

# The PINNACLE



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College of Diplomates of the  
American Board of Endodontics  
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## President's Message



October 2021

**G**reetings College of Diplomate members!

What an honor it is to be the President of this fine Organization devoted to mentoring

and continuing education. As we enter the fall season of our Silver Jubilee year, it is humbling to look back at all of our accomplishments, even through the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This past January we hosted our first entirely virtual Board Review Course (BRC), reaching a record number of attendees. Our feedback from the event was overwhelmingly positive and we look forward to our second virtual BRC this next January, all the while planning to meet in person after a three-year hiatus in 2023. That first Virtual BRC also featured our first fully virtual Mock Oral Exam, providing realistic oral exam experience and constructive feedback to 24 board eligible endodontists preparing to challenge the ABE Oral Exam. Just this past August we repeated the event which provided eligible candidates and additional opportunity for a Mock Board Examination. These formal mock oral exams, a brainchild of Dr. Priya Chand, our immediate past President, and Dr. Jeff Neal, our current Director of Mentoring, are a critical part of our mission as a mentoring organization. Our plan is to have these mock oral events each spring and fall for those preparing to challenge their oral exams. Each exam seems to have increasing applicants requesting the mock experience and some have to be turned away due to examinee numbers. We need volunteers for the process of orals and portfolio review, if you are interested in being a mentor please visit our website and sign up! We also have an

ongoing one-on-one mentoring program to help with preparation and practicing for oral exams, as well as help with the preparation of the case portfolio, where individual candidates are assigned to a specific mentor. Many thanks go out to all our volunteer mentors from the College who devote their time to help with these programs.

We would like to invite all current members of the College to attend our premier CE/Social Event, our Summer Conference, in 2022. This event will be at The Lodge at Spruce Peak in Stowe, Vermont from August 11-14, 2022. During the Conference we plan to have our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration (be sure to see the historical documents supplied to us by Dr. Fountain regarding our founding included in this issue!). A wonderful program is planned with both CE and family friendly events, along with special events commemorating our Silver Jubilee. It will be so great to see everyone in person again! Mark your calendars!

We are also looking forward to a return to hosting the New Diplomates Reception at the AAE22 Annual Session, live and in-person in Phoenix, AZ! Besides the new Diplomates from 2021, the individuals who earned Diplomate status in 2019 and 2020 will also be honored. Look for the information when you register for the meeting, as well as for information on our website.

It is comforting to know the College of Diplomates continues to be strong 25 years from its founding, and look forward to the next 25 years, serving both endodontists on their journey towards board certification, and Diplomate members with CE and fellowship. It truly is an honor to serve you as your President. See you in Phoenix!!

**Kenneth J. Frick, DDS, MS,**  
*President, College of Diplomates*

## SHARE YOUR STORY SERIES

# For the Archives

September 15, 2021

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

This is the Twenty Fifth year of the College of Diplomates. But for me, personally, it is also the year my wife and I are downsizing and moving to an apartment in a retirement community.

In “purging my files” I came across this file which contains the history of the founding of the College of Diplomates. This file needs to be in the archives of the College and not discarded by our grown children who have no clue what it’s all about.

As the Chairman of the Committee to establish the College, and subsequently the Charter President of the College, I have enjoyed reliving those 4 years of effort to get the College established. Dr. Lamar Hicks deserves most of the credit for getting the College started. He was the originator of the idea and helped pull together the organizing Committee. Our initial Committee of Dr. Hicks, Dr. Tom Mork, Dr. Leif Bakland, Dr. Ace Goerig, Dr. Martha Proctor (first editor of the Pinnacle), Dr. Eric Rivera, Dr. Louis Rossmann and myself worked patiently, steadily, and very well together. Considering that all of this activity occurred without email and Zoom, but with faxes and coast-to-coast conference calls, it was a marvelous achievement. Plus it created life long friendships in the process!

I was Chairman of the Board of the local community college and presented the challenge to our Art instructor and her students to develop the logo for the College. The student whose logo was the chosen finalist received a \$500 prize! I still prefer the original logo we selected which was used for the first 25 years.

This file does indicate the original supporters of the idea for a College of Diplomates, the process for getting it started, and the charter members of the College.

I’m very pleased that the College continues to be vibrant and strong. It has been true to its intended purpose of enhancing the stature of the specialty of Endodontics. For this I am very grateful to 25 years of excellent successive leadership. Please keep up the good work!

**Stuart B. Fountain, DDS, MSc. (Dent.)**

*Diplomate, American Board of Endodontics*

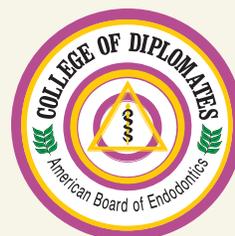
*Charter President,*

*College of Diplomates of the American Board of Endodontics*

Hilton Hawaiian Vill.  
Honolulu, Hawaii  
1994

*Founding Meeting.*

Eric Rivera - Iowa City, Iowa  
Eric Hovland - New Orleans, Louisiana  
Joe Tenca - Weston, Massachusetts  
Kathy Stuart - Carmel, California  
Jim Simon - Long Beach, California  
Ed Osetek - Chicago, Illinois  
Sam Dorn - Ft. Lauderdale, Florida  
Chuck Cunningham - Gainesville, Florida  
Eva Dahl - Lacrosse, Wisconsin  
Sandy Madison - Asheville, North Carolina  
Keith Krell - Des Moines, Iowa  
Joe Maggio - Oak Brook, Illinois  
Bob Uchin - Ft. Lauderdale, Florida  
Patrice Primack - US Army  
Jeff Hutter - Bethesda, Maryland - US Navy  
Chris Wenckus - Chicago, Illinois  
John Olmsted - Greensboro, North Carolina  
Bob Rosenberg - Greenbrae, California  
Cal Torneck - Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
Marshall Peikoff - Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada  
Bob Averback - Denver, Colorado  
Lamar Hicks - Silver Springs, Maryland  
Stuart Fountain - Greensboro, North Carolina



College of Diplomates  
of the  
American Board of Endodontics

History

For many years, the Directors of the American Board of Endodontics recognized the desirability, benefits and need to increase the number of endodontists participating in the endodontic board certification process. The Board had tried a number of approaches over those years to increase the number of board candidates, but without much success.

In September and October 1993, Dr. Lamar Hicks, then president of the American Board of Endodontics, had several conversations with Dr. Alan Borislow, Chairman, Department of Dental Medicine, Albert Einstein Medical Center and a board certified orthodontist, who explained the origins and purposes of an organization called the College of Diplomates of the American Board of Orthodontists (CODABO). Dr. Hicks decided that the concept of a college could be applied to the endodontic community to establish an organization whose functions would be to provide encouragement, assistance, and recognition to endodontists before, during and after board certification. If the College were successful, the number of candidates entering the board certification process could increase significantly.

Dr. Hicks discussed the concept of a College with Dr. Sandy Madison, Secretary of the ABE, and Dr. Louis Rossman who agreed that it should be presented at the November 1993 meeting of the ABE as a formal agenda item.

Dr. Hicks and Dr. Madison led a discussion of the concept of a College of Diplomates at the ABE's November business meeting. A motion was made and passed unanimously to support the concept of a College of Diplomates. Dr. Hicks introduced the name of Dr. Stuart Fountain as a person with the reputation, credibility, and statesmanlike qualities to lead an organizing effort to develop a College.

From the Fall of 1993 to Spring 1994, Dr. Hicks made contact with a number of board certified orthodontists and orthodontic organizational officers to get an in-depth understanding of CODABO; its structure, purposes, functions, and effect on the orthodontic specialty and orthodontic board certification. Among those contacts were Dr. O. R. Vaughn, President of CODABO and Dr. George Seifridge, Executive Director, American Association of Orthodontists. A copy of the CODABO Bylaws and History was obtained from Dr. Vaughn. From the above conversations and materials obtained from CODABO, Dr. Hicks developed a proposal for a College of Diplomates of the American Board of Endodontics for presentation to the ABE Directors at the Spring Meeting of the Board in Honolulu in April 1994.

Dr. Hicks initially presented his proposal at the Board's Long Range Planning Committee meeting that preceded the meeting of the full Board. After discussion, Dr. Leif Bakland, chair of the committee, suggested including the proposal to establish a College of Diplomates as a recommendation in the Long Range Planning Committee's report to the full Board. After the Long Range Planning Committee's recommendation had been presented to the full Board, a motion was made to proceed with an initiative to establish a College of Diplomates (see Spring 1994 minutes of the Board). Dr. Hicks asked for and received verbal approval from the Board to initiate contact with Dr. Stuart Fountain.

During the Annual Session of the American Association of Endodontists in Honolulu, Hawaii in April 1994, Dr. Hicks and Dr. Louis Rossman, incoming President of the ABE, approached Dr. Fountain with the concept. Dr. Fountain was the Immediate Past President of the ABE at the time. They agreed to verbally invite several diplomates of the Board to a general discussion of the concept. Twenty-three diplomates attended an informal meeting held in the President's suite at the Hilton Hawaiian Village in Honolulu. The general discussion was very encouraging. Those in attendance all agreed to acquire 5 mentors each in order to develop a national network of mentors.

During 1994-1995, an initial list of mentors was developed and a draft of a constitution and Bylaws was developed by Dr. Hicks and Dr. Rossman. As President of the ABE, Dr. Rossman continued to promote the concept of a College of Diplomates.

At the AAE Annual Meeting of 1995 held at the Dolphin Hotel in Orlando, Dr. Fountain led a discussion of the need for a College of Diplomates before a group of 40-50 diplomates. The draft Constitution and Bylaws was distributed. It was explained that the AAE had grown, the number of diplomates had grown, the number of graduate programs had grown, the number of candidates for the Board had grown and the number of requirements for accountability to the profession and the public had grown.

The Board needed to concentrate on preparing a carefully constructed, fair, impartial sophisticated but reasonable examination process. The Board needed an "auxiliary" organization to assume the peripheral functions of the Board such as a newsletter, recognition of successful new diplomates, mentoring prospective candidates, and developing educational opportunities for candidates and diplomates. The time had come to further elevate the stature of the diplomate and the specialty of Endodontics. In addition, it was pointed out that the American Board of Endodontics had recently made the decision to begin recertifying diplomates who made an application for Board examination after January 1997. Given the coming recertification process the work of the Board would essentially double. In addition, faced with the requirement for recertification, it increased the need to stimulate and assist candidates for the Board examination. A strong expression of support for a College of Diplomates was obtained from the group.

An interim Executive Committee composed of Dr. Fountain, Chairman, Dr. Hicks, Dr. Rossman, Dr. Leif Bakland, Dr. Eric Rivera, and Dr. Martha Proctor was developed. Dr. Hicks and Dr. Rossman were to develop a finalized Constitution and Bylaws and Dr. Fountain was to obtain approval of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the AAE for the official formation of a College of Diplomates and were to work on the mentor list and Dr. Bakland, also a previous Board Member, was to begin to develop the instructions for the mentors.

By April 1996, all of the preparation for the College of Diplomates of the ABE was accomplished. The Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the American Association of Endodontists had approved the concept and the Directors of The American Board of Endodontics were enthusiastic about it. The current President of the ABE, Dr. Eddy Skidmore, wrote a beautiful lead article in the Board newsletter, *The Diplomate* entitled "Why the College of Diplomates?" The Constitution and Bylaws and Goals and Objectives had been revised and fine tuned.

During the 1996 Annual Session of the AAE, at the Wyndham Anatole Hotel in Dallas, Texas, a meeting of all diplomates interested in being charter members of the College was held in the Senator's Hall on Friday, April 26 at 5:00 p.m. The interim executive committee was anxiously watching to see how many diplomates would appear to participate in the creation of the College. They were very pleased to see the room beginning to fill.

CHARTER MEMBERS-THE COLLEGE OF DIPLOMATES

DALLAS, APRIL 26, 1996

Joel B. Alexander	Stephen B. Haas	Michael V. Piccinino
Ronald W. Anderson	John W. Harrison	Donald L. Pink
Stanley S. Andrews	Gary R. Hartwell	J. Roland Porterfield
Paul J. Ashkenaz	Thomas E. Harvey	William D. Powell
Michael Baisden	John F. Hatton	Martha E. Proctor
Leif K. Bakland	Robert W. Hawkinson, Jr.	Hedley Rakusin
Frank S. Balaban	M. Dan Hickey	Cindy R. Rauschenberger
Marc Balson	M. Lamar Hicks	Herbert L. Ray
Jack H. Baur, Jr.	Augustyne V. Hill, Jr.	AJ Reade
Richard Beavers	Van Himel	Ernest S. Reeh
I.B. Bender	James Howard	Nijole A. Remekis
John A. Berude	Jeffrey W. Hutter	Eric M. Rivera
Susan Hagel-Bradway	John I. Ingle	James O. Roahen
Peter Brothman	C. Russell Jackson	Robert J. Rosenberg
Wallace B. Brown	James D. Johnson	Louis E. Rossman
Bruce Cha	William T. Johnson	William C. Roth
D. Gregory Chadwick	Kevin Keating	Clyde L. Sabala
Stephen O. Cheff	William P. Kelly	Charles S. Sanford
Noah Chivian	Stella M. Kitzenberg	Paul A. SanMarco
Philip W. Cohen	Avrom Kriaz	Frank H. Sargent
Robert A. Coleman	James G. Kotapish	Norman M. Sawyers
Duane E. Compton	Alvin Arlen Krakow	William G. Schindler
H. Groves Cooke	Keith V. Krell	Scott A. Schwartz
Raymond R. Copeland	Jan M. LaCombe	Bruce H. Seidberg
Kirk A. Coury	Dan L. Lavitt	Denis E. Simon III
Charles J. Cunningham	Lawrence M. LeVine	A. Eddy Skidmore
Gilbert Cyr	Michael B. Lindemann	Langston D. Smith
Eva Dahl	John R. Ludington, Jr.	Robert N. Smyth
Steven E. Dazey	Neill H. Luebke	Marvin Speer
Peter M. DiFiore	Sandra Madison	Kenneth J. Spolnik
R. Neil Dodds	Joseph D. Maggio	H. Robert Steiman
Samuel O. Dorn	Philip M. Mahoney	William C. Stiefel, Jr.
Robert L. Ellison	Thomas Masters	Russell B. Stoch
Michael Feldman	John McCann	Timothy A. Svec
Robert K. Flath	Scott B. McClanahan	Patrick E. Taylor
R.J. Frank	Douglas J. McKendry	Joseph I. Tenica
Kathleen T. Frankle	Edwin S. Mehlman	M. Jerry Todd
Ashraf Fouad	Donald Miller	Fred Tsutsui
Stuart B. Fountain	Harold W. Mohorn, Jr.	Robert A. Uchin
James L. Frazier	Thomas O. Mork	Joe VanCura
Arnold H. Gartner	Allan Moskow	William A. Walker III
Brad Gittleman	C. John Munce	Richard Walton
Gerald Glickman	Garry L. Myers	Burton M. Waxman
Albert C. Goerig	Kenneth N. Namerow	John A. Weissenel, Jr.
George T. Goodis	Carl Newton	R. Norman Weller
Harold E. Goodis	Nguyen T. Nguyen	Christopher S. Wenckus
Tom Gound	John S. Olmsted	Eugene West
Edward N. Green	Marshall D. Peikoff	Robert R. White
Edward Grimes	Antoinette Pettitt	George A. Zurkow

Dr. Fountain chaired the meeting and explained the concept with the help of the other members of the interim executive committee. The proposed Constitution and Bylaws was distributed and its main points were reviewed. Finally, after approximately 45 minutes of discussion, Dr. Fountain asked "Is there a motion for approval of the Constitution and Bylaws of The College of Diplomates of the American Board of Endodontics." "So moved" was severally voiced. "All those in favor say Aye." A very loud booming chorus of "Aye" responded. "All those opposed say No." The pause could not have been more than 3 or 4 seconds, but to the Interim Executive Committee that had worked on the concept for 1 or 2 or more years, it seemed like 3-4 minutes. Not a single negative voice was heard. The Chairman formally announced "Congratulations on the official formation of your new College of Diplomates". An enthusiastic burst of applause followed the announcement. Later, Dr. Rossman said that during the long pause waiting for any negative voice votes, a shiver ran up his spine as he realized he was witnessing the birth of a new organization for the benefit of the specialty of Endodontics.

Then a notebook was passed around for everyone to sign to be shown as charter members of The College. The Interim Executive Committee was thrilled to find that 156 diplomates had signed as charter members.

A slate of charter officers and directors were approved. They were:

President:	Dr. Stuart Fountain
President-Elect:	Dr. Lamar Hicks
Secretary/Treasurer:	Dr. Thomas "Tom" Mork
Directors:	Dr. Leif Bakland
	Dr. A.C. "Ace" Goerig
	Dr. Martha Proctor
	Dr. Eric Rivera
	Dr. Louis Rossman

The meeting was adjourned amid warm feelings of satisfaction in having participated in the formation of a very good organization with excellent potential to become a major source of pride for diplomates of the American Board of Endodontics and for the specialty of endodontics around the world.

Stuart B. Fountain, D.D.S.  
President  
College of Diplomates of the American Board of Endodontics  
1996



President's Message *continued from page 1*

# Diplomates Convey the Value of the College of Diplomates in recent JOE Publication



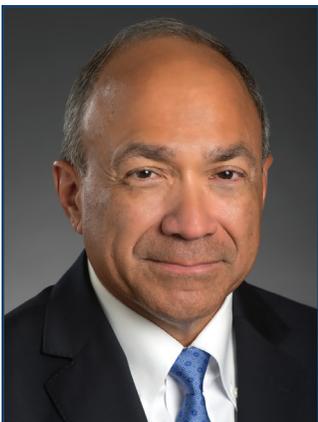
In 2020, Drs. Heather Burbick, Gerald N. Glickman, and Mikail Umorin conducted a 25 question web-based survey that was sent to 1522 Diplomates about the ABE certification process in order to gather information about their experiences and perceptions about the overall process and

what these may mean for the future of the specialty. Their article *"The Evolving Landscape of the American Board of Endodontics Certification Process: What It Means for the Future of the Specialty"* appeared in the October issue of the JOE. There was a robust response rate of 48.4% (736 Diplomates). In preparing for the exam, 82.5% of the respondents used the College of Diplomates resources with the most frequent being the board review course; study guides uploaded by individual contributors was the next most frequent resource. Mock orals were used by 10.7% of the respondents, probably an area that is underutilized by individuals preparing for the orals; 10.3 % used a COD mentor. The results also showed that the

"older" Diplomates did not use the COD resources simply because they were unavailable at the time. Overwhelmingly, the most frequently identified barrier to board certification was due to the lack of a perceived importance of being board certified. The second most frequently identified barrier was the intimidating aspect of the oral examination. This perceived or even real intimidation factor can only be mitigated through the use of mock oral exams, an area that the COD offers and will continually offer. The authors conclude by stating that the true meaning and value of being board certified must be made real to the future generations of endodontists so that the highest level of skill and knowledge can be bestowed upon their patients. The authors further state the AAE, the College of Diplomates, and program directors themselves must continually emphasize the importance and value of board certification as the process continues to evolve.

*(The authors only highlighted responses relative to the College of Diplomates and recommend reading the entire manuscript to view the entire landscape.)*

**Gerald N. Glickman, DDS,**  
*President-elect*



## Treasurer's Report

10/26/2021

**Balance: \$120, 628.29**

The financial footing of the College of Diplomates is strong. Earnings through membership fees and registrations fees for events continue to allow us to provide world class education for members and mock oral and case review activities targeted at mentees. Please remember to pay your dues when you receive your statement.

Thank you for your support of the College of Diplomates.

**Geno Salazar,**  
*Treasurer*



# Mentoring Update



**A**s a mentoring body, our drive and mission are to ensure that our eligible candidates receive the preparatory guidance and feedback as they work towards achieving board certification. We strive to be the best mentoring platform for board-eligible candidates to lean on for

support and direction. This level of excellence has continued throughout the past 6 months as we have assisted fourteen board-eligible candidates on their journey through Case Portfolio Submission and challenging the Oral Board Exam as well as gained four new members to our mentoring team.

Typically, we have chosen to perform our mock oral simulations in conjunction with one of our annual events (Board Review Course or Summer Conference). However, for the first time, the College of Diplomates chose to implement a standalone virtual mock oral exam simulation this past August for board-eligible candidates challenging the ABE Oral Board Exam in October, 2021. With the volunteer efforts from ten COD mock examiners,

**“Thank you so much for conducting the mock oral exam. It was a really great learning experience and I believe this practice session will make a huge difference in my preparation for the real exam. I really appreciate all of the insightful feedback”.**



we were able to provide simulations for twenty eligible candidates over a two-day period in late August. The College would like to recognize and thank the following members for their time and effort in making this possible: Dr. Jan O’Dell, Dr. Colleen Shull, Dr. Priya Chand, Dr. Ken Frick, Dr. Rebecca Weisleder, Dr. Andrea Lisell, Dr. Eugene Salazar, Dr. Kristy Marker, Dr. Pierre Wohlegemuth and most importantly our Executive Secretary, Mrs. Aimee Rylko. Our mission

would not be possible without the tireless efforts from these individuals.

Over the past several years while performing the mock oral board simulations, we have relied on our volunteer examiners to generate an oral case to present to the candidates. Our goal this year was to generate and standardize our own cases so we did not rely on others to fabricate one who were already volunteering their time as examiners.

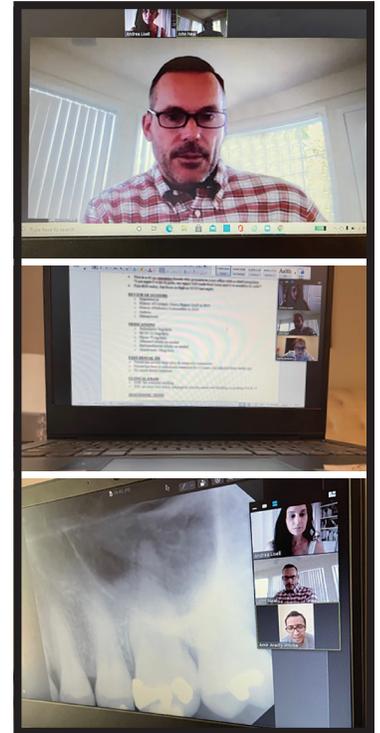
I am pleased to report that we were successful in starting our own library and completed three new cases of our own since the Spring.

We hope to continue to grow our number in the near future to be able to rotate standardized cases each cycle we elect to present our mock oral simulations. We feel this is the best way forward to give our candidates effective and fair mentoring.

With the ever-growing number of board-eligible candidates seeking board certification, we continue to search for new mentors to join our team as we guide candidates through their journey of board certification. If you know of someone who would fit our mission, please encourage them to reach out. He/she can apply to be a mentor (Case Portfolio and/or Mock Orals Mentor) by contacting Aimee Rylko at [info@collegeofdiplomates.org](mailto:info@collegeofdiplomates.org) or Dr. John J. Neal at [endodoc34@gmail.com](mailto:endodoc34@gmail.com). Currently, much of our need is still on the west coast.

**By John “Jeff” Neal, DDS, MS**

*Chair of Mentoring, College of Diplomates*



# The PINNACLE

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American Board of Endodontics  
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CHICAGO, IL

## COD Summer Conference

*Save the date to join us as we Celebrate 25 years!*

**August 11-14, 2022**

Spruce Peak Lodge, Stowe, Vermont



CE courses presented by:

Dr. Bruno Azevedo, Dr. Anil Kishen,  
Dr. Stephen Niemczyk, Dr. Craig Schneider,  
and Dr. Colleen Shull.

**Registration Now Open  
and available at**  
[www.collegeofdiplomates.org](http://www.collegeofdiplomates.org)

