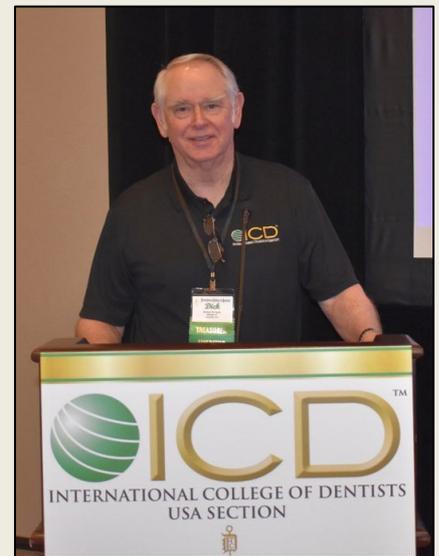


President Smith engages with Sections and fosters development

We are half way through the calendar year of 2022, but my time as International President has only about three and a half months to go. For the first part of my term, because of travel restrictions, I made multiple video messages for the various Sections that could not be visited in-person. Fortunately, the travel restrictions have been relaxed in some of the countries and travel has opened. We journeyed to the spring board meeting of Section I USA that was held in Orlando, Florida, in April. I was impressed by the Section's work on planning for the future and the interesting and insightful discussion on how the pandemic had affected membership. From these discussions will come procedures and protocols that will allow the Section to improve retention and recruitment of Fellows. I was honored to be asked to participate in these meetings.

In May, Jimmie and I traveled to Seoul, South Korea, for Section XI's convocation. We were hosted by International President-Elect Dr. Ho Youl Chang and his wife Kyunghwa. Thanks to their superb hospitality, we had a remarkable trip. The convocation was a very enjoyable event with seven new Fellows inducted. This was followed by a wonderful meal and because of the amount of time that had passed since the last in-person meeting, everyone at the event related what had occurred in their lives during that time. I was lucky to be seated next to the Section



International President Smith addresses the Section I USA Board of Regents during their spring meeting in Florida this past April.

XI Registrar Dr. Wonhi Yoo, who translated the majority of the stories. Section XI President Moonsung Jang and President-Elect Byung Kee Choi were gracious hosts.

In June, we were invited to the Section V Europe convocation in Porto, Portugal. Once again, due to the warm hospitality of Section V President Gil Alcoforado and his wife Ana, our trip was outstanding. The convocation was done with the usual style and flair that has become a tradition with the European Section. One of the most moving moments came when the Regent from Ukraine, Dr. Serhiy Radlinsky, received a standing ovation as he presented his candidates for Fellowship. I also met one of the candidates who was from Russia; He was a pleasant and thoughtful individual who was deemed worthy of Fellowship. This is a perfect example that the College is not a political organization, but a group that honors those who deserve recognition. It was easy to see why this Section, which is one of the most diverse Sections in the College, has such collegiality. There are long-standing friendships and relationships that cross borders, which are the foundation of the Section. This should be what all Sections aspire to achieve because we all belong to a special group of dentists who are involved and trying to do the best that can be accomplished.



(Left photo) International President Smith and Section XI President Moonsung Jang proudly bear the Korean ICD flag during the Section XI convocation on May 21 in Seoul.
(Right photo) International President Smith networks with the Section XI leaders.

Priority Challenges and Opportunities

As the year progresses, the College has many challenges and opportunities that are being developed. We are working with Henry Schein, Inc. to develop and expand our relationship that has been successful for the past several years. Additionally, the site for the 2023 Council meeting is a priority as we examine the advantages and disadvantages of aligning with another dental meeting

versus the College planning a meeting independently by selecting a desirable destination for all Councilors.

The ICD's Consultative Status with the United Nations is also being developed further. We identified a work group tasked with helping the College determine how best to utilize this status and how to collaborate with the U.N. and other non-governmental organizations at this level. Out of over 5,600 entities that hold Consultative Status with the U.N. Economic and Social Council, there are only three dental groups including the College. During the visit to Porto, several of us visited Mundo A Sorrir, one of the other dental consultants. We have started preliminary discussions on additional ways to work together with Mundo A Sorrir.

One of the problems that has been magnified during the pandemic is membership retention. Some ICD Sections have had difficulty maintaining their numbers, which presents a challenge for the College. Several Sections have managed to maintain or increase membership and have developed new, innovative ways to hold convocations and meetings.

We will be having an in-person Council meeting in Houston, Texas, this October. I invite all the Councilors and Fellows to come and enjoy some Texas hospitality and all the friendships and Fellowships of the College.

In Fellowship,

Richard Smith, DDS, MICD
International President



(Left photo) International President Smith and wife Jimmie in Portugal during the Section V Europe annual conference in June.

(Right photo) President Smith addresses the officers and regents during the European board meeting.