



Bettie McKaig Women in Leadership:
Invest in women: Accelerate progress

PANELISTS

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MODERATOR

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COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Examine current status of women leaders and roles within the global oral health sector
- Compare and contrast the impact of women dental leaders globally, including pathways to leadership, challenges and opportunities, and identify barriers or obstacles that women dental leaders face during their career experiences
- Understand what it means to “invest in women” to accelerate progress, including specific examples related to the oral health sector
- Promote awareness of equality and equity for women’s advancement in economics, education, health and the workplace
- Describe the different obstacles and circumstances that may have hindered a fair, just and equitable place in the community/workplace
- Identify contributions to professional successes in the dental community, ICD Fellows and women worldwide
- Learn about opportunities or examples of how women and girls can play a more impactful role in accelerating equity and equality progress globally



Dr. Lois Cohen is the Consultant and Paul G. Rogers Ambassador for Global Health Research. She is a research sociologist, retired from the U.S. Government's National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), where she last served as the Associate Director for International Health. Having edited and authored four volumes on the social sciences and dentistry and published 150+ articles in professional peer-reviewed journals, she is purported to be the architect of the behavioral and social sciences in the oral health field. She co-directed two major multinational collaborative studies on oral health systems with the World Health Organization (WHO) and led a WHO Collaborative Center for 20 years. Currently, Dr. Cohen serves as a consultant to the NIDCR, the WHO as well as various universities and organizations focused on global health through oral health. Awards and/or honorary lectures in her name are given annually at Harvard University School of Dental Medicine, the International Association for Dental Research, Purdue University and at St. Joseph's University.



Dr. Eleanor Fleming is the Assistant Dean of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and an Associate Professor, at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) School of Dentistry. She is a Diplomate of the American Board of Dental Public Health. She earned her dental degree from Meharry Medical College, completed her dental public health residency at Boston University, and earned her PhD from Vanderbilt University. She completed additional post-graduate training as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer, where she investigated disease outbreaks and conducted studies to promote health equity. Over the course of her career, she has developed subject matter expertise on infectious and chronic disease epidemiology, and previously served as the dental epidemiologist overseeing the Oral Health Component of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. She has been the principal investigator on many studies and has informed public health surveillance at state, national and international levels. Dr. Fleming holds leadership positions in the American Association of Public Health Dentistry and the American Public Health Association (APHA), where she completed a term on the APHA Science Board. She was also actively involved in the National Dental Association serving on its Coronavirus Task Force. Dr. Fleming currently serves as ex-officio member of the UMB Diversity Advisory Council.



Dr. Tina Meisami is the Founder and Director of the Dr. Borna Meisami Commemorative Foundation, a Canadian non-profit charitable organization in honor of her late brother. Dr. Meisami is an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon. She completed her surgical residency at the University of Toronto in 2001 and a fellowship in Orthognathic Surgery with Professor Johan Reyneke in Johannesburg in 2002. Over the past 20 years of her practice in Toronto, she has been committed to teaching and mentorship, achieving excellence in the surgical treatment of her patients, and community service for betterment of women's lives in marginalized populations. Dr. Meisami is the director of Sleep Medicine at University Health Network: The Toronto Rehabilitation Institute Division of Dentistry. She is board certified with the American Board of Dental Sleep Medicine.

Additionally, Dr. Meisami is the Course Director for University of Toronto Continuing Education in Sleep Breathing Disorders and a frequent guest lecturer with the American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine on the topic of Surgical Treatment Modalities for OSA. She is an Active Staff Surgeon at North York General Hospital, where she provides surgical treatment for Dentofacial Deformities and Obstructive Sleep Apnea.



Dr. Meera Verma is the first woman President of ICD Section VI India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. She was the First Vice President of the Indian Dental Association, Head Office, The All India National Chairperson of the Women Dental Council, and the Past President of the Indian Dental Association, Delhi State Branch. She is the founder and president of the Indian Dental Association, East Delhi Branch. She is also a founding member of the Indian Academy of Restorative Dentistry and a fellow of the Royal Society of Physician and Surgeons, Glasgow, UK.

She is a graduate of the Government Dental College, Mumbai. In 1984, she set up a single room dental clinic in the garage of a house and took the first step in her career, which now spans almost 30 years. After honing her clinical skills throughout the years and gaining immense clinical experience, Dr. Verma decided to expand her practice and set up the multispecialty center Dental Optima, which is now one of the leading dental practices in Delhi. Dr. Verma's special interest is in Esthetics, Endodontics and Implantology, in which she has taken advanced training towards. She has worked hard to build a successful dental career, while promoting the progress of women in dentistry and being an adept homemaker.



Dr. Lisa Bentley graduated from the University of Western Ontario's faculty of dentistry in 1991 and maintains a private practice in Mississauga, Ontario. Dr. Bentley served as President of her local component dental society in 2011 and went on to become the President of the Ontario Dental Association in 2021. She achieved an internationally recognized Professional Director's designation and has served on three boards. Dr. Bentley enjoys her advocacy work in promoting access to dental care for the vulnerable.