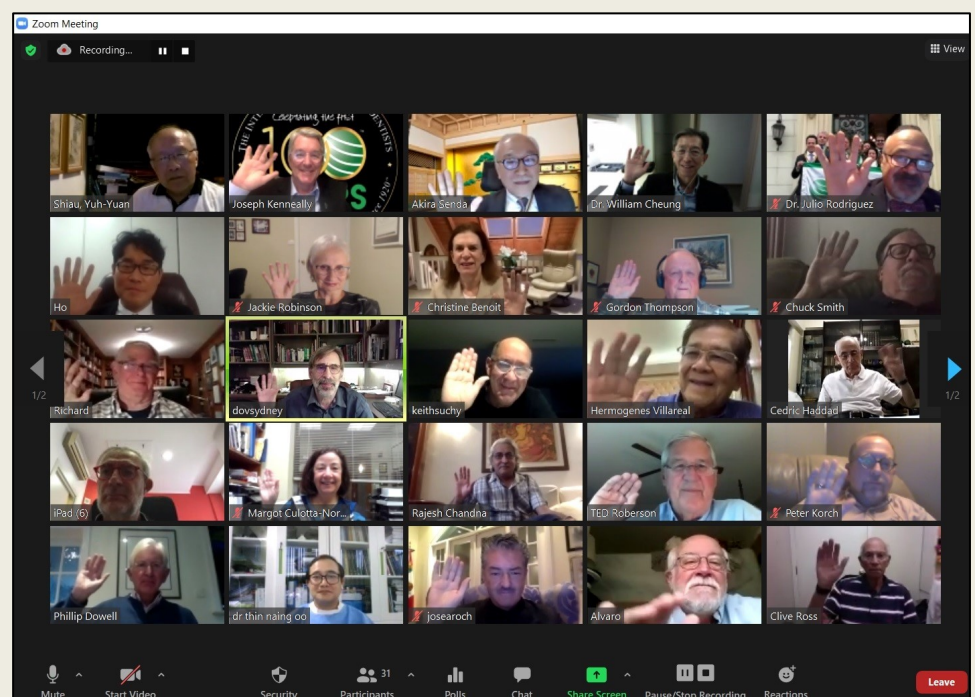


International Council holds groundbreaking Zoom meeting

The [International Council](#), the governing body of the International College of Dentists (ICD), convened via video technology Zoom, on Oct. 29, 2020, for their first-ever virtual annual Council Meeting. To accommodate the challenge of organizing a meeting with Council members from 19 different time zones, the International Council meeting was limited to one hour, allowing enough time for decision-making on items of the highest priority.

The historic virtual International Council meeting went off flawlessly and was very productive. Some of the key decisions included reactivating a Section XX Region to represent Fellows on the island of Hispaniola, adopting a 2021 College budget, and passing guidelines

allowing Sections to recognize new Fellows in absence of an induction ceremony. Additionally, individuals were honored for services and contributions to the International Council and the worldwide College.



Information Session

A pre-Council meeting information session was held via Zoom on Oct. 8, where Council members were provided an unrestricted amount of time to discuss all items and motions for the upcoming Council meeting. Council members were also given the opportunity to submit and share written reports, as well as give verbal updates on ICD news and activities happening around the world. The information session was intended for Councilors connect informally, hold open discussions and exchange information. The session was successful and properly prepared the Councilors for a seamless Council meeting.

Highlights from the Council Meeting

- One of the challenges the College faces this year due to COVID-19 is the fact that many new Fellows were not able to experience an in-person convocation ceremony. As most Sections rely on convocation ceremonies as their annual opportunity to induct new Fellows, the inability to hold in-person ceremonies creates barriers to bringing in new Fellows during these times. Some Sections have honored new Fellows in absence of a ceremony, either by offering them immediate Fellowship at a discounted rate, or by allowing them to pay their fees in full but committing to attendance at a ceremony in the future. This is an alternative concept to inducting new Fellows in absence of a ceremony.

College committees held ongoing discussions this year about the impact of COVID-19 on membership growth and the ability to honor new Fellows. It has been commonly agreed that Sections should have the option to accept new Fellows in absence of a ceremony if they choose. In response, the College has developed guidelines and best practices to help Sections implement alternative pathways to Fellowship, in the case that extraordinary circumstances do not allow for in-person convocation ceremonies in the future.

- After an emergency meeting in March, the College made the difficult but timely decision to postpone the College Centennial celebration and International Council meeting, originally scheduled for November 2020, to September 20-22, 2021. The decision was made after deliberations between the College leadership, Centennial sponsors and partners. The International Council ratified this decision during the Oct. 29th meeting. The College continues to monitor

the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on all Sections and nations, and is working diligently to produce the best possible outcome for all Fellows to be able to experience the College Centennial celebration in a way that truly embodies the spirit and honor of this important ICD milestone.

- Along with postponement of the 2020 Centennial celebrations this year, the 2020 College officer election was also delayed. After careful consideration, the College Executive Committee (EC) made another tough decision to temporarily extend the terms of its current International Officers until the Council could elect new officers during its next in-person Council meeting in 2021. After it was confirmed that no new nominations for officer positions were submitted this year, the Council ratified this decision during its virtual meeting. The decision was made with the intentions to be implemented for only this year, due to the extraordinary circumstances.
- In recent years, new Fellows have been inducted into the College from the nations of the Dominican Republic and Haiti, which make up the Island of Hispaniola. During the Council meeting, the Council approved the proposal to reactivate Region 43 Hispaniola, under Section XX, to accurately represent this group of Active Fellows these nations.
- The College Membership Committee held a productive meeting in 2020 where several areas of ICD membership growth, development and retention were discussed. The committee acknowledged the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic will have a substantial impact on many Sections' members, financially and otherwise. Also because of the pandemic, most Sections' 2020 activities and ceremonies for new Fellows have either been cancelled or postponed. Many Sections' main priorities have become focused on membership retention. Due to the membership challenges facing Sections, the committee recommended the Council vote to defer the re-calculation of 2020-2021 International Councilor representation per Section until the end of 2021. This option will allow Sections' Councilor representation to be calculated based on the number of Active Fellows they have at the end of 2021, instead of at the end 2020. The Council approved this recommendation.

Awards and Announcements

- The Distinguished Service Award was given to Dr. Clive Ross, Past International President and Councilor of New Zealand, in recognition of his lifetime achievements and services largely contributing both to the worldwide College and Section VIII Australasia.
- The Presidential Citation Award was granted to Dr. Raghunath Puttaiah, of the USA Section, for his significant contributions as former Scientific Director of the ICD Dental Safety Program for over six years. Dr. Puttaiah founded the ICD Dental Safety Program and helped develop it into the important and resourceful program that it is today.
- The Retiring Councilor Awards were presented to Dr. M. Christine Benoit and Dr. Keith Suchy, of the USA Section, for their years of outstanding services and leadership in their many roles with the International Council. Dr. Benoit will remain active with the Council as the Projects Committee Chair, as well as a team member of the ICD Understanding Antibiotics program. Dr. Suchy will remain active in his position as International Treasurer for the College.



(L/R) Distinguished Service Awardee Dr. Clive Ross, Presidential Citation Awardee Dr. Raghunath Puttaiah, Retiring Councilor Awardees Dr. Christine Benoit and Dr. Keith Suchy.