

NEWS

Message From Our Distinguished Past-President Dr. Jacob B. Freedland, 1964-65

Through April 1992, the *Journal of Endodontics* will print a message from a Past President of the American Association of Endodontists alternately with those of our current President, Dr. Joseph I. Tenca. This new feature of the *Journal* is intended to give members insight to the history and movement of the AAE and endodontics as a specialty as we approach the 50th Anniversary of the organization.

The Challenge of the Changing Scene



The recent publication of the National Institute of Dental Research titled: BROADENING THE SCOPE-Long Range Research Plan for the Nineties offers an introduction by its director, Dr. Harald Loe: "What distinguishes oral health investigators in the nineties from the colleagues of even a decade ago is the ability to apply cell and molecular biology techniques in the research effort. These "new biology" approaches are providing the basis for a profound optimism that is permeating the health sciences. (The National Institute of Dental Research has been allocated one hundred and forty-nine million dollars for their current budget for dental research).

The international/Conference on Pathobiology of the Dentin/Pulp Complex was held this past May. One hundred and seventy-five were in attendance from most of the countries in the western world. The chairman of the conference, Dr. Syngcuk Kim provided the following in his introduction to the program: "We now know that microleakage through the dentin is a key factor in pulpal inflammation....not only the microcirculation but in concert with the sensory nerves determine the initial stage of inflammatory events. The origin and distribution of various neuropeptides have been identified in the pulp...studies indicate they may play a role in future therapeutic approaches."

The workshop publication of the American Association of Dental Schools on Advanced Education: Recommendations for the 80s carried the following: "Educators and research scientists are essential to the dental profession and to society. Their preparation must be ensured by those responsible for the conduct of advanced dental programs."

*Since the Second World War we find that: 1) We have exploded with our scientific knowledge and clinical skills that enhance the quality and predictability of our services; 2) Our schools are recognized as the finest in the world; 3) Our students are brighter and better trained; 4) We have found the causes of dental decay and facilitated a significant preventative program with fluoridation; 5) A significant number of our population is covered by dental insurance; 6) A recent survey indicated that employees consider dental insurance one of the two most desirable benefits provided by employ-

ers; 7) There are over 350 PhDs on dental faculties; 8) Geneticists, immunologists, virologists, and other biomedical specialists are at work in dental schools, research laboratories and dental research institutions; 9) Our resources and influences are brighter with the continued support of industry and the national Institute of Dental Research; 10) The image of dentistry as an area of health services has never been greater; and 11) We have been able to improve the quality of life for untold millions.

The numerical growth of our Association has been impressive. Our most immediate challenge is faculty and research personnel. The search for such personnel by our dental schools has been a most difficult challenge. An Ad Hoc Committee of the AAE has recently completed a telephone survey of all endodontic departments and their recommendations may offer some constructive suggestions to resolve this deficiency.

The continued need for endodontics is assured with the rapid growth of our population which has increased over 40% since 1950. The largest segment of this increase has been with the elderly. They, above all others, have a keen appreciation for the retention of their natural dentition and functional benefits.

Jacob B. Freedland, DDS
Past President

It should be noted for the record that one of our Founders was in attendance at the Conference of the Pathobiology of the Dentin/Pulp Complex. His continued interest and participation remains unabated.

*The paragraph with the asterisk was written by me in an article published in LEGACY, The Dental Profession in 1990.

Dr. Freedland served as President of the AAE in 1964-65. A 1980 recipient of the Edgar D. Coolidge Award, Dr. Freedland is a founder of the AAE's Endowment & Memorial Foundation, which preceded the Research and Education Foundation. He retired from active practice this past March and says he is "hale, healthy, hearty and relieved."