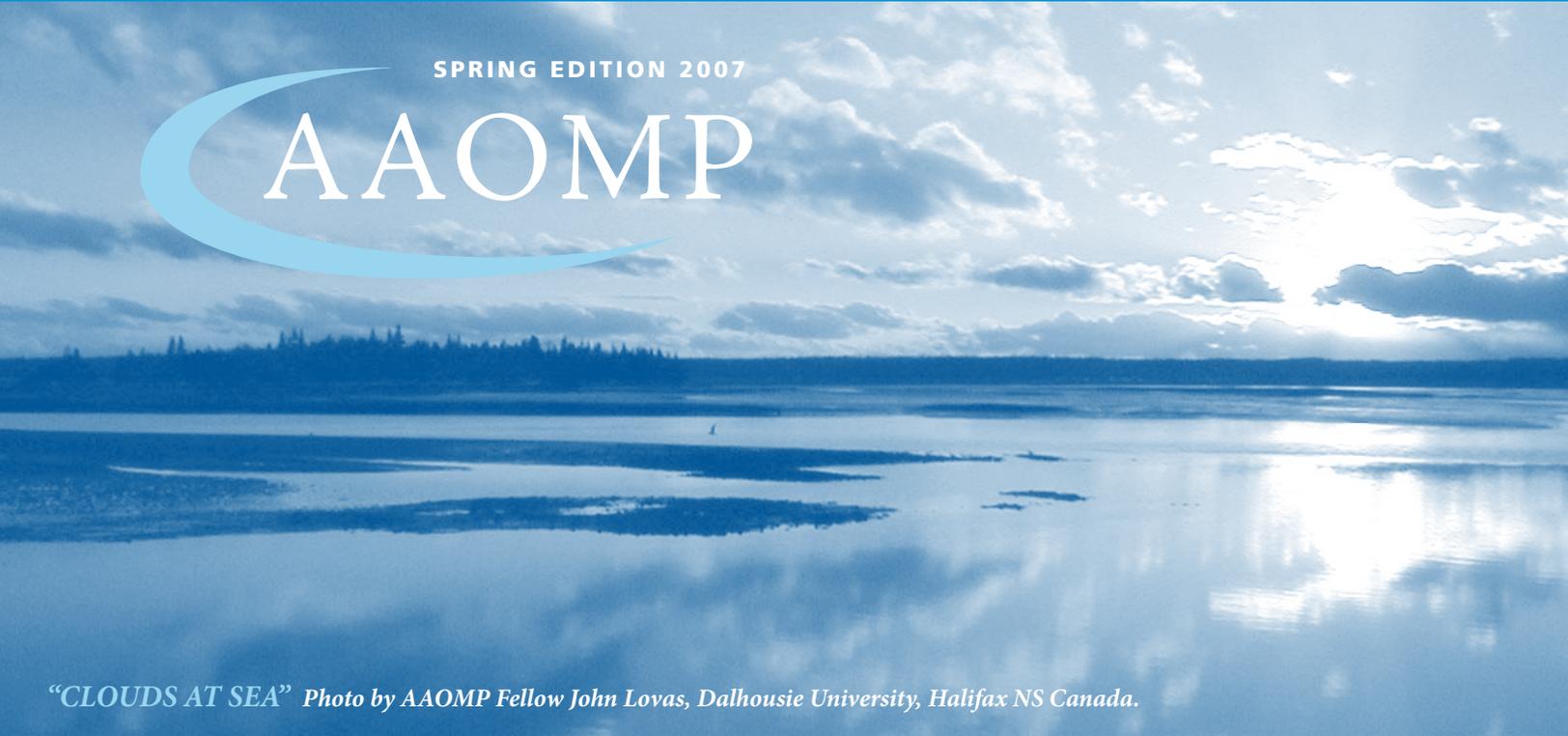


SPRING EDITION 2007



“CLOUDS AT SEA” Photo by AAOMP Fellow John Lovas, Dalhousie University, Halifax NS Canada.

Only MDs can Diagnose, says AMA

AAOMP President Dr. Mike Rohrer has responded quickly to a recent resolution by the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association stating that only medical doctors can perform diagnosis, including laboratory diagnosis.

The resolution, proposed by the College of American Pathologists (CAP) and the American Society of Anesthesiologists, caught most oral pathologists by surprise and had many wondering if this would have any effect on their practice.

“If this narrow definition of who can charge for a diagnosis were to be adopted by Medicare and other third party payers, and failed to include dentists, it could be devastating or, at the very least, unbelievably disruptive”, stated AAOMP President, Dr. Michael Rohrer.

He felt that the resolution was not directed against oral pathologists, but rather that the CAP was reacting to non-physician clinical scientists, essentially PhDs, charging for interpreting diagnostic results. “I’m quite

sure they didn’t even think about us”, he said.

“In the resolution the AMA seemed to be clearly opposed to any payments to ‘physician extenders.’ In the past the AMA has worked with a broad definition of ‘physician’. However we’ve had problems when other groups have gotten too tight with the physician definition”.

Rohrer immediately contacted Bill Prentice, the American Dental Association’s senior congressional lobbyist in Department of Government Affairs. By the next day Dr. Frank Kyle responded with the ADA’s impression of what had occurred. Kyle offered to help the AAOMP in whatever way the AAOMP and ADA decide is the best way to respond.

Continued on page 4

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting
May 5-9, 2007
Kansas City,
Missouri

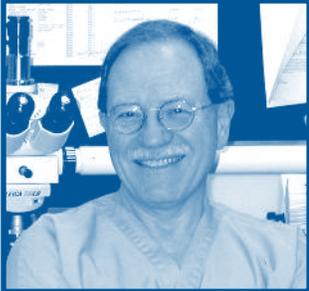
InterContinental
Kansas City at the
Plaza
Ph 816/756-1500

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's very easy as president to be reminded almost daily of the relationship of oral and maxillofacial pathology to dentistry as a whole, the other dental specialties, the American Dental Association, medicine, Medicare, the insurance industry, the Commission on Dental Accreditation and other groups and agencies. I believe we all have to concentrate on maintaining and improving the status of oral and maxillofacial pathology at both the local and the national levels.



“The greatest payoff of the attendance of all oral pathology residents at The Gorlin Conference will be that these young people will develop friendships, a network, and an understanding of oral and maxillofacial pathology that will improve the specialty in the future.”

I agree with immediate past-president Dr. Brad Neville that the primary way we can support and promote oral and maxillofacial pathology is to put in a tremendous amount of effort locally, with our own practice, and if we're in academics, our own school and students. However, through our involvement with AAOMP we must reach out to areas that aren't available to us locally. This includes volunteering for and searching out ways to serve the AAOMP. The Academy's current public relations efforts are involving both senior and junior oral pathologists.

Promoting oral pathology also involves supporting oral and maxillofacial pathology by supporting organized dentistry, which in the USA means the ADA. Because of the ADA "tripartite" structure one must be a member of the state and the local organizations as well. This year we've had serious interactions with Medicare and, as described in the cover story, the American Medical Association. We are an extremely small group of specialists. I would guess there are more radiologists in the Twin Cities than there are oral pathologists in the entire country. When we need some help and some immediate visibility, we need the help of the ADA.

Relationships With Other Pathologists

Through the ABOMP, we have a very good relationship with the American Board of Pathology. I think we also need to do everything we can to develop a relationship with the College of American Pathologists (CAP). After all, it was a resolution put forward by the CAP that was passed by the AMA House of Delegates and is the subject of the cover story. I don't believe the CAP was after oral pathologists, I think they were after PhDs; I just don't think they thought about us. Dr. Bob Vickers served as liaison to the CAP's Surgical Pathology Committee for years. Since his retirement we haven't had any direct contact with CAP that I know of. I had a long conversation yesterday with the Senior Vice President for Operations of the CAP exploring ways in which oral and maxillofacial pathology and oral pathologists can become involved with CAP. We've been stymied in the past because the CAP is very adamant about their rules that only board certified pathologists, MDs and DOs, can be members. CAP has an affiliate membership category open to foreign pathologists who have completed a "certified" program and are practicing pathologists. I think our goal should be to be able to become affiliate members of the CAP and I told him that. The Senior VP was very careful to remind me of CAP's desire to be strictly the group for board certified pathologists and basically said "don't get your hopes up." But he did not close any doors. He is going to speak to some officers this week and he says there should be no problem reinstating the liaison position that Vickers held. I'll be back in touch in a couple of weeks. I personally feel that if we can discuss our situation with the right people they'll realize that as board certified (oral) pathologists, we fit in their group better than non-MDs.

We have also had a good contact with other pathology groups. The AAOMP is a member and the ABOMP an ex officio member of the Intersociety Pathology Council. Dr. Valerie Murrah has served a number of years as the representative of both AAOMP and ABOMP and has done an excellent job of keeping oral pathology's interests in front of many other groups of pathologists.

Gorlin Legacy to Oral Pathologists of the Future

All of us here in Minneapolis truly miss Dr. Bob Gorlin. Beginning this October we'll be fortunate to hold the first Gorlin Conference for oral pathology residents that will continue in perpetuity. I'll thank in advance all who will donate to the endowment that will support the annual conference. The greatest payoff of the attendance of all oral pathology residents at The Gorlin Conference every year of their training will be that these young people, our legacies and the specialists of the future, will develop friendships, a network, and an understanding of oral and maxillofacial that will improve the specialty in the future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "M. Rohrer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael D. Rohrer, DDS, MS
President, AAOMP



Gardner Takes Up the Brush

Former AAOMP president Dr. David Gardner of Denver has recently been invited to show his work as a web page on the web site of a large gallery in London, England. The invitation came after a gallery representative saw his art at the website of the gallery that represents him.

“Diamond Saloon” Watercolor by former AAOMP President Dr. David Gardner. Says the artist, “Como was an important railroad town in Colorado. The last train left Como in 1938 and it is now an interesting historical town with a population of only 32. The shapes of this decaying wooden building appeal to me.”

Gardner, a native of England, has had a long and distinguished career in oral and maxillofacial pathology. He served as President of the AAOMP in 1985.

Gardner particularly enjoys painting the old ranches and mining buildings and uses the motto, “Painting Colorado’s ranching and mining past”. He says, “I am intrigued by bold geometric shapes and negative spaces in design. I use strong colors and sometimes depict my subject matter from unusual angles. I sometimes find myself injecting offbeat humor into my paintings.”

He is a signature member of the Colorado Watercolor Society, and has been painting historical structures and landscapes in South Park for many years, mainly in watercolors but more recently in oils.

You can see more of Dr. David Gardner’s art at www.mountainmangallery.com. His new London web page can be reached at www.saatchi-gallery.co.uk/yourgallery.

ADEA Update

The ADEA Section on Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology will hold its Interim Meeting at the upcoming AAOMP Meeting in Kansas City. This luncheon meeting is open to all active members of the Section. The luncheon will be Tuesday, May 8 at noon. The Section on Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology now has 384 registered members. All members attending the AAOMP meeting are encouraged to attend and become involved in Section activities.

At the meeting in New Orleans in March, the Section presented a program by Dr. Kurt Summersgill and Dr. Sara Gordon, entitled “Innovation and Fun Teaching Pathology”. They presented ways to add interest and enthusiasm to classroom activities (for both students and faculty) by using Web resources, mnemonics, vocabulary-centered crossword puzzles, a Jeopardy-style game, word roots, abbreviations, and the tasty CPC (Cookie Pathological Conferences), which were developed by Cynthia Kleinegger.

At the Section business meeting following the Program, Dr. John Brand of the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology invited the Section to co-sponsor a joint program with the Section on Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology at the Annual Meeting in Dallas in March 2008. The program will focus on educational issues common to the two specialties.

OMP Section officers for 2007-2008 are Dr. Kurt Summersgill (University of Pittsburgh) Chair) and Dr. Jerry Bouquot (University of Texas, Houston) Vice-Chair. Dr. Sara Gordon (University of Illinois at Chicago) was elected Secretary. Dr. Alice Curran (University of North Carolina) continues in her term as Councilor.

2007 Abstracts

Abstracts are now available online at www.aaomp.org.

Hard copies will be available onsite as well.

Continued from front cover

ADA's liaison to the AMA, former ADA President David Whiston, was present at the AMA House of Delegates meeting and had already reported to the ADA leadership. His report stated "It is hoped that ADA reference committee testimony calling attention to previous AMA policy recognizing 'physicians and dentists' as appropriately independent practitioners in these situations... This particular resolution erroneously characterizes as the 'independent practice of medicine', 'diagnostic interpretation for a specific patient'."

President Dr. Rohrer and Immediate Past President Dr. Brad Neville agreed that speedy reaction is required in situations like this. Dr. Rohrer has formed an ad hoc Committee on the Practice of Oral Pathology. His choice for chair of this committee is Dr. Dean White, past president of both the AAOMP and ABOMP. Dr. Rohrer has charged this committee to be reactive, proactive, and vigilant in regards to occurrences, especially on the national level, that potentially could affect the practice of oral and maxillofacial pathology. Dr. Rohrer said, "I decided to form this ad hoc committee for several reasons, the main ones being we could do something right away and the committee will have longevity and continuity that is impossible with constitutional standing committees that rotate chairs and members annually."

The Committee on the Practice of Oral Pathology and the AAOMP Officers and Executive Council are currently working with the ADA to deliver a firm, resolute response to the AMA House of Delegates action. See the President's Message regarding attempts to bring about improved relations with CAP and how the ABOMP and AAOMP have been active participants with the Intersociety Pathology Council for years.

IN MEMORIAM

DR. WILLIAM G. SPRAGUE • 1924-2006 • passed away on September 4, 2006 at the age of 83. Dr. Sprague was born in Cleveland, Ohio on April 15, 1923 and earned his dental and pathology degrees from Case-Western Reserve University in 1947 and 1952, respectively. Prior to that he served in the U.S. Army from 1942-1944.

In 1952 he joined the U. S. Air Force Dental Corps retiring in 1976 with the rank of Colonel. To say he made his mark in the Air Force during those 24 years would certainly be an understatement. Bill was the only oral pathologist in the Air Force until the mid-1960s. He was resourceful, of gifted intellect, dynamic, aggressive and far-sighted, which paid dividends for future Air Force oral pathologists. His efforts in establishing the first oral pathology service in the Air Force trail-blazed a path whereby future Air Force oral pathologists could indeed practice their specialty where it is most productive - that is, inside medical pathology departments and not isolated strictly to the dental environment. He assured that Air Force oral pathologists would not only be clinical pathologists, but also microscopic diagnosticians. For this, oral pathologists within the Air Force ranks regard him as the "Father of Air Force Oral Pathology."

His assignments included chairman of the Department of Oral Pathology at the AFIP from 1965 to 1969. He was a Visiting Scientist at the AFIP from 1973 to 1976. In addition, he held many positions over the years at various dental schools including Visiting Lecturer at Howard University School of Dentistry and the University of Puerto Rico, Instructor of Oral Pathology at Georgetown University School of Dentistry, Clinical Associate Professor of Pathology at the University of Texas Dental Branch in Houston, and Clinical Assistant Professor of Oral Pathology at the dental school of the Medical College of Virginia. After his retirement from the Air Force, Bill became an associate professor and chairman of the Oral Biology Department at the University of Nebraska School of Dentistry retiring from the school in 1993.

Dr. Sprague held many professional positions within organized dentistry including president of the AAOMP (1970-1971). He served as parliamentarian for the AAOMP for many years, a position he relished, until his declining health prevented him from attending the annual meetings. His devotion to our academy will be missed.

Bill's teaching touched the lives of many and was an inspiration to the younger dentists and oral pathologists who crossed his path. As legions of former students and peers will attest, Bill could be intimidating and imposing in his teaching methods. If Bill had a motto it may well have been "Good is the enemy of best", for it was his firm belief that in oral pathology one should always be pushing to be better no matter what one has accomplished. That is the gift he gave to all he came in contact with.

He is survived by his lovely, loyal wife Harriet and three daughters.

Contributed by Dr. Robert Brannon

AAOMP Annual Meeting – May 5 - 9, 2007

Kansas City, Missouri - Registration Form

Please print or type all information clearly. Thank you!

Name: _____
(as it should appear on the badge)

Title: _____ Institution / Organization Name: _____
(DDS, DMD, etc.)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Postal Code: _____

Province: _____ Country: _____

Telephone #: _____ Fax #: _____

E-mail: _____ Spouse/Significant Other Name: _____

DESCRIPTION		TICKET PRICE		AMOUNT
Meeting Registration Fee - <u>Must be paid by ALL Attendees!</u> NOTE: REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES PRESIDENT'S DINNER ON TUESDAY. YOU MUST ANSWER "YES" OR "NO" FOR ATTENDING IT ON THIS FORM. <i>Members who currently are in a residency training program may pay a reduced registration fee of \$110. A letter must accompany this form from your Program Director verifying your residency status. Life Members & Emeritus Fellows may pay a \$125 registration fee.</i>		Members & Applicants	Non-Member	
			\$245	\$320
Spouse/Significant Other – Monday Continental Breakfast and Welcome Reception		\$50	\$80	
Continuing Education Programs				
Sat. AM	CE #1: 28th Annual AFIP Seminar <i>The first 50 registrants with glass slides</i>	\$150	\$170	CLOSED
	<i>The next 200 registrants without slides</i>	\$95	\$110	
	Yes, send me the AFIP images on CD – <i>to be sent separately after the meeting</i>	\$95	\$110	
Sat. PM	Symposium: Head & Neck Cancer: Application of Surgical Pathology to Patient Care / Dr. Smith	\$95	\$120	
Sun. AM	CE #2: Translational Oral Medicine: 2006 / Dr. Siegel	\$95	\$110	
	CE #3: Fungal Infections of the Mouth: Who, What, . . . / Dr. Hadley	\$95	\$110	
	CE #4: Sinonasal Tract Slide Seminar / Dr. Thompson <i>*Glass Slides to be returned* - Separate check or credit card #</i>	\$95 *\$200*	\$110 *\$200*	

GLASS SLIDE DEPOSIT

A **\$200.00 Deposit** is required by a separate check or credit card # for each set of slides ordered. If the slides are returned, your check will be returned or your credit card will not be charged.

Description - continued		Ticket Price		Amount	
Sun. PM	CE #5: Emerging Technologies & Targets for Saliva . . . / Dr. Wong	\$95	\$110		
	CE #6: TMD Diagnosis & Management; Clarifying the... / Dr. Gremillion	\$95	\$110		
	CE #7: Xerostomia: Diagnosis and Management / Dr. Zunt	\$95	\$110		
Tue. AM	Founders' Memorial Seminar: FNA of the Head ... / Dr. Stelow	\$50	\$65		
	<i>Seminar is free if no CD's are ordered</i>	Free	Free	Yes	No
CCA – Continued Competency Assurance Program		\$50	\$65		

SPECIAL EVENTS - if attending, mark Yes and # of tickets		Ticket Price	# of Tickets	Amount	
Sun. PM	Welcome Reception – For All Registered Attendees 6-7:30 pm	Free		Yes	No
Mon. PM	Spouse Museum tour/luncheon – TBD	\$25			
Tue.	ADEA Luncheon –active oral path sect. members - must register to attend.	Free		Yes	No
Tue. PM	President's Reception, Dinner & Jazz Band – 6-11pm – MUST REGISTER IF ATTENDING	Free		Yes	No
	President's Reception & Dinner – Spouse/Guest fee	\$45			

_____ Charge My Credit Card

Visa or MC # _____

Exp. Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

TOTAL DUE _____

Check Enclosed _____

Please help the Academy and list a possible Sponsor (contact name and phone number) to help defray costs of the meeting:

Late fees: A \$25 late or on-site fee will be added for registrations made after April 13, 2007. **Refund policy:** The fee, less a \$50 administration cost, will be refunded if the AAOMP office is notified in writing of the cancellation prior to April 20, 2007. After that date, no refunds will be issued. **Your payment must accompany this form.** Please make all checks payable in U.S. funds to the American Academy of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology (AAOMP) and mail or fax the registration form and payment to:

AAOMP
214 N. Hale Street
Wheaton, IL 60187 USA

Phone: 888/552-2667 or 630/510-4552
Fax: 630/510-4501
Email: aaomp@b-online.com

The AAOMP wishes to take those steps that are required to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated, or otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids or services. If you need any of these services identified in the American with Disabilities Act, please contact the AAOMP office. Thank you and we hope to see you in Kansas City!!! **Please keep a copy of this form for your files.**

New Design, New Editor

By Dr. Sara Gordon



We hope you like the new look of the AAOMP Newsletter. Our fresh design concept is the work of Mark Moorehead of Moorehead Design, Columbus, Ohio. The actual newsletter layout design was implemented by Rachel Rollings of Integrated Solutions Group. It comes as the latest piece in AAOMP's ongoing AAOMP's publicity initiative.

This is my first issue as the editor of the AAOMP Newsletter. I hope to bring an emphasis on news that is pertinent to us as members of AAOMP, as oral pathologists and also as members of the larger dental and medical communities. I am sure that you noticed the lovely photo on our cover, taken by Dr. John Lovas of Nova Scotia, and also the remarkable artistic skills of Dr. David Gardner of Colorado. Part of the vision for the News-

letter is to keep our personable group in touch with each other.

We are interested in your personal and professional news, your comments, and other submissions including interesting visuals, especially striking photomicrographs and photos of members in the news. If you have an item that you think would be interesting to your fellow AAOMP members, please drop me a line at gordonsa@uic.edu.

Marketing Update

By Dr. Eleni Gagari

The past year has been a busy one for the marketing committee. The task is to design a new website, more user-friendly and interactive that will project the dynamic nature of our specialty.

Aspects of the website under development include an AAOMP member-only message board, online dues payment, help with setting up a biopsy service or clinical practice and online CE courses. The long term aim is to be able to use this website as a marketing platform for our specialty.

Concepts under development include the formation of two new groups: AAOMP ambassadors and AAOMP mentors.

In order to keep our specialty active and alive, we need to foster mentoring inside our ranks and to create a task force for spreading our message. Come to the fellowship meeting to hear more!

Committee members are Dr. Eleni Gagari (chair), Dr. Carl Allen, Dr. Ray Melrose, Dr. Renee Reich, Dr. Joseph Rinnaggio, and Dr. John Tiffée. Marketing consultants are Cheryl Pentella, Pam Heller, and Bryan Huber.

Future AAOMP Annual Meetings

2008

Fairmont Hotel
San Francisco, CA
Joint Meeting with IAOP
June 22 - 26

2009

Hilton Montreal
Bonaventure Hotel
Montreal, Quebec Canada
May 16 - 20

Excerpts from the American Medical Association Resolution

"... the diagnosis of disease and diagnostic interpretation of a study or studies for a specific patient constitutes the practice of medicine . . .

a PhD scientist or other non-physician laboratory personnel [must] work under the supervision or in collaboration with a physician . . .

that the Medicare physician fee schedule compensate only authorized persons for the diagnostic interpretation of a specific patient . . .

that the AMA pursue all appropriate legislative, regulatory and legal actions through the Scope of Practice Partnership to counter . . .

the practice of medicine by any individual who has not completed the state's requirements for licensure to engage in the practice of medicine."



American Academy of Oral
& Maxillofacial Pathology

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SCHEDULE at a GLANCE

FRIDAY, MAY 4

12:00pm Executive Council Meeting

SATURDAY, MAY 5

8:00 - 5:00pm Fellowship Exam
8:00 - 5:00pm Fellowship Committee
8:30 - 11:30am CE #1 Annual AFIP Seminar
1:00 - 4:00pm Symposium

SUNDAY, MAY 6

8:30 - 11:30am CE #2 - Dr. Siegel
CE #3 - Dr. Hadley
CE #4 - Dr. Thompson
2:00 - 5:00pm CE #5 - Dr. Wong
CE #6 - Dr. Gremillion
CE #7 - Dr. Zunt
6:00 - 7:30pm Welcome Reception

MONDAY, MAY 7

7:00 - 8:00am Editor's Breakfast
7:00 - 8:00am Iowa Breakfast
7:00 - 8:00am Navy Breakfast
7:00 - 10:00am Spouses' Breakfast

TBA

8:00 - 12:30pm Spouses' Champagne
12:00 - 12:30pm Essay I
12:30 - 1:30pm Program Director's Luncheon
2:00 - 5:00pm Army & Air Force Luncheons
TBA Fellows' Business Meeting
5:00 - 6:30pm Spouse's Event - TBD
5:30 - 7:00pm Indiana Reception
6:00 - 7:30pm Canadian Oral Pathology Exchange
9:00 - 10:30pm Emory Reception
Residents' Reception

TUESDAY, MAY 8

7:00 - 8:00am Education Committee Breakfast
8:00 - 11:30am Founder's Memorial Seminar
11:30 - 1:00pm Past President's Lunch
11:30 - 1:00pm ADEA Luncheon
1:00 - 5:30pm Essay II
6:00 - 11:00pm President's Reception, Banquet & Entertainment

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

9:00 - 11:00am Clinical Pathology Conference