

Ms. Yousafzai, who has campaigned relentlessly for the rights of girls to receive an education since she was ten, attracted international attention in 2012 after the then 15-year old was shot by the Taliban on a school bus in Pakistan. At 17, she became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014. She is also the author of the international bestseller *I Am Malala* and works with the Malala Fund to promote education for girls throughout the world.

Dr. Summerhays says, "She's changing the world and she inspires me, as I hope she inspires you."

## CDA Foundation Humanitarian Award

Jeffrey Moses received the 2016 award for his contributions as founder and current president of Smiles International Foundation, a nonprofit with the mission of 'providing excellence in education and charitable surgical care.'

Dr. Moses has helped thousands of children worldwide benefit from free charitable surgical corrections of cleft palate deformities. He has also been honored by the Southern California Pierre Fauchard Academy with its Humanitarian Award.

The CDA Foundation Humanitarian Award recognizes California dentists who have distinguished themselves through a lifetime of outstanding, unselfish leadership and contributions to fellow human beings in the field of dentistry.

## **kudos**

- \* The ICDVACD Spring Breakfast in Anaheim honored on May 13, 2016, Jim Wood, state Assemblyman, and Lindsey Robinson, ADA trustee. Dr. Wood was recently re-elected to a second term. Dr. Robinson spoke on "Dentistry in the 21st Century, Defining the New Normal."
- \* Don Rollofson has been named the statewide Deputy Regent by Regent Bruce Toy.
- \* Wayne Del Carlo serves as the Vice President of the USA Section ICD Foundation.

## **Bits and Pieces**

- President Culotta-Norton thanks Dr. Carol Turner for her seven years of service as our Registrar
- Additional thanks to our editor for the past 12 years, Dr. Richard Galeone, who will also be retiring from the position
- "Chronicles of Outstanding Leaders in Dentistry" interview series now available on the UMich Dental YouTube Channel
- For the second consecutive year, ICD held an international convocation ceremony in NYC
- Kerry Carney won a Special Citation for the CDA Journal "Dentistry for the Ages" Aug 2015

**Spring Board of Regents meeting  
San Juan, Puerto Rico  
May 2, 2017**

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