

# AP Newsletter

A publication of the Academy of Prosthodontics

Volume 5, Number 1

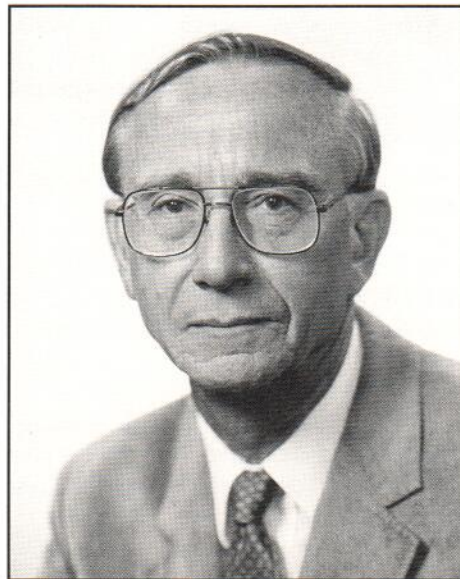
Winter 1995

## President's Message

I appreciate the opportunity to share with the Fellowship this message, that will initiate the beginnings of a fruitful and enjoyable year of Academy activity.

The Academy of Prosthodontics, via Committee action, has been asked to consider items that will involve direction, initiative, leadership, and a new focus on viable and enriching projects. Recent political events only reinforce the above.

The President's Advisory Committee, chaired by Doug Wendt, has been charged with considerations that may modify the style, base, and perception of this Academy. In addition, it was requested to have this committee consider "having a scientific committee which plans meetings for two or three years in a row as a continuum of both the traditional show-and-tell approach, mixed in equal (or diverse, if required) proportions with the sort of initiatives planned for the Research Symposium."



President George Smutko

The Research and Projects Committee, chaired by Gary Goldstein, has been asked to select and define clinical research projects. The projects would interface with the Foundation of the AP to provide scientific leadership for the Academy. This Committee has a three year appointment to provide continuity through the initiation and implementation phases.

The History and Records Committee, chaired by Stephen Campbell, has been requested to pursue the issue of indexing the historical records of the Academy and devise a means to store, preserve, and access this important part of our heritage.

The Finance Committee, chaired by George Murrell, has addressed several issues of Academy financial reserves and operating costs, and will have specific recommendations for meeting costs and fees during this year.

A personal project that I shall present to the Executive Council is that of International Membership with specific guidelines. Individuals that have presented in the past, and having a prosthodontic base or interest, should be afforded the opportunity to be a valuable asset to this Academy. Criteria will be proposed and be made available for Fellowship consideration, discussion, and ultimately, a decision.

The effort expended by Howard and Ann Payne to ensure a varied and enjoyable social schedule in Tucson has been exceptional. Please support and encourage guests to attend a select scientific session as well as a compatible weather/desert environment.

Our personal mission should be to create the most sophisticated clinical and scientific group of prosthodontists in the world.

I would like to thank the Fellowship for the opportunity to serve as your President for 1994-1995. Joan and I wish to extend Holiday Greetings to all the Academy Fellows, spouses and family.



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## Perspectives *from the Editor*

### "Just Teeth"

I would like to share with you a recounting of a patient-doctor interaction that occurred years ago (somewhere between graduate school and the process of becoming an experienced prosthodontist) but which still seems fresh in my mind today -- a valuable lesson in listening to the patient before, during and even after treatment.

The patient was a middle-aged woman whose chief concern centered around the replacement of her existing dentures of 15 years. In the middle of treatment, I sat there in utter amazement and wondered how we ever got to this point -- caught off guard by the patient's feeling that her world was "falling down" around her, and I was the cause.

Looking back, an appropriate amount of time was devoted to history recording, examining, and treatment planning. Significant care and attention to detail was used in making impressions and jaw records. The "ideal" anterior tooth placement, I thought,

was achieved taking into consideration the patient's requirements for phonetics, esthetics, facial support, and impending function -- technically correct but individually a disaster.

Multiple visitations to the "looking brook" (mirror) led to deepening patient frustration. This became apparent as her face reddened, eyes glazed over, nostrils flared, brow furrowed, and a penetrating silence deafened the normal office background sounds.

"You are not pleased?" I asked, knowing full well the answer.

"They are terrible, they are awful, they make me look old, it doesn't look like me" the patient blurted as the flood waters broke the dam.

I reviewed with the patient the scientific methods and techniques that were used in her care. This approach was to no avail and an end-point was nearing.

"You know, they are just teeth", I said in an attempt to humorously recalibrate her relativity scale.

"No, they are not just teeth!", the patient stated emphatically.

"Well, they are not a brain, heart or kidney", I stated attempting to readjust my loss of balance.

"My teeth are everything!", the patient implored.

There was a pause....

We looked at each other, and started to laugh -- as we quickly realized that we were both working hard to achieve a successful outcome. We proceeded to establish a better understanding and rapport that enabled treatment completion to the satisfaction of both us.

After much thought, it was obvious -- they were not "just teeth."

*Just Teeth, continued on page 4*

## Secretary-Treasurer Notes

I bring you greetings from the Lame Duck Capitol. Quacks and whines can be heard on every corner. They will probably still do some damage before they leave.

We have engaged the services of Site Services for the 1998 meeting in Colorado Springs. This firm will negotiate with the hotels to get us a better deal than we could achieve on our own. The best part is that their services do not cost us any money. They are paid by the hotel we choose to hold our meeting. Groups that have used them in the past have been very pleased.

Our Mid-Winter Breakfast will be held on February 26, 1995, at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago. This will be followed by the Executive Council Meeting. We hope to see all of you there to get an update on Tucson.

A large number of Academy Fellows attended the meeting of the American College of Prosthodontists in New Orleans. In fact, more than one-third of the speakers were Academy members. This is a good sign of cooperation between groups.

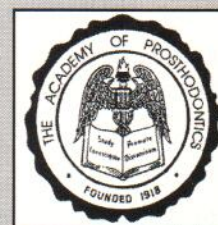
With the festive holidays past, thoughts are more on turkey, warm bread, family, friends and football rather than dues, but just like Scrooge, the dues statements went out. This marks the end of our fiscal year and a low point in our operating funds. Expenses for Tucson are already piling up so a prompt response is appreciated.

Good health to all.

Secretary Treasurer Plekavich

*Mid-Winter Breakfast  
Sunday - February 26, 1995  
Hyatt Regency Hotel*

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# Academy Outreach

## The Return to ADA by Bob Gillis

In September of 1994 four Academy members, Sal Esposito, Bob Gillis, Don Kramer and Jim Lepley returned to treat the Chickasaw Indians in Ada, Oklahoma. From Monday until Friday morning, dentures were fabricated for nineteen appreciative medically compromised patients.

This year at least half of the patients were previously unsuccessful denture wearers. Once again, the camaraderie was reason enough to have gone; the week working closely together reaffirmed and deepened our relationship. Jim Lepley's sacrifices to be present deserve special mention. His dedication and selflessness are an example for us all.

Dr. David Schrupp and Dr. Lynn Page again welcomed us and assisted us graciously and professionally. The staff were efficient and helpful especially the three assistants assigned to us for the week and all of the dental laboratory personnel.

Our travel and stay was financially supported by the Indian Health Service. The Chickasaw nation honored all of us with a special powwow held in our honor; we were graced with native American food, dance and a special plaque presented to each doctor by Bill Anoatubby, Governor of the Chickasaw nation.

The Chickasaw nation, which will be directly in charge of their own health care in 1995, has invited the Academy to return September 16-22, 1995. All four of this years volunteers plan to return. One or two additional volunteers are needed from the Academy as well as a laboratory technician.

If you are interested, contact Bob Gillis.



Dr. Jim Lepley with a Chickasaw patient

### 1995 OUTREACH PROJECT

We invite and encourage fellows to join us for one week in 1995 to continue this worthwhile outreach project.

Please contact either co-coordinator.

Dr. Eric Rasmussen, (608) 222-6606

FAX (608) 222-2532

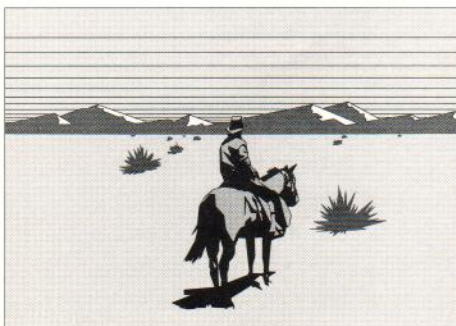
Dr. Robert Gillis, Jr. (916) 452-4535

FAX (916) 452-0567

## Tucson Program News

As winter approaches in the Northeast, it is time to think about the enchanting, sunny Southwest. The Academy of Prosthodontics Annual Meeting will take place at the DoubleTree Hotel in Tucson, Arizona, May 19-24, 1995.

The theme will be "Engineering the Future." We are indeed very fortunate to have Dr. John Howe, III participate in our program. Dr. Howe chaired the committee from the National Institute of Medicine that is looking at the future of dental education. With the impending changes in demographics and health care, this timely presentation will be of utmost importance to all of us.



Dr. Brien Lang will moderate this panel on the future of dental and prosthodontic education that also includes Dr. James Lipton from NIDR, Drs. Howard Landesman, Dave Felton and Jack Gerrow.

Dr. Harold Slavkin will head up a segment of the program that looks at "genetic engineering." This fascinating area of biotechnology will have profound effects on the future for generations to come. Of course dental implants remain a topic of keen interest and various speakers, including a number of our Associate Fellows will discuss research and clinical technique that will effect our practice.

The opening session will be highlighted by a presentation on domestic violence and spousal abuse, which should be of interest to all members, guests and spouses. This will be followed by Dr. Alan Drinnan, an internationally known authority, presenting an "Update in Oral Medicine" including Aids and other relevant topics.

The I.C.C. speaker, Dr. Francois Roulet, Berlin, Germany, will be speaking about esthetic posterior restorations.

As you can see, there should be something for everyone. When you put the Scientific Program together with the many exciting Social Events planned by the Local Arrangements Committee, so ably headed by S. Howard Payne and Ann Hardy-Payne, May will be a month we can look forward to.

Be thinking about who you want to bring as a guest, and forms will be forthcoming from Secretary Plekavich, if you haven't already received them.

The Program Committee  
Gerald Graser, Chair



# One-on-One

with **JAMES LORD**  
by **Stephen J. Riedy**

James Lord was born in 1937, in Ellensburg, Washington, and moved to a wheat farming area of eastern Washington at the age of two. Jim attended Washington State University with the intention of becoming a veterinarian. However, dentistry became the primary area of study when Jim attended the University of Washington, in Seattle. Upon graduation, missing the hunting and fishing of eastern Washington, he moved back to Garfield, Washington. There he opened a general dental practice. The hunting, fishing, and small town life was great, but Jim states that he missed the academic environment.

The summer fellowship in Prosthodontics, between the junior and senior year of dental school under Chuck Bolender and Dale Smith, were the influencing memories that made Jim choose a teaching position and part-time graduate school offer from the University of Washington. Jim was married in 1964 and blessed with three sons during his teaching career.



Dr. James Lord

Remarried to Sandy in 1980, Jim gained a step-daughter and son. He practiced general dentistry from 1964 to 1969 during his teaching and graduate school years. In 1970, Jim started a part-time prosthodontic practice with Chuck Bolender and Dale Smith, while teaching at the same time. In 1978, he switched to full time private practice and began dental political activities. Jim became President of the 1,800 member Seattle Dental Society.

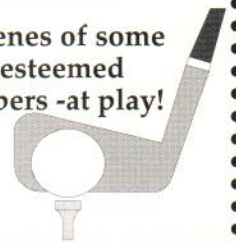
In national dental politics, Jim became a member of the Pacific Coast Society of Prosthodontics in 1974, and assumed the

presidency for the 1990-91 year. He was active in the Federation of Prosthodontic Organizations, becoming the president during the 1990-91 year. In the American College of Prosthodontists, Jim served on the Board of Directors during 1992-1994. Jim serves on the Executive Council of our Academy of Prosthodontics.

Before Sandy's illness, Jim belonged to two study clubs related to implant diagnosis and treatment. He plans now to start again with one study club and become active with his hobbies. Jim related that he enjoys fishing, boating and cooking. He loves to go salmon fishing. With cooking, he enjoys to smoke food, including fish, cheese and turkey. More recently, Jim was the cook for his five children at Thanksgiving dinner and he enjoyed every minute of it. ❖

## Coming Attractions

Entertaining scenes of some of our most esteemed Academy members -at play!



## Just Teeth: *continued*

### EPILOGUE

Sometimes we become so busy we lose sight of how important teeth really are: supporting the lower one-third of the face and probably the upper two-thirds of the personality; it is the portal of communication to the outside world, the gateway for energy and life sustenance; and, perhaps most importantly -- the projection of id, self worth, well being, comfort and gratification.

The "try-in" and "bisque-bake" appointments are two of the most psychologically intense and emotionally charged times -- for the patient and the doctor. Resolution requires excellent rapport, a careful understanding of the non-verbal as well as the verbal cues, and the performance of planning-before-doing with allowances for an occasional mid-stream adjustment.

It is important to keep in mind that in the final analysis that they are "just teeth" and even more!

Jonathan P. Wiens, Editor ❖

## ORAL HEALTH CLEARINGHOUSE FOR SPECIAL CARE PATIENTS OPENS

The National Institute of Dental Research (NIDR), one of the Federal National Institutes of Health, has initiated a new information service, the National Oral Health Information Clearinghouse (NOHIC). NOHIC focuses on the oral health concerns of special care patients, including:

- People with genetic disorders or systemic diseases that compromise oral health.
- People whose medical treatment causes oral problems.
- People with mental or physical disabilities that make good oral hygiene practices and dental care difficult.

Open January 1994, NOHIC's services include:

- Development and distribution of information and educational materials on special care topics.
- Development and maintenance of a computerized oral health materials collection as a part of the national Combined Health Information Database.

- Information services, with trained staff to provide materials and information in response to specific interests and questions.

Organizations and practitioners involved with special care patients are urged to provide copies of any educational materials in this field to NOHIC, as well as information on programs, conferences, seminars, and other initiatives in oral health and special needs. For more information contact NOHIC:

**National Oral Health Information Clearinghouse**

**Box NOHIC**

**9000 Rockville Pike**

**Bethesda, MD 20892**

**(301) 402-7364**

**Internet: NIDR @ aerie.com**

