

Why the IACA?



Dr. Bill Dickerson the founder of the IACA.

The IACA was launched in 2005 because many organizations in dentistry were philosophically exclusive with a closed door policy about progressive, cutting edge information. One in particular that previously had been the cutting edge organization had not only fallen to a level of mediocrity but to a position of protecting the status quo like so many others and was intentionally preventing podium time to any differing philosophy, going to extremes

to eliminate any physiologically based science and techniques from being presented at their annual meeting. There needed to be a new organization that would not only pioneer the profession but allow good solid debate of controversial issues, allowing both sides to present their case which would propagate the growth and advancement of the profession.

Because of the demand for an organization like this, with only six months preparation, more than 600 people gathered for the first meeting in San Diego in the summer of 2005. The evolution of the organization progressed through the years and it has become the voice of the physiologically based science of dentistry that has been known as neuromuscular dentistry. Now in its tenth year, it has led the way in fighting the professional ignorance, insurance company backed advocates and special interest groups with vested interests in stifling any growth of this logical and evidenced based field of dentistry. Because of the IACA, thousands of dentists have been able to help tens of thousands of their patients improve their lives. It will celebrate its tenth annual meeting this summer in Atlantis in the Bahamas with over 1,000 attendees expected to gather in paradise for this historic event.

It has also become the most positive, upbeat and inspiring meeting in dentistry. The energy and excitement at these meetings is infectious and carries over to the dentist's practices when they get home. On Monday information is practical and eye opening, giving many the direction and avenues they need to improve their practices and treatment for their patients. Everyone leaves knowing that doing the best for your patients is not only the right thing to do; it's the only thing to do. Because of all this, while other organizations are losing members and attendance at their annual meetings during these economic times, the IACA continues to grow.

This positive attitude is carried through on the IACA forum where valuable information is shared on a daily if not hourly basis, since there are members from all over the world. The support for each other is palpable, unlike most animus and hostile dental forums that litter the internet. Many will ask questions while a patient is in a chair and will receive a response within minutes. Along with the addition of the IACA buying club, free subscription to Vision's magazine, reduced rate for the annual meeting, free IACA educational webinars, reduction in educational courses at LVI, industry discounts and the quarterly newsletter, members are placed on the website for patients looking for IACA dentists and allowed to use the IACA logo for promotional purposes.

But for the freedom for ANYONE to practice dentistry that THEY feel is best for their patients, the IACA has become THE voice for that freedom. There is a concerted effort by various interest groups to dictate how we as dentists

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must practice so we do what they think is best or by abiding by the dictates of insurance procedures for example. The IACA strongly believes in the fact that you are educated doctors, who can review the available information out there and make your own decisions as what is the best treatment for your patients. Just look at some of the things the IACA does to protect your right to decide how YOU practice:

- 1. IACA fights against the threat and assault on progressive dentistry by creating a strong and powerful voice that only a large membership can do.**
- 2. IACA sends representatives to critical meetings to protect your rights representing a large membership.**
- 3. IACA sends letters to government bodies, dental organizations and industry leaders supporting your rights representing a large membership.**
- 4. IACA supports those that need help with technical advice and direction in legal or board related matters.**
- 5. IACA initiates TMD Alliance responses to help protect your rights.**
- 6. IACA initiates letter writing campaigns to support your rights.**
- 7. IACA facilitates articles that support NM dentistry representing a large organization that improves the chance of publication.**
- 8. IACA has a team of employees behind all this that work incredibly hard to organize these efforts. None of this could be done without these employees efforts.**
- 9. IACA has the network to monitor and report on practice restrictive movements happening in various board and ruling dental associations.**
- 10. IACA is available for advice on local issues of concern.**
- 11. IACA is able to provide world-wide information on movements among restrictive groups that could affect you later.**
- 12. IACA promotes NMD research to be published.**
- 13. IACA places on the Internet through their website, letters to editors that a publication might refuse to print making it show up higher on searches with the SEO of the IACA.**
- 14. IACA meeting makes possible an interactive discussion on physiologic base dentistry which provides a better chance for ideas than a newsletter or email.**
- 15. IACA meeting provides up to date information on developments which lessens your chance of coming under attack by uninformed people that are in authority positions.**
- 16. IACA is like an Army and with a larger trained and active force opposing forces will be hesitant to attack versus if it is only YOU!**
- 17. IACA meeting provides enough yearly CE hours in one meeting that qualifies for re-licensure for most licensing bodies.**
- 18. And most importantly... it gives you a sense that you are involved and participating in the efforts to save dentistry from those that would like to take our individual practice freedoms away and supporting the growth of the organization that is the voice of physiologically based dentistry.**

Can you imagine what would happen if there was no IACA?

So here is to the ten year annual meeting anniversary of the IACA and all I can say is.... Thank you to all of those that have supported this amazing and essential organization. Here is to ten more years of growth, making the voice of reason even more powerful.