PIERRE FAUCHARD ACADEMY

AN INTERNATIONAL HONORARY DENTAL ORGANIZATION



PFA Founder,
Dr. Elmer S. Best

Brief History

The Pierre Fauchard Academy is an honorary dental service organization that was founded in 1936 by Dr. Elmer S. Best, a Minnesota dentist. Troubled by the proprietary nature of many dental publications, he wanted to help the profession gain control of its own literature and assure its independence from commercial interests. His passionate concern for the search for knowledge and the raising of professional standards laid the ground work for the beginning of the Academy. This attracted outstanding dental researchers and teachers to its ranks, and led to a continuing role in fostering dental science.

The Constitution of the Pierre Fauchard Academy established a series of objectives intended to promote Dr. Best's aims. These included a constant emphasis on professionalism, integrity and ethics. One of the means adopted by the Academy was to award medals and other honors to persons who had distinguished themselves by their contributions to dentistry and who were recognized as worthy role models for others in the profession.

Fellowship in the Academy is by nomination and is designed to honor past accomplishments in field of dentistry and encourage future productivity. Professional leaders select fellows based on contributions to dental literature, service to the profession of dentistry, and service to the general community.

The Academy fosters a publication program of books, pamphlets and dental literature as part of its mission. Dental World and Dental Abstracts are two contemporary periodicals that are sent to its members bimonthly. Further, the Academy encourages member contributions in dental education and literature as an extension of that mission.

The Pierre Fauchard Academy is currently comprised of over 8000 fellows divided into 120 sections, 55 in the United States and another 65 in many other parts of the world, including South America, Europe, Asia, and Australia.

Principles and Policies

In founding the Pierre Fauchard Academy, its sponsors were determined to form an association dedicated to the improvement of the practice of dentistry. They shared a concern for the prevalence of proprietary publications and what they recognized as the pernicious influence of monetary considerations in much of what was then the common character of dental writing. They intended that the conferring of fellowship on prospective members be seen as a distinct honor and that the selection of individuals for fellowship be motivated by a search for persons who exemplified high standards of professionalism, ethics and scholarship.

These founders, conscious of the high standards they set for themselves and their colleagues, stated that the objectives of the organization were to elevate the character, education and professional ability of dentists. They aimed to make available publications putting forth the latest scientific developments in the field and wanted to encourage dentists to make contributions to the professional literature and to share their knowledge with fellow practitioners.

An annual awards program was established to recognize outstanding contributions to the art and science of dentistry and exemplary service to the profession. The names of the recipients of the Fauchard Gold Medal bring to mind a roster of outstanding individuals. The list is filled with deans of dental schools, noted researchers and other remarkable leaders of the profession. In the 1960's a parallel award was instituted, the Elmer S. Best Memorial, dedicated to recognition of outstanding dental personalities from all over the world.

A mentorship program is an initiative of most of the sections of the Academy. Such programs generally exist in areas where there are dental schools, and Academy fellows are recruited to serve as mentors to students during their dental education. In addition, the benefits of mentorship are extended to younger practitioners who often seek career guidance from established practitioners. Even when there is no dental school in the area, the need for mentorship exists and Fellows often provide such assistance.

The encouragement of dental students, the education of the public to utilize the benefits available from good dental care, and the promotion of good interpersonal relations among dentists through the camaraderie of fellowship became the guidelines of the Pierre Fauchard Academy.