

ACFD/AFDC BIENNIAL CONFERENCE SUMMARY

Winnipeg, Manitoba

June 13-15, 2003



“Ethics and Professionalism in Dental Education

Background

At the 2002 ACFD/AFDC Annual meeting the University of Manitoba Faculty of Dentistry was appointed to host the 2003 ACFD/AFDC Biennial Conference with a theme of "Ethics and Professionalism in Dental Education". A Conference Planning Committee was subsequently struck and consisted of Dean Johann de Vries (Chair), Dr. John Perry (ACFD/AFDC President), Dr. Archie McNicol (University of Manitoba, Faculty ACFD Committee Chair), Ms. Kathy Mastrobuono (University of Manitoba, Faculty of Dentistry, Special Events Coordinator) and Ms. Leslie Woodside (McDonald Travel). The Conference was arranged for Friday June 13th-Sunday June 15th, 2003 at the Fairmont Hotel, Winnipeg. Each Faculty was invited to send four representatives (Dean, Faculty Chair, Ethics Representative, Clinic Director). In addition individual Faculty members from the University of Manitoba were invited to attend the Plenary Session.

Pre-Conference Meeting

On Friday June 13th, Dr. Max Anderson, Vice President and Dental Director of Washington Dental Service, made two presentations to the Deans and Clinic Directors on "Evidence based management of dental caries" and "The use of large treatment databases in assessing outcomes of care." This was followed by round-table discussions involving the Deans, Clinic Directors and representatives of Dentsply Canada.

Plenary Session

On the morning of Saturday June 14th, Dean de Vries chaired the Biennial Conference Plenary Session on "Ethics and Professionalism in Dental Education". The Conference was addressed by three acknowledged experts in the field: Dr. Jos Welie, Creighton University, on "Teaching ethics and professionalism to dental students", Dr. Mickey Bebeau, University of Minnesota, on "Testing ethics and professionalism in dental students" and Dr. Richard Carr, University of Nevada at Las Vegas School of Dental Medicine, on "Raising the profile of ethics in the dental curriculum". Each of the experts has agreed to write a review article on their respective topics for publication in the *Journal of the Canadian Dental Association*.

Workshop Sessions

That afternoon Drs. Bebeau, Carr and Welie facilitated rotating small group workshops on their respective topics. The groups consisted of the Deans, Faculty Chairs and Ethics Representatives. The reports of the recorders from each group (Drs. Walton, Leake and McNally) will form the basis of a Meeting Report in a future issue of the *Journal of the Canadian Dental Association*. A request has been forwarded to the National Dental Examining Board of Canada that ethics and professionalism be included as a competency when these are revised. Finally, there was significant interest in a follow-up meeting to further discuss ethics and professionalism, to be held in 2005 or 2007.

Clinic Directors

The Clinic Directors met as a group. Initially Dr. Joanne Embree, Head of the Department of Medical Microbiology at the University of Manitoba, and a member of the Task Force on the SARS outbreak, addressed them on issues surrounding transmissible disease policy. As a result of this the Clinic Directors recommended that a national policy on transmissible diseases and admission be developed. This was referred to the national Admissions Conference that will take place in October 2003. Subsequently the Clinic Directors had a worthwhile discussion on their common problems and concerns. This resulted in a request that the Clinic Directors form a Standing Committee of ACFD/AFDC. This has been forwarded to the ACFD/AFDC Executive.

National Dentistry Teaching Award Luncheon

Dr. John Perry (ACFD/AFDC President) presented the 3M-ESPE National Dentistry Teaching Award to Dr. Robery Loney (Dalhousie University) at the first National Dentistry Teaching Award Luncheon.

ACFD/AFDC Committee Meetings

On the morning of Sunday June 15th, Dean de Vries chaired the Deans Committee Meeting and Ms. Laura Dempster the Faculty Chairs Meeting.

These meetings were followed by the ACFD/AFDC Annual Meeting, chaired by Dr. John Perry. At this meeting Dean Bill Macinnis, the out-going Past-President, was recognized for his contributions to ACFD/AFDC. Ms. Laura Dempster was elected as Vice-President, Dr. Marie Dagenais as Chair of the Faculty Chair Committee and Dean Ed Yen installed as President-Elect.

Concluding Comments

The 2003 ACFD/AFDC Biennial Conference was important as it represented the first time that any nation's leaders in dental education discussed the topic of "Ethics and Professionalism in Dental Education". The outcomes of the meeting will be tangible in the form of a meeting report, reviews, possible changes to competencies and, hopefully, increased awareness at each Faculty. The conference also facilitated a meeting of the Clinic Directors with a possible formalisation of their position within the ACFD/AFDC structure. In addition educational excellence was recognized in the form of the National Dentistry Teaching Award Luncheon.

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