

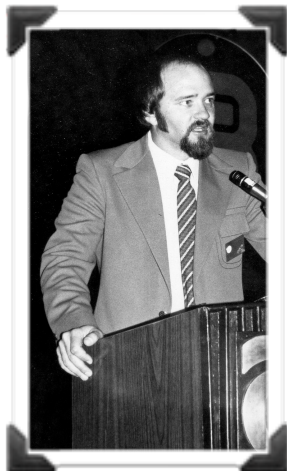


I joined the International Academy of Gnathology in 1970 through the Southeastern Academy of Gnathology. I attended my first IAG meeting in 1971 in San Diego, CA. Gnathology was the new science in dentistry at that time and I was totally consumed with the knowledge of the presenters. The table clinics were a tremendous learning experience from some of the greatest clinicians in the world. The meetings were attracting excellent dentists worldwide.

When I heard Dr. Charles Stuart in 1970, a phrase or “saying” came to mind.. “If a man knows and you know he knows, follow him”. That’s what I did with Dr. Stuart. I made myself a commitment that I would not miss one year without having some time with him. His study group courses lasted 5 days. From 1970 until his death in 1981, I attended at least one 5 day session with him and often times, two sessions. I started two new study groups in Memphis and we would have him as Clinician and I was the Director. I fulfilled my commitment and always walked away with more knowledge and new clinical procedures with which to treat my patients



After treating my first six cases on the Stuart Instrument with multiple remounts, I realized that I was treating sick TMJ’s. I tried to convince Dr. Stuart that we were doing our Stuart instrumentation too soon. I proposed that we should resolve the TMJ problem first, on semi-adjustable articulators, and then Stuart instrumentations would be easy and more accurate on healthy TMJ’s.



Much to Dr. Stuart’s surprise, Dr. Harvey Stallard agreed with me, and he called me. We spoke for 3 ½ hours. He convinced me to write an article on my theory and present it before the IAG meeting in Mexico City, Mexico in 1973. It was my first publication and maybe my most significant. It was titled, “TMJ Dysfunction: Resolution before Reconstruction”. Stallard and Stuart said it was the most clinically significant presentation at the meeting as it showed that remount procedures could be eliminated. It revolutionized Gnathology’s approach to treatment sequence. It was published in the European Academy of Gnathology Journal in 1974. In total, I have published 17 articles on Occlusion and TMD. Six of these have been published in the International Academy of Gnathology Journals. As he said, “Gnathology and the Science of Occlusion will keep you learning for the rest of your life.” He was right, I am still learning!

I was elected to the Board of Directors of the IAG in 1981 and was also privileged to serve as President of the American Section of the IAG from 1999-2003. I have served on the Board in some capacity ever since. During the early 1980's, I assisted in organizing the Latin and South American sections. In the 1990's, I was a part of the organization of the Australian Section.



In 1985 I was awarded the Dr. Beverly B. McCollum Award, the highest honor conveyed by the International Academy of Gnathology – American Section. Dr. McCollum, the namesake of the award, was one of the leading pioneers in the field of dentistry and the study of Gnathology. The Award recognizes those who have contributed significantly to the clinical application and educational advancement of Gnathology.

My favorite form of teaching the Science of Occlusion is by “Hands on Participation”. I have directed 64 Study Groups around the world and feel I have made a significant contribution to Dentistry's better understanding of the importance of Occlusion.

The closest thing to “Hands on Participation” is the table clinics. A table clinic should promote or demonstrate an idea, concept or technique. This should be done in 10-13 minutes. This timing allows one to see all of the table clinics during a meeting. It should not be used as an opportunity to lecture.



It is indeed an honor for me to have the best table clinic award be named, “The McHorris Award”.

As Dr. Harvey Stallard said, “Our meetings should be an open market for the exchange of knowledge”.

Sincerely and respectfully,

*Bill McHorris*