



Dr. Dan Jenkins was President at the 2013 IACA in Calgary, AB.

IACA

Defense of Freedom to Practice

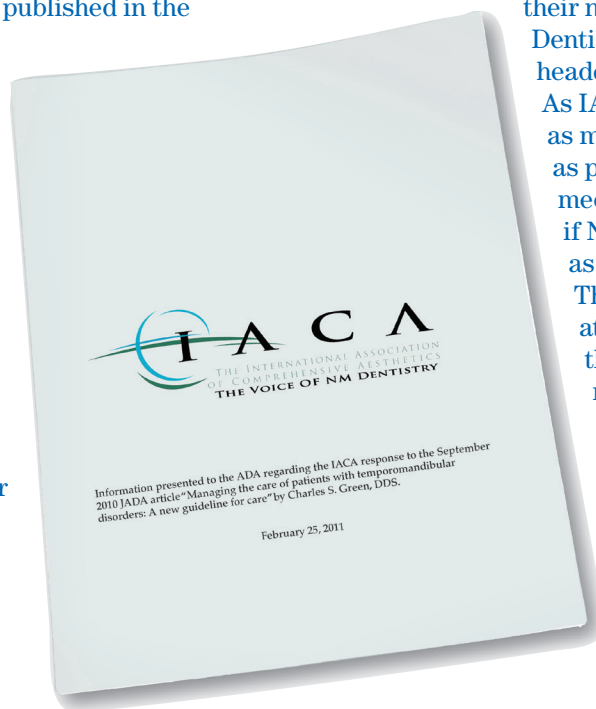
February 25, 2011. I couldn't believe I was in the conference room on the 22rd floor of the American Dental Association Headquarters building meeting with four ADA leaders for a scheduled one hour meeting. After the obligatory handshakes, self-introductions and group pictures taken by Jennifer, an ADA News staffer, I found myself seated at the end of the table. Directly across from me looking right into my eyes was Dr. Ray Gist, President of the ADA. Dr. Gist is a kind, humble man and while I could see that in his eyes, I could also see that he was nervous in addressing yet another potential firestorm meeting with "some rebel dental group." Seated on Dr. Gist's right on the side of the table was Dr. Daniel Meyers, Senior Vice-President, Science/Professional Affairs for the ADA. Next to Dr. Meyers right, and on my left, was Dr. William Calnon, then ADA President-elect. To my right on the other side of the table was Dr. James Willey, ADA Director, Council on Dental Practice. Seated between Dr. Willey and President Gist was then current president of the IACA, Dr. Prabu Raman. (Dr. O'Laughlin and Mr. Springer did not attend.)

There was tension in the air as this meeting had come about from an article published in the Journal of the American Dental Association promoting Dr. C.S. Greene's Bio-Psychosocial TMD-CMD philosophy in the name of the American Association of Dental Research. In response to that article IACA members had responded to a call for letters to the JADA Editor. The response was historic in that over 200 letters were sent for that one article. (JADA normally receives about 100 letters in one year for all of their articles combined!)

However, our purpose of that meeting was to only make the IACA known to the ADA leaders and voice our concern for the way the article was headlined and written as it made it seem like Dr. Greene's philosophy had become the "standard" for the ADA. In fact, in my initial request to meet with either Dr. Gist or Dr. Calnon I only requested ten minutes as I knew they were busy at this time during the Chicago Mid-Winter Meeting. As the meeting began I thought back on the events leading up to this.

As the editor of the IACA I have always written in support of the freedom of all dentists to practice in a manner they felt was best for their patients. My involvement in an open defense of neuromuscular dentistry began in June, 2006 when Drs. G. Klasser and J. Okeson had an anti-SEMG article published in JADA. While most told me they doubted JADA would publish my letter I knew from my involvement in the American Association of Dental Editors that JADA did not receive a large amount of letters. My letter to the editor was published in October. Another development was the ADA's invitation to attend

their new Evidenced Based Dentistry conference at their headquarters in May of 2008. As IACA Editor I called for as many IACA members as possible to attend this meeting. My concern was if NMD might be classified as non-Evidenced Based. There were 150 attendees at that meeting. Of the 150 attendees the majority were from academia. There were only 55 private dentists –half of those were IACA dentists!





Drs. Jenkins, Willey, Meyer, Calnon, Gist and Raman pose prior to the IACA-ADA meeting at ADA Headquarters on 02-25-2011.

When JADA published Dr. C.S. Greene's article I called for all NM dentists to write responses to JADA. The number of letters got the attention not only of JADA Editor Dr. Michael Glick, but also the publisher of JADA as he had just taken over that position. When I called Dr. Glick to discuss possibly publishing an article on the neuromuscular philosophy he at first thought I was calling to see why my own letter was not published. I told him I understood why he could not publish all of the letters and that was not what I was calling about. He agreed to receive the paper but would have it reviewed by his reviewers as he himself did not consider himself qualified to review TMD material. We did discuss other "editor" things but ended the conversation in a cordial manner.

At the Dental Editors' conference in the Fall of 2010 I discussed the "Greene" article with then ADA President, Dr. Ron Tankersley and gave him an IACA flash drive card with over 100 letters to the editor. He said he felt it was good for members to speak up on an issue that is important to them.

The NM philosophy article was denied publication and Dr. Prabu Raman and I were trying to come up with a way to get the message out. As we were both long-time involved ADA members I suggested we ask for a meeting – it wouldn't hurt to ask! With the support of the IACA board and Dr. Bill Dickerson, I made a call and talked to ADA Coordinator of officer services, Sandy, at the ADA headquarters asking if I could have 10 minutes with either the President or the Vice-President during the Mid-Winter meeting. The email I received back blew me away:

Hi Dr. Jenkins,

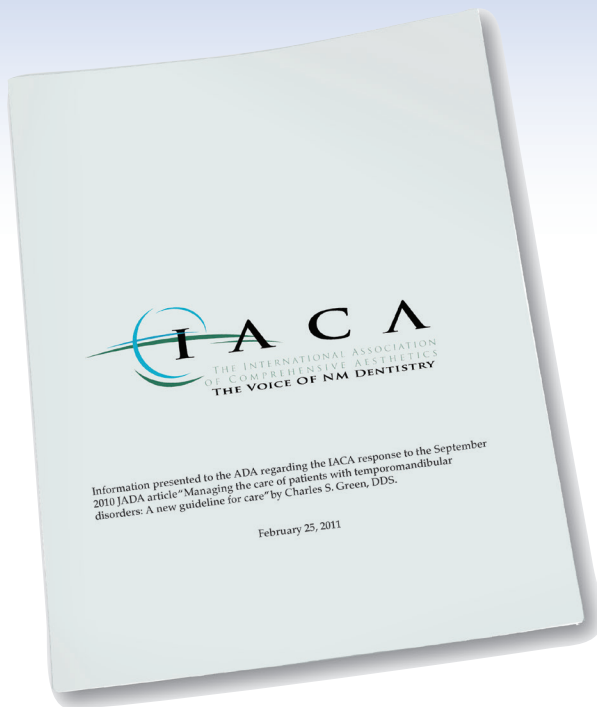
Dr. Gist and Dr. Calnon are happy to meet with you during the Midwinter meeting. A meeting has been scheduled for Friday, February 25 at 2:30-3:30pm to be held on the 22nd floor of the ADA Headquarters Building, 211 E. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611. In addition to Dr. Gist and Dr. Calnon the following staff will be present. Please confirm that you are available.

Dr. Raymond, Gist, President, Dr. William Calnon, President-Elect, Dr. Kathleen O'Loughlin, Executive Director, Dr. Daniel Meyer, Senior Vice-President, Science/Professional Affairs, Mr. Michael D. Springer, Managing Vice-President Publishing, Dr. James L. Willey, Director, Council on Dental Practice.

Upon finding how big this meeting was going to be – I called for help and asked Prabu if he could join me. The weeks prior to this meeting involved many calls and literally hundreds of emails between me, Prabu, Bill Dickerson, and others to provide information and advice. At this point I had only met Dr. Meyer once briefly at the EBD conference in 2008. While Prabu worked on the IACA position statement, I put together a 72 page booklet which included the IACA position and had it bound. To keep costs down only 13 were made and one was provided to each attendee at this IACA-ADA conference.

The night before the ADA meeting I was invited to dinner with some other non-IACA NMD dentists but could not disclose to them what was going to happen the next day or risk hurting their feelings.

Since getting involved with the IACA I have been able to meet and interact with people I never would have been privileged to.



The next day during the TMD Alliance meeting there was talk of what to do about this issue but the various groups would not authorize a letter from the Alliance as they needed to get permission from their organization. No letters to the editor were ever sent from the Alliance in response to the Greene article.

Now, to start this IACA-ADA meeting, I passed out to the leaders their copy of the booklet with the IACA response, the IACA position with 168 references that Prabu had written, and a history of Dr. Greene's anti-NMD activities. I then read to them the IACA response in asking for freedom to practice. Prabu presented a video of actual NMD cases. When Dr. Meyer brought up EBD we were able to point out that over half of the private dentists attending his EBD conference were our members...he was impressed. In fact, it was at that point that he looked at me and asked if the IACA would be interested in participating in a scientific "discussion" over NMD at the ADA meeting that Fall. Prabu and I both responded immediately with a "Yes!" The one hour meeting ended up lasting one and a half hours together and then longer with host Dr. Willey.

From that meeting the IACA has been able to defend NMD at the ADA scientific session, from proposed changes in peer review in California to adopt BPS in Quebec, CA, adoption of BPS by CADTH in Canada, and more attacks by Danielle Manfredi in both JADA and OOOE.

My association with the IACA since its first meeting has been a real adventure for me. Since getting involved with the IACA I have been able to meet and interact with people I never would have been privileged to. Most of all, it has been a privilege to represent the many fine fellow professionals I have met within our organization. I encourage all to also participate as much as possible in the IACA. You will also find the satisfaction I have found. Whether you practice NMD or not, please help the IACA defend your right to practice how you see fit.