

College of Diplomates of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry Study Group Report

Background

At the 1986 annual session of the Academy a program was sponsored by the College of Diplomates of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry; attendance was limited to its members, and each paid a fee. Following the annual breakfast meeting a lecture was presented by Dr. Robert M. Little. Following the lecture 4 groups of Diplomates met in workshop sessions and for the remainder of the morning deliberated questions previously assigned to the groups. The general theme of the workshop was *The Effects of Eruption Guidance and Serial Extraction on the Developing Dentition*. Attendance at the workshop groups required prior registration and an agreement that each participant review the literature in his/her special topic area and come prepared to participate actively in the deliberations.

Several years ago Dr. Samuel D. Harris, a past president of the Academy, made a major financial gift to the College of Diplomates specifically to fund such programs. This resulted in the formation of the Association of Pediatric Dentistry Diplomates Foundation. Continuing gifts from Dr. Harris and other members of the Academy plus a special registration fee paid by the Diplomates made this special program possible without expense to the Academy. It is important to note that the text of the keynote lecture and the workshop reports published herein now are available to all members of the Academy and dental libraries throughout the world.

The following comments to the Editor by past presidents Samuel D. Harris and Ralph L. Ireland provide a preamble to the reports in this issue of the *Journal*.

Ralph E. McDonald
Editor in Chief

In the Academy's Youth

In the early years of the Academy when membership was limited to a hundred or fewer, annual convention programs were prepared in a study club atmosphere. A central subject was agreed upon, segments were assigned by such masters of the art as Maury Massler, Kenneth A. Easlick, John C. Brauer, and others for assiduous study and research. The parts were then brought together in a one-day, beautifully organized "head knocking" session that produced masterpiece programs, each year excelling those that preceded.

Then the Academy went through the throes of overnight enlargement, with membership quickly expanded to 5 and later 20 times the original size; the classical study club endeavors were lost in the shuffle. Old timers yearned for and new comers inquired repeatedly about the fabulous study club product of the early years.

At an AFDH convention in 1984 I proposed to Ralph McDonald my willingness to fund a Foundation to produce such programs during the Association of Pedodontic Diplomates portion of the Academy Annual Session, since its membership was so beautifully schooled and had no major program at the time. Ralph said, "Sam, you have just made this convention for me."

With the help and dedication of Donald F. Bowers, Jr. and Melvin A. Noonan, the Foundation was formulated and the trial program launched under the capable guidance of David R. Avery. The well-planned effort was all that Ralph and I had hoped for. A final product appears in this issue of the *Journal* with the expectation that similar seminars with equally excellent results will be steadily forthcoming.

Considering the special and devoted competence of those involved, this renewed and stimulating effort promises to become again an outstanding annual contribution to all of pediatric dentistry.

Samuel D. Harris
President 1956-1957

Study Groups Revisited

The American Academy of Pedodontics was organized in 1947 because some dentists were concerned about the unscientific dental treatments that were practiced and advocated for children. Many of the procedures were based on empiricism rather than on a scientifically determined basis.

To carry out the type of programs envisioned by Academy members, it was decided that a limited compact group of pedodontists should be organized into study groups. Study groups were formed, topics for investigation were assigned, and the groups instructed to report their findings. If any part of a study group report was challenged, the group was instructed to reevaluate their findings and report back. When the findings of the study groups were approved they were adopted by the Academy. The findings of these study groups elevated the practice of pedodontics to a scientific foundation.

I was happy to learn that the College of Diplomates of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry had begun a series of study group projects. Such a program will continue to promote the purpose for which the Academy was founded: "To achieve by mutual study and cooperative activities, a high and ethical standard of practice, teaching, and research in the Art and Science of Dentistry for Children."

Ralph L. Ireland
President 1949-1950