A desert paradise awaits the IAG 2009 Congress at the Loews Ventana Canyon Resort in Tucson, Arizona! Mark your calendars for the dates, September 23-26, 2009. As is our custom, the focus will be on education, but outstanding social soirees and activities will also be featured.

Tucson is the true Southwest: a city alive with character, history, diversity and pure charm. A favorite destination especially for spas, golf, outdoor events and its arts community. Against the dramatic backdrop of the Santa Catalina Mountains at Ventana Canyon Resort (a 5-star resort) are a 7,000 square-foot spa and tennis center, two 18-hole Fazio-designed PGA golf courses, two swimming pools with Jacuzzis, hiking, bicycle rentals, croquet court, ping-pong, and basketball.

Because the weather is temperate and mild, our evening events will all be outdoors, including the Saturday-night dinner dance, which will this year feature cocktail dress instead of formal attire. The final schedule of meetings, activities, and social events will follow at a later date. Perfect weather! Perfect setting! World-class speakers! What more does one need for a perfect IAG Congress? Garland and I look forward to seeing you at Ventana Canyon in 2009!

Mike Cohlmia, DDS
Local Arrangements Chair
Message from the President Continued...

(Continued from page 1)

treasurer as he inherits the duties of running our Academy's business.

Heartfelt thanks are also in order for Jim Bensen, who has retired from the secretary-treasurer position after many years of service. Jim took on this position during a tenuous time of rebuilding in our Academy's history. The personal sacrifices he made to take on this position of leadership speak volumes to his passion for our profession. The heart of our treasury is still beating, thanks to Jim.

We also should recognize Mike and Garland Cohlmia for their hard work in putting together our successful Congress in Coronado. Mike’s background in business certainly came through as he was able to plan a first-rate Congress with outstanding social events and still enable our Academy to pay all bills and remain in the black. When you consider our tuition is the same as it was in the last time we were in Coronado in 1995, that’s quite an accomplishment! Garland’s exquisite taste showed in the décor. She found beautiful vases in a discount store in Dallas, shipped them to the del, bought the flowers in Coronado, and with a team of volunteers assembled all of the centerpieces for the dinner-dance! By way of historical comparison, Garland and her volunteers decorated the Crown room that night for several hundred dollars. When we last met at the del in 1995, the flower and décor bill for that one evening exceeded the entire cost of the scientific program! This is just to show you that we appreciate the sacrifices you make to attend our Congresses and are doing everything in our power to make it an affordable experience for you. We are all fortunate to have such devoted members and their spouses who are willing to go the extra mile to help keep our Academy alive and well.

I've just cited several individuals who have given freely of their time and energies because they believe in Gnathological principles, appreciate how their Gnathological training has impacted their personal and professional lives and the dental health of their patients, and believe that the IAG must remain a viable entity of these principles are to survive after our generation is gone.

Elsewhere in the Gnews is information about Dr. Posey Hedges, the recent winner of the Mc Collum award. Dr. Hedges gave me my first occlusal waxing course at the University of Tennessee in the early 1970s. I had to purchase a Whip Mix articulator and the Huffman-Taylor Regenos textbook to take the course. I left that course knowing that I had to learn the principles that came so easily to him and drove his diagnostic and treatment decisions, and my life has never been the same since then. You will read Bill McHorris’ testimony to how Dr. Hedges has affected his life. You will read how Dr. Hedges was generously taught by the fathers of Gnathology, most of whom are no longer with us. But while these giants are no longer physically present, the concepts they developed, while under challenge from various “institutes” that promise a softer, easier way, are still alive and valid today. The IAG is the vessel through which this continuum of knowledge still flows today. If it ceases to exist, the principles that have changed our lives will be the next victim.

This is not to cast a pall of “doom and gloom”, but rather to encourage you. I challenge all of our membership to lead by example as Dr. Hedges has. Here’s how you can do it:

1. Pay your dues on time. With this mailing we establish a new biennial dues schedule. You are being asked to pay your dues now for 2008 and 2009. There are several reasons for this. We have to send a check to the JPD every summer, and unless dues are collected on time, this challenges the treasury. Our dues are minimal, especially considering they include your JPD subscription. Collecting dues every other year will vastly cut down on work for our secretary-treasurer (remember, this is a volunteer job!) and also reduce our mailing costs. Finally, collecting dues for two years in a Non-Congress year reduces your expense during the Congress year. Please remit your dues payment to Dr. Mansueto upon receipt of your notice.

2. Continue to attend our Congresses. They continue to be “dentistry’s best-kept secret” as they provide four days of world-class continuing education, an unparalleled opportunity for the exchange of ideas with the leaders in our profession in a casual environment, beautiful locations, and outstanding social events for you and your spouses, significant others, and guests. It is said that some know the cost of everything but the value of nothing. The cost of attending an IAG Congress provides the maximum bang for your continuing education buck.

3. If you don’t belong to or mentor a study club, find at least one young dentist who wants what we have and is willing to go to any lengths to get it, and teach them. They are out there, and your mentorship will have an impact on many lives including your own.

4. Volunteer for a position of leadership in the IAG. As Bob Cronin once said, the average age of our Board of Directors is approaching that of the Supreme Court. This is, of course, an overstatement as several members have retired from the board and younger ones have come aboard. But we are always looking for fresh faces and new ideas. If you would like to participate in the future direction of the IAG, contact me and I’ll see to it that you have that opportunity.

In the meantime, I’m grateful for the opportunity to serve as your president and will do my best to be worthy of this honor. Let’s work together to keep Gnathology growing!

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Our recent Congress was held in Coronado, California at the del Coronado Hotel, September 17-20, 2007. You can easily see from the photograph in this issue of the Gnews that it was well attended and immensely enjoyed by those present. We deviated from our regular schedule by the first day being a joint meeting of the IAG and the American Academy of Gnathologic Orthopedics. This provided many new faces and exposure to some definitely different topics. Dr. Mike Mansueto and his committee presented an outstanding scientific session featuring Bill McHorris, Jeff Rouse, Gordon Christensen, Pat Allen, Bill Robbins, John Burgess, Jack Hockel, and other outstanding presenters. As usual, it was another four days of world-class science, outstanding social occasions and fellowship with our colleagues, and friends from around the world. If you missed it, you can do penance by doing yourself a favor and marking your calendars for Congress XXIV in Tucson. And while you’re at it, bring another couple with you!

McCollum Award Presented to Dr. Posey Hedges

Dr. Posey Hedges, Jr., associate professor in the UT College of Dentistry’s Department of Restorative Dentistry, was recently awarded the prestigious McCollum Award by the International Academy of Gnathology. Dr. Hedges formally received this honor at the Academy’s 2007 meeting held this past October at the Del Coronado Hotel in San Diego, California.

The International Academy of Gnathology was founded in 1926 to foster excellence in dentistry addressing the entire stomatognathic complex including detailed appreciation for the dynamics of mandibular movement, temporomandibular joint physiology and the science of dental occlusion. The Academy meets every other year. At each meeting of the Academy’s American Section since 1969, one member has been honored with the McCollum Award for outstanding contributions to the dental profession, active participation in the educational promotion of gnathologic concepts, and dedicated service to the Academy, its principles and practices. Other McCollum Award recipients include Harvey Stallard, Sumiya Hobo, Victor Lucia, Everitt Payne, Charles Stuart, Peter K. Thomas and a fellow Memphian William McHorris, a UT College of Dentistry graduate and former student of Dr. Hedges.

McHorris on Hedges

My earliest memories of Posey Hedges date back to 1964 when I was in Dental School. He was a part-time instructor in what was known then as the Crown & Bridge Department at the University of Tennessee Dental School. He was a very entertaining lecturer. You could tell this man loved the profession of Dentistry with passion. He provided the necessary academic information for his subject, but always showed its clinical applications. He is an excellent clinician and for many years has led by example. He has enjoyed a sophisticated practice in Memphis, Tennessee, for over 50 years. He still teaches at the University of Tennessee on a part-time basis. I fondly remember watching him wax an upper first molar using the wax addition or “drop-wax” technique. I asked why, as we were taught to build it up and then carve it down. He informed me that this was a new concept that he had learned from some dentists from California. The Gnathological principles had arrived in Memphis, Tennessee. He became very good friends with Charles Stuart, Everitt Payne and Peter K. Thomas in years of study with them. We always looked forward to seeing Posey and his lovely wife Belle at the Gnathology meetings. Her passing deeply saddened us. Posey has always been a dapper dresser who loves color. He has an engaging personality and a wonderful sense of humor. He has been a positive influence on me for many years and I greatly treasure his friendship.

Bill McHorris, D.D.S.
In Pursuit of Perfection

What a wonderful and stimulating experience it has been for me to belong to The International Academy of Gnathology for some 40 years. This unique organization consisting of all dental disciplines produces exchange of ideas contributing to the always-evolving treatment modalities of the stomatognathic system. Our goal for our patients is to be able to keep their teeth throughout life, not concerned principally with cosmetics, as “real” dentists have always been cosmetically oriented, while maintaining the health of the oral system. How could you not want to be a member of this great organization?

In 1959 how excited I was to be going to the University of Southern California to take Dr. Everitt Payne’s continuing education waxing course. This course started me on a most exciting trip into occlusal development that still lasts with me today. With this knowledge I went back to my practice and to the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry to teach waxing courses. For a dentist to learn how teeth should articulate correctly, he should take a similar course. Seeing wear on the teeth made me realize I wasn’t mounting enough casts and carefully evaluating them. You can’t mount enough casts before embarking on treatment. You are not taking enough impressions if your help is not complaining about having to clean out so many impression trays.

As I attended the IAG Congress in San Diego in 1971 I met Dr. Harvey Stollard, orthodontist and one of the fathers of Gnathology. His quotation of Dr. Shaw, anthropologist, “The writing cut upon the tops of the teeth may indeed be a higher form of hieroglyphics if only we can decipher it” really motivated me to gain more knowledge. After this meeting I enrolled in the first of many courses with Dr. Charles Stuart. To my great delight Dr. Stuart came to my office in Memphis. During this time he helped me restore my first occlusal reconstruction case on the Stuart Instrument. I then had one instrument but Charles said I needed at least another one because I didn’t want to be known as a quick change artist. So what could I do but buy another instrument?

When I asked about a guarantee, his reply was “I guarantee you will spend the rest of your life trying to master it”. And that was an understatement!

At the IAG Congress in Mexico City in 1971 I met and spent time with Peter Thomas and learned how to improve my waxing and casting skills. A year later he asked me to teach a waxing course, and then more later, at Temple University. Later he invited me to come spend a week with him in his office. What a master artist he was in wax and subsequently gold. His restorations were cosmetically pleasing since form is viewed before color, and these cast gold restorations were anatomically perfect. A prominent motion picture star for whom he had just completed treatment complained about the fee, and Peter replied, Where else are you going to find anyone to save your teeth for life like I have just done?” That was Peter!

A year later at the ADA meeting in San Antonio I presented a motion picture entitled Full Mouth Reconstruction. In the audience was Dr. Ernest Granger, and he complimented my film and asked me to come to his office at Mount Vernon, New York to see his articulator and view some of his mounted cases. As I viewed his patients’ x-rays there was recurrent caries evident. When I asked him about this, his reply was “Anybody can restore holes in teeth but only someone skilled in occlusal development can maintain bone and supporting tissue.” A thought-provoking statement! Also, Dr. Victor Lucia, who was present, invited me to his office at Rockefeller Center in New York City. This exposed me to his Lucia jig, another new idea for me. His enthusiasm and tireless energy motivated me even further in the search for more knowledge.

There were so many along the way helping me. Jack Swepston with his great technical skills. The Huffman, Regenos, Taylor text book. Bill McMorris’ great knowledge and superb presentation of TMJ anatomical considerations.

Having an elaborate entertainment program for the wives at the IAG meetings certainly enhances the quality of this great organization. As dentists complain about “this and that” I encourage them to perfect their skills because they all have patients who can pay for better dental treatment than they are presently capable of delivering. I thank all of you for your gracious help and friendship during these years.

Posey G. Hedges, D.D.S.
A
fter 2 decades of selfless service, Jim Benson, San Diego, CA, has stepped down as Secretary-Treasurer of the IAG. All who have had the pleasure to know and work with Jim and Erma owe them our deepest thanks. Jim, who has accepted an emeritus position on the IAG’s Board of Directors, will be sharing his wisdom, hard work, and dedication with us for years to come.

Mike Mansueto, San Antonio, TX, was elected as the new Secretary-Treasurer at Congress XXIII. Dr. Mansueto also is the International Academy of Gnathology’s editorial liaison to the Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry. He’s happy to help with submission of manuscripts for those members of the Academy who write on gnathology-related subjects. If you would like some support, from a friendly reading, to a strict edit, to organizational support for possible “fast-tracking” of the publication; please contact Mike.

For all IAG financial matters, please contact Mike using the information listed below:

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Mike Mansueto Elected Secretary-Treasurer at Congress XXIII

Past President’s Message

The International Academy of Gnathology should indeed be proud of its accomplishments during the last 10 years. The reorganization and rededication of our Academy in the late ’90s was difficult, but now we are certainly witnessing the fruits of our labor. We owe a great debt of gratitude to the first two Presidents following that reorganization, Drs. Olin Loomis and William McHorris, who together with the steady continuing efforts of our Secretary/Treasurer, Dr. James Benson, provided outstanding leadership in a time of great need.

My four years as your President culminated at our outstanding Congress XXIII at the Hotel del Coronado with a palpable feeling of optimism for our Academy. Our Congresses continue to be professionally outstanding while we enjoy world class venues in the company of dedicated clinicians who share a deep passion for the highest quality dentistry for our patients. Surely, our Congresses provide the best value in dentistry. I think our efforts have been successful in redirecting the focus of our Academy into a vibrant 21st century member-focused organization which would bring a smile to the faces of the Fathers of Gnathology, men to whom we owe so much.

For me, the last four years have been a labor of love and a professionally enriching experience. I would like to welcome all our new IAG members and I certainly look forward to your constructive participation in our Academy. We are witnessing an active surge in the enthusiasm of a fine cadre of future leaders in the IAG. I am confident that the Academy will be well served by their future leadership.

I sincerely thank you for the opportunity to serve and only ask that you continue to provide our new President, Dr. Thomas Colquitt, and our new Secretary/Treasurer, Dr. Michael Mansueto the same enthusiastic support that you gave to me.

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I would like to introduce you to the COAST meeting. **C.O.A.S.T.** stands for Coalition of Associated Study Club Tutorials. It was founded by Dr. Mike Reich, Vancouver, B.C., Canada, Dr. Paul Hasegawa, Seattle, WA, and Dr. Dick Schirmer, Sweet Home, OR. The premise of the meeting is for groups of study club-oriented dentists to meet once every other year (the years the IAG doesn’t meet) to share ideas and camaraderie and to promote the study club vehicle for learning. We have a scientific session for a day and a half and then an afternoon of table clinics. We meet in July and have alternated between VC, OR, and WA. Our first meeting was in Vancouver, then the next in Ashland, OR and the last one in Seattle. We have had amazingly good scientific programs and kept the cost under $300 per attendee. All of the lecturers are from study clubs (and a few special guests) and we have had eight different clubs represented. The meetings have been supplemented by 10 sponsors (vendors). Attendees have brought their spouses and children as we have a very family-friendly theme. This year the meeting will be in Whistler, BC. Mike Racich’s Vancouver Study Club is the host. Here’s what he has to say:

1. Whistler is an excellent venue with lots to do for all. Therefore, the emphasis for COAST IV will be on learning and sharing, friends and family with lots of time given to play, relax, schmooze…

2. Each group will have half a day (BC Friday morning, Washington Friday afternoon, Oregon Saturday morning. How each group chooses to use their time is up to them. Surprise us?!

3. The welcoming reception on Thursday night will be the “big” affair for all (legates, families, sponsors). There will be breakfasts and lunches for all on Friday and Saturday. No table clinics this time around. We are still working out the maximum number of delegates, etc. There should be no problem having each study club member invite one colleague or having the equivalent number of delegates per study club (e.g. 20 for the Vancouver group). We presently have 9 sponsors (10 will be the maximum) to add to the meeting room count plus any spouses who wish to join in. Read Bob Nishikawa’s comments below about the last meeting in Seattle, Summer ’06.

The board of COAST would like to extend an invitation to IAG members who are interested in starting or maintaining study clubs. We already know of some young members from Bob Nishikawa’s Los Angeles study club who are coming and most likely members of the RAZA study club from Colorado. If you are interested, please contact me (Karl H.) or Paul Hasegawa. We ill not have the specific details until probably the beginning of April. It is a great “mini” version of the IAG in the off-year of the IAG. The best thing is the friendship and camaraderie. We will meet Thursday night, June 26. The meeting will be all day Friday and Saturday morning. There will also be some sort of social event Friday Evening. Once we get the rest of the information nailed down, we will post it on either the gnathologyuse.org or pngsc.com websites. Olin Loomis attended the first meeting and then couldn’t go at the last minute to the second one. Each meeting has grown, especially in the quality of the presentations. If any of you big-shots or your residents want to attend, we would love to include you in our presentations. Last year we had Kelly Conway, Bob Nishikawa, and an excellent speaker from the AAGO, Dave Arnold. It’s a great place for developing speakers.

Sincerely,

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Bob Nishikawa’s Email to His Study Group

Group:
We’ve again been invited to the regional IAG study club meeting, COAST, to be held at Whistler the last weekend in June (27-29th, tentatively). I think these meetings are a ton of fun (oh, and educational also). Eric and I had a good time with our families at the COAST meeting in Seattle in 2006.

Put it on your calendars, and let’s have a good time together this summer.